



Christmas Vespers at Lane University Chapel on December 3

Lecompton's annual "Old Fashion" Christmas Vespers and Territorial Capital Museum Open House will be at 2 p.m., Sunday, December 3, 2006. The traditional Christmas carols will be presented by the Lecompton United Methodist Church Choir directed by Kim Stewart, the First United Methodist Church Bell Choir, Topeka, and individuals including Frances Sanford, Cindy Daniels, Phil Wizer, David Howard, Bonny Fugett, Nick Griggs, Claire Henrichsen, and Ashley Lesser.

Beginning Nov. 18, all of the rooms of the Museum will be decorated with our traditional Christmas tree in the second floor Chapel. The Christmas decorations just make the Museum come alive; it's really beautiful. Please join us for the trimming on November 18, 2006.

Busy 2007 Set for Lecompton Historical Society

Dates to Remember

Nov. 18

Territorial Capital Tree Trimming. All are welcome to join in decorating the tree.

Nov 18 - Jan 3

All rooms of the museum and native Christmas tree decorated for public viewing

Dec. 3

Christmas Vespers and Territorial Capital Museum Open House, 2 pm

Jan 28

For five consecutive Sunday's at 2pm the internationally renowned lecture series at Constitution Hall in Lecompton, Kansas Poster on Page 9

June 16

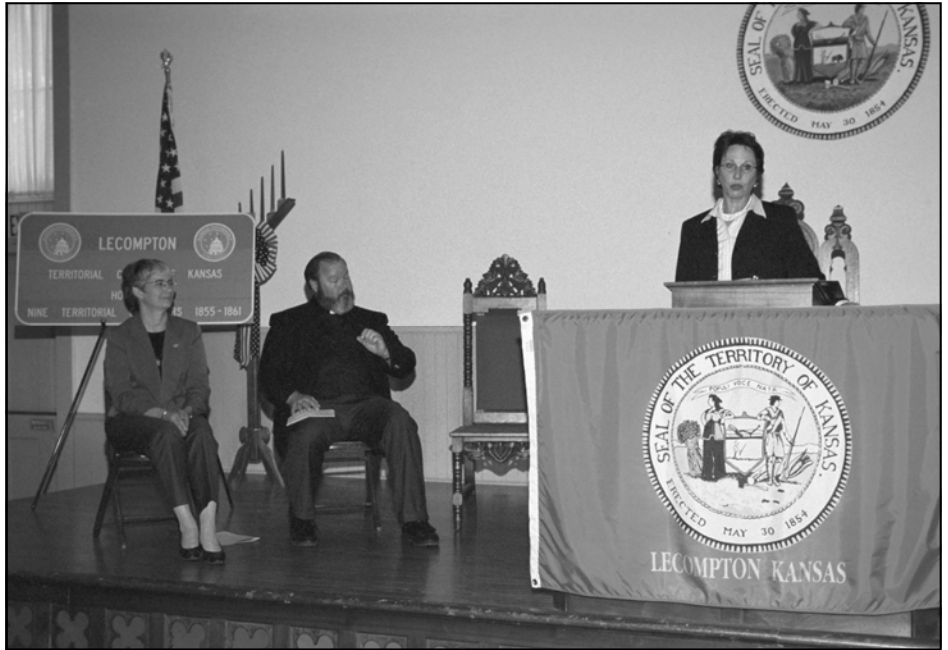
Lecompton High School Alumni Banquet

June 22,23

Official Sesquicentennial Blast
Territorial Days: Lecompton Constitution, Colonel Titus Sword and other artifacts on display

Sept. 21,22,23

Bald Eagle Rendezvous



--Kansas Department of Transportation photo

The big blue Kansas Department of Transportation signs on both the east and west approaches to Lecompton proudly proclaim, "LECOMPTON, Territorial Capital of Kansas, Home of Nine Territorial Governors, 1855-1861." The new County Road 1029 signs were dedicated in a ceremony in the chapel of the Territorial Capital Museum on Oct. 19, 2006. Among the dignitaries in the crowd was Deb Miller, Secretary of Transportation for the state of Kansas. She told the packed chamber that Lecompton is "the first community in Kansas to take the steps necessary to have the signs installed." Earlier this year the Kansas Legislature authorized signs at the home towns of all of the Kansas governors. Initially the signage bill called for honoring governors after Kansas became a state in 1861. The Lecompton Historical Society asked state Representative Tom Sloan to get the bill amended to include territorial governors, which he did. Please turn to Page 2 for pictures and biographical sketches of the ten Kansas Territorial Governors.

Lecompton Historical Society President Paul Bahnmaier Reports:

Bleeding Kansas Sesquicentennial Brings Excitement, New Members

This past year has been amazing. In normal times the Lecompton Historical Society gets 20 or so new Life Members in a year. Since we started our Membership Drive last spring, I can report 54 new Life Memberships and 12 Memorial Life Memberships. The reason may be that the cost of membership will increase next year, but many of our new members say it's because of the rich rewards that come from watching the Lecompton Reenactors perform or from joining in the fun at Territorial Days and the Rendezvous. We also have monthly programs at our meetings, which are at 6:30 the second Tuesday of the month, except during the winter.

If any of you are still waiting to become Life Members, you've only the months of November and December left. On Jan. 1, 2007, a Life Membership will jump from \$50 to \$100. Please fill out the membership form on Page 11 and mail it in today.

Kansas Territorial Governors

Editor's Note: The mug shots of the 10 Kansas Territorial Governors form a circle in the picture that hangs on the wall of Gov. Sebelius' office. All governors, except for Andrew Reeder, served in Lecompton. Their service is commemorated by the placement of two highway signs honoring their service in Lecompton. The state legislature authorized the road signs as part of the Kansas Territory Sesquicentennial celebration.

At the dedication ceremony in the Museum's chapel, the invocation and benediction were given by Rev. Kenneth Baker, Lecompton United Methodist Church. Tim Rues and Charlene Winter presented the American and Kansas flags and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Dignitaries present who made welcoming remarks were Paul Bahnmaier, president of the Lecompton Historical Society, Roy Paslay, mayor of Lecompton, and State Senator Marci Francisco and State Representative Tom Sloan. Deb Miller, state Secretary of Transportation, gave the dedication address.

