



## Lincoln Looks West to Kansas

*The Author--Mr. Muehlberger is a lawyer who practices in Kansas City, Missouri.*

### Lincoln: Man of the West

Lincoln is considered a "Man of the West," largely due to his rough-and-tumble log cabin upbringing. The three states in which Lincoln was raised--Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois--were considered part of the West at the time when Lincoln lived there. One commentator in New Salem, Illinois, where Lincoln lived in his 20s, described lanky Abe "as ruff (sic) a specimen of humanity as could be found." But Lincoln was also intrigued with the peoples and lands beyond the Mississippi. He ultimately envisioned a Union extending from sea to shining sea.

In 1859, Lincoln was keenly interested in the far western territory of Kansas. Opposition to the Kansas-Nebraska Act had boosted his profile and made many consider the rail-splitter as presidential timber. The divisive issue of slavery, often considered an exclusively North-South problem, was also a problem of the West. In fact, from the mid to late-1850s, the political battleground over slavery was centered on the frontier. For the good of Bleeding Kansas and the nation, Lincoln opposed the spread of slavery to the West. In fact, Lincoln was determined to make slavery's western trajectory hit a dead end on the Kansas-Missouri line, a stand that helped propel him to the White House in 1861. Lincoln's vision of the country also drew him to the West, where he

envisioned railroad lines crisscrossing the Great Plains.

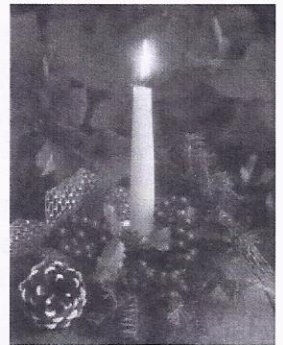
In 1859, Lincoln made two trips across the Mississippi to deliver speeches and improve his viability and visibility as a presidential candidate. A nine-day journey in August took him to Iowa, where he spoke at Council Bluffs and discussed with engineer Grenville Dodge the best routes west for a transcontinental railroad. Lincoln reportedly told Dodge, "There is nothing more important for the nation at this time than the building of a railroad to the Pacific Coast." For Lincoln, a strong union met the North, the South, and the West. Lincoln's second trip, also for nine days, took him through Missouri into the Kansas Territory. At least one of the possible routes for the transcontinental railroad ran through the Kansas Territory--extending the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad from St. Joseph, across the broad Missouri River and into Kansas near Doniphan.

On November 15, 1859, Mark W. Delahay, a Leavenworth lawyer who knew Lincoln when they were lawyers in Illinois and whose wife was a Hanks and said to be related to Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks, wrote Lincoln to ask him to come to Leavenworth and help save the Kansas election for the Republicans and the Wyandotte Constitution. Lincoln's reply showed not only his willingness to come, but

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### The Annual Christmas Vespers and Open House

will be held on December 4th at 2:P.M. at the Territorial



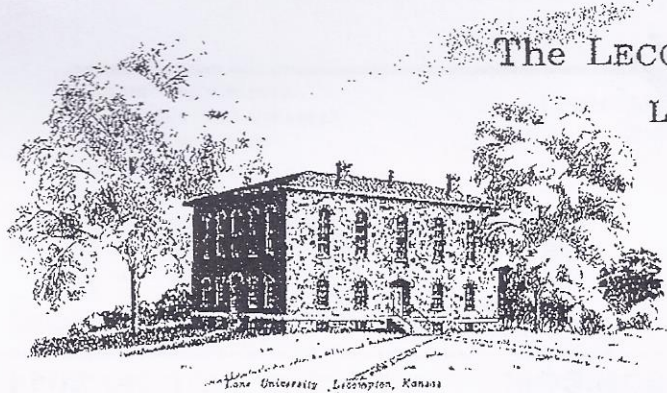
Capital Museum. Participates include the Lecompton United Methodist Church Choir and Ladies Ensemble, Perry Lecompton High School Singers and Brass Ensemble, Topeka First United Methodist Church Bell Choir, Francis Sanford, Cindy Daniels, Kim Murphree, Mary Stewart, Rev Leo Barbee, and Phil Wizer. The playing of the 1857 Episicopal Church Melodeon will close the program. The museum is decorated with 22 trees of various period decorations. The largest being the 15ft native cedar tree. Refreshments will be served in the lower level. Everyone is welcome.



The Lecompton community continues to work to have the postmaster and carriers returned to Lecompton. You can help by encouraging your place of business, friends, and relatives to purchase stamps and mail Christmas packages and cards from the Lecompton Post Office.

# The Lecompton Historical Society

Lecompton, Kansas 66050



November 2011

To Lecompton Historical Society Members and Friends:

Thanks again to our loyal volunteers and members the Lecompton Historical Society has again experienced another fantastic year. Charlene Winter and Deb Powell conducted 81 tours and re-enactments in Kansas and Missouri. Our website [www.lecomptonkansas.com](http://www.lecomptonkansas.com) was visited nearly 76,000 times. Christmas Vespers, Territorial Day, Bald Eagle Rendezvous and Bleeding Kansas lecture series held at Constitution Hall continue to grow in popularity.

