

Vår Historia

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

THE QUAIN TOWN WITH THE BRICK STREETS



PUBLISHED
BI-MONTHLY

Coronado Heights
100th
Smoky Valley Historical Association
1919 Lindsborg, KS 2019

CONTENTS.

Brick Streets	1
Brick Streets con't	2
Coronado Ink Pens	2
2019 Program	3
Donations	3
SVHA Info	4

Lindsborg is known for many things in the tourist world, Swedish heritage, music, arts, Bethany College, but the one thing that seems to get mentioned in a conversation first is the brick streets downtown. No matter the season these brick streets make a drive, a walk, or a ride on a quad cycle from Hemslöjd just that much more special. So just how did these streets come about?

The true discussion and initiative came in the spring of 1917, a time where the US had just entered WWI and formed the first draft, and just down the road the very first case of Spanish Flu had been confirmed (*soldier at Camp Funston, Ft. Riley*). A plea was written in the Lindsborg News-Record stating that the time is now to invest in paving downtown, that our city was the last of the 2nd Class cities to do so, and many smaller towns have done so. It went on to say that a temporary "fix" would cost at least \$1,600 and last only one year. So when the decision was finally made, and Lindsborg business owners on board, the next question with how, and what

method?

October 1917 Andrew Monson, Lindsborg City Clerk, mailed out requests all over Kansas, asking what the best material for paving is. Responses came back from all over, Topeka to Dodge City, Larned to Arkansas City, with personal experiences. It was clear the best method for longevity and reparability was brick, but that was also the most expensive.

November 3rd city ordinance No 710 passed, stating Main St. would be paved from Academy St. (*now Swensson St*) to Mill St., bid requests had already been sent throughout the state, using Civil Engineer firm Riddle & Riddle's specifications. Tuesday Nov. 6th Lindsborg Council meeting was well attended, with seven bids presented. Hahn Construction of Newton gave the cheapest concrete bid \$49,590.65, E.W. Geiger Construction Co. of Leavenworth gave the cheapest brick bid \$62,321.64. As written in the News-Record "The Council waged a warm battle as to the relative merits of brick and concrete paving", a test ballot showed 6-3 in favor of brick, after more discussion a roll call vote entered 8-1 in favor of brick. Geiger's bid was excepted.

After 5,501 cubic yards of excavation, there would be a 1 ½" sand cushion, 4 ½" concrete base, and 3" vertical fiber bricks to top it all off. 25,173 sq. yards of



c1910 dirt Main St with plank walks

Con't. pg 2

BRICK STREETS (CON'T)

brick would be laid, and 73 feet of curbs and gutters installed. It was expected to start in the early spring and complete within 120 working days.

Excavation started in March 1918 and by early May was completed, leaving the streets un-travelable and sloppy. Mayor H G Johnson posted a notice in the newspaper for all businesses on Main and Lincoln streets to make water connections and run taps every 25' so that once paved there would be no disturbance to the work. What came next was Kansas spring rains, and more than was hoped for by the street pavers, but welcomed by the rest knowing that there would be a fine wheat crop due to it. Delays came from muddy conditions, and followed by sand shortages. Portions of one end of Main street had been paved by the end of May, showing what would be expected for the downtown section, giving a small relief of enduring the conditions.

At this time WWI was going strong and many Americans were being sent to France, workers in the private sector were getting scarce. This was some of the problem with the sand being delivered in the quantity needed, and by June directly effected Geiger's paving crew and had to shut down. Lindsborg stepped up, business men replaced their suits for union-alls* and straw hats, grabbed picks and shovels, and helped pave until Geiger could get a crew in place.

As August drew closer the first WWI draft had hit McPherson Co., as 29 were sent to Camp Funston for training. Lindsborg had also been chosen to host the Labor Day State Guard Celebration, where more than 400 were expected to participate



Gröndal WWI Tank Photo

in the parade and other activities. Geiger promised the paving would be finished by then.

As shown in the ad from the Lindsborg News-Record, workers were needed and pulled from all resources.

Husky student can earn forty cents an hour on the paving gang working Saturdays and holidays. Pay every night if desired.—E. W. Geiger Construction Co. Office over Post Office. **Sept. 13, 1918 Ad** 49-1t.

Lindsborg streets were completely finished by October, when Geiger placed the ad below in the Lindsborg newspaper. The thought of removing the brick has come up through the years, but charm beats modern practices every time.

We Thank You

We desire to express our gratitude to all the citizens of Lindsborg for the kind and courteous treatment extended us while we were paving in your City.

We believe that you all are aware of the unfavorable conditions under which we worked. The scarcity of labor, shortage of materials, together with the slow movement of freight, all tended to prevent our "pushing" the work as is our custom.

