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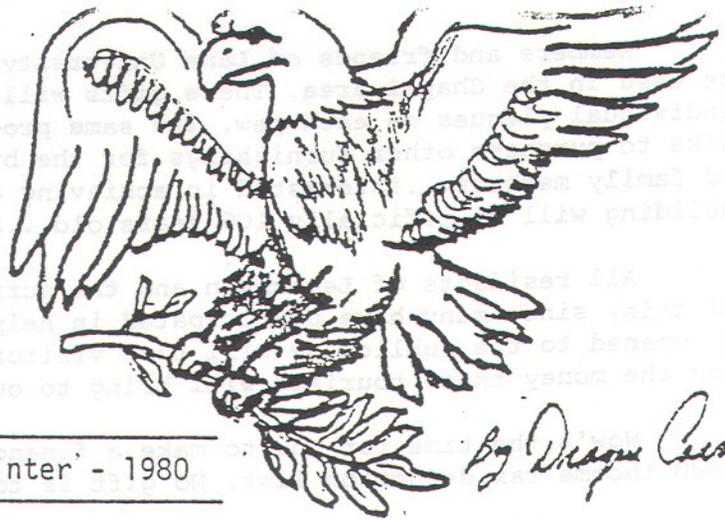
BALD EAGLE

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THE BALD EAGLE



Vol. 6 - No. 2

Lecompton, Kansas

Winter - 1980

...published by The Lecompton Historical Society, a non-profit organization, dedicated to the preservation of Lecompton's colorful historic past...and its hopes for the future.

LECOMPTON'S LANE UNIVERSITY NO LONGER STANDS ABANDONED...

On the sloping banks of the Kansas river, at the northeastern edge of Lecompton, Lane University no longer stands abandoned...as it has been for so many years. That "Grand Old Building" is taking on a completely new look and thanks to active members of the Lecompton Historical Society, and many friends and area businessmen who have donated their time and money, Lane University is again **STANDING TALL WITH DIGNITY!!!**

According to the LANE UNIVERSITY ADVERTISER, Lecompton, February, 1880, "Lane University was incorporated in the year of our Lord, 1865, under provision of 'An Act to Enable the Trustees of Colleges, Academies, Universities, and other Institutions, Societies and Companies to become incorporated,' approved, September 9, 1882."

Even though Lane University was in operation and incorporated in 1865, the Lane University building was not dedicated until 1882.

Bids on the current rehabilitation work were received last January, 1980, and work actually started in February, 1980.

LANE'S PROGRESS...as reported by Opal Goodrick...

All Federal historical preservation money allowed for Phase I of the Lane University rehabilitation project have been disbursed, and as soon as the contractor satisfactorily completes the interior work, the final \$8,000 of our local matching money remaining due on the contract, will be paid. This will officially conclude Phase I of the project.

Phase II is now in progress. This portion of the rehabilitation include installation of a new, standing seam steel roof. Also, repairs are being made to the soffit and other necessary exterior work will be completed.

At this time, the membership of the Lecompton Historical Society is striving to gather funds to make the necessary utility connections. The Gas company has brought its service to the property line, and it is now our responsibility to bring that service into the building. The same arrangements must be made for water and sewer connections, with the architect estimating that this work will cost about \$9,000.

We will then be turning our minds and efforts to providing proper furnishings for the building's interior. This will include carpeting of the Chapel, hallway and first floor office. Plans will soon be underway for acquiring appropriate display cases and book shelves.

Members and friends of Lane University have purchased 28 church pews, which will be used in the Chapel area. These gifts will be appropriately acknowledged with small individual plaques on each pew. The same program will be implemented for anyone who would like to purchase other furnishings for the building, in memory of a loved one, or in honor of family members...interested in achieving our final goal...dedication in 1982 when the building will be officially 100 years old...as a Free Public Museum.

All residents of Lecompton and the surrounding area should be particularly proud of this, since many have participated in helping to make it happen. When the building is opened to the public, we will have visitors to it from all parts of the United States, and the money these tourists will bring to our area will be of great benefit to all.

