

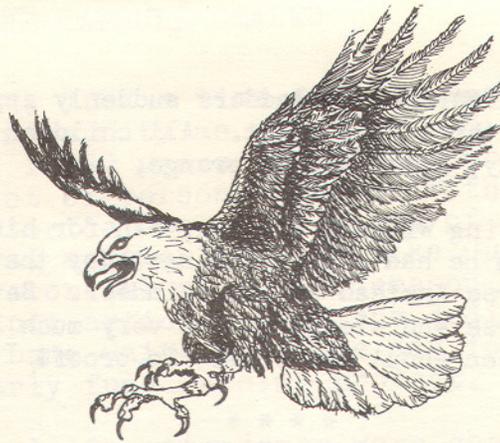
The LHS Newsletter Archive

BALD EAGLE

Volume Eight, Issue Number 4

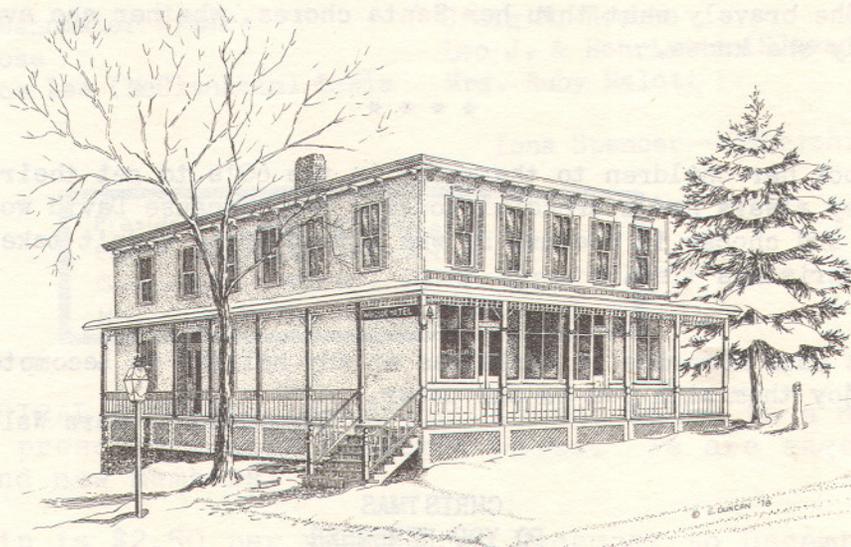
Originally Published in Lecompton, Kansas : Winter 1982
Digitally Archived August 2006





CHRISTMASES REMEMBERED

The year must have been around 1916. All the children in the area were excited because the people of the town planned a Christmas celebration beside the the Winsor Hotel. There was a large pine tree near the southwest corner of the porch. It was to be decorated and made available for any toys Santa cared to hang there. This was a time when there were few cedars in the area and Christmas trees were scarce.



Winsor Hotel 1862, Presently United Methodist Church

The celebration was to be held after dark. The tree was covered with candles, lighted, (goodness knows how) and by the time the children and parents gathered at 8 o'clock, many presents (brought by parents) were hung on the tree. To start the proceedings carols were sung. Suddenly, during a carol, bells were heard, as were hoof beats, all turned to see the cause of the commotion. A small cutter containing a Santa Claus and pulled by a lovely horse, came tearing down the snowy hill and pulled up by the near-by gas street light.

Someone held the bridle of the horse as Santa jumped from the sleigh and hurried to the tree. He handed the gifts to a helper who called the names on the packages and delivered them to their new owners.

After all packages were delivered, two ladders suddenly appeared, they were held horizontal to the street about three feet apart. All children could walk through this aisle to receive a sack of candy, nuts, and an orange.

Santa finished his gift giving without a hitch, ran for his sleigh and disappeared back in the direction from which he had come. The next day there was considerable discussion as to why he drove a horse instead of his reindeer. Several of the knowledgeable boys also indicated that the horse and sleigh looked very much like the one Starr Glenn drove, and that the Santa had been about his size! No proof!

