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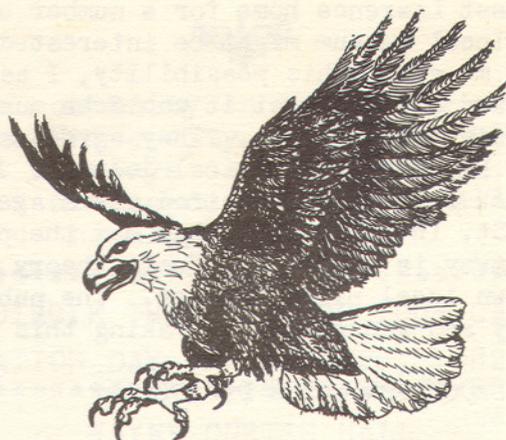
BALD EAGLE

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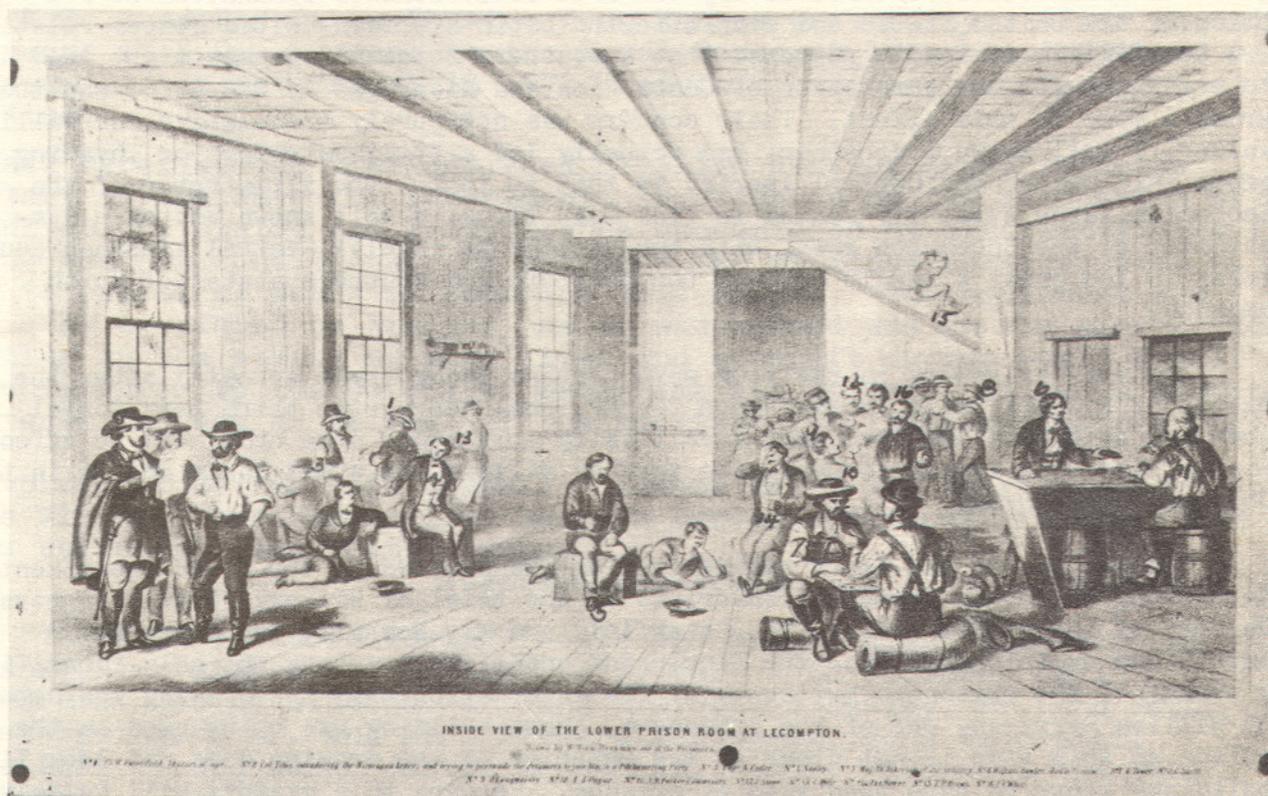
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VOL. 8 NO. 1

LECOMPTON, KANSAS

SPRING

1982



Photograph courtesy Kansas Collection, Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas

LECOMPTON SCENE RETURNS TO LECOMPTON

In the 1850's one of the most widely known visual images of Kansas was "Inside View of the Lower Prison Room at LeCompton." Now, in 1982, a large handsomely framed print of this scene will return to LeCompton to hang in the restored Lane University Museum.