Now's the time for you to make a financial contribution...and get it on your 1980 income tax deduction list. No gift is too small nor too large. All are welcome!

PERSONAL NOTES...

A member of the Winter family presented the two beautiful chandeliers in Lane's new Chapel. They were given in memory of generations of the Milton R. Winter family. Milton R. was a leading farmer and stockman in Lecompton Township, Douglas County. In 1854-55 he came to Kansas, buying land in Lecompton Township. He became one of the most successful men in his township. While serving his second term as County Commissioner of Douglas County, he died in 1896. He was a member of the United Brethren Church.

Zella Iliff, a music graduate from Lane University, celebrated her 94th birthday on October 13th, 1980. Zella lives in her home in Topeka...and we all wish her many happy returns of the day!!

Fred Winter, who attended Lane and graduated from the University of Kansas, celebrated his 97th birthday on October 15th, 1980. Fred lives with his daughter, Laura, in Bremen, Georgia.

Julia Springer attended the annual meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society, October 21st, at the Ramada Inn in Topeka. On November 12th, she also attended the annual meeting of the Douglas County Historical Society at the Eldridge Hotel in Lawrence.

We are happy to report that Mary Nell Lasswell, who served so faithfully as our secretary, and in many other ways, is improving after a long illness. Mary Nell is at her home, 371 Whitfield, Lecompton.

AH, FOR THE GOOD OLD DAYS...(From the Lecompton Sun, Monday, April 30, 1891)

No where in Lawrence can you buy Dry Goods as cheap as we are offering them. In Dress Goods and Silks, you will find rare bargains. We are making some surprising low rates on silk-finished Henriettas, both in black and colors. In underware we offer fifty dozen swiss-ribbed ladies vests at 5¢ each. Special low prices on carpets and mattings.

A.D. WEAVER

HELP!!! (from Mrs. Frank Walter)

The Lecompton Historical Society would like to locate the site of the first Governor's Mansion in Kansas, which was located in Lecompton. It was the subject of one of the State Capitol murals in Topeka, and has created much interest.

The "so-called" mansion was a log building containing six rooms. On the ground floor were three rooms...library, dining room, and office. On the second floor were two sleeping rooms and a storeroom. There were two additional buildings on the property, consisting of a stable and an ice house.

The terrain as sketched would indicate it was located on a small hill, and perhaps near a river. The ice house would perhaps prove that it was in the proximity of a river. As most of the town, at the time of the sketch, was along the river and north of the present town, it could be assumed that the "Mansion" was in that area. The time involved would be 1856 and 1857. The sketch appeared in Harper's Weekly, June 6, 1857.

The first owner of the buildings was Sheriff Sam Jones, who inhabited it until Gov. Geary came to Kansas. Geary needed a residence, so Sam Jones sold his property to one of Geary's attaches. Geary lived there during the months he spent in Kansas as Territorial Governor. As there was much intrigue in Kansas at that time, he felt compelled to conduct his important conferences in the upstairs, as he feared people would listen at his doors and windows.

Upon Geary's leaving Kansas, the property was sold back to Sam Jones. These deeds would surely have been recorded by the Lecompton Town Company, but their records are lost. The tax records at the Douglas County Court House don't start until 1863. The only hope of locating the site of these buildings, is in persuading the people in the north part of town to read their abstracts, to see if Sam Jones owned their property at one time. A Mr. Gihon, Governor Geary's secretary, may have been the interim owner, so perhaps his name would be on the abstract.

WILL YOU PLEASE CHECK YOUR ABSTRACT...PLEASE HELP!!!

NEW TERRITORIAL BOOKS FOR SALE...

The Lecompton Historical Society has prepared a revised booklet on the history of Lecompton. The booklet may be obtained by contacting officers of the Historical Society or at Shaner's Antique Shop in Lecompton. Cost of each book is \$3.00, with proceeds going to Lane University Museum.