The historical data for the biographies of the 10 Kansas Territorial Governors presented below is based on Homer E. Socolofsky's *Kansas Governors*, published in 1990 by the University of Kansas Press. The author, a long-time professor history at Kansas State University and past president of both the Kansas State Historical Society and the Kansas History Teachers Association, was a leading authority on Kansas history.

- John Peterson

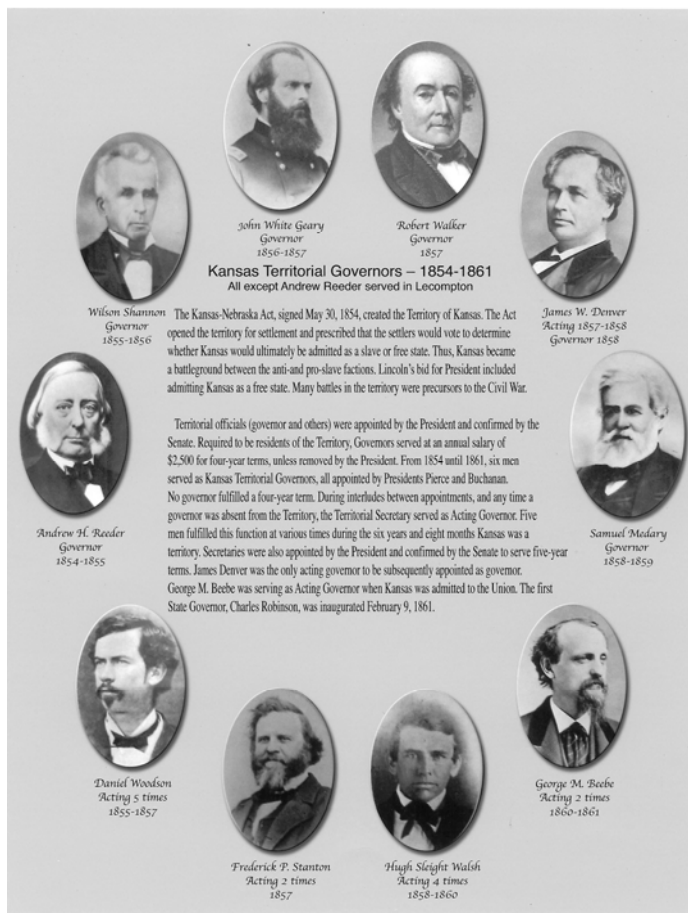


Andrew H. Reeder, 1854-1855.

Andrew Reeder was commissioned to be the first governor of Kansas Territory by President Franklin Pierce on June 29, 1854. While Gov. Reeder never lived in Lecompton, some of his actions and words profoundly influenced the early months and years of Kansas Territory.

Gov. Reeder was from Pennsylvania, a loyal and committed Democrat who was considered a "doughface," a term used for one soft on slavery. Yet from his earliest days as governor he dissatisfied and infuriated proslavery forces. He refused to call early elections to seat a legislature and instead oversaw the election of a friend as K.T.'s delegate to Congress. Most important was the terminology he used in a speech in Pennsylvania when he called the Missourians "Border Ruffians."

Although he was a free-state



Kansas Territorial Governors – 1854-1861
All except Andrew Reeder served in Lecompton

The Kansas-Nebraska Act, signed May 30, 1854, created the Territory of Kansas. The Act opened the territory for settlement and prescribed that the settlers would vote to determine whether Kansas would ultimately be admitted as a slave or free state. Thus, Kansas became a battleground between the anti- and pro-slave factions. Lincoln's bid for President included admitting Kansas as a free state. Many battles in the territory were precursors to the Civil War.

Territorial officials (governor and others) were appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Required to be residents of the Territory, Governors served at an annual salary of \$2,500 for four-year terms, unless removed by the President. From 1854 until 1861, six men served as Kansas Territorial Governors, all appointed by Presidents Pierce and Buchanan. No governor fulfilled a four-year term. During interludes between appointments, and any time a governor was absent from the Territory, the Territorial Secretary served as Acting Governor. Five men fulfilled this function at various times during the six years and eight months Kansas was a territory. Secretaries were also appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate to serve five-year terms. James Denver was the only acting governor to be subsequently appointed as governor. George M. Beebe was serving as Acting Governor when Kansas was admitted to the Union. The first State Governor, Charles Robinson, was inaugurated February 9, 1861.

Gary Stauffer, a LHS member, adapted a Kansas State historical Society photo, for its hanging in the Museum. The description above says: Kansas Territorial officials were appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Required to be residents of the Territory, Governors served at an annual salary of \$2,500 for four-year terms, unless removed by the President. From 1854 to 1861, six men served as Kansas Territorial Governors, all appointed by Presidents Pierce and Buchanan. No governor fulfilled a four-year term. During interludes between appointments, and at any time a governor was absent from the Territory, the Territorial Secretary served as Acting Governor. Five men fulfilled this function at various times during the six years and eight months Kansas was a territory. Secretaries were also appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate to serve five-year terms. James Denver was the only acting governor to be subsequently appointed as governor., George M. Beebe was serving as Acting Governor when Kansas was admitted to the Union. The first State Governor, Charles Robinson, was inaugurated February 9, 1861.

Democrat, he was disposed to act fairly towards the proslavery party, and was in favor of allowing the question to be settled by an honest vote of the people. The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 had called for "popular sovereignty," which meant

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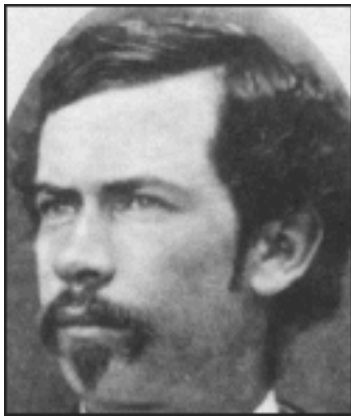
Kansas Territorial Governors

(Continued from page 2)

the vote of territorial residents would determine whether Kansas would be free-state or slave-state.

Gov. Reeder was terminated by President Pierce in July 1855, principally because he was ineffective but also because he was charged with profiting from land speculation. He had, after all, called the first K.T. Legislature to session in Pawnee, a settlement near Ft. Riley that he helped promote.

Gov. Reeder remained a dedicated free-state Democrat, so much so that in the following year, 1856, the territorial government convened a grand jury, which brought charges of high treason against the former governor and other free-state leaders. In 1856 he backed Republican John C. Fremont for president. In 1860, as a delegate to the Republican National Convention, he was presented by the Pennsylvania delegation as a candidate for vice president.



