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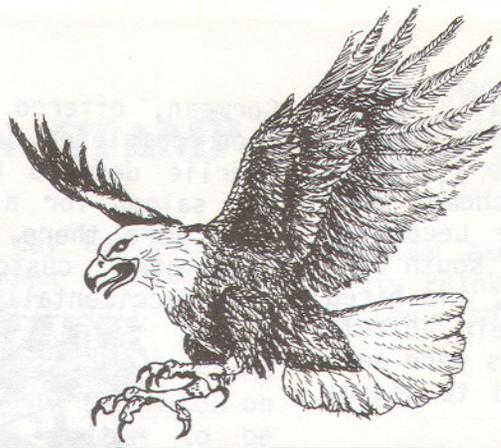
# **BALD EAGLE**

**Volume Sixteen, Issue Number 2**

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# BACK

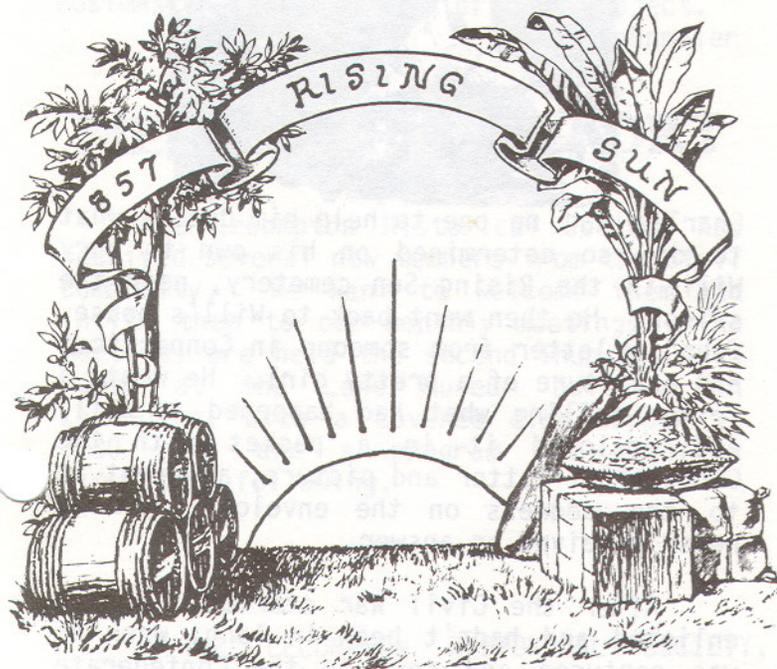


# TABLE

VOL. 16 NO. 2

LECOMPTON, KANSAS

SUMMER 1990



The town of Rising Sun was laid out in 1857 by Joseph Haddox, and located on the north side of the Kansas River, just opposite Lecompton. It was close to the ferry landing which, on the Lecompton side, was on the William Simmons claim. Haddox was president of the town company, with William J. Norris, Henry C. Cockril, Thomas Cockril and William G. Mathias as trustees. It was incorporated in 1857.

Lecompton was at the height of its power about this time, so Rising Sun had a quick start. This was one case where Lecompton aided instead of decimated a town's chance of succeeding.

In 1858, a Lecompton newspaper describes Rising Sun as being located in the valley of a "beautiful timbered land" known as Kaw Valley, near a branch of the

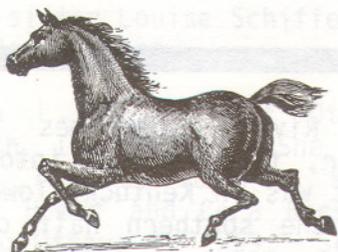
Delaware River, sometimes called the Grasshopper, that emptied into the Kansas River. It was in Kentucky Township, which comprised the southern half of Jefferson County.