We participated in Tourism Night at Royals Stadium, Gleamer Tourism event in Kansas City, Mo., Kansas Sampler Festival in Leavenworth, Kansas Travel and Tourism Convention in Lawrence and displayed 15 photos and maps of historic Lecompton in the Douglas County Courthouse.

As part of Kansas 150th birthday we hoisted Governor Brownback, Senate President Morris, Speaker of the House O'Neal, House Majority Leader Seigfried, House Minority Leader Davis, Senate Majority Leader Emler, Speaker Pro-Tem Vickry, State Senator Francisco and State Representative Sloan. They visited Lecompton on May 20th, presented a proclamation signed by Governor Brownback and House Concurrent Resolution signed by House Speaker O'Neal, Senate President Morris and Secretary of State Koback recognizing Lecompton as the official Territorial Capital of Kansas and the major role Lecompton played in the history of the United States during the 1850's leading to the Civil War. This event occurred at Constitution Hall, a National Landmark. This event was written about in many national newspapers from coast to coast.

Territorial Day was highlighted by the dedication of the Veteran's Monument. The 7ft granite monument contains the names of 924 veterans from Lecompton, Big Springs, Stull and Kanwaka. The 1st Infantry Band provided the patriotic music. Speakers were Congressman Lynn Jenkins, State Senator Marci Francisco, and State Representative Tom Sloan. Additional names may be added until March 1, 2010. A special thanks to Iona Spencer and Elsie Middleton for their diligent work locating the veterans and Bob Treanor, who was the designer and project manager.

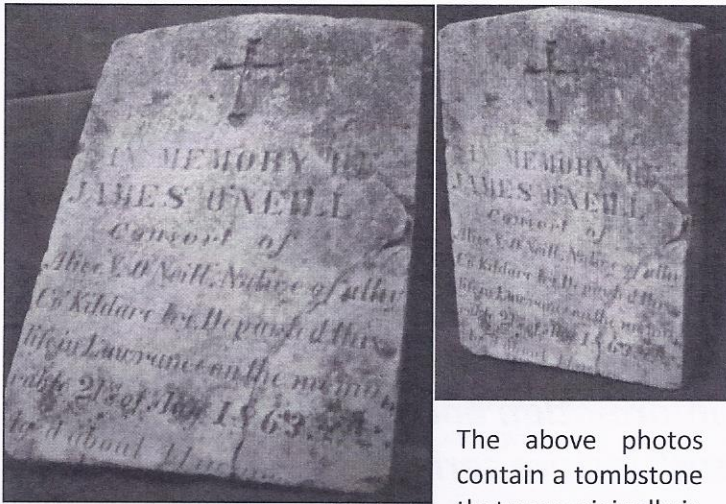
The Lecompton Historical Society continues to be a partner of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area. A large map containing excellent information about the 29 counties in Eastern Kansas and the 12 counties in Western Missouri is available at the museum

The exhibit from the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History from New York City titled "Abraham Lincoln: A Man of His Time, A Man For All Times" was a major attraction in July. They selected Lecompton because of our Lincoln and Civil War connection. At the same time Paul Nichel from Manhattan loaned a display containing a small piece of Lincoln's hair and a reproduction of the gun which killed Lincoln.

The story and drawing in Leslie's Illustrated which discussed the most infamous brawl on the House of Representatives involving 50 Congressmen in 1858 all over the Lecompton Constitution reinforces the statement that Lecompton's History ranks right along Ft. Sumter to Gettysburg. Also the role events in Lecompton played in the lives of President Pierce, Buchanan Lincoln, Arthur and Eisenhower. We visited with members of the Eisenhower Family in Abilene and invited them to visit Lecompton. David Eisenhower expressed a strong interest in returning to the site of his Great Grandparents wedding.

All of this is not possible without your dedication to this nationally significant history. When you visit with people be sure to tell them that "Lecompton is the Birthplace of the Civil War, Where Slavery began to Die."

Sincerely,  
Paul Bahnmaier  
President, Lecompton Historical Society



The above photos contain a tombstone that was originally in

Bald Eagle Cemetery where the present old rock quarry-lagoon is located. Nineteen individuals were buried between 1857 and before 1930. Mr. O'Neill, John Klaus and William Klaus were killed in Quantrill's Raid in Lawrence and their bodies returned to Lecompton for burial. The Klaus's were buried on what was later the George and Vesta Bahnmaier Farm. The descendants of the family

have erected a modern tombstone on the grave sites in their memory.

Bald Eagle Cemetery was destroyed by a rock company in the 1940's and the three stones mentioned in the following article moved to another location. One of the original stones and shown above was located at the Lecompton City Dump at the north end of Jones St. more that 20 years ago. and removed to property located seven miles southeast of Lecompton. The present owner of the property found the tombstone when he purchased the property 20 years ago and stored it in a shed. They recently went on line and found the connection to Lecompton and returned it to the Lecompton Historical Society. The other two tombstones have been moved again to a remote location of the property.

The following article (retyped in this publication) appeared in the Lawrence Journal World in 1939 and was written by E.G.Day, a former resident of Lecompton. It provides an in-depth history of the tombstones and cemetery.