This LeCompton scene, actually a drawing, was produced in several size prints in the 1850's and has been reprinted in history books since. The Kansas Collection of Spencer Research Library has an early copy approximately the size of a page. The manuscript division of the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka has a print of a slightly larger size.

Stan and Jan Shumway of Lawrence had a large print of this LeCompton prison

scene hanging in their Old West Lawrence home for a number of years. In the Fall of 1981 they decided that a local museum might be interested in acquiring the print. When they approached me about this possibility, I assured them of the historic value of the print and advised that it would be most appropriate to donate the print to the Lane University Museum. They agreed and Julia Springer accepted it on behalf of the Lecompton Historical Society. The Shumways found this print folded up in a book which they acquired years ago with the purchase of their home at 702 Louisiana St. in Lawrence. They had the print mounted and handsomely framed. Stan Shumway is a Prof. of Music Theory at the University of Kansas and Jan is a well known local piano teacher. The public will benefit from their strong sense of history and generosity in making this donation.

WHAT THE LECOMPTON SCENE DEPICTS

This Lecompton prison scene depicts Col. Titus introducing the "Nicaragua" letter and "trying to persuade the prisoners to join him in a filibustering expedition." To understand this reference to a Central American country we must look back to the national and international situation in the 1850's. The struggle in Kansas between the Proslavery and Free-Soil elements dominated the politics of the United States and even affected Latin-American-United States relations. Two Costa Rican diplomats reasoned that a southern defeat in Kansas might lead to pressures for the annexation of Costa Rica and Nicaragua by the U. S. and they wrote a memo to this effect. Their concern was not purely speculative for William Walker, a well known Southerner, had actually led a "filibustering" or invading group into Mexico and Central America in 1855 to 1857. The illustrator of the Lecompton scene evidently wanted to link Col. Titus, a well known Southern sympathizer of the Lecompton area, with the attempt to involve Central American countries in the great struggle between the northern and southern states of North America.

The many prisoners in the room were perhaps among those arrested after the Battle of Hickory Point in Jefferson County, Gov. Geary, the third territorial governor of Kansas had been sent specifically to restore some order and he effectively used U.S. forces to quell the various militia and armed bands active in the Douglas County area.

The records of the Geary administration transmitted to the State Department in Washington, D. C. contain transcripts of the trial of Hickory Point prisoners. Several of these, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Poterfield and Mr. Newhall, are among those identified on this drawing. The fine print under the drawings not only identifies a number of the prisoners but contains the information that the drawing was done by William Berryman, one of the prisoners. What building was being used as the prison at this time is not clear as the interior of the drawing does not look like buildings known to have been used as prisons. Perhaps this mystery will be solved in time.

In a time before the invention and wide use of cameras, drawings of political and other events were very popular as they provided the only visual record for the people of the times not present at the event. For those of us interested in history these drawings provide another tool to try to understand the past. It seems entirely appropriate that a large print of the Lecompton Prison Scene will soon be hanging in the town of its origin some one hundred and thirty or so years after the scene was originally drawn.

By Katie H. Armitage, research assistant
Kansas Collection, Spencer Research Library
University of Kansas

Bibliography

- Kansas Historical Collection, Vol. 4 p. 573-583, (1886)
Schoonover, Thomas "Foreign Relations and Kansas in 1858", Kansas Historical Quarterly, XLII, 4 p 345-352. (Winter, 1976)

DAVID EISENHOWER WILL VISIT LANE UNIVERSITY

Paul Bahnmaier, Chairman of the Dedication Committee, received a telephone message from Julie Eisenhower that her husband, David, will be delighted to attend the dedication of Lane University on June 26th and will take part in the ceremony, remembering that his great grandparents, David and Ida Stover Eisenhower, met while students at Lane University and were married here in Lecompton in 1885

This is, INDEED, wonderful news, and will be a highlite of the dedication event. We are very thrilled, and excited!

Even though the frightfully cold weather prevented us having the regular monthly meeting in January, work is progressing nicely. The new red carpet has been installed in the Chapel and the lovely white pews all arranged. Work will start on the window treatment soon, and those members involved in special projects are really getting down to business.

JUDGE SAMUEL DEXTER LECOMPTÉ

It is a well known fact that Lecompton was named after Judge Samuel Dexter Lecompte; but what more is known about him, his family or his background?

In this article the attempt will be made to establish his family background with succeeding BALD EAGLES telling about his life in Maryland and Kansas as a judge, legislator and family man.

