

The LHS Newsletter Archive

# BALD EAGLE

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## COLONEL SAMUEL WALKER

Samuel Walker was born October 22, 1822, near the village of Laudon, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. His father, James Walker, was a well to do farmer and distiller. His grandfather, Samuel Walker, had emigrated from northern Ireland before the revolutionary war, and pre-empted the land where Samuel was born. He had fought in the war of the revolution. Young Samuel's father served in the War of 1812 as a private in a Virginia regiment.

At one year of age, he was stricken with "hip disease". Until he was 14, he was badly crippled, could do little work, and couldn't attend school. At fifteen, a remedy was found, his leg grew to normal length, but he was never free of pain. His father died when he was fourteen, and at fifteen he was "bound" to learn the cabinet-makers business. He apprenticed for three years, then became a journeyman.

At twenty-one, he married Marian Lowe and they had nine children. When the Mexican War started, he enlisted but was not sent to fight. In 1849, the family moved to New Paris, Ohio. He invested in real estate and when the railroad left the area, lost most of his investment. Cholera broke out and Marian was one of the first victims. Samuel was an undertaker at that time, and was kept very busy. As many of the people who were not ill fled the place, there were not enough people to care for the ill. Brandy by the barrel was used as a preventative, but Samuel refused to use it; his determination and caring were characteristic of his nature.

In the winter of 1853, Major Woods, who had been stationed at Fort Leavenworth, came to New Paris and gave such a good

description of Kansas, that a number of the local citizens decided to move there and take up land. In the spring of 1854, he and several friends, including Thomas Barber (who was later killed by Missouri border ruffians) went to Kansas Territory. They took a steamboat from Cincinnati to St. Louis, where they changed boats to go to Kansas City, a small landing place for Westport. They arrived May 1, 1854.



*Sam. Walker*

Picture from Andreas: History of Kansas

Upon their arrival, they went to a livery stable run by Samuel Jones (of later fame as Sheriff Jones of Kansas Territory). Upon being informed they were from Ohio, Mr. Jones refused to rent them transportation, as did all the other



stables because they didn't want anyone of other than pro-slavery beliefs to settle in the area. They finally found an Indian who promised to take them where they wanted to go, if they would help him plant his corn. This was done and he took them to Lawrence. They also visited the site soon to be Topeka, Easton and finally went back to Westport, Missouri, and from there back to Ohio. On their recommendations, forty families decided to emigrate to Kansas Territory.

After an eventful trip, they finally arrived at Lawrence, which was a collection of small mud huts, dugouts, etc., on May 5, 1855 but found no land they wanted. So each head of the family started out to search on his own. Walker selected a farm on the California road about seven miles west of Lawrence, there were no cabins west nearer than Big Springs. Several families settled near the city of Lecompton. (His place was later known as the Merle Colman farm and up to 1991 has had only three owners.) Sam now had one wife, five children, a yoke of oxen, one sack of flour, 100 pounds of bacon, \$8 in money, and a tent. In a few days he got a job making rails at Lecompton, but he could only make 50¢ a day, as he wasn't skilled at it.

He built his family a cabin, and prepared for his farm animals. In just six weeks Samuel Jones appeared with one hundred fifty mounted men. He told Walker to be gone in two weeks, or he'd burn him out, that he was on his way to Lecompton to clean out the abolitionists. In two hours Samuel could see smoke over by Lecompton. After Jones left, Walker traveled about all night, alerting people as to Jones' plans. The next day eighty-six men met at the Walker cabin and organized the Bloomington Guards, a military company. Walker was chosen first sergeant of this first military company organized in Kansas. Each member contributed \$2 towards bringing arms and sent Captain Read to Massachusetts to obtain them. Read did not come back, but just before the invasion of Lawrence, September 1855, eighty Sharps rifles were delivered to Walker. The Guards met that night and went to Lawrence well armed.

The nearby border ruffians heard of the rifles and went to the Walker farm

to search. They found nothing, but to be sure they were not hidden, burned the haystacks, corn and other crops, and destroyed everything. Walker couldn't find work, so he made up his mind to live at the ruffians expense until either they or he was driven from the Territory. Fortunately wild game was in abundance so the family lived on that. There were no wells, so they used pond water which was boiled. They also washed clothing at the pond, and one day when Mrs. Walker left the washed clothing there, wild pigs destroyed it all, so they had only the clothing they wore. That winter they suffered through two weeks of minus 20 degree weather and three to four foot snows.

