

Vår Historia

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



PUBLISHED
BI-MONTHLY



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SUMMERTIME AND INDEPENDENCE DAY

The field is set, C. Dudley is pitching, Lutz catching, Lindquist is sitting at 1st. Dr. Curtis took 2nd base, Hayes at 3rd, then we have Alderine at shortstop, Augrelus in left field, A. Ringwald at center and finally G. Dudley taking right field. The Lindsborg Alerts are ready for the McPherson boys to take the bat on this Tuesday July 4th, in the year 1876.

Though Lindsborg had just settled seven years earlier, and McPherson even less, what would become "America's pastime" had already rooted in the fledgling county, it was only fitting since the National League formed just five months prior. Early celebrations of Independence Day generally were

nothing more than a picnic on the Smoky River banks, or a climb up the "Buttes", but this was different, we were celebrating America's Centennial. 100 years a nation, less than 10 years for most everyone in the county. Lindsborg had already grown to having a hardware store; blacksmith, two general merchandise stores; a post office; the Union Hotel; two shoe makers; a millinery; harness dealer and manufacturer; Physician and Surgeon; drug store; furniture store; lumber and flour mill, with another flour mill being built; and three churches. McPherson had backing from King City and other colonies to help it grow since it had recently become the county seat, so it had a good jump on growth as well.

The following is an exert from the counties first newspaper, the McPherson Republican, dated July 6th, 1876: "We went to the "Fourth" at McPherson, and had a good time. In spite of the wishes of some old fogies who stayed home, that the rain would pour down, or that the "big" wagon would upset in the river, no acci-

dents happened. By the way, the river is a great bugbear. After the rain Friday night it rose to such a height that it was not safe to cross, but it fell as suddenly as it had risen, clearing many a brow where clouds of disappointment had been gathering. "Oh if we only had a bridge across the Smoky!" was the universal exclamation. If wishes were bridge builders we would have put one across last Saturday. All that went to the celebration came home pleased. The music was excellent, some of our young ladies fell in love with members of the band, especially the black-eyed chap that sat back in the organ and had his hair parted in the middle.

Owing to the big crowd there was hardly sufficient shade, especially at dinner-time when everybody wants plenty of room. Query: Is that good looking man Mr. Webster a married man? Some of the fair sex thought he showed good taste in saying: "Young girls are sweet, but oh, the bigger the sweeter."

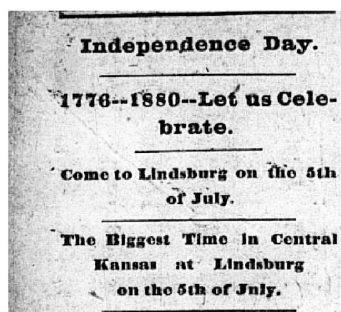
I find it most interesting reading news from the 19th century, not much was altered or left out for "political correctness".

1902 Lindsborg Ad



Lindsborg 4th of July Celebrations

Lindsborg enjoyed celebrating the American holiday, note the spelling "Lindsburg" on this 1880 ad, one way to Americanize. Noting Sunday



as a day of church and rest, the 1880 celebration was moved to Monday the 5th.

On Lindsborg's 10th anniversary in 1879, there was much to celebrate. it was labeled as "an old-fashioned celebration—grand procession, orations, free dinner, music, an open-air cotillion party in the evening, Swede picnic, railroad excursion, A general jubilee! Despite heavy rain the

night before, causing the river to be impassable, 1879's celebration went on as planned. A procession, or parade as we call it, started at 10 am down main street. The half mile long parade was led by the Marshall of the day, Major Holmberg dressed in full uniform, next the band wagon of the Lindsborg Coronet Band drawn by four horses made the whole valley happy with

their sweet music. Then came a beautifully decorated wagon bearing fourteen young ladies, representing the Goddess of Liberty and the thirteen original states of the Union. After all the other citizens and decorated wagons made it through the tour of the city, the procession ended at Judge LaBoyteaux's grounds, since the river banks were too high.



Speeches were given, then everyone settled down for a picnic dinner. All found something which tasted better than wind or smelt more savory than powder smoke, of which the air was kept full from Thursday evening until Friday night. The evening wrapped up with a string concert also at the Judge's grounds. Some Swedes chose to picnic on the banks of the Smoky, despite the

high current.. The highlight of the day though was the railroad, for the first time an excursion train ran from Salina to Lindsborg by invitation of the citizens. Projectors of the Salina & Southwestern Railroad Co. enjoyed the day with Lindsborg and it's festivities, and returned home elated with what they saw. The railroad co. turned the rails over to the Union Pacific to oper-

ate and add Lindsborg to the schedule.

Four days later or July 8th, 36 Lindsborg citizens signed a petition to become a city of 3rd class, it was accepted. Yes, 1879 was special indeed, it was also Lindsborg's catapult to a full fledged city and many great years of growth. Without the railroad, it would likely have stayed a small colony and citizens eventually then



1776. 1885.

BRIDGEPORT

IS THE PLACE!

4th of July CELEBRATION

under the auspice of the citizens of Bridgeport will eclipse all efforts of the kind known in this part of the state.

