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LECOMPTONKANSAS.COM

WINTER, 2003



We've decked the halls of Lane Museum. We've tuned the piano. A warm and wonderful Lecompton tradition: Sunday afternoon Vespers at Kansas Territorial Capital Museum, Lane University. Join Lecompton Historical Society for a Sunday of Christmas Songs.

Christmas Vespers—December 7, 2 p.m.

In the summer of 1982 the Lecompton Historical Society held its celebration for the opening of Lane Museum, the Kansas Territory museum. As Christmas neared, the members felt a need to give thanks for the season and for their new museum. That year was our first Christmas Vespers.

Since then, we've figured out how best to decorate our three stories of exhibit rooms, the Lane Chapel and the grand staircase. The old building, its gleaming ochre limestone exterior and its white plastered walls inside, knows how to throw a party. We will feature Frances Sanford on piano and Cindy Daniels on organ and Lecompton's finest holiday singers.

Christmas Vespers will be at 2 p.m., Dec. 7, though Lane Museum will be fully decorated and ready for the holidays starting Nov. 22, two days before Thanksgiving.

We invite one and all to come and enjoy our wonderful museum and, especially, for an afternoon of holiday cheer at our Christmas Vespers.

A Southerner's Viewpoint of the Kansas Situation, 1856-1857

The Letters of Lt. Col. A.J. Hoole, Confederate States of America

Edited by William Stanley Hoole, Kansas Historical Quarterly, February 1934

Footnotes by Tim Rues, Site Administrator, Constitution Hall, State Historic Site

Editor's note: The 31 letters published in 1934 tell a compelling story of life in Kansas in pre-Civil War years. The Bald Eagle's excerpts are designed to titillate the reader and inspire her or him to read more at LecomptonKansas.com. There are 20 explanatory notes provided by Hoole in 1934 and, with those written by Rues, they present the letters in historical context.

April 3, 1856

A Letter to brother Thomas

The Missourians (all of whom I have conversed with, with the exception of one who, by the way, I found out to be an Abolitionist) are very sanguine about Kansas being a slave state & I have heard some of them say it shall be. I have met with warm reception from two or three, but generally speaking, I have not met with the reception which I expected. Everyone seems bent on the Almighty Dollar, and as a general thing that seems to be their only thought. There was a large box on one of the boats about a week ago coming up the river, which some of the Missourians thought contained Sharp's Rifles, so they sent a deputation to its destination, which was at this place, to have it opened. When they arrived here the person to whom it was consigned refused to let them open it, whereupon they opened it by force-when lo! it contained nothing but a piano. There was a box containing a cannon which a confounded Yankee opened, but closed it up again before any of them could examine it, saying that it was nothing but some cartwheels. His daughter-in-law told me this morning, hesitatingly, as if her father-in-law had done a smart trick. If she had been a man, I don't know what I should have said, but she was a pretty young woman...

Your ever affectionate brother, Axalla.

[The Sharps rifle and carbine became synonymous with free state men in Kansas Territory. Abolitionist groups in the North supplied many free state Kansans and communities with these guns. Henry Ward Beecher, the fervent abolitionist preacher from Brooklyn, New York, commented in February 1856 that he believed that, "the Sharps rifle was truly a

moral agency, and there was more moral power in one of those instruments, so far as slaveholders of Kansas were concerned, than in a hundred Bibles. You might just as well read the Bible to buffaloes as to those fellows who follow [Missouri U.S. Senator David Rice] Atchison and [proslavery Weston, Missouri military leader Benjamin F.] Stringfellow." The Sharps was nicknamed, "Beecher's Bibles."]

A Very Good Neighborhood

Douglas City, K. T., Apl. 14th., 1856

My Dear Mother,

...My dear Mother, you need not be afraid. This is a very good neighborhood. We are boarding with a good clever Methodist family. The circuit-rider stayed here last night. I had formed a very poor opinion of the morality of the Territory when I was at Lawrence, but I find the people up this way fare better. At Lawrence almost everyone I met was profane, but here it is quite different. I have not made use of an oath since I have been in the Territory, and I don't intend to be guilty of that practice any more if I can help it. Betsie makes me read the Bible sometimes, and I intend, when I can rent a house and go to ourselves, which I hope to do soon, to read it regularly.

The people in this Territory have very poor houses, generally built of logs with rock chimneys. The one we are boarding in is three log houses built in a row-the middle one of which is the kitchen where the Negroes stay. They have four or five Negroes. If we stay here this summer, we will have plenty of ice as Mr. Ellison has put up a good deal of it.

(continued on page 4)

"Tim Rues Brings an Unique Ability to Interpret Events of 150 Years Ago"

In April 1856, A.J. Hoole, accompanied by his bride, Betsie, arrived in Kansas Territory. Almost immediately he was elected probate judge of Douglas County, then under the proslavery regime of Gov. Robert J. Walker. For the rest of 1856 and nearly all of 1857—the two most violent years of Bleeding Kansas—the South Carolinian pursued an active correspondence with his family that reads like a vivid "you are there" account."

In 1934, Kansas Historical Quarterly published 31 of Hoole's letters. They provide graphic accounts of the battles, hardships, and social life of pre-Civil War Kansas, but they create as many questions as answers. It would take a historian to understand the meaning of many of Hoole's observations, which is precisely what Tim Rues, Constitution Hall's site administrator for the Kansas Historical Society, has done with his new contribution to the LecomptonKansas.com website.