In April 1856 Colonel Buford and Major Titus arrived in Kansas Territory with 1000 men recruited in the South and made their headquarters three miles from the Walker cabin, building a strong blockhouse there. They also built one on Washington Creek, which they called Franklin. There they stationed 150 men with a brass "six pounder" cannon. They then attacked a Mr. Nicholas trying to drive him from his Washington Creek claim, but Nicholas got help from his neighbors. He also sent to Lawrence for help, and eight men led by Sam Walker started to his rescue. When about five miles west of Lawrence they met an officer of the pro-slavery group who was some distance ahead of a wagon train of supplies and men being sent to aid Fort Franklin. Walker and his men took the officer captive and then the supplies and the rest of the party. They took six yokes of oxen, three wagons loaded with flour, bacon, sugar, coffee, salt, canned fruit, five kegs of powder, a large quantity of lead, a barrel of whiskey, nineteen rifles, twenty revolvers, and some bowie knives. All of this booty was given to the Lawrence Free State cause.

Early in May 600 border ruffians camped on Walker's claim chasing Sam into hiding. They stopped all people on the California Road and each had to give an account of himself, if it were not satisfactory, he was taken to headquarters (the Walker house) for interrogation and many were arrested in the presence of Mrs. Walker. They told her she would never be disturbed, but if Sam Walker ever showed up, they would string him up. Sam was



hiding in the Wakarusa timber, four miles away. Titus had put up a \$300 reward for anyone who caught Walker. Mrs. Walker would take food to Sam in the Wakarusa timber. Some of the settlers were badly treated and their houses and cattle stolen.

Lawrence was made aware of a proposed attack on them. Their leaders were either under arrest or back east asking for help. The head of the Lawrence militia attempted to get Governor Shannon to stop the assault. He wrote a letter to the governor and asked Sam Walker to deliver it to Lecompton. Walker put on a red shirt, which was an earmark of the South, and started for Lecompton. As he passed his house, he saw no sentinels, so stopped to see what had happened. As he entered the door, he found the cabin filled with the guards, a sergeant and six men. When asked why he was there, Sam said that he was a member of the grand jury meeting in Lecompton, and that he was not well and wanted to borrow a coat. His wife, pretended not to know him, and offered her husband's coat if he would return it. As Sam left the cabin he met two men going to Lecompton and rode with them until near Lecompton, when they dashed ahead of him, as he had told them he was delivering a letter to Shannon. As Sam neared the town, a friend named Corbets for whom he had done some personal favors came racing toward him and told him he must not go on. He then gave the letter to Corbet who took it to Shannon. Meanwhile, he turned his horse into a ravine and got away from the men who started chasing him. He ultimately came to Corbet's house and stayed there until evening when he was brought the governor's reply, which offered no help. The Lawrence people were then encouraged to hide their arms, and the seven leaders to take their companies and leave town. After the sacking of Lawrence, the free state party's prospect did not look good. There were just a few companies left, those of Captain Abbott, Shores, John Brown Sr., John Brown Jr., Mitchell, Saunders and Walker.

About this time, Walker received a message at his hide-out on the Wakarusa, that a Captain McDonald and his troop were about to raid his cabin and burn everything that belonged to him. Walker picked his men, went to his house, sent his family away and prepared for a siege. At two o'clock, in the bright moonlight, a troop

of about thirty men rode leisurely up to the house, dismounted and tied their horses. As soon as the last man was in the yard, ten rifles were fired by Walker and his men. Four fell wounded, the rest jumped the yard fence and quickly scattered. Two men were captured along with four horses. One man's jacket pocket caught on the top rail of the fence and he left it and a bottle of whiskey hanging there. One of the leaders had been Governor Shannon's son. The next day a group led by Shannon went to Walker's house to arrest him, however Captain Sturges held them back as Mrs. Walker was alone. The group was then ordered to fan out and search him out. Some of them went to Captain Thomas' house and there he let it slip that Sam was at the Barber house. Mrs. Thomas asked the men to stay for lunch, in the meantime she sent her little daughter, Dolly, to warn the Barbers. Sam took to the woods and when the men arrived they found him to be gone. They were suspicious that Dolly had been sent to warn him, and asked who owned the horse outside. She said it was hers and that she had been sent to bring it home. They believed her and left the place, so Sam escaped again.

