

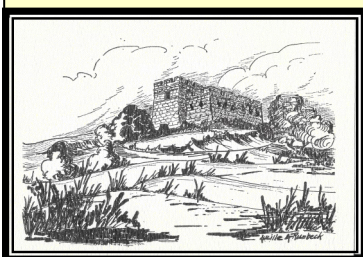
# Vår Historia

## SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### AND WE SHALL CALL IT "LINDSBORG"



PUBLISHED  
BI-MONTHLY



### CONTENTS.

Lindsborg's Name	1
Crime Doesn't Pay	2
Marvin Johnson	3
Program/Donate	3
SVHA Info	4

I can only imagine what hopes and fears were being dealt with as a new life in a new land was being discussed.

In 1868 Kansas was known as "the great American desert", as it was reported it never rained there. Upon organizing the first Swedish Agricultural Company in April of 1868, Chairman John Ferm replied "If God is going to let us settle in Kansas, he will give us rain."

Swedes had already settled in Kansas around 1865, through an employment agency based in Chicago hiring Union Pacific RR workers in Lawrence. The heat was thought to be too intense there so they headed west, first to Junction City, then on to Salina, which had two log houses, one house of rough boards, and a saw mill. A Scotchman who had claimed a section 25 miles south had convinced them to head that direction. They did

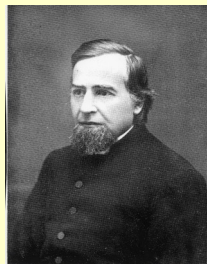
and returned back to Junction City to tell others. In May 1866 17 claims were filed in what is now the general vicinity of Lindsborg.

The Swedish Agricultural Co. entered a contract for 16,000 acres of land from the Kansas-Pacific RR Co. at a cost of \$29,629.00. Ultimately they only received 13,160 acres, not including the Homestead land where the colony was to be laid out. Another company based out of Galesburg, Illinois purchased land adjacent to this adding even more Swede settlers to the area.

It was Christmas time 1868 when the call to Sweden for settlers was sent, a promising young Pastor named Dr. Olof Olsson was chosen to lead this large group the next spring. Julius Lincoln once said "The leader

*of our Colony, pastor Olof Olsson, educated in Sweden and Germany, brought a whole university with him in his own personality, when he cast his lot with the sturdy settlers on the wilds of the middle west."*

Before McPherson County formed March 24th, 1870, Major Holmberg attempted to form a town on his farm called "Sveadahl" and was appointed postmaster and Justice of the Peace. It dissolved in a few years after both were established in Lindsborg. Though John Ferm was President and IG Bergsten V-Pres. of the Swedish Agricultural Co., the remaining BOD were SP Lindgren; SA Lindell; AP Linde; and JO Lindh. D. Lindahl was yet another one that helped secure the purchase of the land. So on Feb. 20, 1869 it was decided to name the new colony "Lindsborg".



### A 1931 LESSON ON "CRIME DOESN'T PAY"

January 17th, 1931 most likely started out like any other Saturday in Lindsborg. The Nation was in the middle of prohibition, the Great Depression, and the start of several long Dust Bowl years. Lindsborg was resourceful though, and for the most part flourished, outside of losing two out of the three banks.