DOWNTOWN LECOMPTON HAS NEW LOOK FOR CHRISTMAS...by Jeri Skinner

After 15 years without decorations, downtown Lecompton is again celebrating the Holiday Season this year with bright lights. We hope the small beginning will be enjoyed by everyone. Decorations have been made possible by contributions from the following people in the community:

City of Lecompton	Effie's Beauty Shop
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Duncan	New Image Beauty Salon
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kibbee	Pete's Supermarket
Mr. and Mrs. Neal Mathews	Edgewood Christmas Tree Farm
Mr. and Mrs. E.P. Hubert	Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Shaner
Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Springer	Jeri Skinner
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stauffer	Mr. and Mrs. Louis Traxler

Helping to put up the decorations were Joe Stauffer, Ralph Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Ransford, their two daughters, and Howard Duncan. Everyone then proceeded to the home of Howard and Ellen Duncan and Jeri Skinner, for punch and cookies.

Donations are still needed to help defray the cost of the decorations and may be made payable to Jeri Skinner, Box 56, Lecompton.

HOW DENVER, COLORADO WAS BORN:.....submitted by Sara Walter

(This story was told at the last Douglas County Historical Society meeting by a University of Kansas Professor. We were aware of the story, but were pleased to have it brought to the attention of the County)

In 1858, word came to the Lecompton Pottawatomie Agency from the Rocky Mountain area (now Colorado, then the western border of Kansas Territory) that gold had been discovered. Governor Denver, then Territorial Governor, along with a group of interested men, organized themselves into a corporation, for the purpose of sending a wagon train to the aforementioned area, to stake claims for each member of the organization.

Each member provided \$500 toward the expenses of the trip. A wagon train was assembled, consisting of 5 wagons, 25 men and provisions. Of the 25 men, 17 were mounted and 8 were drivers. The group left Lecompton May 10, 1858, and arrived at their destination to find all the gold-bearing claims were taken. Their orders had been to stake claims, but also they were to plat a town. They spent two days staking out the town, then started back to Lecompton without gold, but with a town map.

They realized their empty-handed return would be a disappointment, so on their last day before reaching Lecompton, they decided to kill some wild game, so they could at least treat the men who sent them out, with a feast. They killed a buck, a buffalo calf, wild turkeys and other small game.

They reached Lecompton July 3, 1858, took their game to the chef at the Rowena Hotel, and made provisions for a game dinner. Of course their benefactors were disappointed that there were no gold claims for them, but were greatly interested in the plat of a new town. At the dinner, the new town was discussed, and someone suggested that the group provide a name for it. As Governor Denver was a prime mover of the project, well liked and respected, someone suggested the town be called Denver after the Governor. Everyone agreed, and that is how the City of Denver, Colorado, was platted and named.

THE LECOMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Lecompton, Kansas 66050 is a Non-Profit corporation for the preservation of Historic Sites. We are eager for continued membership and new members!

Individual membership is \$2.50 per year, 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 Box 13 at Lecompton, or mailed to Mrs. Charles Wright, Box 107, Lecompton.

The Society enjoys keeping you informed of progress on the Lane renovation, and the vast history of Lecompton through quarterly issues of The Bald Eagle, however, due to expense of printing and mailing, your membership would be of great financial help. If you are a Life member or a Donor, please consider your yearly dues paid.

(Please clip and mail with your check)

_____ \$2.50 Annual Individual Member _____ \$50 Individual Life Member
_____ Other Contribution
Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Note: If your name or address are not correct as shown on this copy of your Bald Eagle, please let us know...we'd love to hear from you.

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 1981...