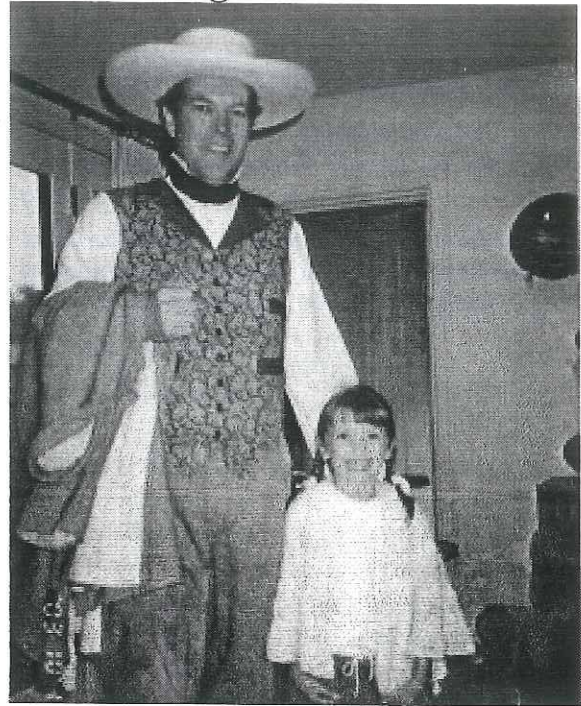
"Here was a guy 148 years ago writing from a cabin two miles east of Lecompton. When he mentions events, places and individuals, there's no context," says Rues. "My idea was to provide that context not only as those events evolved in territorial days but also to enhance today's understanding and geographic references. A lot of letters tell of events but usually in a microscopic view as they pertain to Hoole, the letter writer."

"A High-Minded Southerner"

What Rues' footnotes do is bring those events and individuals of pre-Civil War days to life. The letters constitute, he says, the best pro-U.S. government, or proslavery, discussion of events. Hoole, after all, was a "high-minded Southerner" who came to help Kansas form a proslavery government, as envisioned by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. His letters reveal his close familial ties in South Carolina and his fond hopes for the new state of Kansas.

Says LHS president, Paul Bahnmaier, "Tim's footnote are a significant contribution to our interactive website. Our goal is to make all available historical data regarding the Kansas Territorial period easily accessible. Tim brings an unique ability to interpret events of 150 years ago."

Inside, please find excerpts from Hoole's letters, with Rues' commentary. As he puts it, "a side benefit of my job is learning so much about Kansas"



Tim Rues and daughter, Maddie, cast as General James Lane and Modena Jenkins for a Lecompton Reenactors performance.

history. My vocation is my avocation," he says. "I love the history."

AKA General James Lane

Rues' contributions go far beyond the requirements of his position. He's a tri-president of the Civil War Roundtable of Eastern Kansas and he's one of the most dedicated players in the Lecompton Reenactors Company. He plays General James Lane or Senator David Atchison of Missouri. "I enjoy playing the General. Living his life back then would be another thing," says Rues.

Howard Duncan, an early contributor to the *Bald Eagle* and founder of the Lecompton Reenactors, says, "My faith in humankind is renewed whenever I encounter a person who truly enjoys his job and constantly seeks ways to improve his or her performance. Tim Rues is such a person: his participation in community events, strong support of the Lecompton Reenactors, and the development of his now

A.J. Hoole continued

The people here are just fixing to plant their crops. Trees are put out about like they were when we left Darlington. The nights here are still quite cool, but I have not seen frost for some time. Write me all the news, every little particular will be interesting to me . . . Your ever affectionate son, Axalla.

[The Paris Ellison family was one of several slaveholders living in Douglas. Ellison was one of the original founders of Douglas in 1854. The town was located on 320 acres about two miles below Lecompton and six miles above Lawrence on the south bank of the Kansas River. Its legal description was the NW1/4, Sec. 7, T. 12 S., R. 19 E.; NE 1/4, Sec. 12, T. 12 S., R. 18 E. Governor Frederick Stanton built his mansion, known as Mount Aeolia, near Douglas in 1857.]

Kansas Was Not Homesteaded

No one homesteaded in territorial Kansas. The Homestead Act did not become law until it was signed by President Lincoln in early 1863, two years after Kansas became a state. Instead, the most popular of all government land programs in Kansas Territory was the 1841 Preemption Act. This act provided that the head of a family, a widow, or a single man over 21

Tim Rues continued

famous lecture series on Kansas Territory are all examples of how he goes beyond the job."

Perhaps, though, in future years we'll thank Tim as much for involving the talents of his whole family, from his charming wife, Stacy, to his darling daughter, Maddie, who plays the ingénue role of Modena Jenkins in one of Duncan's plays.

Rues was graduated from Kansas State University with a history degree. He began his career with the state historical society at Old Fort Hays. After two years he transferred to Fort Riley where he spent 10 years before coming to Constitution Hall in 1995. He says, "Lecompton is a special place. It's unusual for a small community to support two museums. Constitution Hall would not be a State Historic Site if it were not for the perseverance of the Lecompton Historical Society."

We might add that Lecompton's two museums wouldn't be so alive, so vibrant without Tim Rues' involvement.

