

Vår Historia

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

THE LINDSBORG AIRPORT & FLYING SCHOOL

In the height of Charles Lindbergh flying all over the country pushing for “an airport in every city”, one Lindsborg salesman went the extra mile in trying to make it happen.

Lindsborg made its first attempt at getting an airstrip in April of 1928, when the National Aeronautic Association announced the “Goodwill Air Tour”. The tour would stop at all airstrips that qualified that were in the path of their scheduled tour. Lindsborg happened to be in the path, as McPherson and Salina were on the stop. Locals could only sit and watch the flyover, as both a suitable strip and a chapter with at least 25 members couldn’t be organized in the short time offered.

That July Howard Brower made a deal with Lindsborg Chamber of Commerce that if they supplied an airstrip he would supply the planes to start a flying school. The landing strip laid out was just

east of Bethany College and sit on 30 acres. By the 19th of July a three-plane hanger was being erected, the Chamber painted “Lindsborg Airport” real big over the door, spanning 50’ wide. H.F. Brower was a sales rep. for the Public Utility Investment Co. and flying enthusiast. His plane and sometimes another pilot would travel around to various towns where he would conduct business while his pilot would give airplane rides for \$2 each. The first students at the flying school came in October of ’28. Finding teachers that were government licensed had proved a little difficult, prior to 1926 all pilot licenses were issued by the NAA (who put on the tour). In order to run an air service all had to be government certified.

Brower wasted no time expanding his service and fleet, starting with Wichita to Omaha, and ultimately extending to Oklahoma City. Lindsborg was not on the air service route, but was home base and the first of four flying schools.



CONTENTS.

Lindsborg Airport	1-2
Coronado Heights	2
T-shirt sales	2
2019-20 Programs	3
Donations	3
SVHA Info	4



Brower's Air Service and Flying School Lindsborg, Kansas

The Lindsborg Airport situated one-half mile east of Bethany College is modern and up-to-date in every respect. The landing field is level and large enough to accommodate any plane, the hangar will accommodate three planes. You will always find a new American Eagle plane and a government licensed transport pilot at the airport.

Pilot James Walker, who has been employed at the Porterfield Flying School of Kansas City, Missouri, came to take charge of the Flying School through the recommendation of Mr. Porterfield, who is president of the Porterfield Flying School and president of the American Eagle Aircraft Corporation.

We can teach you to fly at a minimum cost. For particulars write or wire H. F. Brower, Mgr.

Authorized Dealer American Eagle Airplanes



LINDSBORG AIRPORT (CON'T)

Unfortunately, Brower expanded too fast and would lose control of the company within two years. 1929 though thrived, in order to attract potential students, Brower set up "Booster Days" at the airport. These would include flight shows, refreshments, and \$1 air-plane rides.

February 1930 the Lindsborg Chamber held a special meeting, with hopes of taking over the lease on the 30 acre airport. The price was \$450 annually, and it would be operated as a municipal airport with Brower continuing his school. Brower had managed to get the airport, possibly the first one in Kansas, licensed by the US Dept. of Commerce, which had been made law due to the increase of airports starting up nationwide. A committee was formed to pursue this acquisition, but that August Brower gave up full interest in the business through a foreclosure and Sheriff's auction. A newly formed company, Western Air Service Corp. took over the business, moving the headquarters to Belleville then Salina.

Lindsborg airport had essentially shut down that fall. Western Air placed the hanger up for either rent or sale in October 1930, and it eventually would be acquired by Inge and converted to Lindsborg's first bowling alley and roller skating rink.



CORONADO HEIGHTS IS OPEN!

Despite ongoing road work and awaiting test results from GSI Geotechnical testing, SVHA decided to open the park to the public. These past two months have been busy with rebuilding the road where the fault line is and replacing one drainpipe (so far). Extensive work has also gone in to creating ditches and attempting to clean under the bridge and other drain pipes.

With over \$9,000.00 invested so far, and an unknowing amount still to come, it is imperative that we keep looking for funding, some of the work done so far has been a "temporary fix" to get the park back open.

There is a dedicated donation button for Coronado Heights on our website's front page www.smokyvalleyhistory.org if you are inclined to help preserve this park, we thank you in advance.



Get your commemorative 2019 100th anniversary t-shirts while they last! .
Buy yours now at Old Mill Museum's gift store
120 E. Mill St. Lindsborg, KS. 67456
Shipping/handling fee applies if mailed, Call 785-227-3595 for quote



SVHA PROGRAMS FOR 2019-2020

Sept. 10th, 2019 “Tasting the Past: Exploring Kansas Food Memories—a Humanities Kansas Presentation”, *Presented by Louise Hanson*

Nov. 12th, 2019 “Exploring the Nooks and Crannies of Kansas” ---and what else does the Kansas Sampler Foundation do?
Presented by Marci Penner and WenDee Howe

‘We ♥ Coronado Heights

Jan. 14th, 2020 “Swedish Settlements”,
Presented by Tom Holmquist.

March 10th, 2020 “Who is A.R.? Presenting the Slöjd Craft and other crafts at Bethany College”. *Presented by Dr. Marlasue Esping Holmquist.*

May 12th, 2020 “History and Stories of the Smoky Valley Roller Mill”
Presented by Lorna Nelson, Director.

All Tuesday programs start at 7:30 pm

**Bethany Home Activity Center
321 N. Chestnut St.
Lindsborg, KS.**

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: _____

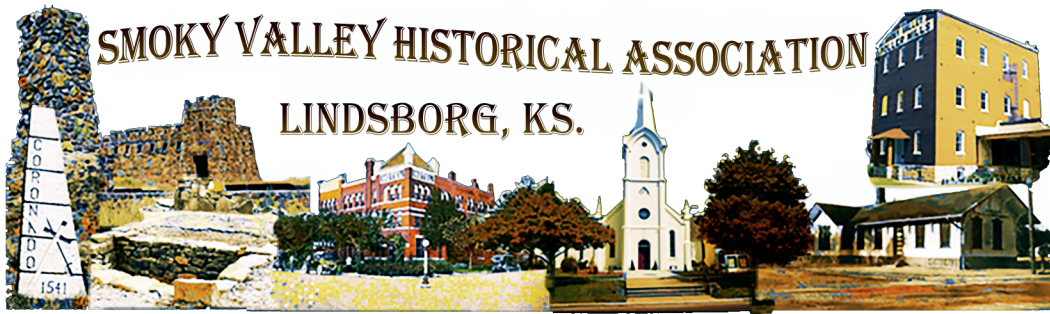
Smoky Valley Historical Association is a non-profit organization and is registered under 501(c)3

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

Please mail to P.O. Box listed above.

Thank You!

Memberships are renewed in the first quarter of each year



SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Tim Stewart - *President, Newsletter*
- Robert Ahlstedt - *Vice-President*
- Julie-Ann Neywick - *Secretary*
- Lenora Lynam - *Treasurer*
- Elly Ostlind - *Program Chair*
- Matt Stula
- Leland Nelson
- Jim Malm
- Chester G. Peterson - *Emeritus*
- Duane Fredrickson - *Emeritus*

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.

Interested?

We have one BOD position open.

Contact info:

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 preservation 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 Activities 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 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.

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