The first settler in the township had been John Scaggs, a pro-slavery man who had a number of slaves. They erected a cabin, one of the first in the area. He and his slaves were skilled at sawing lumber and helped provide Lecompton with much needed building supplies. In fact they provided Mr. Leamer, Lecompton store keeper, with materials to build his first house. Robert Scaggs, one of the slaves, helped with the building in Lecompton. He was also trained as a blacksmith, so he could always find work under the supervision of his owner, John Scaggs. When Kansas was to be admitted to the union as a free state, his master took him to Texas where he worked 6 years as a slave, and 2 years as a free man before he had enough money to return to see his wife's old master who helped him get started farming in Kansas. He ultimately bought a farm west of Lecompton, where he and his wife lived the rest of their lives. They are buried in the Big Springs cemetery.

Some sources indicate that Rising Sun was a rival of Lecompton, however it is more accurate to say that it was Lecompton's protector, for many of its residents worked in Lecompton. Lecompton was too powerful in 1857-1858 to have a rival just across the river. It might also have been called her place of enjoyment as saloons and gambling places were abundant, killings were common, and the principal industry was supposed to be horse stealing.

Losing a horse was a tragedy in the

early years of the territory. If a farmer had no horse, he could not farm, had no transportation and no way to make a living. To protect the horses, many schemes were contrived. The people in the Lecompton area made a tight corral on the south part of the Governor Stanton estate, and hired armed guards to watch over their animals day and night. If horse thieves were seen approaching, they were supposed to signal the town by gun fire for help.



Very early one morning, the guards observed a group who were attempting to break into the corral. The signal was given and soon men were seen coming from all directions to help. The horse thieves took off "post haste" toward Lecompton, planning to cross the river there. They managed to get to the north bank by swimming with their horses. They came up the bank by the Rising Sun saloon. Being confident that the men chasing them would not cross the river as they had, they stopped for a refreshing drink. Little did they know the extra power their pursuers developed due to their anger, that they too made it across the river. They entered the saloon, found the three culprits, took them outside, where each was hanged from a tree limb, which was the regular procedure at that time. People were more severe with horse thieves than with murderers of people. Outsiders were frequently shocked by the many hangings, but there were no available jails, so for self-preservation, thieves were summarily disposed of!

Another unusual incident happened in that saloon soon thereafter. Will Rushmore, who lived in Connecticut, was made aware that there was much building going on in Lecompton, Kansas Territory. He had recently married and was seeking employment so he made arrangements to go to Lecompton, and upon finding work, sent for his wife. He found plenty of work when he got to the town, but there were no houses for rent. He bought a lot and started building a house in his spare time. It was taking so long that a friend, Charlie

Cormean, offered to help, and so it was soon completed. To celebrate, Will and Charlie decided to go over to the Rising Sun saloon for a refreshing drink. While they were there, a fight broke out among some other customers, a shot was fired which accidentally hit Will and killed him.