--John Peterson



--photo courtesy of The University of South Carolina

Lt. Col. A.J. Hoole,
Confederate States of America

years of age, a citizen or a foreigner applying for citizenship could file a claim for 160 acres of government public land. Only whites were afforded a chance to preempt. Blacks, Indians and married females were excluded. A minimum price of \$1.25 per acre was set by the government. With \$200 dollars, one could buy a farm. The first preemption filed in Kansas for 160 acres located in Atchison County was made in the Pawnee Land Office (inside Constitution Hall) in Lecompton in April 1857.

Most of the Indian land was sold by the government at auction. The money received was then paid to the tribes. If you had "squatted" illegally on Indian land prior to the auction, you would go to the auction in the hope of buying it cheaply. With a minimum bid of \$1.25 required, you hoped to purchase it at that price. Quite often, neighboring squatters would form squatters associations, with the purpose of discouraging competitive bidding (sometimes with the threat of violence) on a member's claim. This scheme cheated the Indian owners who were not paid the amount the land was really worth. Non-association

claimed land during an auction often brought a higher price than the \$1.25 minimum.

Douglas, K. T., May 17, 1856.

Dear Major,

The general feature of this part of the country is a rolling prairie, with no timber of any kind except along the rivers, creeks, and ravines, and [the] bottomland is heavily timbered with walnut, oak, hickory, ash, cottonwood, elm lyn [sic], &c. The creeks and ravines have the same but not so large and thick; the hillsides are all lime rocks, the soil very rich. The soil of the prairie appears to be very rich but it requires from 3 to 6 yoke of oxen to break it up, but after broken, no trouble to tend. The bottomlands are very spongy and mellow, but it takes 2 or 3 yoke of oxen to break it up; it is said to produce 8 or 10 barrels (40 or 50 bu.) per acre without cultivating. No corn, or very little, planted yet. If they can plant by the 1st. June, they will make a good crop. The sweet [sic] grows well here. The grass is from 6 to 8 inches the whole face of the prairie where I am, on the Kansas River, from 12 to 15 miles. The cattle are very fine. A gentleman near me has one cow, and his wife churns twice a day. They have 5 in the family and a good deal of company. He gives me as much milk and butter as I want, then gives milk to his pigs. There are but few hogs here, but what are here look well and in fine shape. The horses are very inferior; they give them but little corn, and sometimes a little salt.

The place where I am living is called Douglas City. It has only 5 or 6 houses in it, and they are log houses. It is laid out for a town in lots, and is the place selected for the state university. It is a prettier place than Lecompton where they are building the State House, which is only 2 miles above this place, on the river. Timber is more plentiful at Douglas than at Lecompton, and a better landing for boats, when they should run this river. One has gone to Fort Riley, 100 miles above here. Kansas river is broad but shallow, full of sand bars which makes navigation difficult. Lawrence is the headquarters of the Abolitionists of this Territory.

Yours truly, A. J. Hoole.

Construction Begins on an Elegant Capitol

[Construction began on an elegant capitol in 1855 with a \$50,000 appropriation from Congress on a thirteen-acre tract in Lecompton known as capital square district. Only the basement and the stone foundation was completed. Work ceased for good by

1857 when all the money was spent and free state legislators gained controlled. The unfinished capitol, advanced to a point where the foundation for the three wings had been laid, and the center section had been completed up to the first floor windows and land was deeded by Kansas in 1865 to Lane University. Lane University (Territorial Capitol Museum) building constructed in 1882 using the limestone block ruins of the capitol.

Steamboats on the Kaw

Many steamboats attempted to ply the Kansas River, but few successfully transported supplies, travelers and settlers to the interior, territorial towns of Lawrence, Lecompton, Tecumseh, Topeka, Manhattan, Pawnee and Ft. Riley. The first steamboat to ascend the Kansas River to Ft. Riley was the Excel, carrying more than one thousand barrels of flour in April 1854. The stern-wheeler Emma Harmon in May 1855 left the Missouri River at Kansas City and started up the Kansas for Topeka. The steamer passed by Douglas City, which consisted of a sawmill, an unfinished levee and a hand-painted shingle sign nailed to a tree with the word "Douglas" and a hand pointing into the woods. At Lecompton the Emma Harmon landed and the citizens feted the officers and passengers with a reception, ball, and supper. The trip from Lawrence to Topeka took six days and she ran aground on her return to Kansas City. Most boats spent the majority of their time grounded on sandbars waiting for the river to rise. The steamboat levee in Lecompton was one hundred to two hundred feet wide and one mile long. By the early 1870s it was abandoned to make way for the construction of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad right-of-way. The commercial steamboat experiment on the Kansas River ended with construction of railroad bridges over the river in the middle 1860s.]

Lecompton, K. T., Augst. 27, 1856

My dear Sister

You see from the heading that I am now in Lecompton. Last night two weeks ago the Abolitionists, about 250 or 300 strong attacked the little town of Franklin, or rather one house in the place in which there were 14 men (Proslavery). They demanded the arms of these 14 men which were refused, when they commenced firing upon the house, and, after a short time, were repulsed, but rallied and came again, [and] were repulsed the second time. Then they set fire to a load of hay and rolled it against

an adjoining house (the post office) when the 14 cried for quarter. Nearly all of the 14 made their escape without receiving a single wound, but of the Abolitionists, 32 were wounded, 7 or 8 killed.