Daniel Woodson, Acting 5 times, 1855-1857

As Acting Governor **Daniel Woodson** played a pivotal role in the first years of Kansas Territory. Appointed by President Pierce in June 1854 as Secretary of the Territory of Kansas. As secretary Woodson became Kansas Territory's acting governor whenever any of the three governors he served with was out of the territory.

A native Virginian, Woodson was a well-known newspaper editor and staunch Democrat. Professor

Socolofsky wrote of him, "He was fully sympathetic with the southern designs for making Kansas a slave state, and he complied willingly with the wishes of the pro-slavery party."

Acting Gov. Woodson signed the first laws passed by the Kansas Territorial legislature. Free-staters denounced the laws as "bogus," claiming voting irregularities. That was the beginning of his battles with free-staters.

In the summer of 1856, Gov. Wilson Shannon was fired and again Sec. Woodson became acting governor. He issued an "extermination proclamation," declaring Kansas Territory "to be in a state of open insurrection and rebellion." The proclamation produced three weeks of marches and countermarches of large-scale forces on both sides. Acting Gov. Woodson called on Col. P. St. George Cooke, USA, of Ft. Riley to send troops to put down the rebellion. The colonel refused. That set the stage for the next governor.



Wilson Shannon, 1855-1856

Wilson Shannon already had an illustrious career as a politician and a not-quite-so successful career as a diplomat when he became Kansas Territorial governor on Aug. 10, 1855. In 1838 he had been elected governor of Ohio and in 1844 he was named Ambassador to Mexico, where he served less than a year before being recalled for his undiplomatic methods. Due in part to Shannon's lack of tact,

the Mexican War of 1846 followed. He returned to Ohio and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1851. In 1855 he was appointed the second governor of Kansas Territory.

Gov. Shannon was an extreme Southern man in politics, of the border ruffian type. His broad experience should have served him well. "However, the characteristics that had caused his dismissal as minister to Mexico were also evident in Kansas. Shannon blundered into one crisis after another, and his lack of diplomacy when dealing with opposing sides fueled the volatile situation."

Shannon proved too willing to accede to pro-slavery requests—most notably, by giving control of the Kansas militia to a vengeful pro-slave sheriff, Samuel J. Jones, who interpreted his mandate as reason enough to plan the destruction of Lawrence. This produced the "Wakarusa War of 1855," which led to little bloodshed but forced Gov. Shannon to intercede and negotiate a "treaty," the first time the Federal government had recognized free-interest forces.

Gov. Shannon's most remarkable misjudgment or failure came in spring 1856 when a large pro-slavery force was formed to attack Lawrence. His failure to intercede led to the destruction of many Lawrence buildings, including printing presses, and the retaliation by John Brown at Pottawatomie Creek where five pro-slave settlers were killed. Shannon had lost control of the situation. He sent his letter of resignation but too late. President Pierce had already sacked him.

He practiced law in eastern Kansas for years and was often quoted to say, "Govern Kansas in 1855 and '56! You might as well attempt to govern in hell."

(Continued on page 7)

Lecompton Native, Historian and Author Tom Goodrich, Donates Official Civil War Record

Gift Adds to Museum's Historical Research Center

Thomas Goodrich is a nationally prominent historian who returns to Lecompton periodically to do really worthwhile things for the Lecompton Historical Society and the Territorial Capital Museum. Last summer he and his wife, Deb, spoke at the dedication of the restored Democratic Headquarters cabin. In 1999 he wrote a terrific reminiscence about his early years in Lecompton for the *Bald Eagle*.

Now, Goodrich has donated the complete collection of the *Official Records of the American Civil War* to the Territorial Capital Museum. The title is imposing as is the collection: 128 Volumes published by the U.S. War Department over nearly 40 years, from the 1880s to the 1920s.

"Tom's fabulous gift is a significant addition to our Museum's collection," said Paul Bahnmaier, Lecompton Historical Society president. "Taken together with the Civil War era documents and maps donated by Raymond Gieseman nearly 20 years



Arloene Simmons and Opal Goodrich, Territorial Capital Museum curators, stand before just one of the book cases lined with volumes from Tom Goodrich's donation of, *Official Records of the American Civil War*.



ago, Territorial Capital Museum is becoming an important source for serious historical research."

It's hard to describe the enormity of the Official Record or OR as it's known to historians. It includes descriptions and hand-drawn illustrations done at the time of significant battles, the orders written on battlefields, dispatches from generals and President Lincoln, supply records, the minutiae of war and horror of prison life and death in the field.

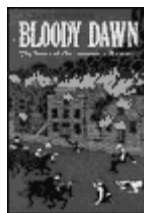
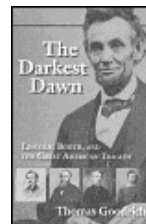
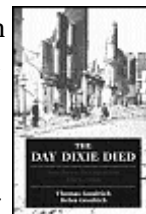
Tim Rues, site administrator of Lecompton's state and national historic site, Constitution Hall, said, "Tom has enjoyed a love affair with Lecompton and its history all of his life. I think that this wonderful donation really speaks to that."

Goodrich is the author of eight books written about the Civil War-era and Indian warfare on the high plains, from 1850 to 1880. All of the his books have been selections of the History, Military or Doubleday Book Clubs. *Scalp Dance*, published in 1997, was a main selection. Signed editions of his book are available at Constitution Hall.

Born Michael Thomas Schoenlein in Lawrence, Goodrich was reared in Lecompton and Liberal, Mo. He has done extensive research at the Library of Congress, the National Archives and at numerous state and local archives. He has been a guest on CSPAN, BookTV and has appeared in numerous documentaries. He is currently editor of *Cimarron—A Journal and Peace*, a quarterly magazine devoted to exploring the cultural and military legacy of the American West.

In his article, *Life in Lecompton*, published in the Spring 1999 *Bald Eagle*, Goodrich wrote, "...the little town where I grew up was really a giant in disguise—not only did Lecompton have a unique and colorful past, but it had an earth-shaking, earth-shaping history all out of kilter to its tiny size. For a brief moment in time, my little town was the lead actor on the great world stage of human events." He added, "I think Lecompton could file a legitimate claim to being the birthplace of the American Civil War."