Anthony LeCompte left Picardy Province, France in the early 1600's to escape the conflicts between Richelieu and the Huguenots. He went to England where it is believed that he won military distinction and royal titles during the eleven years he served in the English army. While in England, he married Esther Doatloam a French woman. They came to Maryland in the early 1650's. Records indicate that in 1655 he sold 200 acres in Calvert County, Maryland and that in 1657, Calvert County paid him 300 pounds of tobacco for killing three wolves. In 1659, he established a plantation of 800 acres-St. Anthonia-on the Choptank River in Horne Bay. Very few white people had settled in this area, so to protect his family of four sons and two daughters and his white servants he brought a large supply of arms and guns to fight the Indians. He was one of the Jutices of Dorchester County, Maryland in 1669-71. He died in 1673.

Moses Lecompte was the 2nd son of Anthony and Esther. He married Mary Skinner and they had eleven children, eight boys and three girls. Nine of his children lost their eyesight and forty-two descendants are known to have become blind at an early age. He died in 1720.

Moses (2) was the 2nd son of Moses (1) and Mary. He married a widow named Levina Pattison Driver. They had four children: one son (guess what the son's name was?) and three daughters.

Moses (3) married Nancy Pattison and they had five children, one son (Moses-4) and four daughters.

Moses (4) was born in October, 1748 and he died October 22, 1800. He was in

the Dorchester County Militia during the Revolutionary War and was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant in two Maryland Minute Companys'. Moses (4) was married twice. The first marriage produced one daughter. Nine children were born in the second marriage. The first three were named Moses, but they all died young.

This is the end of the traceable listing of the Lecompte family for our concern. If this is the end then were does Judge Samuel Dexter LeCompte fit in? I am not sure! LeCompte is a common French name and in Dorchester County, Maryland. However, his father was Samuel LeCompte and his mother was Araminta. He had one brother-Edward, who married Emily White and they had five children. Four never married and the fifth had no children. Samuel Dexter's sisters never married.

Samuel Dexter LeCompte married Camilla Anderson and came to Kansas in 1854.

The story of the LeComptes in Lecompton, Kansas will be covered in a future BALD EAGLE.

(The above article was submitted by Jeyce (Bahnmaier) Behlke)
(Information taken from Kansas State Historical Quarterlies and news paper clippings)

Statement received from Attorney Douglas S. Wright informing the members of the status of the reconstruction at Lane University:

"The architect, Charles L. Hall, and the contractor, Landmark Company, employed by the Board of Directors of the Lecompton Historical Society to renovate Lane University contend that their work is complete and in compliance with the plans, specifications and contracts. The Board of Directors disputes this contention and as a result, the Board has withheld making final payment to the contractor in the amount of Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars Nineteen Cents (\$12,767.19). The primary controversy between the Board and the contractor relates to the roof. The original specifications for the metal roof called for a Terne roof but the contractor installed a ColorKlad roof. The architect knew of the substitution but did not seek or receive approval of the Board prior to the installation of the roof. The Board believes that a Terne metal roof should have been installed and should now be installed by the contractor in order to maintain the Historical accuracy of the renovation project.

In addition, the Board believes that the roof installation was not performed as per the manufacturer's specifications and, if not corrected, could cause leakage. The Board also has received a report from another architect which indicates that roof sheathing and trusses should have been repaired before the roof was installed. The Board believes that the architect and contractor bear full responsibility for these problems identified with the roof and the Board has directed its attorney to commence legal action, if necessary, in order to remedy the defects and protect the interest of the Society. The Kansas State Historical Society has assisted in performing inspections at Lane University and has been advised of the Board's position."

/S/ Douglas S. Wright

E. B. SLADE:
THE PREACHER WHO MARRIED IKE'S PARENTS

It has now been 97 years since Ida Stover and David Eisenhower, college students at Lane University were married in a United Brethren parsonage occupied by the bride's brother, Rev. W. D. Stover. This house is still standing in Lecompton. The service was performed by another United Brethren minister, Rev. Edmund B. Slade.