A few days after an army of 400 of the Murderers went to attack Col. Treadwell, who was making a settlement about 20 miles south of this, but he, hearing of their approach, abandoned his post and made his escape. Treadwell had only about 50 men and no ammunition. He sent to Lecompton for help and 18 started, but hearing that he had left, they turned back. On their return they fell into an ambush of the Abolitionists about 250 strong, but charged through them without losing a man, and only two were wounded slightly. The next morning the same band of villains attacked the house of Col. Titus about 11 miles from here. Titus has 18 men, and after fighting with small arms for half an hour, they turned loose their cannon on his house and battered it down over his head. They took him and most of his men prisoners, after fighting to the last. Titus lost only one man killed, and himself and one more wounded. They were carried to Lawrence and after a few days were exchanged. Titus is from Florida and is a very brave man. On the morning the attack was made on Titus, the news came that 800 men were coming against Douglas, so we, 8 in number with our families, crossed over the river, but they did not come. The next day we returned, but not feeling safe there we came (after a few days) to this place, which has about 750 regulars to guard it. There are three families of us living in one house. There is a great deal of excitement here, but how long it will last no one can tell. Mo. is sending in men to help us, and it is high time they had come. This contest will decide the fate of Kansas and the Union. Lane is in the Ter. with a force of from 1500 to 2500 men. Gov. Shannon has resigned and the new governor has not come on, so the Lieut. Gov. Woodson is now the acting Gov.- I don't know what will be the plan of the present campaign, as the officers keep it a secret.

It was my intention to shoot the man...

Before we left Douglas a posse of the Abolitionists (seven in number) came and demanded some arms that Gen'l Clarke had left there. There was no one at home, but a Mr. Browne & myself, who were both puny, besides the women. Clarke's guns had been removed but there were nine other guns all loaded in a log house which we had fixed up as a fort. When I ascertained what they had come for, I went to that house and stood in the door, after first waking up Mr. Browne, with my pistol in my pocket and my thumb

on the hammer. I was determined that they should not have the guns, let the consequences be what they might. One of the men rode up to the door and demanded Clarke's guns. I told him they were not there, and after receiving the same reply from several of the family, and invited by Mrs. Ellison to come in and search, they left. It was my intention, if they undertook to make the search, to shoot the man who was at the door, and not six feet away from me, with my pistol, close the door, and shoot the rest with the loaded guns. I could have [done] it easily with the assistance of Mr. Browne, as we had port holes to shoot out of- but fortunately for them and perhaps for myself and the others, they did not undertake the search.

Your Affectionate Brother, Axalla.

Under the command of Jim Lane

[Only one death was recorded at this second attack on Franklin on August 12, 1856. The victim was an unidentified free state man. Eighty-one free state men under the command of Jim Lane captured Franklin and recovered the free state cannon known as "Old Sacramento." This cannon was taken in May during the sack of Lawrence. It was used at the battles of Ft. Saunders and Titus and is today on display in Lawrence at the Watkins Community Museum.]

B.F. Treadwell was commander of a large force of proslavery men garrisoned at Ft. Saunders located on Washington Creek about twelve miles due south of Lecompton. This fort was attacked and burned to the ground by free state militiamen led by Sam Walker and Thomas Bickerton on August 15, 1856. This attack was in retaliation for the murder of David S. Hoyt, a free stater from Lawrence, who was shot after trying to negotiate a truce at Ft. Saunders. It was also done to put a stop to the plundering and harassment against neighboring free state families and communities by proslavery men from Ft. Saunders. The attack also broke the proslavery blockade of goods bound for Lawrence.

The Battle of Ft. Titus resulted in the deaths of one free state and two proslavery men.

George W. Clarke was also a member of the Lecompton Town Company. Clarke Street in Lecompton is named for him. He was the alleged murderer of free state man Thomas Barber, the "first martyr of Bleeding Kansas," who was shot on December 6, 1855, on the western outskirts of

Lawrence while returning home to his farm after helping defend the town during the Wakarusa War.]

Lecompton, K. T., Sept. 12, 1856
My dear Mother

I have been unwell ever since the 9th. of July. . . I thought of going to work in a few days, when the Abolitionists broke out and I have had to stand guard of nights when I ought to have been in bed, took cold which . . . caused diarrhea, but . . . I feel quite well [now]. Betsie is well.

You perceive from the heading of this that I am now in Lecompton, almost all of the proslavery party between this place and Lawrence are here. We brought our families here, as we thought that we would be better able to defend ourselves when altogether than if we scattered over the country.

Again, Lane came against us

Lane came against us last Friday (a week ago to-day). As it happened we had about 400 men with two cannon-we marched out to meet him, though we were under the impression at the time that we had 1,000 men. We came in gunshot of each other, but the regular soldiers came and interfered, but not before our party had shot some dozen guns, by which it is reported that five of the Abolitionists were killed or wounded. We had strict orders from our commanding officer (Gen'l Marshall) not to fire until they made the attack, but some of our boys would not be restrained. I was a rifleman and one of the skirmishers, but did all that I could to restrain our men though I itched all over to shoot, myself. I drew a bead a dozen times on a big Yankee about 150 yards from me, but did not fire, as I knew if I did, the boys all around me would do the same, and we had orders not to fire until the word was given- We had 400 men and we learned after Lane had drawn off his men that he did not have more than 700; had we known it, the regulars would not have arrived soon enough to have kept us from fighting, but we were acting on the defensive, and did not think it prudent to commence the engagement. I firmly believe that we would have whipped them, though we would have lost a good many men. I did not see a pale face in our whole army, every man seemed keen to fight. I for one, did not feel as nervous as I am when I go to shoot a beef or a turkey.