A searching party led by Shannon rode past Sam's hiding place, but did not see him, or those who did, did not say so. As soon as they were gone, Sam walked on, soon meeting Captain Bickerton, who told him his family was safe. Bickerton related that soon after Shannon left, Titus came to the cabin and told Mrs. Walker to get everything out because he would be back in two hours to burn all the buildings and crops. She put their things all out into the road, then Thompson Wakefield took her and the children to his father's house to stay. Captain Cutler heard of Sam's predicament and gathered thirty men to go out and bring Sam safely into Lawrence. Sam Walker was then given a message from Col. Sumner to come to his camp for a conference. He was a bit apprehensive as to whom he might meet there, but after a brief discussion at Camp Sackett agreed to stand by the Colonel when he went to the Topeka legislature meeting to dismiss it. This was done the next day with Sam standing by the U.S. Army men, and all the free state legislators left without a fight.

Samuel received a note from Charles



Territorial Day Terrific

Robinson, who was being held at Camp Sackett, to come to consult with him. He found that Robinson wanted him to go to Nebraska City, near the Iowa border, to get James Lane to return as the Missouri bushwhackers were overwhelming the territory. After a tedious journey, Lane was found on the Iowa border. He agreed to return, and with Walker and 50 of his men, headed for Lawrence. Only 3 men, Lane, Walker and Charlie Statton, made it to the Walker home. Statton and Lane went on, Lane alone making it to Lawrence. When Lane left Sam at his home, he asked him to go to Bloomington and get a group of men together there. He was then ordered to wait until Lane contacted him before moving. Two days after Lane's return, he marched with eighty-nine men against Fort Franklin. They crept up in the darkness, fired a token round of shots, and demanded surrender. After three hours of firing, Lane and his men wheeled a wagon loaded with hay against the fort and set it on fire. The blockhouse was soon emptied, and the fort had fallen. Lane ordered a detail to load the garrison cannon, Old Sacramento, into the free-state "loot" wagon and take it to Lawrence. Not a person was killed in this battle.

That night Lane arrived in Lawrence with about 200 men. Walker and his men were camped near Lawrence and only three miles from Camp Saunders, another pro-slavery fort. A day later, Lane and Walker planned an attack on Camp Saunders. When the men in the fort saw that group of five hundred men approaching, they fled on their horses without firing a shot. The free-state men looted the fort of horses and provisions, and then set it on fire.

In the evening, Lane called the group together and turned the command over to Walker. They went back to camp and after sharing the loot, were told by Walker to go home. Walker went to Barber's house for food and lodging. He had hardly retired when there was a knock on the door and a request for him to get up as there was a fight at Judge Wakefield's. Right after Walker had left, a messenger came with the information that a party of emigrants going through had lost their way and gotten into Lecompton and that they were to be hung the next morning.

Runners were sent for Walker's men and

they were all brought back to camp. They then started for Lecompton but met Col. Titus at Judge Wakefield's. Titus had brought four-hundred men to burn the Wakefield house and those of nearby free-state settlers. A fight started and Titus retreated with one killed and several wounded.

The free-state troop wanted to go after Titus, but Walker persuaded them to wait until morning. The next morning there came a knock at Sam Walker's door. The driver of the Lecompton-Westport stage had stopped on the pretext of asking about the road and for the real purpose of saying hurriedly, "I've got Titus' wife and two children on the stage. If you want that damned scoundrel, now is the time."