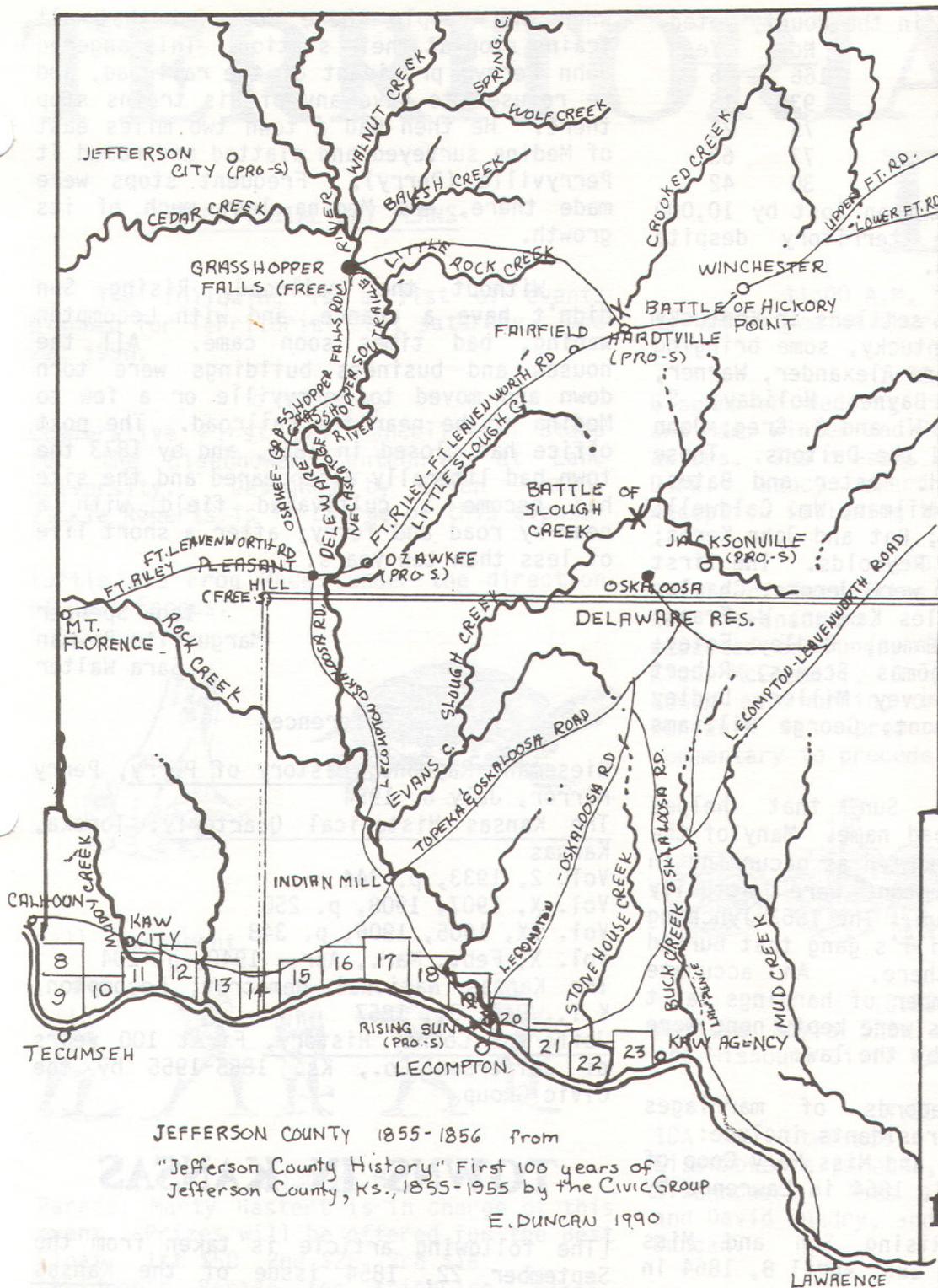
Charlie had no one to help him decide what to do, so determined on his own to bury Will in the Rising Sun cemetery, near the saloon. He then went back to Will's house, found a letter from someone in Connecticut and a picture of a pretty girl. He wrote a letter telling what had happened to Will, and enclosed it in a packet with the Connecticut letter and picture, and sent it to the address on the envelope, but he never received an answer.

After the Civil War started, Charlie enlisted and hadn't been in long, when he was captured and sent to the Confederate prison in Andersonville, Georgia. The prisoners were badly fed and cared for, and Charlie soon became ill. An old man, who was also a prisoner, offered his care. He asked him where he came from, and when Charlie said "Lecompton", he asked if he knew Will Rushmore, as he was his son-in-law. Charlie told him Will's story and died soon thereafter.

After the war, the old man returned to his home in the north, told his daughter of the incident, and he and his wife and daughter went to Perry, Kansas by train. They immediately went to the Rising Sun cemetery, which was nearby, found Will's body, took it to Lecompton and buried it in the Bald Eagle cemetery on the hill east of the town. Later Myra, Will's wife, brought Charlie's body from Andersonville and buried it there also. Myra remained in Perry, working as a seamstress, and upon her death was buried with Will and Charlie.