Of great interest these days is the internet blog that Goodrich writes and edits for *Wild West Magazine*. Read it at: <http://wildwestblogcom.blogspot.com/>.



Event gives students a taste of the past

Reprinted from The Topeka Capital-Journal

*By Bill Blankenship
The Capital-Journal*

LECOMPTON -- Topeka schoolchildren didn't just read about American frontier history Friday. They saw, heard and smelled it. Among the 200 area elementary school pupils who took field trips Friday to the third annual Bald Eagle Rendezvous were a group of fifth-graders from Lyman Elementary School and the fifth- and sixth-grade classes at Cair Paravel-Latin School. On the south shore of the Kansas River, atop a bluff that was known before statehood as Bald Eagle Landing, mountain men, plainsmen, Indians and traders set up camp as they did more than 150 years ago. They cooked over open campfires. They threw axes and tomahawks. They fired muzzle-loaded firearms. Into this re-creation of the past, the third annual Bald Eagle Rendezvous, came big yellow school buses carrying young minds eager for more than they could find between the covers of their Kansas history books.

"I enjoy the junior high-age kids because they want to learn," said Richard A. Riepe, of Harrisonville, Mo. "I like their eyes when they brighten up, and they're asking questions, and they're away from the textbooks and really learning." Riepe, who is president of the Strother Freetrappers, a Holden, Mo., black powder shooting club, was at the rendezvous to share his skills as a blacksmith. Nearby, Randy Hittle, president of the First Santa Fe Trail Plainsmen, an Overbrook-based club, was showing the pupils how to start a fire using flint and steel to strike a spark to ignite a piece of char cloth.

Char cloth, Hittle explained, is made by putting small swaths of cloth into a metal canister that can be heated in an open fire until the cloth turns into a fibrous sort of charcoal that easily ignites.

The burning char cloth then can be used to light a bird's

nest the frontiersman might have gathered in his travels. For his demonstrations, Hittle fabricated "bird's nests" by unweaving short lengths of rope into bundles of fine strands.

"Now do you all think you can do that? I hope so. I want you to be survivors," Hittle told his young onlookers. Hittle said he thought such exposure to pioneer skills was important "because you are where you come from."

Iraida Orr, a fifth-grade teacher at Cair Paravel, agreed. Randy Hittle, of Mayetta, shows a group of fifth-graders from Cair Paravel-Latin School how to start a fire using flint and steel Friday morning at the Bald Eagle Rendezvous in Lecompton. The event runs through Sunday. "We want them to learn what their ancestors went through to make this country great," said Orr, who added the rendezvous provided "a visual connection to history."

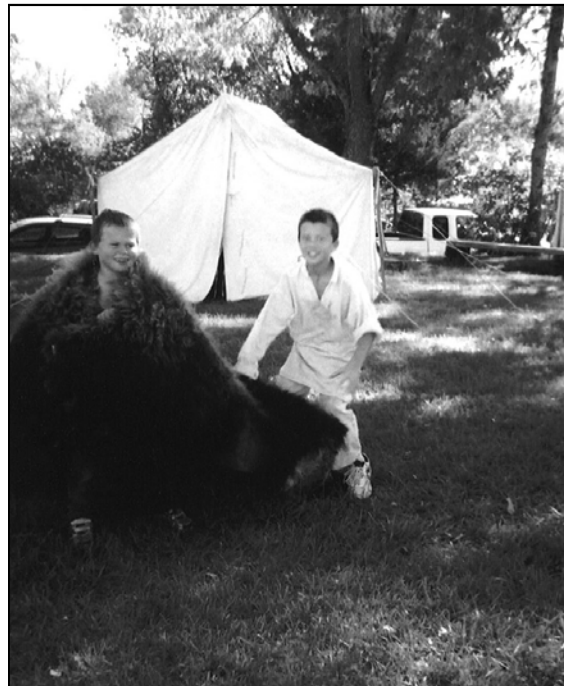
"We want them not to just read about it but to live it," she said. Although Riepe and Hittle fascinated their audiences, they quickly lost them when some of the re-enactors loaded black powder into their guns and fired a blank volley toward the river.

"That was awesome!" said one youngster still shaking his head from the noise. Some history lessons were hands-on. Pupil after pupil touched and petted pelts of fox, beaver, badger and other fur-bearing animals. As some of the Lyman fifth-graders inspected a bear skin that still had the critter's claws attached, Cindy Burbank, a parent chaperone, told them a large bear could with the swipe of a paw break the back of a steer. An impressed Tanner Lavin replied, "Holy cow!" Rich McConnell, one of the Lyman fifth-grade teachers, called the excursion a good way for his pupils to get "a little exposure to yesterday," adding he was eager to hear what the children learned once they were back in the classroom.



Photos by Shirley Funk

It was that first afternoon, Friday, that attracted children from several area schools. Rendezvous organizer, Constitution Hall's Tim Rues, says that he already has indications that even more school's will bring classrooms to the "Teepee town" on the banks of the Kansas River next year.



11th Annual • 150th Anniversary of the Lecompton Constitution

Bleeding Kansas '07

A series of talks and dramatic interpretations on the violent conflict over the slavery issue in Kansas Territory 1854 through 1861

Constitution Hall State Historic Site in
Historic Lecompton

Free
Admission



Sundays
2:00 p.m.

Programs:

- Jan. 28 **"Michael Senn: Swiss Immigrant... Western Territorial Kansas Silver Miner... Union Soldier... Populist Legislator... Advocate for Women's Rights."** John M. Solbach III, G-G-Grandson of Michael Senn.
- Feb. 5 **"How I Became a Lane Man."** Robert Collins, Historian and Author of the upcoming biography, Jim Lane: Scoundrel, Statesman, Kansan.
- Feb. 11 **"The Little Giant and Old Buck: Stephen A. Douglas, James Buchanan, the Lecompton Constitution, and the Crisis of the American Republic."** Brian Matthew Jordan, Author, Sophomore, Gettysburg College
- Feb. 18 **"Just Like Missouri: The Bogus Legislature's Plan For Kansas."** Charles E. Clark, Researcher, Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site
- Feb. 25 **"From Buckeye to Jay-Hawker: A Journey Through Bleeding Kansas"** a first-person portrayal by Rex Patty as Lot Pugh Patty, physician and legislator