## EARLY CEMETERIES NEAR LECOMPTON

*Lawrence Daily Journal World - February 6, 1939*

### Few Records Available of Burial Places of Pioneer Days

(Editor's Note: This is the first of two articles on early burial places in the vicinity of Lecompton, the result of inquiry made on behalf of the Douglas County Historical Society).

Lecompton in the early days had two burial places. They hardly attained to the dignity of cemeteries. They were just graveyards and were so called. One of them was located west of town, on on the north and overlooking the Kansas river. A very unsuitable location and difficult of access. It has long since been abandoned, and is now a cow pasture. There are doubtless quite number of graves there, but they can't be located on account of not being marked. There are only three monuments, one marking the former resting place of Nelson Bowman, who was a student at Lane University and was drowned in the river June 19, 1877. the body has since been removed. A stone wall encloses the other two monuments, one a marble slab containing the following inscription: In memory of James O'Neil, consort of Alice V. O'Neil, native of Athy Co. , Kildare, Ireland. Departed this life in Lawrence on the memorable 21st day of August, 1863. Aged about 41 years. The other, a square monument, contains inscriptions on all four sides as follows: David C. O'Neil, born in Wacking, Va., March 9, 1863, died in Leavenworth, Kan., July 22, 1867. Alice O'Neil

Brown, born in Ashtonshire, Eng., June 24, 1830. James O'Neil, native of Athy Co., Kildare, Ireland, died Aug. 21, 1863. Anna Victoria O'Neil Wilson, born in Wheeling, Va., Sept 1857, died in Montrose, Colo., Oct 31, 1888.

Dr. Aristides Roderigue was the first physician who located in Lecompton, and the first postmaster was buried here, and also his son, Andrew. These bodies have long since been removed and shipped east.

What is called the Migliario graveyard is located in the southwest city limits of Lecompton. It was chartered when platted, [probably in 1855 or '56. It, like the other graveyard, has a large number of unmarked graves. There are a few monuments, which are as follows:

In memory of James D. Todhunter, born May 10, 1827, died April 24, 1864. Nearby is a daughter's grave, and the grave of a son of his widow by a second marriage.

Sarah, daughter of James and Anna Brooke, born Jan. 20, 1853, died Oct. 12, 1853. Father and Mother, John Brown, 1810-1876. Magdalena, his wife, 1812-1857.

Ann Mason, life of John Mason, died Aug. 29, 1857. (She was a native of Ireland). Ellen Mason, wife of John Mason, died Dec. 24, 1870, aged 51 years.

Mark Migliario was born in Turin, Italy. July 22, 1824, came to America and Lecompton, Kansas, in 1854. He helped build the territorial capitol building. He was a member of the Kansas State Malitia during the civil war. Mr.

Migliario was a stone mason by trade, and being employed in Lawrence, he rode horseback to and from his work each day. The morning of August 21st as he neared Lawrence, he saw the town burning. He returned to Lecompton to notify the people there. Later he returned to Lawrence with a team and wagon and hauled back to Lecompton the bodies of three of his fellow workmen who had been killed in the raid, Theodore Klaus, William Klaus, and James O'Neil.

Mark V. Migliario died June 2, 1903. Three infant children are also buried here.

Constantine Migliario, brother of Mark, was born in Turin, Italy, June 22, 1822, and came directly to Lecompton in 1855 and worked with his brother on the capitol building. He died March 20, 1891. Many of the early day settlers are buried here, but the graves are unmarked.

E.G. Day

***Katie Armitage provided the following information and will be discussing this and other stories at the "Bleeding Kansas" lecture series on February 12th at 2:00 P.M. in Constitution Hall***

ONEIL, ALICE VICTORIA (notes by Katie Armitage 2007-2011)

Alice was the widow of Quantrill raid victim James O'Neil.

Alice, born in England was age 32, and had 6 children in 1863. The family had moved to Douglas County from Wheeling, Va. (now West Virginia)

1860 U. S. Census Douglas County Lecompton Township, p. 172

J. ONeil	37	Laborer	\$500	IRE
Alice V	30			ENG
Victoria	9			
David	6			
Jesse	5			
James	2			
A. McDowell	11 F			IRE

1863

RAID-Alice ONeill Leavenworth Daily Conservative Sept. 23, 1863 p. 3

"Murdered-In Lawrence on the morning of the 21st of August, James O'Neill, aged 41 years. Formerly a resident of Wheeling, Virginia."

"The subject of the above notice was a native of Athy county, Kildare, Ireland. The family, in their own country, occupied a place of wealth and influence but owing to the reverses of fortune, attendant on the famine of '47 and the total inability of tenants on their Bath Connel estate to meet their rents, eighteen brothers and sisters emigrated to America. Eight of them found homes in the south. Three brothers joined the Southern army (if this notice should by chance to meet their eyes, it will most likely be the means of causing three to desert an unworthy cause.)

James, after becoming a citizen, attached himself to the Democratic party, until he made his home in Kansas, where

he voted with the Free State party. At the time of the murderous raid, he was employed on the bridge, and at five o'clock and ten minutes he was taken prisoner in his bed, marched round for more than an hour, until they gathered together fourteen prisoners, mostly of his country, ordered them to face about, and James received the bullet on the right side of his nose killing him instantly.