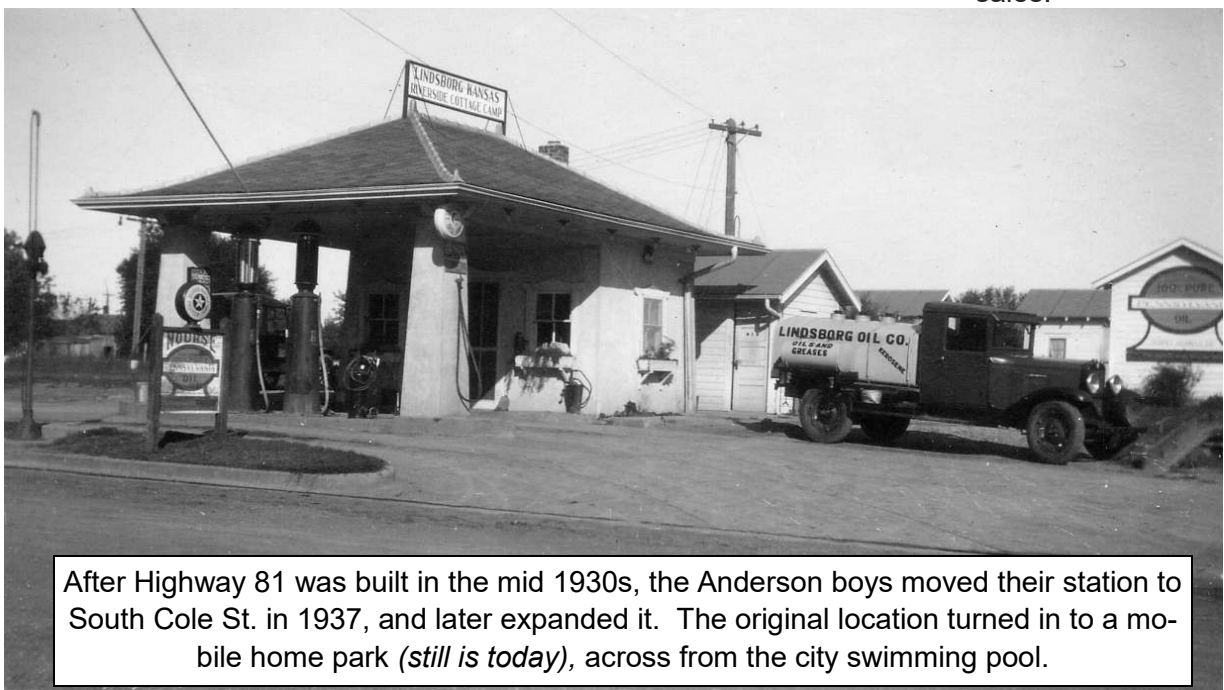
The only highway coming through town in 1931 was known as 1st street, which went passed the college on the north, and exited out the only bridge across the Smoky for miles on the south, known as the Old mill

Bridge. The Anderson boys, David and Carl, had opened up a gas station and cottage camp right by the bridge. They were both young and still Bethany College students when they started this venture, so when they received a call stating a wanted fugitive was headed their way from Salina, block the bridge, naturally they jumped in full force.

Roy Pitzer of Wichita had many warrants out and was wanted in a few counties. Upon arriving at Riverside Cottage Camp, Roy, his wife and sister stopped to get water for their radiator, a car

had been placed blocking the bridge to stall until the night police arrived. City Marshal Elmborg and Officer Robert Nelson showed up and Pitzer jumped back in his 1928 Buick Roadster and attempted to run down David Anderson in a get-away. Carl Anderson jumped on the running board and tried to grab the keys, resulting in two bullets from a revolver shot in his face. With that, officer Nelson opened up with his riot gun, or sawed-off shotgun. Pitzer was killed instantly and his wife and sister received minor injuries. Carl Anderson survived, even after doctors decided not to remove the bullets due to their loca-

tion. The bandit was laid out in front of Train funeral home that following Monday and people were allowed to see him peppered with shot gun pellets. Young kids from school were paraded by the unfortunate thief and teachers were told to inform them that this is what happens to you if you live a life of crime. Pitzer had previously been convicted of more than 41 auto thefts in Wichita, unlawful liquor, and check forgery. The Andersons worked with automobiles for years, from service to sales.



After Highway 81 was built in the mid 1930s, the Anderson boys moved their station to South Cole St. in 1937, and later expanded it. The original location turned in to a mobile home park (*still is today*), across from the city swimming pool.

November 8th, 2017 we said farewell to another cherished SVHA board member, Marvin Johnson. With more than 27 years dedication to the SVHA, many as Secretary, he also taught elementary school for many years.

His legacy is best summed up through his nicknames and masterful stories about Smoky Valley Swedes, many of which have been written in his book "Swedish Odds and Ends, etc.". Marvin grew up in the New Gottland area and went to Lindsborg H.S. He served in the US Army before going on to college and becoming a teacher. Marvin left many years of great memories to those that knew him, and inspiration to those that might not have.



## SVHA 2018 Program Schedule

Once again our Program Chair, Elly Ostlind, has put together a spectacular and informative schedule this academic cycle.