A GRAND PROCESSION

Consisting of the
Lindsborg & Bridgeport Cornet Bands,
Young Ladies Representing the Different States, Little Boys Representing the Presidents of the United States from George Washington's time to the present Grand Army Posts, Officers in Carriages, Buggies, Wagons, and on horseback, followed by a musical procession, will form at the School House at 9:30 a.m. and parade through the streets of Bridgeport, making headquarters at the celebration at

ENSEL'S GROVE,

Where the people will be entertained by the following Programme

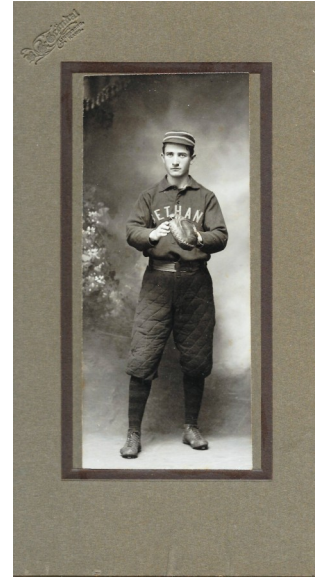
Reading of Declaration by
M. P. SIMPSON, of McPherson, Kansas,

Speakers:
GEN. CALDWELL, of Topeka,
F. B. WEBSTER, of McPherson
CAPT. J. G. MOHLER, of Salina,
REV. M. STOLPE, of Marquette,
and others.

would have moved on.



Early 4th of July Parade Entry and Bethany Baseball Player



S V H A 2016 - 2017 Program Schedule

Once again the Program Chair, Elly Ostlind, has put together a spectacular and informative schedule this upcoming cycle. Please join us 7:30 pm on the following dates at:

Bethany Home Activity Room, 321 N. Chestnut, Lindsborg. Refreshments will be served after the presentations.

Sept. 13, 2016— **Coronado Heights: Myth, Oral Tradition, and a personal connection**
Presented by Tim Weston, SHPO Archeologist, Kansas Historical Society

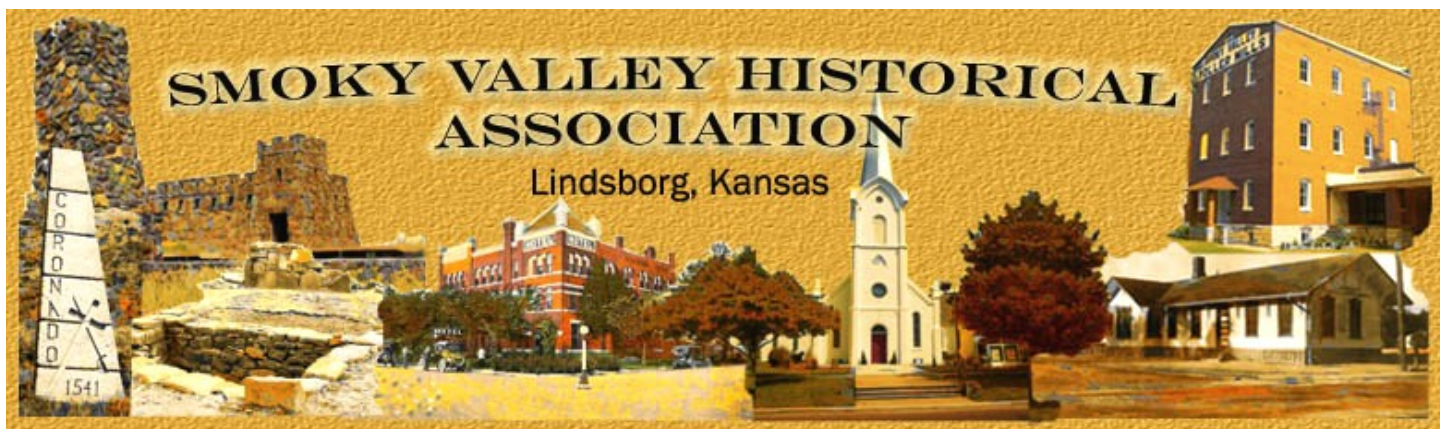
Nov. 8th, 2016— **Women Writers on the Santa Fe Trail**
Presented by Leo Oliva, Historian, Kansas Humanities Council

Jan. 10th, 2017—**Kansas Prairie Trail Scenic Byway**
Presented by Sue Schlegel, Coordinator

March 14th, 2017—**Journeys of the Soil**
Presented by Jim Richardson, Photographer, National Geographic

May 9th, 2017—**McPherson History**
Presented by Jinny Hall, Head, Adult Services
Steve Read, Head Librarian, McPherson Public Library

Hope you can join us!



The Smoky Valley Historical Association Board of Directors

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Meetings

We have bi-monthly meetings (excluding July) held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Bethany Home in the Activities Room. 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.

Contact Us

You can e-mail us
at: 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 and its vicinity; and to promote the study of history of our settlement and its cultural growth by lectures and other available means.

mailing address:

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 Association, including our public meetings schedule.



HELP PRESERVE CORONADO HEIGHTS

Give Coronado
Heights T-shirts and
Refrigerator Magnets

T-SHIRTS

S-XL \$15.00
XXL-XXXL \$17.00

MAGNETS 3" x 3" \$5.00

AVAILABLE AT

The Old Mill Museum

on-line: www.smokyvalleyhistory.org

Profits help the Smoky Valley Historical Association preserve our Central Kansas Wonder and Historic Site for future generations