Gov. Geary [20] arrived here night before last; he is a fine looking man, six feet two inches high, seems to be about forty years old. He issued his proclamation disbanding all armed bodies in the Ter. I hear that Lane and his men say that he has gone too far to back

out now and will resist the U. S. troops. That is just what we want, as by that means we will get rid of all his last recruits at any rate. The Gov. also said in his Proclamation that the laws of the Ter. shall be enforced. I think he is all right-at least I hope so.

I must close as the stage has come. You must not be uneasy about me, as I hope our difficulties here will soon end, and we will all get to our work soon- I am more uneasy about making money than I am about being killed by the Yankees, though the times looked pretty squally for the last three weeks.

Axalla

[A free state military expedition against Lecompton began in early September 1856. Col. James Harvey, with 150 armed free state men, marched up the north bank of the Kansas River on the 4th to a position opposite Lecompton to cut off a northerly retreat of townspeople. Harvey waited through the night for Jim Lane and Sam Walker and their main body of 300 free state men armed with rifles and two artillery pieces to arrive and take up their position on the south bank of the river just east of Lecompton. Harvey waited throughout the entire night for Lane to begin the attack on Lecompton, but Lane failed to show. Harvey reasoned that the planned attack on Lecompton had been abandoned and he returned to Lawrence.

Lane had delayed moving for twenty-four hours and did not reach Lecompton until the afternoon of the 5th. His arrival threw the town into a panic. Lecompton residents and territorial government officials appealed to the 2nd U.S. Dragoons' commander Col. Phillip St. George Cooke for protection. Cooke and Sam Walker negotiated a truce and the free staters returned to Lawrence without firing a shot. Cooke in his official account of the incident wrote that: "Lecompton and its defenders were outnumbered, and evidently in the power of a determined attack. Americans thus stood face to face in hostile array and most earnest purpose. As I marched back over these beautiful hills, all crowned with moving troops and armed men, ...I rejoiced that I stayed the madness of the hour, and prevented, on almost any terms, the fratricidal onslaught of countrymen and fellow-citizens."

Historical footnote by William Stanley Hoole, who edited the letters in 1934 for publication. Please see the society's webpage for the complete footnotes.

Axalla John Hoole, the son of Elizabeth Stanley and James C. Hoole, himself a soldier in the War of 1812, was of English descent, his grandfather, Joseph, having emigrated from York, England, about 1780 or earlier, and settled at Georgetown, S. C. Axalla John, born at Darlington, S. C., October 12, 1822, was one of five sons. The eldest, Joseph Bertram, served in the Seminole War and the War Between the States; Samuel Eugene was a surgeon in the Mexican War; and Thomas Stanislaus served throughout the War Between the States.

Axalla John was educated at St. John's academy, Darlington, and after completing the academic course, taught school there for 12 years. When he was quite a small boy, the Nullification excitement was at its height in South Carolina, and the small boys of the community organized a military company, of which he was elected captain. He served in that capacity until March 20, 1856 (his wedding day), on which day he left with his bride for Kansas territory.

They arrived in the territory early in April 1856. Taking a fairly active part in Kansas politics, Hoole was elected probate judge of Douglas County by the proslavery party under the regime of Gov. Robert J. Walker. During the approximately two years that he remained in the territory, he kept up a rather lively correspondence with his family in South Carolina of which thirty-one letters are printed in this series.

Returning to Darlington, December 5, 1857, Hoole was immediately re-elected captain of the Darlington Riflemen. Upon the outbreak of hostilities at Fort Sumter, he assembled the men on the academy drill grounds, made a speech to them and called for volunteers. With the exception of one, every man in the organization stepped forward-and the company entrained at once for Charleston. Remaining there a short time, the Riflemen returned to Florence, S. C., where they were mustered in as Company A, Eighth South Carolina Volunteers, Col. E. B. C. Cash, commanding. The regiment left Florence for the Virginia front, June 2, 1861.

At the expiration of the period of enlistment, April 1862, the regiment was reorganized, and Captain Hoole was elected lieutenant-colonel. After serving in several major conflicts in Virginia, including the First Battle of Manassas, he was transferred with his company to Dalton, Ga., to join the forces of Gen. Braxton Bragg. He arrived there September 17, 1863, and was killed in the Battle of Chickamauga September 20, 1863.

Lecompton Historical Society: A Look Back at 2003

This has been another exciting year for historic Lecompton and the Lecompton Historical Society. We have been host to more than 5,000 visitors from all 50 states and 22 foreign countries. We have conducted 36 individual tour groups through the Museum. The Lecompton Reenactors have performed at 19 locations in Kansas.

Visitors came to Lane Museum from around the globe. Consider this list: Italy, France, Kuwait, Australia, Germany, Japan, Scotland, England, Thailand, Puerto Rico, Senegal, Russia, China, Belgium, South Africa, Venezuela, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Moldavia, Ukraine, and Kyrgystan.