Thus one of the bravest of men-one that if he had been armed would have chased twenty of such cold-blooded cowards."

"He left a wife and six orphans to mourn his untimely end."  
"Alice V. O'Neill"

Alice O'Neill moved to North Lawrence where she had compassion for black refugees

1864 June 26 Alice had a letter published June 28, 1863, Kansas Tribune, editor on plight of refugees in North Lawrence.

"I found eleven lying sick in an unfinished build. They had measles, whooping cough and diarrhea; some had died, others nearly dead"

1865 Census Douglas Co., North Lawrence p. 126  
Oneil, Alice 35 F Boarding House \$300 \$200 England S 5 children, 5 boarders, all born Ireland, and Anna McDowell 15 f. Ire.

ALICE Remarried to a man named Brown, live in Leavenworth until?

2011 Oct.- James O'Neil tombstone in possession Lecompton Historical Society from Kipp shed when it had been for 20 years or so.

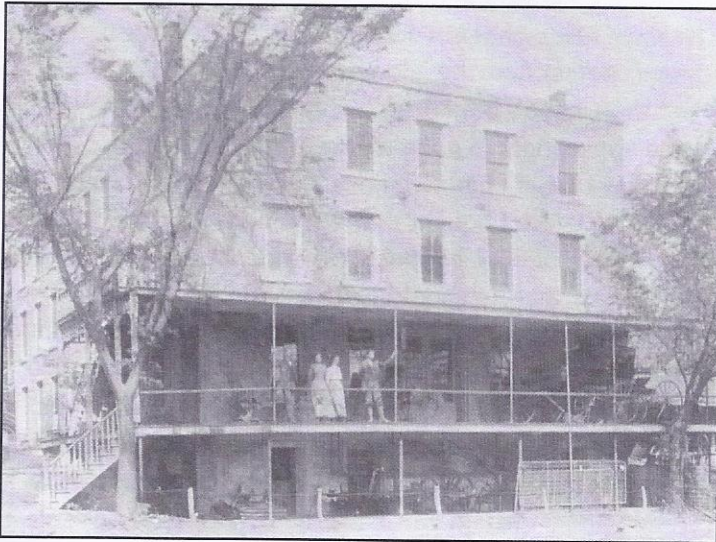
## **Lincoln Looks West** *continued from page 1*

also his appreciation to Kansans for their perseverance in a shared cause: "My Friends in Kansas: It has long been an eager desire of my heart to visit you and your noble land. Old acquaintances assure me that by coming to you at this time I may possibly render a slight service to our country and our common cause. When duty calls I ever strive to obey. Not without detriment to my interests, I therefore waive all personal considerations, and gladly place myself at the disposal of the friends of Freedom in Kansas, to whom I feel, in common with my countrymen, an eternal debt of gratitude."

As referenced in his letter, although it is sometimes forgotten today, Lincoln's profession was that of a frontier lawyer who defended cases worthy and questionable. Lincoln left his lucrative law practice at the relatively advanced age (at the time) of 50 to travel to Kansas in a leap of faith that he could be elected president. Lincoln also had another reason for visiting, as indicated in his acceptance letter. Bleeding Kansas had captured the attention of the nation, it was the issue he had debated with Douglas, and the slavery issue was causing bloodshed and guerrilla war in the Kansas Territory. America had created Kansas and Kansas was, in many ways, re-creating America.

### **Lincoln in Lecompton?**

Recent editions of the *Bald Eagle* have discussed the possibility that Abe Lincoln took time out from his December 1859 visit to the dusty, brawling river town of



### **Did Lincoln stay at the Rowena Hotel?**

Leavenworth to travel to Lecompton on Sunday, December 4th for a confidential meeting with Kansas Territorial Governor Samuel Medary to discuss slavery, the Territory's future and possibly the location of the transcontinental

railroad. The Lecompton meeting was said to have taken place "on the second floor above a hardware store." Was this a likely spot for a confidential meeting? Somewhat surprisingly, research reveals that the answer may be "yes."

Research discloses that in December 1859 Thomas Lee owned a hardware store, which was part of Rowena Hall, located on the corner of Woodson and Elmore/Main Street, one block southeast of Constitution Hall. The hardware store had offices above it on the second floor. A search of Lecompton newspapers from 1859-60 has so far failed to confirm definitively whose offices were located above the hardware store. It is likely, however, that those offices may have been occupied by an attorney, and a newspaper ad 15 months after the possible meeting identifies the occupant.

### **1859 Lecompton:**

#### **The KT Town Most Likely to Succeed**

In the late 1850s Lecompton was the town many Kansans would have voted most likely to succeed. It was, for the Kansas Territory, a bustling metropolis and the newly designated capital. Although not quite as large as Leavenworth with its fort, it dwarfed tiny Lawrence to the east along the river. Lecompton was served by seven horse and stage lines that connected the town to Leavenworth and Lawrence. Two paddlewheel steamboats make regular stops, and five hotels served the frequent travelers. There were two newspapers, the *Union* and the *National Democrat*. Halderman Street was the "moneyed street of Kansas." Located on the street were shops, land agents, and professionals' offices. Of course, Lecompton also had the federal and state courts and the new Capitol building, which attracted a thriving legal profession.