* * * *

The last Christmas service held in Lane--before moving to the present United Methodist church--held an unusual memory. The stage was open except in front, and as someone could crawl under it and come out a trap door that was in the stage, it was decided to let Santa come in that way. As the opening was small, it was decided to use a young girl. After the program was over, bells were jingled and lo and behold, the trapdoor in the stage, slowly opened and Santa's face appeared. 'He' partly stood up, but suddenly grabbed below his waist, and crouched down again. 'He' tried it again, and again disappeared from view, the third time 'he' tried it, Rev. Megill yelled, "John, there's a nail there catching her pants, and she can't get out, help her!"

John Banks rushed over, grabbed the nail and helped Santa out. Now who this Santa was, we're not sure, but we are sure that her face was so red, she didn't need much of a mask that night. She bravely went thru her Santa chores, whether she ever served in that capacity again, only she knows.

* * * *

Maxine Dark took her children to the woods in the 60's to get their own tree. She remembered that they always had a dreadful looking tree because David would feel sorry for a bedraggled tree, and choose it because he was afraid if he didn't take it, it would never get to be a Christmas tree.

* * * *

Please send us your memories of Christmas or any holiday in Lecompton, so that we can use them to enjoy them with you in our paper.

Submitted by Sara Walter

CHRISTMAS DO YOU REMEMBER

We have enjoyed reading some Christmas stories from the past in our old newspaper "The Lecompton Sun" and thought you would enjoy reminiscing some of them with us.

The first newspaper at Lecompton, Douglas Co. K. T. (Kansas Territory) was called the "Kansas National Democrat". At this time, in December, 1857, Lecompton was just a few years old and it seems there was not a church building at this time, as we found the following article: "The Rev. Mr. Rice preached last Sunday: Preaching is something of a rarity in this place, and why this is the case we cannot conceive, for no place of the same size possesses more good citizens than does Lecompton.

Citizens of Lecompton, suppose we build a church."

But we did read in this same paper later, where the young gentlemen of Tecumseh held a New Year's Ball and several citizens of Lecompton attended and spoke favorably of it.

Christmas of 1888

Christmas eve found a crowded Chapel, a big tree, and gifts for the youngsters and oldsters, if nothing more than a stick of gum.

Christmas of 1900

Christmas was a pleasant and happy day to all. Christmas dinners only come once a year and most of us did them justice. One thing of interest especially to the children, was the visit of Santa Claus who came through the streets in a spring wagon, covered with evergreens, drawn by a team of horses. He threw out oranges to the children as he passed.

Christmas of 1920

United Brethren Christmas Program

Song-Chorus; Scripture reading and invocation-Rev. J. H. Neumeyer, Recitation-"Winter Brings Christmas"-Cora Kuester; Rec.-"Santas Gift"-Edith Kuester; Rec.-"Christmas Day"-Edith Slavens; Rec. "Just A Greeting"-Martha Smith; Rec. "Little Doris' Christmas Story"-Sara Slavens; Rec. "My Dolly"-Mary Glenn; Rec. "The Wise Men"-Eldred Day; Rec. "Cousin Kate's Christmas"-Mary Smith; Exercise-"Our Christmas Gifts"-Norwood children; Rec. "The Angel's Song"-Elsie James; Rec. "While Angels Watched Their Flocks"-Maybelle Slavens; Song-"See My Pretty Christmas Stocking"-Lucile Loreen; Rec. "In December"-Louise Clark; Rec. "My Christmas Dollies"-Hazel Glenn; Rec. "Holly and Mistletoe"-George Norwood; Duet "The Story That Never Grows Old"-Julia and Curtis Sehon; Rec. "His Choice"-Russell Hildenbrand; Exercise "Crowning Him King"-Wilber Hildenbrand; Rec. "He Comes In The Night"-Frances Drake; Rec. "The Fairies Christmas"-Nellie Slavens; Rec. "Under The Mistletoe"-Freddie Hildenbrand; Rec. "Christmas Story"-Katie Kuester; Song: Chorus. Santa Claus came and gave out 73 Sunday School treats.

