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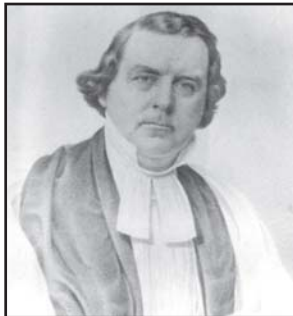
# Service to God's people:

## the Bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

*This is the second of an 11-part series of bulletin inserts highlighting the life and ministry of the bishops who have served the people of God in the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. Others will be available throughout the year, leading up to the 150th Diocesan Convention in October.*

### **Bishop Henry Washington Lee** **Provisional Bishop of Kansas • 1860-1864**

The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas was formed on Aug. 12, 1859, but lacked one essential thing — a bishop. In April, 1860, the second diocesan convention elected the Rev. Heman Dyer as bishop, but he declined to serve, leaving the fledgling diocese without episcopal oversight.



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Washington Lee*

The Standing Committee then asked Bishop Henry Washington Lee of the Diocese of Iowa to serve as provisional bishop for the handful of parishes and people that made up the Diocese of Kansas. Even with his own diocese needing his care, Bishop Lee provided guidance during eventful and turbulent years, including the admission of the state of Kansas into the Union on Jan. 29, 1861, and the start of the Civil War just three months later.

The war brought much sorrow and loss to Kansas. More than 20,000 men, out of the 30,000 who were of eligible age, served in the Union army. Kansas suffered the highest mortality rate from the war of any state. William Quantrill and his raiders burned and

*over, please*

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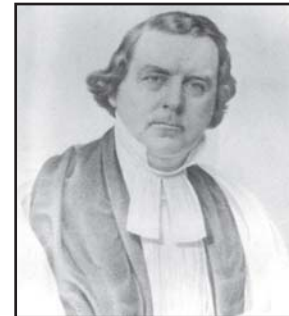
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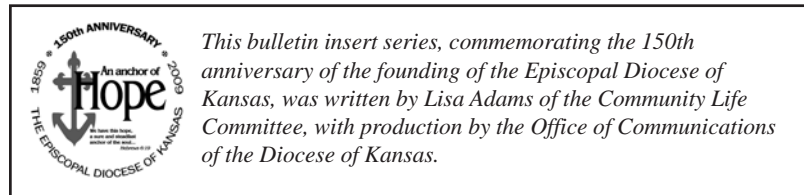
sacked Lawrence on Aug. 21, 1863, just three weeks prior to the fourth annual Diocesan Convention.

Other events of a happier nature also occurred under Bishop Lee's watch. An Episcopal girls' school — first known as the Episcopal Female Seminary and later the College of the Sisters of Bethany — was incorporated in January 1861. The grounds on which the school stood are home in the present day to the diocesan offices. General Convention in 1862 changed the boundaries of the Diocese of Kansas to conform to those of the state, leaving eastern Colorado to the care of missionary bishops.

Over the years Bishop Lee made many appeals to the Episcopal Church for help with drought and famine that ravaged the state.

After aiding Kansas Episcopalians for four years, and in failing health, Bishop Lee requested that the Diocese of Kansas try again to elect its own bishop. The Rev. Thomas Hubbard Vail was elected unanimously at the fifth Diocesan Convention in September, 1864, to become the first Bishop of Kansas.

*Photo of Bishop Lee courtesy of the Diocese of Iowa*



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