# JEFFERSON COUNTY

# KANSAS TERRITORY



JEFFERSON COUNTY 1855-1856 from  
 "Jefferson County History" First 100 years of  
 Jefferson County, Ks., 1855-1955 by the Civic Group  
 E. DUNCAU 1990

1855 - 1856

The first voting place in the township was Rising Sun. The first sermon in the area was preached in the home of Alex Bayne in June 1857 by Rev. Nathan Scarrett, a presiding elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. A church society was then formed and Rev. S.B. Stateler was sent to preach. The next year a church building was erected there. The first school of the township was also at Rising Sun. A school building had been provided and a competent teacher, Miss Annie Foster, had been hired.

There were two steam saw mills that sawed from 3,000 to 4,000 board feet of lumber every day. The town also fared well from the river trade during the 1850's and 1860's. In 1857 Kunkel had established a ferry there and in 1858 became a member of the town company. Rising Sun was the business center of the township for several years and continued to support Lecompton as evidenced by their vote in the second time the Lecompton Constitution came up for ratification. The following figures show

how the polling places in the county voted.

	No	Yes
Grasshopper Falls	166	6
Oskaloosa	93	15
Osawkie (Ozawkie)	75	25
Hickory Point	77	63
Rising Sun	30	42

The pro-slavery constitution lost by 10,000 votes in the whole territory despite carrying in Rising Sun.

Some of the first settlers in Kentucky Township came from Kentucky, some bringing their slaves. They were Alexander, Warner, Thomas and William Bayne; Holiday; S. Plummer; Humphries, B. W. and G. Greg; John and James Hinton; and the Daltons. Those from New York were H. Foster and Bates. From Missouri were S. Wilman; Wm. Caldwell; D. Damples; E. McLain; Pat and John Kerns; J. Quinlan and Billy Reynolds. The first settlers of Rising Sun were Jerome, Charles and Jake Kunkle; Charles Kampun; W. Fraas; John Worth; John Gammon, Dudley Foley; James, Henry and Thomas Scaggs, Robert Scaggs (a slave); Harvey Miller; Dudley Plummer; Jonathan Smoot; George Williams and Samuel P. Tilton.

It was Rising Sun that helped Lecompton to have a bad name. Many of the killings that were reported as occurring in the city of Lecompton were actually committed in Rising Sun. The 1863 lynching of a member of Quantrill's gang that burned Lawrence occurred there. An accurate assessment of the number of hangings can't be made, as no records were kept, none were legal, and none done by the law.

Some early records of marriages involving Rising Sun residents include: John Lager, U.S. Army and Miss Mary Coop of Rising Sun, March 15, 1864 in Lawrence by E.D. Ladd  
Charles Kincaide, Rising Sun and Miss Hattie Cooper, Rising Sun, April 8, 1864 in Lawrence by E.D. Ladd.

Lecompton's decline in power when Kansas became a free-state, led to the decline of Rising Sun as well. When the Kansas Pacific Railroad reached Kentucky Township, it missed Rising Sun by about a mile. It was at this time that the town of Medina was founded west of Rising Sun on the railroad. It grew to a town of 2,000, had numerous saloons, a fine hotel, and a race track. The downfall of Medina came

when the people there demanded that all trains stop at their station. This angered John Perry, president of the railroad, and he refused to have any of his trains stop there. He then had a town two miles east of Medina surveyed and platted and named it Perryville (Perry). Frequent stops were made there, and Medina lost much of its growth.

Without the railroad, Rising Sun didn't have a chance, and with Lecompton waning, bad times soon came. All the houses and business buildings were torn down and moved to Perryville or a few to Medina to be near the railroad. The post office had closed in 1867, and by 1873 the town had literally disappeared and the site had become a cultivated field with a near-by road and ferry; after a short life of less than ten years.

Iona Spencer  
Marguerite Bowman  
Sara Walter

#### References

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The Kansas Historical Quarterly, Topeka, Kansas  
Vol. 2, 1933, p. 344  
Vol. X, 1907, 1908, p. 250  
Vol. IX, 1905, 1906, p. 348  
Vol. X, Feb., Mar., Apr., 1940, p. 204  
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Jefferson County History, First 100 years of Jefferson Co., Ks. 1855-1955 by the Civic Group

## TOWNS IN KANSAS

[The following article is taken from the September 22, 1854 issue of the Kansas Weekly Herald published at Leavenworth, Kansas Territory.]