Sam Walker thought of the price Titus had put on his head, and of the encampment of federal dragoons which was relatively near the Titus cabin. U.S. Army Major Sedgwick had said that if he, Sam Walker, ever wanted to nab Titus, he would probably be able to do it before the dragoons got there. Sam Walker sent a runner to Lawrence for the captured cannon, then with his fifty horsemen camped on Rock Creek he made an attack. The fight was kept up for several hours when reinforcements came in sight with the cannon, Old Sacramento. They had been delayed as they had to make the balls for the cannon out of the lead type that had been thrown in the river when Lawrence was attacked. As soon as the cannon was in use, Walker had his men gathering materials to burn the fort down. At that time the men inside the cabin came out to surrender and Walker led the group to Lawrence. Fort Titus had fallen. A large number of various kinds of guns and supplies were taken. Governor Shannon and U.S. Army Major Sedgwick oversaw the trading of prisoners the next day. They traded all prisoners, including the poor emigrants who had lost their way. They traded man for man, except for Major Titus who was traded for a cannon that Lecompton had captured and that had previously belonged to the free-state people.

On May 5, 1856 Charles Robinson was indicted for treason. He was kept prisoner at Camp Sackett until August when he and other free-state men were tried at Lecompton. They were acquitted of treason but not released immediately. On September



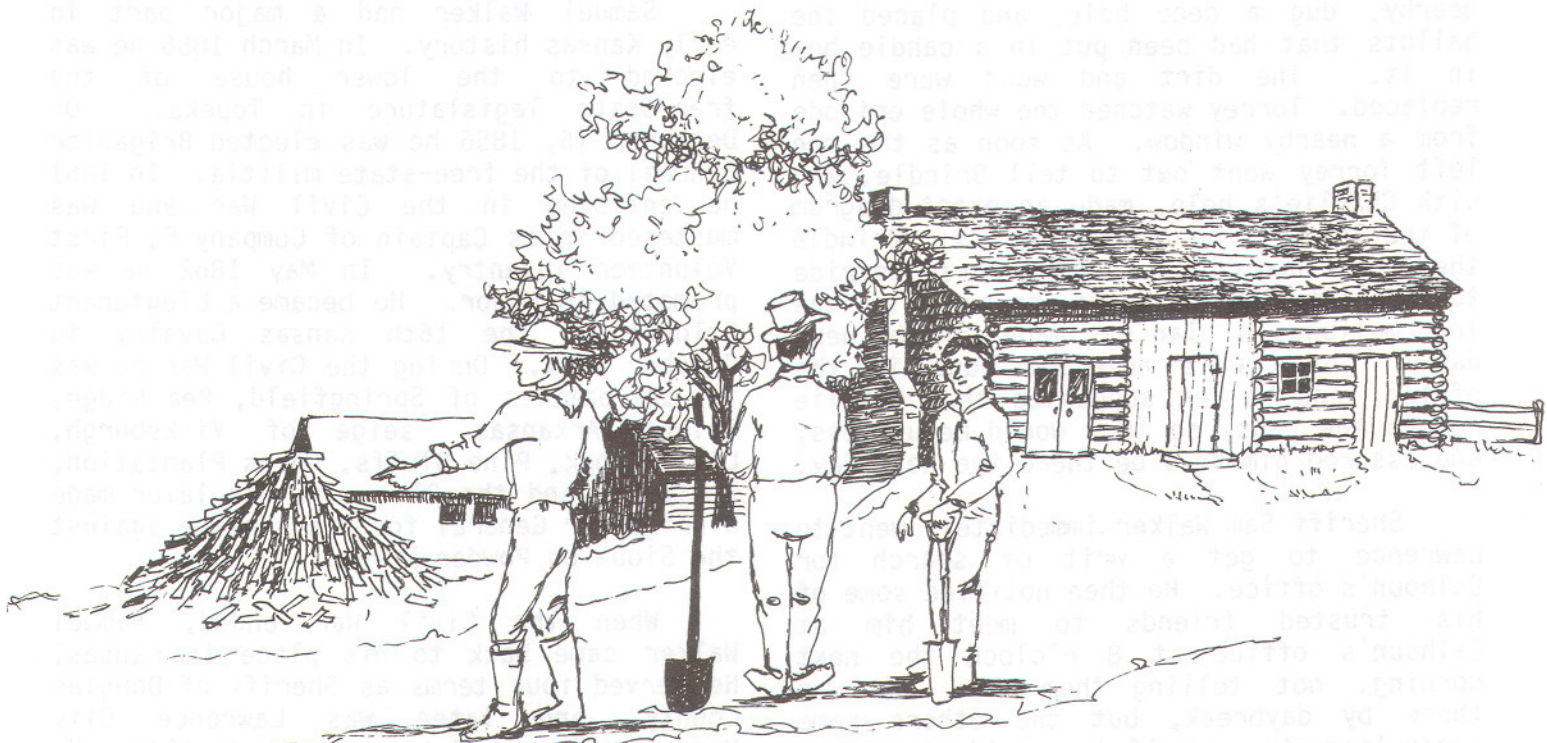
5, 1856, James Lane and Sam Walker determined to get them released. Lane took 400 infantry men and headed for Lecompton by the river road and stationed them on the bluff east of Lecompton. Walker had a large group of mounted men that were stationed in the old graveyard. They had cannons and a large arsenal. They started firing at Lecompton, and aroused the U.S. cavalry of Camp Sackett who came rushing into Lecompton to make Lane and Walker leave with the promise that the free-state prisoners would be released.