Methodist Christmas Excerises

Song "Joy To The World"-Sunday School; Prayer-Mr. Arnett; Rec. "Advice"-Margaret Baughman; Exercise "Three Candles"-Donald, Esther and Charles; Rec. "Christmas Signalman"-Byron Morris; Rec. "My Speach"-Elmer Arnett; Song "Merry Christmas"-Primary class; Rec. "Poor Dolly"-Esther Glenn; Rec. "Trying to Be Good"-Dwight Atkinson; Rec. "If you Are Good"-Wesley Atkinson; Rec. "A Good Mother"-Bernice Morris; Rec. by Oliver and Hazel Wingfield; Rec. by Albert Gurlile; Rec. "Learning To Spell"-Ammazetta Lewellan; Rec. "My Dream"-George Meyer; Rec. "Two Letters"-Mary and Celia Arnett; Rec. "Hanging Up Dolly's Stockings"-Florence Brison; Solo "Bethlehem Star"-Neta Huey; Rec. by Viola Meyers; Exercise "Christmas Stocking"-Mrs. Atkinson's class; Rec. "Hail New Born King"-Brody Wagner; Song "Sing and Rejoice"-Chorus; Rec. "O Wonderful Message"-Elsie Wingfield; Rec. "Shepherd of Bethlehem"-Edna Lasswell; Excercise " Christmas Pie"-Ora Arnett; Exercise by Neta, Flossie and Celia; Rec. by Dora Meyer; Song-Choir; Rec. by Howard Hill. The program closed with a Christmas Pantomine and gifts given out by Santa Claus.

Christmas 1910

The three church's gave their pupils a Christmas treat. The United Brethren held theirs Friday night. A very good program was rendered, a copy of which the SUN was unable to secure. The Methodist church had a tree and program Saturday night. The Radical's gave a treat Sunday morning.

Christmas 1917

On Christmas morning the folks who live on Route 1 heard the jingle of sleigh bells

and thought Santa Claus was getting around a little late. But on looking out they discovered Jake Hill on his mail route. He has carried mail 17 years and has always gone with sleigh bells and says it is too late to stop now.

Christmas 1923

Mr. and Mrs. Will Morriss entertained the following guests to dinner, Christmas eve: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Morris and family of Topeka, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sanford and family, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Shaffer and family and Wayne Morriss.

Christmas 1924

Mrs. B. F. Moore and son Walter, entertained with a family dinner on Christmas Day. Those present were: Mrs. B. F. Wizer and son, Phillip; Mrs. B. F. Glenn and sons, Harry and Billy, Alice Lee Scott of Topeka, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Bahnmaier and Mike Bahnmaier.

Pete Tarr, who is attending high school at Burlingame this year, is spending his Christmas vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Tarr.

Christmas 1925

Our community extends congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hoffsommer, who were married Christmas evening.

Mr. and Mrs. George Herschell and children of Watson were Christmas day guests of Mrs. Herschell's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Glenn and her sister Wilma.

Christmas 1928

Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Dark entertained with a family dinner on Christmas Day, all their children being present except their eldest son, Clarence, who is in Texas. Covers were laid for Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Holloway and family, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Dark and children, all of Lecompton; Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Dark and sons, Elton and Harley.

Rev. and Mrs. Floyd Atkinson and children of Robinson, spent Christmas here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McClanahan.

Christmas 1929

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kerns of Lawrence, Mrs. Ada Stark and Miss Zella Iliff of Topeka spent Christmas day with Mrs. M. M. Iliff.

Iona Spencer

DEDICATION JUNE 26, 1982

It was a huge success! I have had many letters and countless favorable comments. Personally, as past President of the Lecompton Historical Society, I want to say that it took teamwork, without each and everyone of the members and benefactors, the dedication of Lane University Museum, June 26, 1982, would not have been June 26, 1982. We do not have a paid staff. All work that is done, the upkeep of the Museum, getting out the Bald Eagle, the society's quarterly newsletter, is done by volunteers.