By the 1850s lawyers had taken to heart Harold Greeley's advice to "go West." Young lawyers flocked to towns that were prosperous and growing, such as county seats, where courts were located or had prosperous business communities, which led to litigation. Towns on the edge of newly established territories were also favored because they had land offices, which were a source of much legal business.

### **The Lawyers of Old Lecompton**

Lecompton, in 1859, had all of these attributes and was a legal center. It had its own court and seemed destined to become the capital of a new state. It was on the edge of the vast territory waiting to be settled. The railroads had stretched their rails to St. Joseph, Missouri, and plans were being made to lay a westward stretch of rails through

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## **Lincoln Looks West** *continued from page 5*

the Kansas Territory. It was on the Kaw River and near to both the Oregon and Santa Fe trails, making it a center of commerce. It was close to Leavenworth, Lawrence and Topeka, which allowed lawyers to practice in all of these towns. There was therefore a thriving legal profession in antebellum Lecompton.

The vast majority of Lecompton's lawyers were not graduates of law school (there were none in the Kansas Territory), but were trained to become a lawyer by apprenticing themselves to another lawyer. Most of the lawyers were solo practitioners; a few practiced in partnership with another lawyer. Some kept offices in Leavenworth as well as Lecompton. Many, like Illinois' Abe Lincoln, rode "circuit" and served the populations of one or more judicial districts.

We know where Old Lecompton's lawyers practiced because their advertisements in the Lecompton newspapers often included their office address or location. Almost all of Lecompton's lawyers had their offices downtown on one of the main streets, near the courthouse and center of commerce. It was also common for a lawyer's office to be upstairs. The reason for this remains unclear, but perhaps this was because lawyers did not need to be in the higher-priced first-floor space, like retail merchants. A visitor to Lecompton in 1859 would have seen signs hanging in the second story windows of many Lecompton buildings. In those days, however, no lawyer could make a living based upon the short period of time that the local courts were in session. Lawyers traveled on the larger Kansas circuit that judges were obliged to make, going from one county seat to the next, and holding sessions that lasted from a few days to two weeks. Accordingly, any Lecompton lawyer would have also been well acquainted with attorneys in Lawrence, Leavenworth, and the other small towns and county seats in the territory.

### **The Occupant of the Office above the Hardware Store**

The earliest indication so far discovered as to the identity of the occupant of the second floor office above the Lee hardware store is found in a March 1861 Lecompton *Kansas National Democrat* newspaper, which states "Rowena Hall: Chas. A. Faris, Esq. attorney." Charles Faris (also spelled Farris) appears in the August 1860 Lecompton Census. His place of birth is listed as Virginia, and his occupation as "Book Dealer." (Many lawyers at the time found it necessary to supplement their legal practices with other work.) Farris had been in Lecompton at least since 1855, when he established the proslavery newspaper the *Ledger*. In 1856

Farris had established another proslavery newspaper, the *Union*. Farris certainly knew Governor Medary, Lincoln's Leavenworth host attorney Mark Delahay, and attorney James Lane—Lincoln's most likely companion for a trip from Leavenworth, where Lane had dinner with Lincoln at Mark Delahay's home during Lincoln's December 1859 visit there.

### **Farris's Relationship with James H. Lane**

Farris also spent time in Lawrence in 1855-59, where he met attorney James Lane. Lane had arrived in Lawrence in April 1855, an event that was recorded in the Free State newspaper under the caption: "Distinguished Arrival: Col. James H. Lane, late member of Congress from Indiana, arrived with his family... he is comfortably ensconced in a log cabin, and will likely remain permanently with us." As readers are no doubt aware, James Lane was one of the first, and certainly the most influential, lawyers in the Kansas Territory. He was called the General Washington of Kansas, the Liberator of Kansas, and the King of Kansas. Lane was simultaneously both a field general and politician who led the Free State forces in the fight to make Kansas free.

We know that Farris knew Lane by late 1855 because in John Spear's *Life of Gen. James H Lane*, Spears states that "Mr. C. A. Farris...tells the story of an episode in Lane's struggles..." Lane was in debt to a hotel in Topeka. The owner of the hotel, the Hon. E. C. Garvey, came to Lawrence, determined that Lane must pay him. The two met on Massachusetts Street; and "Garvey, flushed with anger, demanded the money. It was a shivery day; and just then, Lane's little boy appeared in his bare feet, when Lane appealingly, in good nature, said: 'Mr. Garvey, do you suppose that, if I had two dollars in the world, I would pay it to you before I bought that boy a pair of shoes?' Garvey thrust his hand in his pocket, handed Lane two dollars, demanded that he should take it, and said, 'If I get worse off than you are, pay me when you can,' and returned to Topeka."

Lane and Farris also had business dealings together. In 1865 Lane sold his small parlor home at 714 Mississippi St. in Lawrence to Farris for \$550. At the time, Farris was working for the *Lawrence Journal*. Finally, Lane was a prominent member of the Masonic Order, which was commonplace for professional men in antebellum America. For instance, Lane displays a large Masonic Order lapel pin on his jacket in a well-known portrait around this time. It appears that Delahay was also a Mason; research is ongoing

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as to whether Farris was also a member of the Order.