In October 1857, delegates met in Constitution Hall in Lecompton to frame a constitution for statehood. It was voted upon December 21, 1857 and was accepted by the voters. In early January, General Calhoun ordered an election of provisional officers in case the U.S. Congress accepted the Lecompton Constitution. Many free-state citizens took part in that election, and when the vote was reported, did not feel that the count was honestly done. They could not prove fraud because the vote ballots had been given to Calhoun who had been in charge of the election and had gone to Washington, D.C. to report the election results to the president.

General William Brindle was the receiver at the land office and a close

friend of Territorial Governor Robert Walker. Brindle favored the pro-slavery group, but was an honest man and believed in an honest election. Brindle and his entourage lived in the log house that had been hastily vacated by Governor Geary. He felt a sense of duty to betray any unsavory plots. Brindle was the bold leader of the Governor Robert Walker supporters. He was intense in hate, intense in zeal, and intense in denunciation. Brindle had been a major in the Mexican War. He never went on the street without his two revolvers. He had an unusual way of promoting slavery, but wanted to give the people of Kansas a chance to make Kansas a free state. He was greatly misunderstood in Kansas Territory, with the exception of Colonel O.E. Leonard and Sam Walker who by then had been appointed by the Governor as Sheriff. It was well known that Brindle was the "belted champion" and leader of the people's cause in Lecompton. His five associates were all free-state people.

It became necessary for Governor Robert Walker and Brindle to know what Calhoun's cabal was plotting. Brindle had made friends with Charley Torrey, a native Pennsylvannian, who worked in Calhoun's office. Torrey made fires, cleaned, did errands, and slept there. Torrey had a fair education and could comprehend what



They're there! In an old candle box, burried under that woodpile.



events were occurring in the Calhoun office. Torrey felt a sense of duty to destroy their unsavory plots. His presence was no bar to their midnight plottings. "Old Charlie" was regarded as "sound on the goose" (an expression of the era meaning pro-slavery), and they trusted him as much as each other. The fact that the Brindles were from Pennsylvania was perhaps the open sesame to the heart of that silent man, for it was an overwhelming sense of duty that made him take his life in his hands for months as he played the part of betrayer for freedom's sake.

Sometimes when the plots were deep and the counsels most secret around him, Charlie would feign sleep. As soon as the conspirators were gone, the stealthy step of Charlie could be heard at the Brindle's gate, the low tap on the door, and its quiet opening to let him in. The Brindles did not dare recognize him on the streets or his life would have been in jeopardy.

The legislature appointed a committee to investigate the recent balloting for officers. As Calhoun was not available, McLean was summoned to bring the election returns to Lawrence. McLean testified that Calhoun had taken them with him, but Brindle suspected otherwise and warned Charlie to keep watch. The night after McLean returned, and everyone slept, he and John Sherrard displaced the pile of wood nearby, dug a deep hole, and placed the ballots that had been put in a candle box in it. The dirt and wood were then replaced. Torrey watched the whole episode from a nearby window. As soon as the men left Torrey went out to tell Brindle, who with Charlie's help, made an exact diagram of the location on the candle box. Brindle then furnished Charlie with a horse to ride to Sheriff Sam Walker's house with the information. A plan was made for the next day. There were numerous guns in the office, and Walker suggested that Charlie remove the caps, so they would be useless, and assured him he'd be there the next day.