Monetary and artifact donations continue to show strong support for this organization and community. We appreciate the contributions from each of you. You are what makes this a special place to live and enjoy our nationally significant history.

Journalists from Midwest Living and Home & Away toured Lecompton and will feature this community along with a story about the Kansas Sesquicentennial next year. Arkansas public radio visited and a story is planned. We're proud that our restored Democratic Headquarters building, which is to be dedicated on Territorial Day, June 26, will be pictured on the cover of the state historical society's Kansas Kaleidoscope Magazine.

Also, Lecompton is the only city other than county seats to plant a tree provided by Gov. Sebelius in honor of the sesquicentennial on Arbor Day.

"It's amazing," are the words we hear over and over again as visitors see our displays and hear the accounts of our history depicted in Lane Museum and Constitution Hall. Lecompton is "the birthplace of the Civil War." Many cities pretend that they are the first of this or that in the Civil War but only Lecompton, according to historians, can lay claim to the war's birth. Please consider renewing your membership as we work to make Lecompton a major tourist attraction and enhance the economic development of this area.

Paul Bahnmaier, President

For tours, please contact Charlene Winter at 785-887-6285. For Lecompton Reenactors performances, Tim Rues at 785-887-6520.

LECOMPTON ALUMNI 2003

The Lecompton High School Alumni Banquet was held June 21, 2003 at the gym adjoining the Lecompton High School. It was a great success. Again we want to thank Alice Bates and Linda Van Riper and their volunteers for making the event a great success. The do a fantastic job. Also being able to have the chairs and tables delivered right to the gym is worth the extra charge. Those of us who used to have to find trucks and people to move them down from the church, city hall and musuesm was quite a chore. Everyone who attended semmed to have a good time.

Those attending this year are as follows:

1932-Helen Frye Hildenbrand
 Honored Classes were 1933-43-53-63-73-83-93
 1933-Willis Horton & Helen Connoles Horton 1938
 1936-Robert Walter & Edna
 1939-Florence Connoles Kreipe & Gene
 1939-George Simmons and
 1940-Arolene Dekat Simmons
 1940-Ann Shields Dunnaway
 1940-Joe Stauffer & Ruth
 1940-Victorine Vetter (Paid, unable to come)
 1941-Maxine Glenn Dark
 1941-Opal Lasswell Goodrick
 1941-Lura Holloway McAlexander
 1942-Mae Everett Holderman & Alden (Wally)
 1942-Louise Webber Norwood
 1942-Richard Walter and
 1943-Alta Kampschroeder Walter
 1943-Dorothy Sulzen Casto
 1943-Evelyn Houk Jensons & Don
 1943-Lester Stauffer and
 1944-Betty Crady Stauffer
 1944-Mary Powell
 1944-Iona Spencer
 1945-Ruth Selch Corzette & Robert
 1946-James "Bud" Banks and
 1950-Rosalie Rogers Banks
 1946-Beverly Bahnmaier Van Dyke
 1949-Frances Robertson Sanford
 1949-Georgia Wingfield for husband Bill deceased
 1950-Marge Schmitt for husband Jerry
 1950-Bob Dark and
 1952-Irene Kibbee Dark
 1950-Carol Morris Kibbee and
 1951-Kenneth Kibbee
 1951-Bernice Schreiner McMahon
 1951-Leah Bahnmaier Shaw & Ed
 1951-Ruth Rothwell Vervynck
 1952-Jane Rothwell Childs
 1952-Lois Hildenbrand Condley & Leon
 1952-Dorothy Powell Woods & Ernie
 1953-John Bahnmaier & Lanna
 1953-Nancy Morris Howard & Len
 1953-Donna Hildenbrand Levings
 1953-George Mathews & Rita
 1953-Juanita Peterson & Robert
 1953-John Salisbury

1953-Don Sanford & Frankie
 1953-Billy Joe Smith & Dorothy
 1953-Charles Turner
 1953-Doris Beatty Wyatt & John
 1953-Joann Glenn Zlatnik & Roger
 1955-Virginia Smith Allen & Robert
 1955-Donna McClanahan Harding
 1955-Robert Hildenbrand & Brenda
 1955-John Nilsen & Marilyn
 1955-Fred Smith & Rayna
 1955-William Turner
 1955-Duane Wyatt & Ruth
 1956-Larry Mathews
 1958-Carl Bahnmaier & Vicki
 1958-Betty Damm Carothers & Donald
 1958-Bob Morris and
 1958-Mary Lou Salisbury Morris
 1958-Elton Spena
 1959-Ed Turner
 1959-J. H. Vestal and
 1959-Jeanie Kent Vestal
 1960-Paul Bahnmaier
 1961-Eddy Hudson
 1961-Dorothy Chinn Moore & Denny
 1961-Mary Sue Morris Christman and
 1962-Bob Christman
 1962-Marvin Smith and
 1963-Mary K. Houk Smith
 1963-Sharon Coffman Nowlin & David
 1963-Don Raybern & Sherry
 1963-Jim Robuck & Charlene
 1963-Gary Stauffer and
 1966-Carolyn Foster Stauffer
 1963-Ronald Stauffer & Wendy
 1963-Linda Van Riper
 1964-Wanda Becker Meinhardt
 1964-Dennis Stauffer and
 1966-Mary Skinner Stauffer
 1965-Connie Norwood Stilson & Terry
 1967-Larry Bates and
 1969-Alice Chilcott Bates
 1970-Bruce Inloes
 1970-Carl Paslay & Kathy
 1970-Debbie Roberts Howell
 1971-Lloyd Neuschafer and
 1971-Susan Bean Neuschafer
 1971-Janice McAlexander
 1983-Carlene & Reggie Barkley
 1983-Kevin Morgison and
 1984-Tamra Morgison
 1983-Michelle & Gary Williams
 Guests:
 Mildren Chiles Lester
 Wanda Chiles Manis
 Sorry if we missed someone.
 Please send change of addresses to:
 Linda Van Riper
 5230 S.E. 4th St. Terr.
 Tecumseh, KS 66542