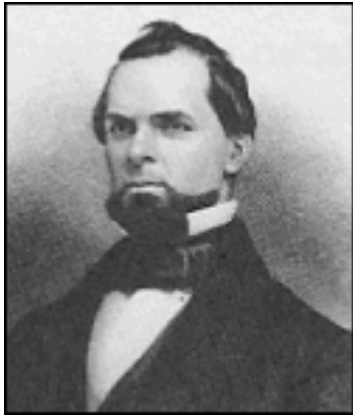


For more information, contact Constitution Hall State Historic Site at
785-887-6520 • www.kshs.org • www.lecomptonkansas.com

The Kansas State Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs

Kansas Territorial Governors

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John White Geary, 1856-1857

The struggles in Kansas Territory had a profound impact on the youngest of the territorial governors, **John Geary**. He was appointed governor of Kansas Territory on July 31, 1856 by President Franklin Pierce. Enroute Kansas from Washington, D.C., Geary met with Missouri Gov. Sterling Price and gained his agreement that free-state settlers from the East could travel through Missouri unmolested, a major achievement. In his first speech in Kansas, he said, "I desire to know no party, no section, no North, no South, no East. No West; nothing but Kansas and my country." And for the six months he was governor he remained true to that credo.

Geary's political views shifted during his stay in Kansas. He arrived as a Democratic appointee but soon came to distrust the proslavery legislature. In fact, he turned back a large group of Missourians intending to destroy Lawrence.

By the election of 1856 Gov. Geary was on intimate terms with free-staters like Charles Robinson, who would become the first governor of the state of Kansas. As a matter of course, Gov. Geary submitted his resignation to incoming President James Buchanan, who accepted it to Gov. Geary's surprise.

Geary, like his predecessors, feared for his life and left Kansas Territory in the dark of night. Back east he often gave talks on Kansas

and affixed the blame for the violence on the pro-slavery party. His distinguished career as a general in the Union Army during the Civil War led to his gubernatorial victories in Pennsylvania in the late 1860s.



Frederick P. Stanton, Acting 2 times, 1857

President James Buchanan appointed **Frederick Stanton** secretary of Kansas Territory in early April 1857. He arrived in Kansas on April 15 to replace secretary/acting governor Woodson. Acting Gov. Stanton had been a five-term Congressman from Tennessee in the 1840s and was named to serve under the new governor, his longtime friend, Robert John Walker, a former U.S. Senator from Tennessee. President Buchanan had assured the two politicians that their prestigious careers argued for a successful administration in Kansas Territory.

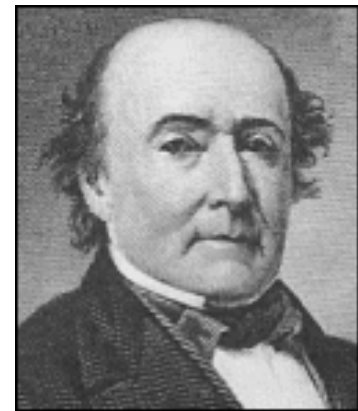
Acting Gov. Stanton had a profound impact on Kansas Territory in the 41 days he served before Gov. Walker arrived in Kansas. His most significant act was to issue a proclamation apportioning delegates to the Lecompton Constitutional Convention, which meant the election in June merely decided which proslavery candidates would attend the constitutional convention. It also the election of Oct. 5 would see free-staters win a majority. When Gov. Walker was again out of the territory in December, Acting Gov. Stanton called the legislature into session for a Dec. 7 vote, which

naturally was against the interest of the pro-slavery party.

Both Acting Gov. Stanton and Gov. Walker were fired by an upset President Buchanan.

Frederick Stanton continued to live in Lecompton, purchasing a large estate two miles east of town. He built a spacious stone home; the third floor ballroom was 50 feet square and the entire interior was finished in polished black walnut. This is the house former Gov. Harry Woodring bought just after World War II. He named it Rebel Hill.

In 1887, when Gov. Stanton moved to Florida, he commissioned a sculptor to make a bust of himself, which he gave to the Kansas State Historical Society.



Robert John Walker, 1857

President Buchanan told **Robert John Walker** that his experience, prestige and national prominence would serve him well as governor of Kansas Territory, although three territorial governors had floundered before him." Gov. Walker lasted all of five months and 19 days.

Robert J. Walker's professional career really began after he moved his family from Pittsburgh to Natchez, Miss., in 1822. In 1835 he was elected to the U.S. Senate where he served for 10 years. He was close to both Presidents Polk and Buchanan, serving as U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and minister to China. He was expected to be President Buchanan's secretary of

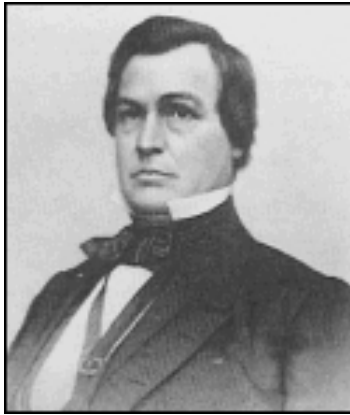
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Kansas Territorial Governors

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state. Instead one of President Buchanan's first acts in 1857 was to name him governor of Kansas Territory.

His role in Kansas, where he walked a line between the interests of free-staters and pro-slavery groups, was precarious. When he declared the Territory would hold free elections, the pro-slavery force in both Kansas and Washington moved for his removal from office. President Buchanan had assured Walker of his support, which he did not. Walker resigned, ending his public career.



James William Denver, Acting, 1857-1858, Governor, 1858

James Denver seemed to be able to communicate to both sides in the Kansas argument, thereby serving as an effective mediator. When he resigned and prepared to leave the territory, a banquet honoring him was held in Leavenworth, and representatives of all political parties were present. His biographer holds that he refused to aid either side but "took the position that his entire duty lay in enforcing the laws of the United States."

James W. Denver was a man of his times. During the Mexican War he served as a captain under Gen. Winfield Scott, participating in the march on Mexico City. After the war he joined the California gold rush where he entered politics, serving two years as a state senator. In 1852 another politician challenged Denver to a duel. Utilizing his right to pick the weapons, Denver selected

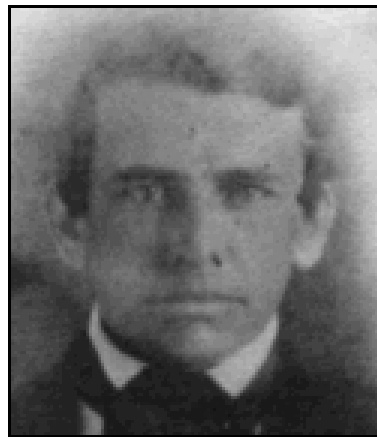
Wesson rifles at 40 paces. After the first bloodless exchange of fire, Denver's challenger insisted on a second shot, whereupon Denver killed him.