Of course, if Lane had arranged such a meeting, it is possible that he may not have told Farris the identity of the attendees. He may have merely told him that he needed Farris's office for a meeting. On the other hand, lawyers are trained to be discreet and to keep client confidences. Accordingly, Lane may have felt he could count on Farris to keep the meeting secret.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, if Abe Lincoln decided to meet with Gov. Medary in Lecompton on December 4, 1859, and, for political reasons, to keep the meeting a secret, Lane likely may have suggested a meeting in the office of his fellow attorney and friend, Charles A. Farris, located in Lecompton "on the second floor of a hardware store." If so, this would have been the farthest west Lincoln ever traveled.

Regardless, Lincoln returned home with fond memories of Kansas. He told his friends back in Illinois that he was "delighted with his visit and with the cordial reception he met with from the people of Kansas." A few months later, he advised a young lawyer, looking for a place to practice: "If I went West, I think I would go to Kansas."

### **Acknowledgments**

The author would like to acknowledge and thank Tim Rues, Kansas State Historical Society, who conducted most of the research for this article. Any errors are mine. For further reading, the author recommends Michael H. Hoeflich's "The Lawyers of Old Lecompton," Tallgrass Essays (Ks. State Hist. Soc. 2000), 27-35, upon which this article relies heavily.

## **OBITUARIES**

FOLEY, Francis L. "Sonny", 70, Lecompton, Ks, died October 11, 2011 in Lawrence, Ks. He was born March 20, 1941 in Lawrence, the son of Joseph and Dorothy Holladay Foley.

He had lived in the Lecompton/Lawrence area all of his life, graduating from Lecompton Rural High School in 1959. He graduated from Draughons College of Commerce Engineering and attended Pittsburg State University and the University of Kansas.

Francis owned and operated Foley Construction Co., Inc. in Lawrence for over fifty years.

His parents and sister, Beverly Virtue, preceded him.

Besides his wife, Reta Williams Foley, he is survived by son, Greg (Jackie); daughter, Debbie Foley; stepson, Kevin (Keri); 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Burial in Hubbell Hill Cemetery, west of Tonganoxie, KS.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Life Members:

Leo Pollard

Susan K. Nelson

## **NEW ITEMS AT THE MUSEUM**

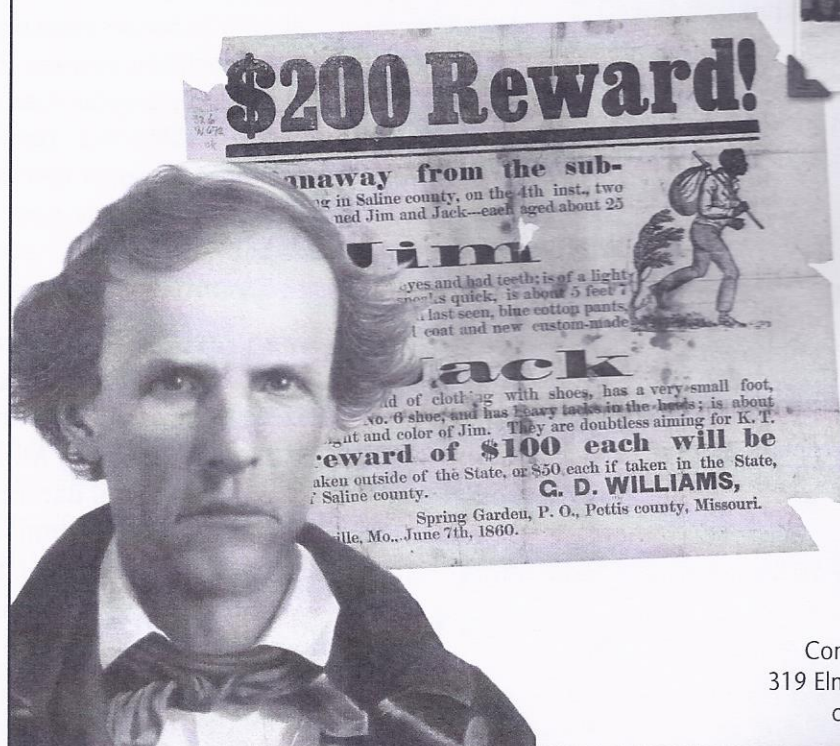
Eastlake Platform Rocker ca. 1850.....	Connie Carson
Book, "It's Within" by Elizabeth Brooke .....	Paul Bahnmaier
Pair of Ice Skates w/Leather Ankle Straps .....	Shirley Morrow
Book, "Confederate Memorial-Osceola, Mo." .....	Paul Bahnmaier
Postcard Mimeograph, stencil & can of ink.....	Lecompton Alumni Assn.
Scrapbook-Lane Dedication (belonged to Lydia Long).....	Joanna J. Long
Old leather Catcher's Eyeguard .....	Memorial
Photo-Parsonage Open House, March 2011 .....	Pastor Jin Cho
"Early Lecompton Experience" by Edith Slavens .....	Sandra Babic (Daughter)
Nomination of the Gorrill Farmstead to Register of Historic Kansas Places .....	James and Cynthia Haines, owner
1950's Vintage Silver Christmas Tree owned by Leslie & Levona Carter .....	Darlene Paslay