President-	Mrs. Forrest (Julia) Springer	Board of Directors:
Vice President-	Mr. Paul Bahnmaier	Mrs. Frank (Sara) Walter
Secretary-	Ms. Jeri Skinner	Mr. Howard Duncan
Treasurer-	Mrs. Charles (Sally) Wright	Mr. Charles Wright

ALEXANDER W. GLENN...ONE OF LECOMPTON'S EARLY SETTLERS...submitted by Iona Spencer

(The following obituary was taken from "The Commonwealth", a Topeka newspaper, dated January 27, 1878. It was written by Henry M. Greene, who was a Lt. Col. of the 2nd Kansas State Militia. He later settled in Lecompton where he took charge of the United Brethren Church. He was elected to the State Senate from Douglas County in 1876 and in both sessions of his term he was chairman of the Committee on Education.)

Alexander W. Glenn was born in February, 1799, in Madison County, Kentucky, the son of William and Jane (Moore) Glenn. He died at the home of his son, A.G. Glenn, three miles west of Lecompton, January 24, 1878, 80 years of age. Few men has succeeded better in passing quietly and peacefully through an eventful and changeful life, and leaving as a legacy more precious than broad acres or bright gold—the potent influence and fragrant memory of a spotless record. His numerous descendants are not the only mourners. Wherever he was known his quiet unassuming virtues endeared him to all, and although he had passed the allotted space of worldly life so hopeful and happy was his constant demeanor that few realized his age or infirmities.

Father Glenn was through all his life a pioneer. He remembered being carried over the river to St. Louis by his father when but six years of age. The family found a home about seven miles below that city, then a French village and here Mr. Glenn lived a number of years. He frequently saw the French women washing and fishing around a large pond on what was then known as the "Choteau Tract" now in the heart of the city and not half a mile from the levee. On this pond a mill was located, operated by the water of the outlet. He remembered the great earthquake of 1811, which caused such commotion and destruction at New Madrid and other points along the Mississippi. His description of the panic at that time, as well as of other exciting scenes in his early life were highly graphic and amusing.

When quite young he removed with his family to "Boon's Licks", near the present town of Boonville. He once saw Daniel Boone at a religious meeting, and sat near the old man during the services. Boone was then an old, white haired man, thin in flesh, yet possessing some of the wonderful elasticity of his eventful youth and manhood. This was in the winter of 1819, shortly before the old hunter's death, and from his appearance then, Mr. Glenn was decidedly of the opinion that he had for some time been incapacitated from the pleasures of the chase. This expression was a response to the statement that Boone while hunting in Kansas, then the Indian territory, had contracted the sickness from which he died on Stone House Creek, about Midway between Lawrence and Perry, on the north side of the river: a statement which Mr. Glenn was much inclined to doubt.

So persistently had Mr. Glenn clung to the vanguard of advancing civilization that he had never ridden on a railway train until the opening of the Midland Road. An amusing episode of his first trip was related to me by the old gentleman himself at the picnic last Fourth of July on his own beautiful grounds at Glendale. After relating the invitation of the railway officials to ride with them to Lawrence, the consideration paid him on the train and in town, he said, one of the party asked him if he was frightened on the trip. "I told him", said the old gentleman with his own peculiar manner, "that it was a pretty how-dy-do if I should be skeered at sitting still in a car, when I had killed bears and panthers all my life and never run from one yet."

Thus another link of the chain which connects us with the past has dropped forever. Into the life of this octogenarian were compressed the elements of ages of history. Before his eye and beneath his feet a pathless wilderness has been transformed into an empire of civilized men. All modes of transportation, of trade, even teaching and worship have changed, but our departed friend preserved through all these changes a beautiful love for humanity and trust in God.

The funeral services were conducted by the writer at the house where he died, and the burial occurred on the following day, the impressive burial service of the M.E. Church, to which the deceased has belonged for half a century being read by Rev. M. Buffington.

WE WISH ALL "BALD EAGLE" READERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a NEW YEAR FULL OF PEACE AND JOY

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Lecompton, Kansas 66050

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Thus another link of the chain which connects us with the past has dropped forever. Into the life of this outspanner were compressed the elements of ages of history. Into his eye and beneath his feet a pathless wilderness has been transformed into an empire of civilized men. All modes of transportation, of trade, even teaching and worship have changed, but our departed friend preserved through all these changes a beautiful love for humanity and trust in God.