In 1855 he won a congressional seat. President Buchanan appointed him commissioner of Indian Affairs in 1857 and he was traveling through Kansas in that position, when President Buchanan named him secretary of Kansas Territory and Acting Governor. In 1858 he was named governor.

By then free-staters had won control of the legislature but the question of the Lecompton Constitution still lingered. Though President Buchanan strongly supported the pro-slave Lecompton Constitution, another vote in Kansas was necessary. Gov. Denver viewed his role as governor as being temporary. He resigned when convenient in 1858, resuming his position as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

During the Civil War he served as a brigadier general in the Union army. Later he resumed his law practice in both Washington, DC. and Wilmington, Ohio.

James Denver was best honored by a group of prospectors from Lecompton who had joined the gold rush, stopping at Cherry Creek, Colo. They named their new town Denver, in what was then Arapahoe County, Kansas Territory.

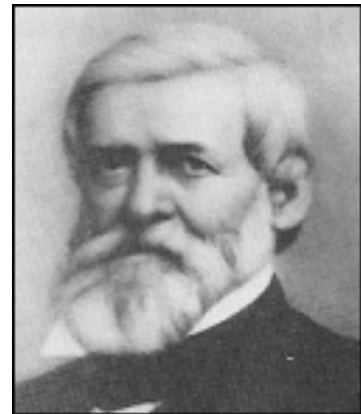


Hugh Sleight Walsh, 1858-1860

Hugh S. Walsh was a Mississippi businessman before moving to Lecompton to serve as private secretary to Acting Governors Stanton and

Denver. When James Denver, then secretary of the territory, was appointed governor in 1858, High Walsh was named secretary. His appointment was due to his friendship with fellow Mississippian soon to be Confederate President, Jefferson Davis. On several occasions Walsh served as Acting Governor with one notable achievement, recommending to U.S. Secretary of State Lewis Cass that a \$500 reward be offered for John Brown.

In 1858 he was relieved as secretary and moved to a 480-acre farm in Jefferson County, just northeast of Grantville. He later served as a Jefferson County Commissioner.



Samuel Medary, 1858-1859

When President James Buchanan appointed **Samuel Medary** governor of Kansas Territory on Nov. 23, 1858, Medary had already successfully governed Minnesota during its last year as a territory and had helped it achieve statehood in May 1858. In Kansas free-staters had control of the Kansas Territorial legislature and statehood seemed near.

Gov. Medary was the last of the Buchanan Democrats to come to Kansas with the hope that the pro-slave Lecompton Constitution might be enacted. President Buchanan had suggested that Kansans vote to elect delegates to form a new constitution. The vote in June, though, seated 35 Republicans and 17 Democrats. In November 1859 Kansas voted two-to-one for the new constitution, clearing the path to statehood.

An election was held in December

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Kansas Territorial Governors

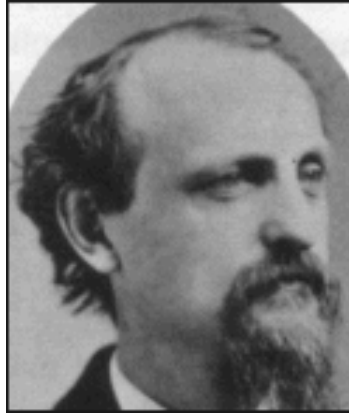
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ber for to determine who would be Kansas' first governor. The Republican candidate, Charles Robinson easily defeated Gov. Medary, the Democratic candidate. One of Gov. Medary's last acts was to veto a bill abolishing slavery, contending the law was unconstitutional on legal grounds. In 1860 Gov. Medary resigned to return to his position as postmaster in Columbus, Ohio.

In Medary's early years, he was the editor of the *Columbus, Ohio, Statesman* for 20 years. He also was a dedicated Democrat who supported President Franklin Pierce's expansionist policies, including the Mexican War. Twice he won election to the Ohio Senate and once to the state Legislature. In 1854 he lost his bid for the U.S. Senate seat from Ohio.

In his later years he became embittered with the Lincoln Administration. In 1864 a federal grand jury in-

dicted him on charges of conspiracy to commit treason. He was arrested, released on bail and never tried.



George M Beebe, Acting 2 times, 1860-1861

When **George Beebe** was appointed secretary of Kansas Territory in May 1860, he became the first Kansan to receive a presidential appointment to a territorial office. Beebe had studied law at Albany,

N.Y. Law University and then emigrated to Peoria, Illinois, where he edited the Central Illinois Democrat before moving to Troy in Doniphan County, Kansas.

In May 1859 Beebe was elected as a Democrat to the Kansas Territorial Legislature. He resigned from the legislature when he was appointed Secretary of Kansas Territory. Twice he served as Acting Governor. He presented an annual message in January 1861, just as the U.S. Senate took up the question of Kansas' statehood, arguing for Kansas' admission to the Union as a slave state. He was present at Charles Robinson's inauguration as the first governor of Kansas.

Beebe lived in Missouri and Nevada during the Civil War, returning to Monticello, N.Y. in 1866. He edited the local Democratic newspaper for 30 years. Twice he was elected to the state legislature and twice he was elected to Congress.

Reprinted from the Lecompton Reenactor newsletter

LITTLE SHOWS ADD UP

Collectively, the Lecompton Reenactors give more shows each year than most of us realize. Being both a volunteer group sans salary and just a hobby for us, no one does every show. The monologue format allows us to construct a seamless show irrespective of what assortment of troopers shows up. Flexibility is also added by the fact that about a half-dozen of our actors can do more than one role. Thus, the little shows add up more than each one of us realizes. Tim Rues in his Fiscal Year

2006 summary report covering July '06 through June '05 figures that the Lecompton Reenactors performed more than forty times for at least 6,395 people. We entertained and educated individuals, students, teachers, tour groups, and civic organizations. Our basic play Bleeding Kansas was given 34 times to a total audience of 3,030 people. We did six living history presentations for 3,365 people; ie. Kansas Day at the Capitol, Apple Days at Fort Riley, and Read Across Kansas at the Kansas Museum of History. This is really a great example of how team effort multiplies individual action. At the time I had no idea what I had started with the Lecompton Reenactors.