# Bleeding Kansas 2012

Constitution Hall State Historic Site in Historic Lecompton  
2 p.m. Sundays • Suggested donation \$3 adults

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

- January 29 "The Underground Railroad on the Kansas Frontier" Todd Mildfelt, educator and author (book signing to follow talk)
- February 5 "A Principled Politician: James H. Lane and the Fight for Kansas and the Union" Ian Spurgeon, military historian, author and native Kansan (book signing to follow talk)
- February 12 "Lawrence: Survivors of Quantrill's Raid" Katie Armitage, author and historian (book signing to follow talk)
- February 19 "Perry Fuller: The Road from Poverty to Riches, Influence and Political Power" Deborah Barker, executive director, Franklin County Historical Society, and executive committee secretary and board member, Kansas Historical Foundation
- February 26 "Teaching the Civil War in the 21st Century" Paul Stuewe, educator, author and executive committee board member, Kansas Historical Foundation



AD ASTRA PER ASPERA  
**Kansas**  
Historical Society

Constitution Hall State Historic Site  
319 Elmore • Lecompton • 785-887-6520  
consthall@kshs.org • kshs.org

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.



The Kansas Division of the National Pony Express Association celebrated Kansas 150th birthday by conducting a ride from Lecompton, Kansas Territorial Capital and Constitution Hall to the Kansas Capital Building in Topeka. They carried with them letters from all the living Governors of Kansas. Fourteen riders participated in the event.

## Shirt Off Your Back

Recently while attending a national conference on the Border War, we were approached by a history teacher from Washburn Rural High School. He related this story. He had visited Manassas National Battlefield site also known as Bull Run in Virginia this past summer. The tour guide spotted the "Lecompton Birthplace of the Civil War" t-shirt he was wearing. The guide said that his boss said that he should visit Lecompton someday as it ranks alongside Gettysburg in importance to the Civil War. The teacher removed his shirt and gave it to the tour guide. This again tells you how important Lecompton was to the history of the United States.

## Farewell, My Free Bird

A mother's story of her daughter's life in the dark world of drugs and prostitution...and the phone call that changed their family forever.

by Carol Noe

Carol is the wife of Keith Noe. They are both members of the Lecompton Historical society.

The book is available at the Museum for \$14.99

## 2011 LECOMPTON RURAL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI BANQUET

On June 18, 2011, the Alumni Association hosted the 88<sup>th</sup> annual banquet at the Lecompton Elementary School gymnasium. Grace Kellog Melton (1934) was the oldest graduate present. Henry Person & Sandra Ward Person traveled the most distance from California. Alumni attended from CA, KS, IA, MO, NB, NV, OK, TX. A table contained shared class memorabilia on display. Special "Thanks" to Earle (1956) and Karen (1959) Kasson for the name tags, and to Dorothy & Bill Smith (1953) for providing and operating the sound system. JH & Jeannie Vestal, Bob & Carolyn Glenn Regina Andrew, Tamara Dye, Debra Jones and Paul Bahnmaier helped with set-up. Caterer was Dave Kellum of Oakley Creek Catering. Michael Kellum, Christman, Wyatt Williams, and Matt Kasson, youth from the Methodist Church, assisted in serving,

Mark your calendar **for June 16, 2012** at the same location. Everyone who has attended Lecompton schools, including Perry-Lecompton High, or with another connection to Lecompton is welcome. Attendees in 2011:

### 1934

GRACE KELLOG MELTON & Joan  
Melton Thayer & Kathleen Schneider

### 1939

DORIS HOLLOWAY SINDT  
GEORGE SIMMONS

### 1940

ARLOENE DEKAT SIMMONS  
JOE STAUFFER

### 1941

OPAL LASSWELL GOODRICK  
LURA HOLLOWAY MCALEXANDER

### 1944

IONA HERSCHELL SPENCER  
BETTY CRADY STAUFFER  
BILL LESLIE  
BETTY WEBBER LESLIE  
ERMA WULFKUHLE WORLEY

### 1946

BEVERLY BAHNMAIER VANDYKE & Bill,  
& Norma Svoboda Hamrick

### 1948

THELMA KIBBEE BELLINGER & Dale

### 1949

Georgia Spencer (BILL) WINGFIELD

### 1950

FLOYD 'RED' ANDREW

### 1951

RUTH ROTHWELL VERVYNCK  
LEAH BAHNMAIER SHAW & Ed

### 1952

ARMOND ADELL & Hazel  
MARY MYER MANIS  
JANE ROTHWELL CHILDS  
LOIS HILDENBRAND CONDLEY &  
Julie Condley Stroebel, & Roy Condley  
MARGIE HILDENBRAND  
DELORES DITTRICH GOLLADAY  
& Penny Lindsey