OBITUARIES

Zart, Esther Grace, 87, Topeka passed away Aug. 18, 2003. She was born May 13, 1916, in Sugar City, Colo., the daughter of Edwin T. and Pearl T. Shaw Glenn. She attended schools in Lecompton and Topeka area. She was a member of the Lecompton Historical Society. She married Albert H. Zart on Sept. 21, 1940, in Oskaloosa. He passed away Dec. 17, 1998.

Survivors include numerous nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Burial in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Middleton, H. F. 'Fred', 75 died Sept. 17, 2003 at Scottsdale, Ariz. He was born Feb. 23, 1928, in Sheffield, Ala., the son of David and Rose Middleton.

Mr. Middleton was drafted in 1946 and retired in 1978 as a colonel after 32 years in the Army. He was a life member of the Lecompton Historical Society, and a member of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. His first wife Donna, and a son, Harry, died earlier.

He married Elsie I. Bahnmaier. She survives of the home; a daughter, Donna Bates, Shreveport, La., two brothers, Ralph and John; and six grandchildren. Inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va.

Hoad, Bruce, 80, Topeka, died Sept. 23, 2003. He was born July 27, 1923, in Topeka to Bruce Hoad Sr. and Laura Hedrick Hoad.

He served in the Navy Seabees during World War II. He was a member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

Survivors include a son, Brent Hoad, Prairie Village; a sister, Gertrude Brodhag, Topeka, a nephew, Craig Hoad, Seal Beach, Calif.; a niece, Cindy Hoad, Utah; and two grandchildren, Spencer and Sophie Hoad, Prairie Village. Burial in Memorial Park Cemetery in Topeka.

Wulfskuhle, Robert L., 81, Lawrence died Oct. 9, 2003. He was born June 9, 1922, at Stull, the son of Harry O. and Helen Bahnmaier Wulfskuhle. He was a member of the Stull United Methodist Church and the Lecompton Historical Society.

He married Maxine A. Hawes. She preceded him in death, also a brother Loren.

Surviving are a son, Harry R. and wife, Mary Wulfskuhle, Chesapeake, Va; two grandsons, William Wulfskuhle, Appleton, Wis., and Nicholas Wulfskuhle, Manhattan; and a brother, Donald Wulfskuhle, Perry.

Burial in Stull Cemetery.

Kuker, Carl Thomas, 91, Minnie C., 90, Topeka, Carl died Oct. 19, 2003 and Minnie died Oct. 29, 2003. They were married 70 years. He was born June 9, 1912, in Falls City, Neb. to Edward and Grace Kuker. Minnie was born Oct. 14, 1913, near Dawson, Neb. The daughter of Wess and Mary (Arlington) Curfman. They were married May 15, 1933.

They were preceded in death by two sons, Richard and Roger Kuker.

Survivors include three grandson, Steve Kuker, Olathe, and Scott Kuker and Todd Kuker, both of Osage City; a daughter-in-law, Maxine Kuker, Osage City; and seven great grandchildren. Minnie is survived by a sister, Arlene Rogers, Falls City, Neb. Burial Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Inloes, John C., 74, Lecompton, died, Oct. 22, 2003. He was born Aug. 24, 1929, in Fulton, the son of Charles S. and Cecil F. Wilson Inloes and foster parents, Jesse and Beulah O'Connor. He was a member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

He married Billie Darlene Kellum on Oct. 29, 1949, in Wichita. She preceded him in death on Jan. 15, 2002.

Survivors include a son Bruce & wife Carol Inloes, Topeka; two daughters, Deann and husband LaVerne Bartell, Enid, Okla. and Shari and husband Norman West, St. Joseph, Mo.; Seven grandchildren, Brian and Wade Inloes, John and Daniel Bartell; Leslee Kapp, and William and Emily West; and one great grandson, Tanner Kapp, two brothers Everett Inloes, Bonner Springs, and James O. Inloes, St. Joseph, Mo., and Mary Conway, Atmore, Ala. Inurnment in Stull Cemetery.

Matney, Donald K., 65, Mazon, Ill. died Sept. 28, 2003. He was born June 29, 1938, in

Lawrence, Ks., the son of Kenneth L and Ester Bahnmaier Matney. He graduated from Lecompton High School in 1956. A

Memorial Life membership was given by his relatives to the Lecompton Historical Society. He served four years in the U. S. Air Force during the Vietnam War.

He married Jacqueline J. (Davenport) Zingre on June 1, 1984. She survives.