Towns are springing up in various parts of our young Territory. On the Missouri besides Leavenworth there are Atchison near the mouth of Independence Creek and Kickapoo City at the lower end of Kickapoo's Bluffs.

Atchison has a very good site and will always have a good landing. Its situation

[ continued on page 6 ]

# TERRITORIAL DAY

# DAY

## TERRITORIAL DAY PLANS

The following is a list of events planned for Territorial Day, Saturday, June 23, 1990.

9:00 A.M.

Commerative First Day Cancellation Stamp for the Eisenhower Centennial at Lane University. Designed by Ellen Duncan. Vickie Roberts is in charge of this event.

Turtle and Frog Races under the direction of Lyle Fergus.



Ball Tournament.



10:30 A.M.

Parade: Marty Hastert is in charge of this event. Prizes will be offered for the Best Float. 1st \$50 2nd \$25 3rd \$15  
Children's Parade for tricycles, bikes, etc. 1st \$20 2nd \$15 3rd \$10 4th \$5  
The parade will include the Shriners from Topeka, antique cars, horses and other attractions.



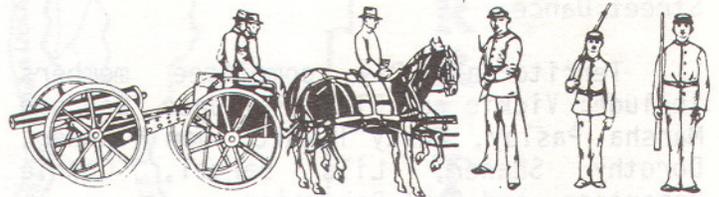
11:00 A.M. \* 1:00 P.M.  
United Methodist Church Dinner

1:00 P.M.

Eisenhower Wedding re-enactment with Wint and Mary Winter and Rev. Don Flanner as the actors. The dresses will be made by Maxine Dark. Nancy Howard will host a wedding reception following the ceremony.

2:00 P.M.

Battle of Fort Titus by the Missouri Civil War Re-enactors. The battle will be repeated on Sunday June 24th at 2:00 P.M. Rich McConnell, Ralph Davis and Bernie Bower are working on this event. Howard Duncan is preparing some colorful commentary to precede the re-enactment.



3:00 P.M.

Antique Style Show at Lane University by the Missouri Civil War Re-enactors.

4:00 P.M.

IDA a two-act play about Dwight Eisenhower's parents, Ida Stover and David Eisenhower. This play stars Laura Soash and David Lundry, and was written by Howard Duncan.

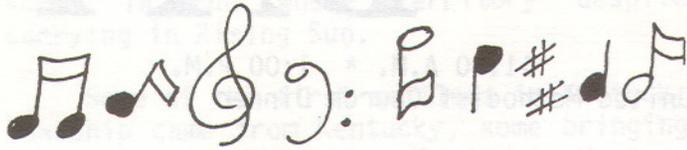


**IDA**



3:00 \* 5:00 P.M.  
Children's Games.

5:00 P.M.  
Bingo  
Ice Cream Social  
Spencer's Country Music



6:00 P.M.  
Jazz Band

6:30 P.M.  
Community Singers

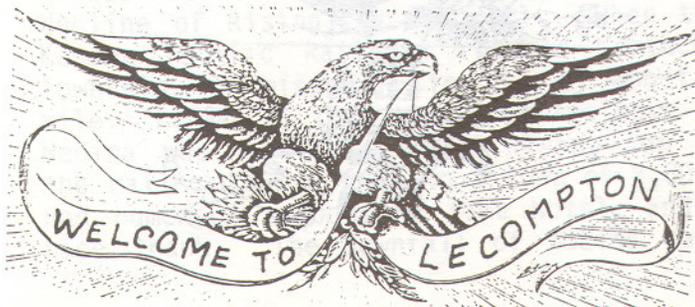
7:00 P.M.  
Talent Show Prizes \$50 1st \$35 2nd  
\$25 3rd \$15 4th Vickie Mallonee is  
in charge of taking and receiving anyone  
that wants to enter the Talent Show.  
Also planned is a Mud Volleyball  
Tournament.