Sheriff Sam Walker immediately went to Lawrence to get a writ of search for Calhoun's office. He then notified some of his trusted friends to meet him at Calhoun's office at 8 o'clock the next morning, not telling them why. He was there by daybreak, but the others came straggling in, as if by accident. They

were Samuel Tappan, Louis Tappan, George Earle, John Stone, and John E. Cook. When they were all there, they hurriedly went to the Surveyor's office with their guns concealed under their overcoats.

McLean was working at his desk upon their entry, and the shook hands. Walker had saved McLean's life when he had been making a speech near Lawrence and they were friendly. Walker announced they had come for the returns. McLean replied they were not there, but Walker said they were in the woodpile. Thereupon McLean reached for his gun, but saw Earle's gun pointed at him. He called his seventeen employees to come - they seized their guns but found they were no good as not a cap remained in place to fire them. The rest of Sheriff Walker's men were then called and directed to pull down the woodpile. The map Charlie had given them was so correct they found the ballots immediately. McLean tried to get help to save the box, but because he had lied no one would help him. He and a comrade then crossed the river to Jefferson county where they met a man with a team of mules, and pressed, unharnessed, mounted them and fled to Missouri. (When the Land Office was moved to Nebraska, Calhoun retained his job and Charlie Torrey went along.) Upon examination of the ballots, the report by Calhoun was proven fraudulent.

Samuel Walker had a major part in early Kansas history. In March 1856 he was elected to the lower house of the free-state legislature in Topeka. On December 16, 1856 he was elected Brigadier General of the free-state militia. In 1861 he enlisted in the Civil War and was mustered in as Captain of Company F, First Volunteer Infantry. In May 1862 he was promoted to Major. He became a Lieutenant Colonel of the 16th Kansas Cavalry in October 1864. During the Civil War he was in the battles of Springfield, Pea Ridge, Helena Arkansas, siege of Vicksburgh, Little Rock, Pine Bluffs, Polks Plantation, Westport, and the Blue. He was later made a Brigadier General for his service against the Sioux on Powder River.

When the Civil War ended, Samuel Walker came back to his place in Kansas. He served four terms as Sheriff of Douglas County, and later was Lawrence City Marshal. He moved to Lawrence in 1872. He



was later elected state senator of Douglas County. He spent his life protecting others, even those with whom he disagreed such as Titus and Geary. He was a member of the Masonic and Oddfellows lodges. He died February 6, 1893 in Lawrence and was buried in Section 2, Oakhill Cemetery with his wife Marion Lowe Walker.

Sara Walter

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## PRESIDENT'S BOAST

This has been a very exciting summer. Several national historians have been to Lecompton along with students from other states. They had all studied our historic community. Their one purpose for coming was to visit the city where the civil war began with the national controversy concerning the writing of the Lecompton Constitution. This constitution for Kansas statehood was debated in Congress and in newspapers across America for over a year. The events in Lecompton deeply involved the Pierce and Buchanan administrations and led to the Lincoln-Douglas debates which in turn resulted in the election of President Lincoln.

Pro-slavery history was frequently distorted by late nineteenth century historians who based their knowledge on northern or free-state newspapers. An article written by Major John Sedgwick who was stationed in Lecompton with the peace-keeping U.S. Army and later distinguished himself for the Union cause during the Civil War described free-state supporters in negative terms which are

usually applied by most Civil War historians to the supporters of the pro-slavery cause. It should be noted that Kenneth Stamp in his book "America in 1857" said that both sides, free-state and pro-slavery, had supporters who were guilty of border ruffian activities, voting fraud, and other dirty tactics during the territorial period. Some free-state historians for a few decades after the Civil War had a difficult time accepting the fact that Lecompton is the most historic city in Kansas and where, in principle, the Civil War began. To a small extent it is understandable that to the victor go the spoils, including the shading or flavoring of history. However, many of the Kansas historians of the late nineteenth century, let their long-harbored animosity distort the fact that Kansas Territory was a place where good people had an honest division of opinion. Not all of those who favored the free-state cause were good people, any more than all of those who favored the pro-slavery cause were bad people. In our enlightened society where slavery in any form is totally intolerable, it is hard for some people to realize that this was an issue which nearly equally divided our national opinion, the U.S. Congress, and the press.