On the part of each of you for participating in so many ways. A Very Big Thank You!

Julia Sehon Springer
Vice President

P. S. The Museum will be open to visitors, beginning May 1, 1983 through October, 1983. on Sundays from 1 to 4 P. M.

successful project. The future is bright and with your continued help and support the possibilities are unlimited for Lecompton. THANK-YOU

Recent items received for Lane University include a picture and story about the old Kanwaka Church from Mr. and Mrs. Ross Wulfkuhle. Terry Johns sent us a number of Civil War items from his home in St. Louis. Phyllis Martin donated three pictures of early Lecompton. One painting was by Mabel Glenn and another by Curtis Sehon. Mrs. Ann "Shields" Dunnaway has given programs of the 1920's from Lecompton High School. Richie Wingfield has placed in the farm room an antique butter paddle. Opal Goodrick has given a chair for the farm room. Mr. George Murphy has donated a Bible and watch for display. Elda Flowers was responsible for securing duplicate copies of books from the Fraser Colorado City Library for Lane University. Mae and Wally Holderman brought back from Arkansas a piece of farm equipment for Lane. Thanks for these donations.

Iona Spencer has been up dating our membership list which is always growing. Her effort in this area is appreciated. Chuck Wright recently talked to 250 retired Santa Fe employees about Lane University. Keep on promoting the museum chuck.

We wish to thank all the great people who have volunteered to work on Saturday and Sunday as tour guides for Lane University. Thanks to the following people.

David and Darlene Paslay	Opal Goodrick	George and Arlone Simmons
Dorothy Beatty	Edna Bahnmaier	Jack Purett
Helen Norwood	Daisy and Oliver Wingfield	Lydia Long
Jeri Skinner	Lavina Hanna	Marguerite Bowman
Howard and Ellen Duncan	Rich and Karen McConnell	Doris Matney
Jim Duncan	Jeff and Richie McConnell	Mae Holderman
Sara Walter	Glen and Josephine McGonigle	Raymond and Ruth Ice
Herm and Allie Banks	Joyce and Daryl Colton	Ross and Margart Wulfkuhle
Mary Powell	Bill and Sybill Schroyer	Denzel and Warrenne Gibbens
Jay and Connie Roberston	Dorothy Baughman	David and Wanda Dark
Greg and Carol Howard	Helen Cady	Maxine Dark
Sharon and Ralph Porter	Julia and Forest Springer	Margaret Dark
Raymond and Irene Hoffsommer	Phyllis Martin	Charlie and Ione Paslay
Elda Flowers	Edwin and Rosia Hildenbrand	Louise Norwood
Marlene Hackathorn	Margie Hildenbrand	Dena Heinz
Mary Mathews	Iona Spencer	Albert Cady
Mary Nelle Lasswell	Wilma Tibb	Dena Shirar
Paul Bahnmaier	Chuck and Sally Wright	Christine Kraft
Evelyn Confer	Edith LaDuke	Irene Sanford
Bessie Hundley	Dorothy Shaner	Anna Louise Hoffsommer
Stan and Monica Hendershot	Howard and Ruth Harshberger	Wilma Morris

Mr. Ray Gieseeman of Washington D. C. has been researching articles about Lecompton in the National Archives. Some information sent includes: The story concerning two United States Senators from Massachusetts and South Carolina in which one injured the other in an altercation on the floor of the United States Senate over the Lecompton Constitution. He was asked to find some articles about Lecompton in Washington and New York newspapers of the 1850's. He has sent us several articles about Lecompton on the front page of the New York Times. In fact he told us there were so many articles about Lecompton he had a hard time deciding which ones to send. It only proves once again that Lecompton is the most historic city in Kansas and played a significant role in American History. Many thanks Ray for all the information you have sent to Lane University.