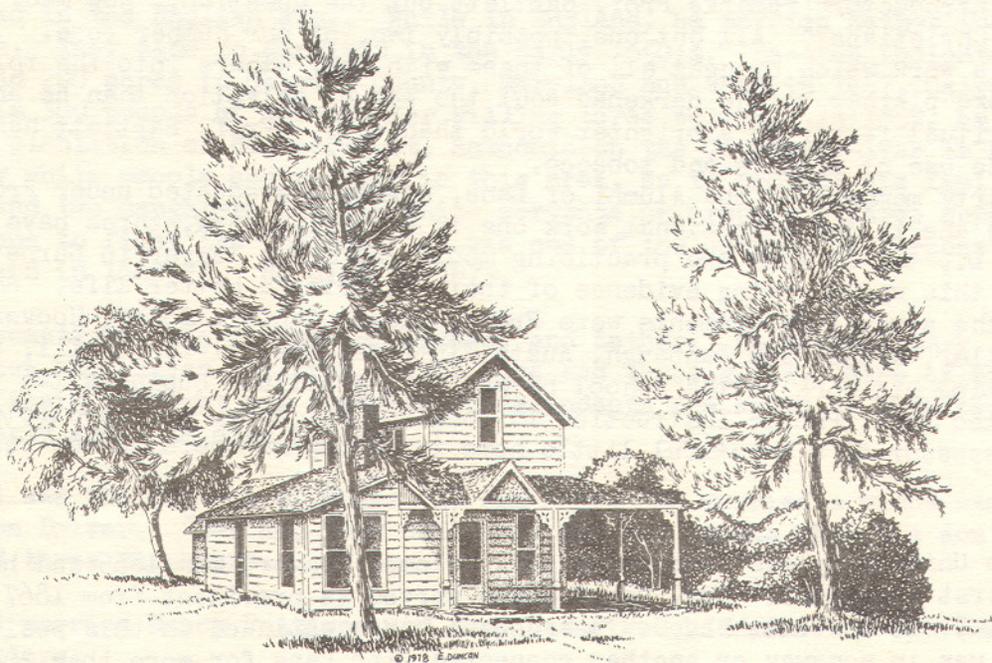
Edmund Slade was born in 1839 in Ohio and he spent his childhood in Ohio and Indiana. By the age of 17 he felt the call to become a minister, although he seemed to be unsure if that was what he really wanted. He had previously promised to help his father farm until he was 21, so his inclination to go into the ministry was postponed.

As the time for his release from farming chores arrived so did the outbreak of the Civil War, and Edmund Slade served with Company G, 10th Regiment of the Indiana Infantry Division, advancing to rank of sergeant.

During a furlough in 1863 he married a childhood friend, Deborah Johnson. After the war was ended he again engaged in farming in Indiana, but in 1869 he and his family moved to Kansas. Farming did not satisfy him completely and he was again drawn to the ministry, accordingly he asked to be licensed as a preacher in the United Brethren church.

In this capacity he befriended many young people and among them was David Eisenhower and Ida Stover, later to become Dwight David Eisenhower's parents. Edmund B. Slade was the preacher who married Ida and David. Other notable people he influenced were Rev. F. M. Testerman, Dr. O. T. Deever, former executive secretary of evangelism of the United Brethren and Dr. D. E. Ashcraft, former dean of Bonebrake Theological Seminary.

Information from "The Preacher Who Married Ike's Parents" by Harold French, FRIENDS, Vol. 107, No. 38, 1960.



The house which was the parsonage in which Ike's parents were married, Lecompton.

COLLEGE ECHOES

A Monthly Journal Published by Lane University --- December, 1888

NORMAN BRACE BARTLETT

By Mrs. Flora Day

Lane's third president was born in New York, Nov. 20, 1834, and is of French lineage. The earlier part of Prof. Bartlett's life was spent in Buffalo, N. Y. and in Wisconsin. For five years he was engaged in lumbering on the Mississippi river. The history of this period of his existence would be intensely interesting to our adventurous boy friends.

Two years after the founding of Western College, in '58, found the subject of this sketch numbered among its students. In the same year he was converted under the labors of Rev. C. C. Briggs. Here too, he met and afterwards married Miss Elizabeth Hill. He graduated from Western in '65 and the same year came to Lecompton with intentions of engaging in fruit growing.

In 1867 he was invited to the chair of mathematics in Lane with Prof. Shuck at the helm, which he accepted and held till '70--when he was called to the presidency. Serving in this capacity till '73 he again conducted the department of mathematics and in '74 was re-elected president which position he held till he left Lane in '83 with the exception of one year with Prof. L. S. Tohill as president.

Perhaps no other man has a better knowledge of the history of our school than he.

A few reminiscences of the "old days" may be admissible as bearing some what on Prof. Bartlett's worth and influence. When but a Miss the writer's lot was cast among the aspiring minds of Lane, and the memory of our first morning has not vanished, as we were most fully alive to the fact that the man with the huge beard and "two dark eyes of changeful sheen" was the president of Lane University and looked as if he would not "speak twice." One characteristic of his work was his rigid discipline and thorough methods.

In the years that followed we have seen the stern countenance soften with the fullest expression of sympathy, and those dark eyes shine with the light which only kindles with the purest and most tender emotions of the soul.