Of local Lecompton interest also is the fact that Lane University was the second college founded in Douglas County. Only Baker was in operation before Lane University.

It is clear to me that the loyalty and dedication of residents and former residents to Lecompton is second to none. It is a proud community with a tremendous heritage which makes it a great place to live.

Paul Bahnmaier

## THE BALD EAGLE SOARS

The Bald Eagle has recently received recognition by two different media sources. The last issue contained a story about the Shirley Family which is going to be featured in the state-wide publication "Kanhistique". Ron Doole from KSNT-TV (Channel 27) recently spotlighted the Bald Eagle on the evening news. Thanks to Ellen and Howard Duncan, Iona Spencer, and Sara Walter for a tremendous job.

Paul Bahnmaier



# Territorial Day Terrific

Territorial Day was a big success. We appreciate all who volunteered time to help our community. Thanks to those who served on a committee or helped in some way: City of Lecompton, Lecompton Fire Department, Gary Merritt, Judy Kibbee, Bob Christman, Lyle Fergus, Roy & Marsh Paslay, Darin Christman, Glen & Vicki Mallonee, Len & Nancy Howard, David Howard, Steve Howard, Paul Bahnmaier, Karen & Rich McConnell, Ralph Davis, LeRoy Burd, Dorothy Shaner, David Powell, Carl Bahnmaier, Rick Mohler, Brady Anschutz, Darwin, Jason, Adam & Elaine Behlke, Jeff Goodrick, Antique Car Club, Arab Shrine of Topeka, Doug Porter, and Lila Bartell.

Winners also emerged out of the Territorial Day activities: Horseshoe Tournament, 1st Walt Morton, 2nd Bob Christman, 3rd Wayne Shilenberger; and talent show, 1st Rap Song by Dustin Cox, Gary Freeman, and Aaron Paul, 2nd Song Pantomine by Ronda Riner, Maxine & Ben Bisel, Helen Norwood, and Iona Spencer, 3rd Song by Shannon Polly, and 4th Short People by Tanya Morris and Julie Kellogg. The talent show was judged by Barb Smith, Executive Director of United Way; Marilyn Bittenbender, Chairman of United Way; and Arden Booth, President of KLWM Radio.

Thanks to the following for advertisements: Lecompton Historical Society, Hamm's Quarries, Bank of Perry, Bill's Alignment, Perry Insurance, and Pioneer Wood Products.

Adult winners parade events were: 1st Morris Grandchildren, 2nd Lecompton Campfire, and 3rd Paige Patterson. Winners in the children parade events were: 1st Matthew Merritt, and 2nd Behlke & Goodrick Children. The parade judges were Russ Bowen and Nate Florrell, Kansas University football players.

Veterans honored in the parade were Danny Sanford, Ralph Porter, A.K. Winter, Dick Walters, George Simmons, Ronnie Stauffer, Darin Delfelder, Bruce Beresford, and Bud Kellum. The parade included the Olathe Marching Jaguars, and the Kansas Jayhawk. Paul Bahnmaier

## Alumni Banquet Successful

The annual Lecompton Alumni Banquet was held Saturday May 25th at the Lecompton Gym. 190 persons were present. Alumni

came from Tennessee, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Florida, and California. Harold Crady reminisced about events that occurred to the class of 1941. Cheryl Kibbee Mahler for the class of 1971 and Justin Paslay for 1991. Members present from the class of 1941 were Harold Crady, Maxine Dark Bisel, Charles Sulzen, Lura McAlexander, Phyllis Martin, Opal Goodrick, Harry Carr and Warren Hartman.

The association voted to honor the classes of 1922, 1932, 1942, 1952, 1962, 1972, 1982 and 1992 next year. We hope members of those classes will plan to have special reunions next year.

Another outstanding program was written and produced by Lecompton's own version of Hollywood: Brenda Hastert and Carol Howard. This included a musical number "God Bless the U.S.A." with Dennis and Mary Stauffer, Don and Joy Flanner, Esther Paslay, Mary Sue Christman, Paul Bahnmaier, David Howard, Nancy Howard, Greg and Carol Howard, and directed by Cindy Daniels.