- **Jan. 9, 2018**—Anna James, her home country of Uzbekistan and the chess connection to Lindsborg. Anna is the Executive Director of the Anatoly Karpov Chess School in Lindsborg.
- **March 13, 2018**—"From Lindsborg to France and back: The Lindsborg Boys During WWI" presented by Dr. Tom Jorsch, Bethany College History Professor. *(possible schedule change)*
- **May 8, 2018**—"The Orphan Train" presented by Shaley George, Curator of the National Orphan Train Complex, Concordia KS.

Programs will be held 7:30 pm at:

**Bethany Home Activity Room, 321 N. Chestnut, Lindsborg.**

*Refreshments will be served after the presentations. Hope you can join us!*

Please cut along the dotted line

**Smoky Valley Historical Association**  
**P.O. Box 255**  
**Lindsborg, KS. 67456**

☐ \$25   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$100   ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Memberships are renewed in the first quarter of each year**



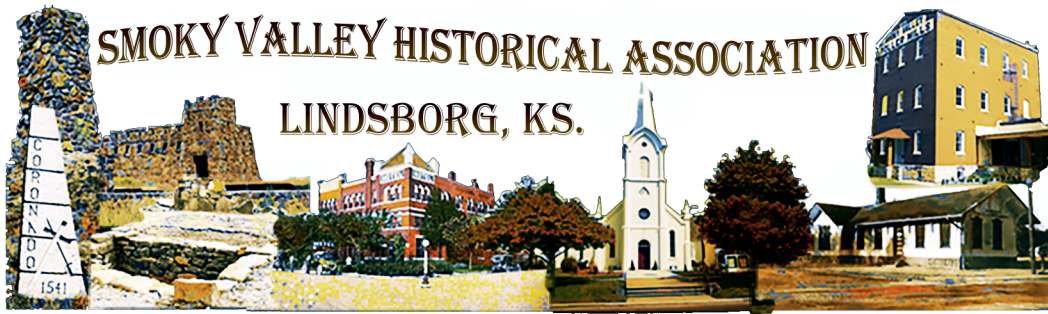
Smoky Valley Historical Association is a non-profit organization and is registered under 501(c)3

All Membership Donations, Bequests, Trusts, and Legacy Donations are tax deductible.

Please mail to P.O. Box listed above.

**Thank You!**





## SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Stewart - *President*  
 Julie-Ann Neywick - *Secretary*  
 Lenora Lynam - *Treasurer*  
 Elly Ostlind - *Program Chair*  
 Chester G. Peterson  
 Robert Ahlstedt  
 Dr. Duane Fredrickson - *Emeritus*

### *Interested?*

*We have three BOD positions open.  
 Email to [info@lindsborghistory.org](mailto:info@lindsborghistory.org)*

### **Smoky Valley Historical Mission**

*The purpose of this association shall be to collect, arrange and preserve historical data, books, pamphlets and manuscripts pertaining to the early history and settlement of our community in general and the City of Lindsborg in particular; to preserve and beautify places of historical interest in our city, its vicinity, and properties entrusted to the association; and to promote the study of history of our settlement and its cultural growth by lectures and other available means.*

### Contact Us

You can e-mail us at:

[info@lindsborghistory.org](mailto:info@lindsborghistory.org)  
 or mail to:

Smoky Valley Historical  
 Association, Inc.  
 PO Box 255  
 Lindsborg, KS 67456

Check our Facebook page for  
 the most up-to-date information  
 concerning the Smoky Valley  
 Historical



### **Meetings**

We have bi-monthly meetings starting with January and held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Bethany Home. All meetings are in the Activities Room. We have five meetings per year as July is skipped. Program starts at 7:30 p.m. with topics of local historical interest. Come join us!



### **Funding**

Membership contributions are the SVHA's major source of on-going funding. A free-will donation in any amount will secure your membership in the Association for the year. Memberships are renewed in the first quarter of each year.

Grants, such as those awarded by the Kansas Humanities Council, are also available from time-to-time to further the mission of the SVHA.

*Thank you for your contributions, and supporting the historical preservation of Lindsborg and the Smoky Valley of Central Kansas.*

*Our pioneers left their legacy long after they were gone, so can you. Managing estates, bequests, and gifts through retirement plans can help keep our preservation ongoing and long-lasting.*