TIME CAPSULE SEALED

On Thursday, October 14, 1982 a time capsule was sealed in the stone monument proclaiming Lane University as a National Historic Site. Included in the capsule to be opened in 50 years, in 2032, were the following: Two newspapers of the day, a list of persons attending the ceremony, a bottle of Tylenol, a Lecompton Historical booklet, a box of bandaids, a copy of Historical Society's By-Laws, a calculator, Rubiks Cube and instruction booklet, a script of the historical play "Stonemason of Lecompton", a program from dedication day, newspaper articles from the dedication, a program of the church service held at Lane University the day following dedication and a scroll pendant from an early fund raising project.

Some of the younger people in attendance were charged with remembering just where in the monument the time capsule was located and to be sure to remember the opening date.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

I want to thank all who have either renewed their membership or have joined since we mailed out our last Bald Eagle. We also want to add the following to our growing list of LIFE MEMBERS. Wouldn't you like to have your name on this list and receive a certificate and your name listed on a plaque or scroll in the Lane University Museum? Just \$50.00 will add your name to this list.

Vesta (Slavens) Bahnmaier Wymer
Mrs. Grace P. Boose
E. L., Jr. & Alice Lee (McClanahan) Lewis

Craig N. Roebke
Leo J. & Henrietta (Slavens) Anderson
Mrs. Ruby Malott

Iona Spencer--Membership Chairman

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 Mrs. Iona Spencer, R.R. #1, 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 is not correct as shown on this copy of your Bald Eagle, please let us know.

GENEALOGY

Are you interested in tracing your family history. We do have a Genealogy Society in the county of Douglas which may be of service to you. For more information you can write to: The Douglas County Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 2664, Lawrence, KS 66044

We are also saddened by the death of the following members.

Cyrus C. Spangler a life member passed away August 14, 1982

Fred Winter, a life member. Mr. Winter graduated from Lecompton High School, attended Lane University, and graduated from the University of Kansas in engineering. Mr. Winter would have been 100 years old, October 15, 1982.

Ray McCall, a member. Mr. McCall and his wife Fern attended the June 26, 1982 dedication.

Elnora W. Seaton, a member

IN MEMORY OF EDNA L. BAHNMAIER

Mrs. Edna Bahnmaier, a long-time Lecompton area resident, passed away November 3rd at a Lawrence hospital following a cerebral hemorrhage. Services were held at the Lecompton United Methodist Church, Saturday afternoon, with Rev. Paul Kapp officiating. A Memorial Service was conducted by Lecompton Rebekah Lodge #698. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery, Lecompton.

She was born June 23, 1906 at Delia, the daughter of Marion Thomas and Effie Shields Lasswell. She attended Lecompton schools and graduated from Lecompton High School in 1924. She married Pete Bahnmaier in 1934. He died in 1969. She is survived by a son, Paul M. Bahnmaier, Lecompton; two daughters, Elsie Wizer, Scottsdale, Ariz. and Joyce Behlke, Kenosha, Wis. and 3 grandsons. Also, two sisters, Mary Nelle Lasswell and Marian Opal Goodrick, both of Lecompton.

Edna Bahnmaier will always be remembered in the hearts and minds of those with whom she came in contact as one who was always there, ready to help do what was necessary to achieve any worthwhile goal. She was a member of the United Methodist Church, willingly participating wherever she might be needed. Also, a member of Lecompton Rebekah Lodge for 57 years, having held all local offices in that organization and was Treasurer for 27 years. For 10 years prior to her marriage, she was cashier at the State Bank of Lecompton and was also Lecompton City Clerk. In recent years, she was actively involved in the restoration of Lane University and was an inspiration to her family and friends in that endeavor.

Her sudden death saddens the community. We will all miss her very much.

Published by
The Lecompton Historical Society
LECOMPTON, KANSAS 66050

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lecompton, Kansas
Permit No. 1

66050