One memorable "Rhetorical day" during one of Lane's longest and hardest pulls when the attendance was small we were all assembled in the old chapel (now the prayer room) and after a few introductory remarks Prof. Bartlett put the question, "How many are or expect to be Christians?" All but one, possibly two, of our number rose. This was the beginning of a work which brought all of these with many others into the fold of Christ. No one can make plainer to the darkened soul the way of salvation than he and many will hail him spiritual father in a brighter world than this. Prof. Bartlett has always been opposed to the use of liquors and tobacco.

Of the thirty members of the Alumni of Lane, eighteen graduated under Prof. Bartlett. Of these nine are in the educational work one in editorial work, three have taken the degree of M. D., two of whom are practicing medicine, one a lawyer in Garnett, Kans. Two have quitted this world giving evidence of their entering a better life. Among his co-laborers in the several departments were Profs. Alder, Tohill, Soltz, Hoover, Cora Bonbrake, Fuller, Misses Ada Wanbaugh, Austa Wintrode, Mrs. Kizzie Tohill, and others.

After quitting his work in the school he was in the Ballast business two years and in '86 was elected Supt. Public Instruction in Douglas Co., Kans. and re-elected in '88. He is the possessor of a beautiful little home in Lecompton where he now resides.

Lane University was founded by Rev. Solomon Weaver, Jan 1865 and he was Lane's first President. Rev. David Shuck served as president from 1867 to 1872, when Prof. N. B. Bartlett Ph. D., was chosen. He continued in this position until 1883 and was in some way or another connected with Lane for more than 20 years. Norman Brace Bartlett has the following living relatives: two grandsons; Dale and Merle C. Bartlett; four neices; one nephew and several other relatives.



We hope everyone in the community is gathering artifacts and items relating to early Lecompton, Lane University and Kansas history so that many interesting and unusual displays can be arranged. Early pictures of the area, homes and families are needed. Please call if you think you might have something to add to the displays.

REMEMBER TO CIRCLE THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

DEDICATION DAY - JUNE 26, 1982

WAYNE CURTIS HALL

Wayne C. Hall, former Naval Research Director of General Science, died Sept. 19, 1981 at Wannaker, Wisconsin, following heart surgery. Wayne lived in the Lecompton area during his youth, attending elementary school and graduating from the Lecompton High School in 1927. He received his A.B., M.S., and P.H.D. in Physics from Kansas University. After teaching four years at K.U., he went to the Naval Research Laboratories where he worked until his retirement in 1971, returning to the Lawrence area at that time.

Dr. Hall received the Distinguished Civilian Service Award from the Secretary of the Navy for achievements in research on the mitigation of precipitation, static and interference encountered by aircraft flying in adverse weather conditions. He provided the military services with a guide to practical means of reducing this hazard. The equipment and techniques developed by him are now in widespread use in the air service resulting in the saving of many lives and aircraft during World War II and contributes to the safety of peacetime air travel. He had a number of patents and was a "Fellow" of the American Institute of Engineering.

Survivors include his wife Maybelle Slavens Hall, two daughters, Dr. Elaine Mischler and Comptroller Marylyn Darrow and three grandchildren. He was buried at Osage City, Kansas.

A big "THANKS" to the following people who helped clean and paint at the Lane University building on a very, very cold December day: Mr. and Mrs. George Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. David Paslay, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Springer, Mr. and Mrs. Richard McConnell, Edna Bahnmaier, Maxine Dark, Lydia Long, Jessie McConnell, Richie McConnell and Paul Bahnmaier.

The Lecompton Historical Society membership would like to thank Don McAfee and Shawn Wilkinson for contributing their time and labor to install the outside light at the west basement door. This is the type of community spirit and pride that has made the Lane University restoration project a success!

If you need a reminder of birthdays and community events, don't be without the new 1982 Lecompton Historical Society calendar. It is available to you for \$2.50 from Darlene Paslay and Julia Springer. You can also check through the advertising section for local businesses and service.

The Lioness Club of Perry expressed their interest and enthusiasm by donating a beautiful clock to be placed in Lane University. It resembles the old time school clocks you all remember, and we are SO HAPPY to have it. Thank you!

You wouldn't believe the beautiful wood that Forrest Springer, David Paslay and George Simmons found under many layers of varnish on the old grade school piano donated by the Norwood family. We can hardly wait until the ivories are restored, a tune-up completed and Julia gives us a concert. This piano was originally donated to the Lecompton Grade School by the Dr. Maust family.

President - PAUL BAHNMAIER
Editor - ELLEN DUNCAN
Geneological Writer - IONA SPENCER
Historical Writer - SARA WALTER

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 Miss Jeri Skinner, Secretary, Box 56, Lecompton, Kansas 66050.

(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.

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