-- J. Howard Duncan.

DONATIONS TO THE TERRITORIAL CAPITAL MUSEUM

- * Victorian collar holder, Jim Duncan Memorial Funds
- * POW bracelet worn by Charles Plumb and Lecompton History Book by Carol Plumb Singer
- * 1990 Bypass Environmental statement by Opal Goodrick
- * 1901 newspaper and photo by Marcella Anderson
- * Mickey Mouse, Henry Aldrich, Tom&Jerry, Bugs Bunny comic books by Paul Bahnmaier
- * Bahnmaier Genealogy by Ula Bates Armstrong
- * Cream price notice by Lura McAlexander
- * 34 Presidential Pencils, "Ike on Top" Top, Eisenhower crystal coin coasters, "I Like Ike" license plate, Bumper sticker, Ike match book, "Lets back Ike" badge, and other Eisenhower memorabilia from the Verna Smith Memorial Fund
- * 39 "War of The Rebellion. Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies by Tom Goodrich
- * Painting by Ellen Duncan of the former home of Alex G. Glenn, Fred Nace and George Bahnmaier on Woodson Avenue, from the Mary Walter Powell Memorial Fund
- * Abilene Newspaper and Eisenhower recipes by Charlene Winter
- * Photo Albums sign dedication, Big Springs Church Dedication & Bleeding Kansas Play by Shirley Holderman Funk

Obituaries

Johnson, Elizabeth J., 96, died Thursday, Sept. 14, 2006. She was born June 17, 1910, in Hays, the daughter of William and Anna Leser Early. She graduated from Hays High School and received a degree in education from Fort Hays State University in 1932.

She married Gilbert Ivan Johnson in 1939 in Hays. He died in 1973.

She was a member of Lecompton United Methodist Church and the Lecompton Historical Society.

Survivors include a son, Bill Johnson, Lecompton; a grandchild; and two great-grandchildren.

Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery in Lecompton.

McPherson, Arthur G., 85, Lawrence, died Friday Sept. 29, 2006. He was born Oct. 21, 1920, in Athens, Ohio, the son of Arthur D. and Mildred M. Smith McPherson.

Mr. McPherson served in the U. S. Army during World War II.

He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans. His wife, Mary, died in 1984.

Survivors include a son, Thomas and wife Mary; two daughters, Carol Gassen and husband Richard, and Annie McPherson and husband David; two brothers, Ed and Don; a sister, Dea Sue Loofbourrow; five grandchildren, Chad, Brandon, Brooke, Devender and Ranjit; two great-grandchildren, Zachery and Benjamin.

Burial at Mount Moriah in Kansas City, Mo.

Talley, Fay, 90, died Oct. 21, 2006 at Lawrence. She was born May 18, 1916, at LaCygne, the daughter of Aral and Ada Peller Stainbrook.

She married Lloyd Murphy Talley on Aug. 24, 1940, in Topeka. He died in 1995.

She was a member of the Central United Methodist Church in Lawrence and a Life member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

Survivors include a son, Robert Lloyd Talley, Oklahoma; two daughters, Betty Sue Moon, Lawrence, and Martha Fay Sage, Perry; a sister, May Hightower, Linn County; eight grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. Burial in Memorial Park Cemetery.

McMasters, Margaret Velma, 92, died Sept. 4, 2006 at Santa Cruz, California. She was born June 26, 1914 at Centropolis, Kansas the daughter of Harry and Carrie Fisher.

She married Wayne McMasters in 1933. He survives of the home. They were married 73 years.

She was a member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

Other survivors are two sons, Alan McMasters of Monterey, Calif. and Harold McMasters of Sandpoint,

Idaho; two sisters, Lois Wheeler of Haddonfield, N. J. and Eldred Rappard of Ottawa, Kans., ten grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

No service planned.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Life Members:

William G. Harding and
Ronald J. Harding by their mother Donna Harding
Paul Cox and wife Angela (Anderson) Cox
Richard and wife Ella (Martin) Thacker
David and wife Sara (McCall) Hathaway by Bob & Mary
Lou Morris
James and wife Sherilyn (LaDuke) Driver and
Gary A. LaDuke and David R. LaDuke by their mother
Freda LaDuke
Roy Whyman
Georgia (Spencer) Wingfield
Doris (Nichols) Danley
Delma (Nichols) Parks
Shirley (Rogers) Williams
Steven D. and wife Norma J. (Fisher) Goodrick and
Robert L. Goodrick and wife Marian L. (Cox) Goodrick
and Michael T. and wife Trecia L. (McCall) Goodrick
and Jeffrey L. Goodrick by their mother Marian Opal
Goodrick.
Marilyn (James) Jean Sharkey

Memorial Life Members:

Allen Ray Morriss, Jr.,
Effie (Mohatt) Morriss ,
Cornelia (Glenn) Mohatt Cole by Donna Harding
Walter O. McClanahan his father and sister
Norma Jane (McClanahan) Winburn by Fritz
McClanahan

Intriguing New Life Member

Royal G. Whyman, Boulder, CO, became a life member last summer when he visited the Territorial Capital Museum located in the former Lane University building. He left detailed biographical information on his ancestors, particularly his grandfather Rev. Lawrence S. Tohill. Rev. Tohill, of the United Brethren Church, taught Ancient Languages and was president of Lane University in 1874 and 1875. He also was an area farmer, raising wheat and hogs.

President Paul Bahnmaier Reports:

(Continued from page 1)

2006 has been another outstanding year for four Society, thanks to the loyalty of you our members, present and former residents and historians throughout the United States. Your pride in this community and Society is certainly far beyond the ordinary.

At this writing we have had visitors from 48 states, only North Dakota and Vermont are missing. There have also been visitors from 23 foreign countries. LecomptonKansas.com our fantastic web site has had 4132 visits. Charlene Winter has conducted 43 special tours of the Museum. She's also a member of the Lecompton Reenactors troupe, which has performed 25 "Bleeding Kansas plays outside of this city.

The following are other successes we have experienced this year. The construction of a replica fort just southeast of the Museum thanks to the Wayne and Duggie Slavens Hall Memorial Fund. New "Territorial Capital" signs have been installed with funds provided by Mae Norwood and Phyllis Martin Memorial Funds. Kansas Hometown Governor's Signs were dedicated in October. Another successful Territorial Day and Rendezvous were held with your help.