### 1953

JOHN SALISBURY  
BILL SMITH & Dorothy

### 1955

REGINA MYER ANDREW  
DONNA MCCLANAHAN HARDING  
JOHN NILSON & Marilyn  
MAYNARD PERSON & Elise

### 1956

ELSIE BAHNMAIER MIDDLETON  
EARLE KASSON  
KAREN SANFORD WERTS

### 1958

JIM CHILES  
MARY SALISBURY MORRIS  
ROBERT MORRIS

### 1959

LARRY HUGHES & Pam Rothwell  
J. H. VESTAL  
JEANNIE KENT VESTAL  
ROBERT GLENN & Carolyn  
KAREN FISH KASSON

### 1960

PAUL BAHNMAIER

### 1961

HAROLD BECKER & Julie  
STANLEY BROWN  
MARY SUE MORRIS CHRISTMAN  
DOROTHY CHINN MOORE  
& Dennis, & Sheila Moore Root  
MELVIN DARK & Venora  
HAROLD HUDSON  
GARY KENNEY  
VERNA KENT PLETCHER & John  
CAROL HOUK RICHTER & Henry  
WILLIAM Z SMITH  
& Tammie Kohlker  
PATTY ANDES STURDIVANT  
& Henry  
MARTIN UNFRED & Gwendolyn^

### 1962

DAREL BURD & Debra  
ROBERT CHRISTMAN  
HENRY PERSON  
SANDRA WARD-BABIC PERSON

### 1963

LINDA VANRIPER POORT  
GARY STAUFFER  
DON RAYBERN & Shari  
MILDRED CHILES LESTER

### 1964

WANDA BECKER MEINHARDT  
DENNIS STAUFFER

### 1965

GEORGIA SIMMONS TRAMMEL & Johnny  
MILDRED CHILES LESTER  
LINDA STAUFFER

### 1966

CAROLYN FOSTER STAUFFER  
MARY SKINNER STAUFFER

### 1967

RITA SIMMONS MOCK

### 1968

CHARLES HAAS

### 1970

STEVE GOODRICK & Norma

### 1971

IRWIN ENDSLEY & Christie  
DAVID FUSTON & Michelle Simmons  
DENNIS NELSON

### 1972

DEANNA INLOES BARTELL

### 1974

DEBBIE STAUFFER FUSTON

### 1975

DEBBIE ANDREW CORCORANN

### 1976

JEFF GOODRICK  
DEBRA KASSON JONES

### 1980

TOM GOODRICK & Trecia  
TAMARA KASSON DYE

### 1983

MICHELLE HUDSON WILLIAMS

### 1989

LORI KASSON JETER

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 \$10.00 per year for individual membership and \$14.00 for a family membership. The dues are from December to December. Life membership is \$100 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

- (        )        \$10.00 Annual Individual Membership
- (        )        \$14.00 Annual Family Membership
- (        )        \$100.00 Individual Life Membership
- (        )        \$50.00 Individual Memorial Membership

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

It costs Lecompton Historical Society double the postage for a change of address, and the newsletter is returned. The cost for a postcard to notify us of your change of address is additional postage, and the newsletter gets thrown away. If you have moved and do not get your newsletter, this explains why.

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

The following notice is included in the Bald Eagle as a public service to the Lecompton Maple Grove Cemetery Board.

**Maple Grove Cemetery  
-Policy Statement-**

Due to the increasing challenge of maintaining the beauty and uniformity of this sacred space along with the increasing cost and maintenance time required, the following guidelines have been adopted by the Board.

- Artificial flowers are encouraged year round when placed at tombstones. An exception will be made for Memorial Day. However, the flowers must be limited to the tombstone area by 10 days following Memorial Day.
- Permanent plantings with thorns and large mature bushes are not allowed.
- Above ground tombstones are permitted. No other above-ground statuary is permitted unless it is at the headstone..
- All non-complying plantings and statuary need to be removed in a timely manner.

These guidelines have been adopted in order to be fair to everyone. We would appreciate your cooperation before the snowing season begins.

Thank you.

Maple Grove Cemetery Board  
(Robert Weeks, Sheri Neill, Greg Howard, Paul Bahnmaier, Melvin Dark)

President \*Paul Bahnmaier  
Vice President \*Rich McConnell  
Secretary \*Elaine Boose  
Treasurer \* Betty Leslie  
Board Members \* Leah Kuhlman, Johnny Trammel  
Keith Noe, Jason Dexter,  
Deb Powell, Ron Meier  
Curators \*Opal Goodrick, Ann Dunnaway,  
Lynn Ward, Elsie Middleton  
George & Arloene Simmons, Darlene Paslay  
Membership Ass'ts. \*Sandy Nichols

## Lecompton Historical Society

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Program \*Beverly VanDyke  
Membership \*Georgia Simmons Trammel  
Genealogy & Historical Researcher  
\*Iona Spencer  
Photographer \* Shirley Funk  
Tours \*Charlene Winter  
Illustrator \*Ellen Duncan  
Assistant Treasurer \*Sherri Neill  
Kitchen \*Vicki Leochner  
Memorials \*Ruth Ice

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**Lecompton, KS 66050**



The annual Bald Eagle Rendezvous was a tremendous success this year. A total of nearly 1400 visitors including one school from Sabetha heard the unique stories and demonstrations.



*Photos in this edition provided by  
Deb Powell, Shirley Funk and Gary Stauffer*