"Men" was performed by Ronda Riner, Helen Norwood, Maxine and Ben Bisel, and Iona Spencer. "Sonny and Cher" was performed by Irene Dark and Doug Bahnmaier.

Twist Contestants were Les and Betty Stauffer, Jeff and Teri Goodrick, Larry and Kristi Sanford, Duane and Ruth Wyatt, and Joe and Corrine Childs.

"Hula" was directed by Marie Traxler, starring Don Flanner, Bill Leslie, Bill Boydston, and Joe Stauffer. "King Tut" was performed by Doug Bahnmaier, Carol and Mike McLees, and Denny and Mary Stauffer.

Master of Ceremony was Steve Goodrick who also portrayed "Elvis". Greg Howard played the music and Bob Del furnished a helium tank. Nancy Howard and Iona Spencer helped decorate the tables.

Thanks to all for their loyalty, interest and concern for this event and Lecompton. Committee members were Greg and Carol Howard, Roy Paslay, Sam Smith, Jeff Goodrick, Kenny Smith, Brenda Hastert, and Paul Bahnmaier. Paul Bahnmaier

## Interesting Programs

Margaret Wulfkuhle, Program Chairman, has made arrangements for some very interesting programs this Fall. In September Dr. Bill Lees the State Archeologist who was in charge of the excavation at the Pony Express Station at Hanover will present his findings. In October, Keith Lawton, retired Director of Facilities at K.U. will discuss and display his decoy collection.



## CHRISTMAS VESPERS

Don't forget the Christmas Vespers will be December 1st at 2:00 p.m. in the Lane University Chapel.

### THANKS

Thanks to the following people who have donated items or helped the Lecompton Historical Society: 1. Wedding dress and tuxedo worn by Ferdinand Krop and Henrietta Schafer in 1898 by Gloria Leonhard. 2. Dictionary from Deer Creek School by Leatha Wulfschle. 3. Stull softball suit by Georgia Spencer Wingfield. 4. Historic book by George Davis. 5. Christmas ornaments by Fay Talley. 6. Eisenhower table from Clare Petefish Moore. 7. Lecompton High School memorabilia that belonged to Kristine Kraft and washboard from Nancy and Leo Pollard. 8. Pictures from Scott Clements. 9. Alumni banquet photos from Iona Spencer. 10. Stevens family history by Robert C. Stevens. 11. Maxine Dark for being in charge of the Ice Cream Social and all who donated cakes and ice cream. 12. David Paslay for repairing the Eisenhower table. 13. Ralph Davis and Dennis O'Trimble for installing a window and painting the tops of the flag poles. 14. Marguerite Bowman for retyping all the library cards.

Paul Bahnmaier

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We want to thank our members for their renewals and support. It is through this support that our membership is growing. We now have 523 Memorials and Life Memberships, 538 annual dues paying members making a total of 1,061. Our new Life Member is Pamela Rees (Greeson). Our new Memorial Membership honors Phillip McClanahan and was given by his wife Eleanor. Iona Spencer

## Obituaries

Forrest J. Springer died July 18, 1991 in Hillsboro, Oregon. He was born April 20, 1904 near Manhattan the son of James and Mary Catherine Pirman Springer. He was employed at Kansas University and worked for Cities Service Natural Gas Company for 27 years. He moved to Oregon in 1990. He married Alice Norland before his marriage to Julia Sehon Martin on November 5, 1945. Survivors include his wife Julia, a daughter Joanne Schneider, a step-daughter Phyllis Martin, a brother Lonnie, two grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Forrest was most active in the Lecompton Historical Society while health permitted. He built bookcases, quilt and storage cabinets, refinished several tables,

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!

Because of the increased cost of printing and postage for the Bald Eagle, dues have now been increased to \$4 per year for individual membership and \$6 for a couples membership. The dues year is 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 666050.

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

- ☐ \$4 Annual Individual Membership
- ☐ \$6 Annual Couples Membership
- ☐ \$50 Individual Life or Memorial Membership
- ☐ Other Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Notice of Change  
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