2007 will be the 150th anniversary of the writing of the Lecompton Constitution. The Kansas State Historical Society has agreed to allow the Lecompton Constitution, Colonel Titus sword, ballots from Lecompton used in the 1850's and other Lecompton artifacts to be displayed Territorial Day.

The United States Congress passed legislation and was signed by President Bush for the establishment of the Free-

dom's Frontiers National Heritage Area, also known as "Bleeding Kansas". The heritage area recognizes the 26 counties in Kansas and 12 in Missouri that played such a pivotal role in the Pre Civil War history of this country. After a management plan is written the heritage area will be eligible for 10 million dollars over a 15 year period. This will bring national attention to this area and increase tourism and economic development. A public television promotion "Bad Blood" is to be completed in the spring of 2007 and it will be shown nationally. The documentary will tell the struggles between Kansas and Missouri in the 1850's. Also, a film promoting Kansas is being produced by the Kansas Department of Commerce, Wichita Public Television and Geary County Tourism to air in 2007. Both productions will contain segments about Lecompton's nationally important history.

When you mention 9 Kansas Governors and 5 U.S. Presidents and other famous Americans who are connected with Lecompton it is little wonder that B.F. Butler of Philadelphia stated that there was no bigger battle cry in the world than Lecompton from 1855 to 1859 and it was written in as many languages as London, Paris and Berlin.

Thanks to you for your continued donations of artifacts, memberships, volunteer time and other financial donations which help promote Lecompton. This is far and away the most historic city in Kansas and one of the most historic in America.

TWO MONTHS AND COUNTING

2006 Membership Drive Last Chance to Join Before Dues Increase

The Lecompton Historical Society's membership drive is an important part of its sesquicentennial celebration of Kansas Territory. For the remainder of 2006 individuals can become members for \$5, families for \$7, and life and memorial memberships, \$50.

Starting Jan. 1, 2007, LHS individual annual membership will cost \$10, family memberships, \$14; life LHS membership will be \$100. Memorial memberships will remain at \$50.

*****Please Clip and Mail With Your Check*****

THE LECOMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Lecompton, Kansas 66050, is a non-profit corporation for the preservation of historical sites. We are eager for continued membership and new members.

Dues are \$5.00 per year for individual membership and \$7.00 for a couple's membership. The dues are from December to December. Life membership is \$50 per individual. Contributions are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to the Lecompton Historical Society, and mailed to Georgia Trammel, Chairman, 11 N. 2064 Rd, Lecompton, KS 66050

- () \$5.00 Annual Individual Membership
- () \$7.00 Annual Couple's Membership
- () \$50.00 Individual Life or Memorial Membership
- () Friends of The Lecompton Historical Society \$_____

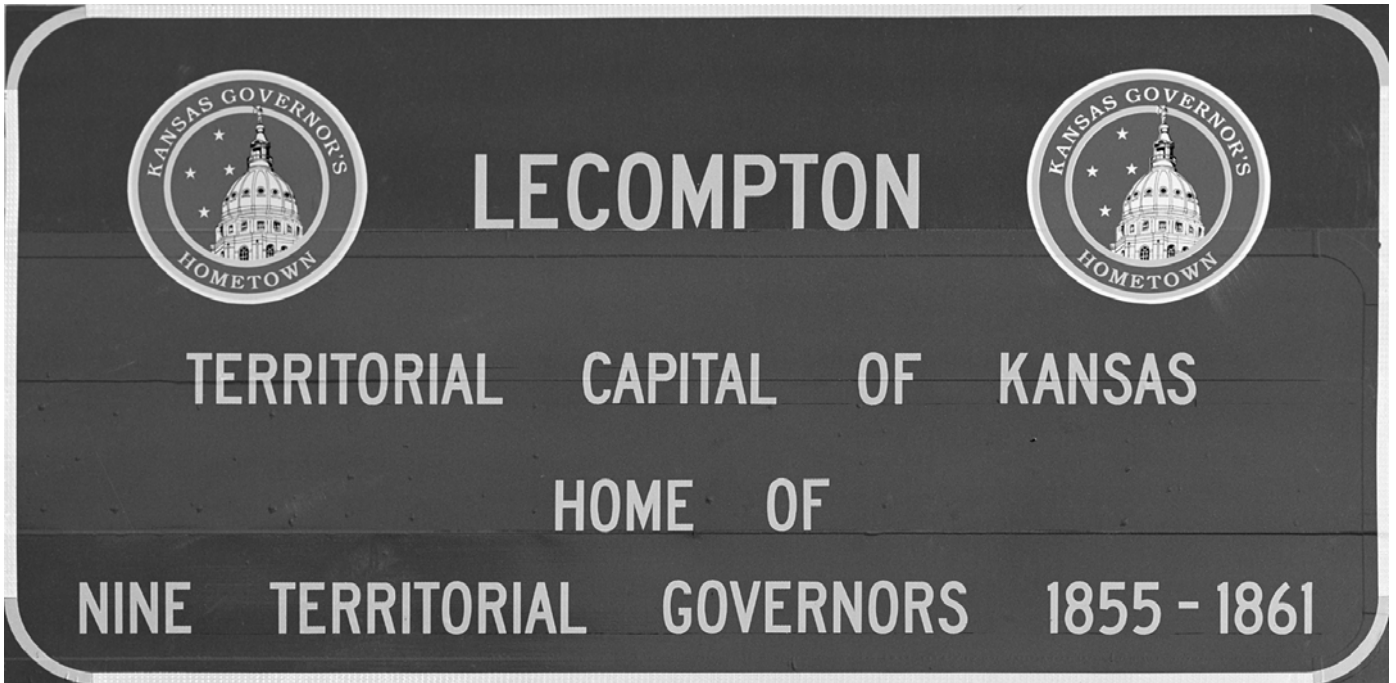
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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It costs Lecompton Historical Society at least .92 cents for a change of address and the newsletter returned for .78 cent for a postcard to notify us of your change of address, and your newsletter will be thrown away.

If you have moved and do not get your newsletter, this is why.



-Kansas Department of Transportation photo

Two big blue road signs stand on County Road 1029 guarding both the east and west approaches to Lecompton.

Lecompton Historical Society

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