Other survivors include his mother, of Morris, now of North Carolina; a daughter,

Denise McElroy, Villa Park; a son, Kenneth, Crown Point, Ind.; three stepdaughters, Kathy Zingre, Rock Island, Debbie Campbell, Braceville, and Tami Zingre, Diamond; two stepson, Darryl Zingre, Morris, and Steve Zingre, Braceville; two sisters, Mary Jo Thomas, Wilkesboro, N.C. and Nadine Litton, Atlanta; 16 grandchildren; and 6 great grandchildren. Burial in Mazon Cemetery.

Price, John Thomas Wesley, 78, Topeka died Oct. 26, 2003. He was born June 9, 1925, in Topeka the son of John A. and Elsie Custard Price.

He was a member of the First Southern Baptist Church and a member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

He served his country in the Navy Seabees in the Pacific Theater of Operation in World War II.

He was married to his wife Shirley J. Price for 55 years. She survives.

Other survivors include a daughter, Gail L. Scott, Topeka; and sons, John P. Price, Topeka; Thomas J. Price, Berryton; Kenneth J. Price, Topeka; sisters, Louise Hines, Turlock, Calif.; Janice Dahlin, Roseville, Calif.; and a step-sister, Irene Harris, Burley, Utah; brothers George Price, Sun City West, Ariz., and Ralph Price, Prescott, Ariz. Ten grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Burial in East View Cemetery at Big Springs, Ks.

Souders, Ella Marie, 57, Lawrence died Oct. 26, 2003. She was born Sept. 13, 1946, in Lawrence, the daughter of Elmer Eugene and Mary Ruth (Dressler) Holladay.

She was a member of the Lecompton Historical Society. She married Charles H. Souders on March 13, 1964. He survives.

Other survivors include a daughter, Dondra Gillenwater, Lawrence; three brothers, Calvin Holladay, Eudora, and Willie and Ralph Holladay both of Lawrence; five sisters, Betty Holladay, Osage City, Eugenia Mullins and Delores Guy, both of Lawrence, Freda Schmitt, Baldwin, and Clara Ann Anderson, Kansas City, Kan.; and two grandchildren. A son, Jess Souders, died earlier. Burial in Clinton Cemetery.

Powell, Mary M., 77, Lecompton died Nov. 3, 2003, at her home. She was born March 13, 1926, in Topeka, the daughter of Englebert Joseph and Rose D. Heise Walter. Mary graduated from the Lecompton High School in 1944, and from Kansas University in 1949. She worked 38 years for Hallmark Cards.

She was a member of the Lecompton United Methodist Church, Lecompton Historical Society, Golden Rods and H & R. Group.

She married Gerald F. Powell, Dec. 31, 1950 in Topeka. He died March 1, 1998.

Survivors include two sons, Kevin and Gary Powell both of Lecompton; a daughter, Roxie Sumner, Lecompton; seven grand-children and four great-grandchildren.

Burial in Maple Grove Cemetery, at Lecompton.

James, James Wilbur, Sr., 95, Katy, Tex. Died Nov. 5, 2003. He was born Feb. 10, 1908, in Enterprise, W.Va., the son of David John and Elizabeth C. (Gamble) James. He was a member of the Trinity Apostolic Faith Church at Katy and was a member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

He married Mary Estochen, July 21, 1934, in Greensburg, Pa. She died July 4, 1994.

Survivors include two sons, John W., Jr., Katy, and David C. Topeka; a daughter, Marlene Hackathorn, Lecompton; seven grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Burial in Maple Grove Cemetery, Lecompton.

Territorial Capital Museum

A special thank for the following articles either loaned or donated to the museum.

1. Late 19 Century German Bible; dress form by Duane and Dorothy Wulfkuhle.
2. Black dress worn by Lillian Gantz grandmother of Fred. Mark and Neil Gantz, by the Gantz brothers.
3. 11 Bicentennial Plates, by Darlene Jacob.
4. Home made Sling blade cutter or axe, by Martin Long
5. 14 baby shoes. Brown purse made and owned by Mary Jane Winter, pitch fork, crutches, riding pants and spats, by the Thomas K. Winter family.
6. Lecompton United Methodist newsletter, Dec. 1969, by Marjorie Ensley
7. 1872 Family Bible by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Weeks.
8. Framed portrait of President Buchanan, by Ed Hoover.
9. Five Ceramic Owls, one children's book, Mickey and the Beanstock, by Wally and Mae Holderman.
10. Scrap book, early history of Daiey Wingfield, school directory 1938-1939, by Merta Fulton
11. Two photos of Constitution Hall dedication, by Leah Mae Shaw.
12. Lecompton High School graduation program, 1916, by Lois Lister.
13. Football team picture, 1932, 14 Lecompton High School papers, Owl Hoots, by Helen Hildenbrand.
14. 1957 Alumni banquet programs, 1974 alimni banquet program, Lecompton United Methodist book, five group pictures, deed and abstract of Dorothy Baughman, 1971, to the city of Lecompton, by Beverly Haeefe.
15. Stanley Simmons' 1967 Lecompton High School letter jacket, by Mr. and Mrs. George Simmons.
16. Kansas Territorial map, 1847, by Orville Bucheim.

Memorial Gifts:

Two bottles with Dwight Eisenhower's portrait in memory of Hedger McClanahan, by the McClanahan family.

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