We have endeavored to give you as good a pavement as can be laid and feel that we have done so and trust that our work and manner of doing business will merit a return engagement. Should we be so fortunate as to again work for you, we assure you that we will continue endeavoring to merit your approval.

The E. W. Geiger Construction Company
E. W. GEIGER, President C. C. RUTHERFORD, Sec'y.



Brick street during 2018 St. Lucia Festival

* H.D. Lee Company of Salina and Kansas City created the first union-alls in 1913, today we call them coveralls.



Coronado Heights Timber Pens

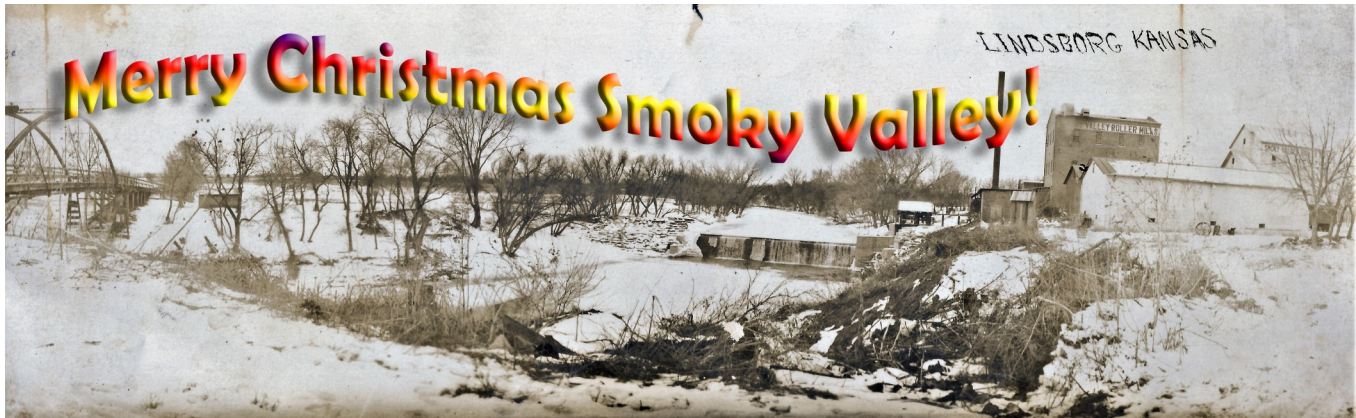
Limited Availability!

\$30.00 +tax

Available at:

Old Mill Museum 120 E. Mill St.—Lindsborg, KS. And SVHA programs





SVHA 2019 Program Schedule

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

Jan. 8, 2019: Kanopolis Dam's affect on the Smoky Valley
Kanopolis Manager—US Army Corp of Engineer

March 12, 2019: Tuttle Creek Dam: How did it affect Lindsborg area people?
Kevin Larson, Teacher, Pastor

May 14, 2019: Broadway RFD – Oldest outdoor theatre in Kansas
Eric Lundstrom

President, Tim Stewart - 785/819-4806

Program Chair, Elly Ostlind - 785/212-0516.

Programs will be held 7:30 pm at:
Bethany Home Activity Room, 321 N. Chestnut, Lindsborg.

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

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Interested?

We have one BOD position open.

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

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 Association.



*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 preserva-
 tion ongoing and long-lasting.*

Meetings

We have bi-monthly meetings from
 September thru May and held on the
 2nd Tuesday of the month at Bethany
 Home. All meetings are in the Activi-
 ties Room. There are five meetings per
 academic year (Sept.-May). Program
 starts at 7:30 p.m. with topics of local
 historical interest. Come join us!



Funding

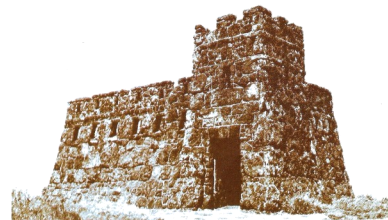
Membership contributions are the
 SVHA's major source of on-going fund-
 ing. A free-will donation in any amount
 will secure your membership in the As-
 sociation for the year. Memberships are
 renewed in the first quarter of each
 year.

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

Is a member of the
 SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, Inc.
 which has headquarters in Lindsborg, Kansas

Was born in a log cabin	()
Was born in Sweden	()
Great-grandparents came from Sweden	()
Forefathers were here before the Swedes	()
Great-grandparents homesteaded in the Valley	()
Attended one-room school	()
Attended Bethany	()
Has worked at The Old Mill in operation	()
Has sung in the Messiah Chorus	()

TACK SÅ MYCKET!



SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 LINDSBORG, KANSAS 67456