9:00 P.M.  
Street Dance

Territorial Day committee members  
include: Vickie and Glenn Mallonee, Roy and  
Marsha Paslay, Nancy Howard, Don Flanner,  
Dorothy Shaner, Lila Bartel, Connie  
Robertson, and Paul Bahnmaier.

## NOTES FROM PAUL

This summer will really be an exciting  
time in Lecompton. With the efforts of so  
many people a new look will greet visitors  
to our historic community. Some of the  
more obvious improvements include the  
roadside park renovation, the addition of  
the River Road signs, the naming of the  
Eisenhower Memorial Drive, the black and  
gold W E L C O M E flags, the 100 flower  
barrels, the carved Bald Eagle, and the  
painted Welcome to Lecompton sign and



eagle. They enhance this community and  
make it one of the great cities in the  
state.

The donations and volunteer efforts  
for Lane University Museum continue to be  
something we appreciate with great pride.  
Being a part of such a loyal, dedicated and  
outstanding group of individuals is  
tremendously treasured by all in our  
organization.

Some recent items donated to Lane  
are: horse drawn equipment and clothing by  
Bernie Bower; McClanahan Genealogy by  
Hedgman McClanahan; and homecoming crown by  
Georgia Teets.

Paul Bahnmaier

[ continued from page 4 ]

is elevated and will afford many fine lots  
for building residences and business  
houses. There are fine springs of water  
within the limits of the town. The country  
in its rear is rather destitute of timber,  
being the divide between the waters of the  
Missouri and those of Kansas. Kickapoo  
City has an elevated situation with a good  
landing, which will be permanent. Its  
surface is gently undulating, but not too  
broken for building purposes. It is well  
supplied with springs and has plenty of  
timber in its vicinity. It is said that  
stone, coal and building stone abound in  
the vicinity. On Kansas, are Douglass  
City, New Boston, Tecumseh City, and  
perhaps other places laid off.

Douglass City is the first above the  
Shawnees' reservation, forty miles from the  
Missouri line and about thirty from this  
place. We have no information in relation  
to the site, but presume it is a good one.

New Boston is the focus of the New  
England emigration, and is a fine location.  
It is known in the territory as "Yankee  
Town." They have already some two hundred  
men in and about town, and are preparing to  
build up a manufacturing city. It is about  
fifty miles from the mouth of Kansas, and  
thirty five from this place.

Tecumseh City is further up the  
Kansas, on the North side, has a good site  
and a fine country back. We have heard it  
described as a spot of rare beauty. It is  
known by the name of Stinson's.

# CANCELLATION STAMP

A commemorative first day Cancellation Stamp for the Eisenhower Centennial Celebration will be available only on June 23rd at the Lane University Museum. If you desire a letter with this stamp cancellation and cannot be in Lecompton on June 23rd, just mail a letter to be cancelled to the Lecompton Post Office. The unique design was created by Ellen Duncan. Vickie Roberts, Lecompton Postmaster, is in charge of this project.  
Paul Bahnmaier

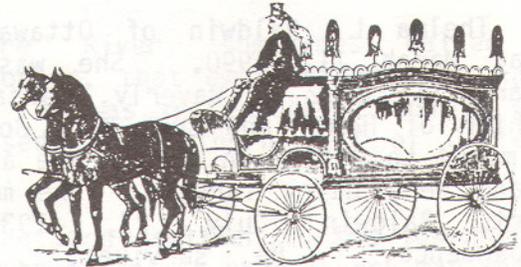
LIFE MEMBERS: Carolyn (Smith) Starkey, Beverly (Bahnmaier) Van Dyke, Florence (Connole) Kreipe, and Phoebe O. (Hodson) Rogers (by daughter Rosalie Banks).

MEMORIAL MEMBERSHIPS: Jarvis Brink by wife Betty Brink, and Dorothy (Schaake) Traxler by Louis and Marie Traxler.  
Iona Spencer

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Lecompton Historical Society has received several new members from the Stull community. We want to welcome them and invite them to our monthly meetings. The meetings are held the second Thursday each month at the Lane Museum building in Lecompton, with a covered dish supper at 6:30 p.m. and a program and business discussion following.

# Obituaries



James G. Clarke, 73 of Clearwater, Florida, formerly of New Haven, Connecticut died March 31, 1990. He was a professor emeritus of Yale University. He was born November 9, 1916 in Custer City, Oklahoma the son of Frank and Minnie Helse Clarke. He graduated from Lecompton High School and

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!

Individual membership is \$3 per year, from December to December, while couples membership is \$5. 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 \*\*\*\*\*

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$3 Annual Individual Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$5 Annual Household Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Individual Life or Memorial Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

the University of Kansas. He was a professor of electrical engineering at Yale from 1938 to 1976. He was a consultant for the U.S. Bureau of Aeronautics and the executive office of President John F. Kennedy. He invented the gear used on the decks of aircraft carriers to help planes stop when they land. He instituted the annual Jim Clarke Award in Electrical Engineering at Yale. Survivors include his wife Mary, three sons, James, Gary and Jack, and a sister Louise Schiffer. Burial was in New Haven, Conn.

Mrs. Thelma L. Baldwin of Ottawa died Sunday March 11, 1990. She was born January 24, 1912 at Waverly, Kansas the daughter of Homer and Cora Barr Johnson. She moved to Ottawa in 1959. She and her husband were dairy farmers. She married Albert Baldwin July 27, 1935 in Independence. He survives. Other survivors include 3 daughters: Alberta Cox, Ellen Ruskahr, and Roberta Higbie, two brothers, Fred and Bud Johnson, 17 grandchildren and 26 greatgrandchildren. Three sons preceded her in death. She was a member of the Church of the Brethren, Good Neighbors Extension Homemakers Unit, and Emry Green Grange. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery in Baldwin.

Dotty Traxler, 43 of Perry died November 9, 1989 at a Kansas City, Kansas hospital. She had cancer. She was employed by USD 343 and previously at the Douglas County State Bank. She was born December 14, 1945

in Kansas City, the daughter of Ray and Willa Patton Schaake. She graduated from Lawrence High School and attended Iola Community College. She married Richard Traxler on July 26, 1969 in Lawrence and had lived in Perry the past 20 years. Other survivors besides her husband include a daughter Nicole Ann, her parents Ray and Willa Schaake, a sister Willa Rae Ballard, and grandmother Hazel Patton. She fought a courageous fight against all odds for many years in her struggle to defeat her illness. Burial was in Oak Ridge Cemetery at Perry.

Wilbur M. Hildenbrand, 82 of rural Tecumseh died Friday, March 2, 1990. He worked for Santa Fe shops from 1947 to 1973. Before that he farmed for 27 years in the Stull community. He was born the son of August and Alice Nichols Hildenbrand. He moved to Lecompton in 1912 and graduated from Lecompton High School. He married Helen J. Frye on November 8, 1933. She survives. Other survivors include a daughter, Donna Jean Levings; two sons, Robert and Richard; a sister, Lorene Hestand; a brother, Ralph, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was a member of the United Brethren Church, several senior citizens groups, and the Lecompton Historical Society. He was a loyal and dedicated promoter of the museum and had distributed several thousand brochures during the past seven years. His faithful attendance at our meetings will be missed. Burial was in Stull Cemetery.

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President - PAUL BAHNMAIER  
Historical Writer - SARA WALTER  
Typesetter - HOWARD DUNCAN  
Editor - ELLEN DUNCAN  
Genealogical Writer - IONA SPENCER  
Illustrator - ELLEN DUNCAN

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