

Vår Historia

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

MILLING IN THE VALLEY

Flour Sacks

We have a quantity of large flour sacks, slightly torn, that we will close out at 90¢ a dozen as long as they last.

Lindsborg Milling and Elevator Company

PUBLISHED
BI-MONTHLY



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Exciting things are happening with the Old Mill Museum in Lindsborg, but going back in time, before it was a museum, we see an important part of any town's growth and survival.

H.S. Bacon new that in 1873 when he walked the Smoky looking for the right place to build a dam, which resulted in a mill first, then Marquette town. In Lindsborg, it was Carl J. Johansson, or by his American name, Charlie Johnson who procured a charter in 1872 to build a dam. Lindsborg was already becoming established but needed building lumber. Johnson's two-stone grinding mill made cornmill, but the dam power was directed to his saw mill. April 1873 Johnson was making plans to add wheat burrs to start his expansion.

Many towns in the valley started milling, by the turn of the century Kansas had over 300 flour mills in operation. With the addition of the UP railroad going through Lindsborg, mills and grain elevators appeared along the tracks. The steam-powered Crescent Mill was constructed in 1881 and ground its first flour February 1st, 1882. The Crescent was one of the

CRESCENT - MILLS.
IS NOW MAKING THE
BEST BRANDS OF FLOUR.
Meal and Feed.
The Very Best of Custom Work Done.
All Orders Promptly Attended to.
ISAAC FRENCH, Prop'r,
LINDSBORG, KANSAS.

finest mills in the state and was capable of milling 100 barrels of

flour a day. Just a few months later, S.P. Carlton bought the Crescent Mill from W.H. Jameson. Down on the river, the Smoky Valley Flouring Mill had its foundation laid and was on the way to being erected.

Miller Johnson, as he was often called, sold the grist mill to J.G. Bergsten and Francis Johnson in 1882, after a flood did extensive damage to both mill and dam. By March of 1885 Bergsten became sole owner.

Theodore Teichgraeber, a well known miller from Assaria Roller Mills, completely overhauled Crescent Mills with rollers in 1888, and opened it for business Dec. 6th. The new roller mill was bigger than any other, and word spread as orders came from all over. The next year he did the same for the water mill, or Smoky Valley Flour Mill. He even approached Marquette's Mill and got them switched to the roller system. May of 1890 Theo. took charge of the Smoky Valley Roller Mill, which was followed by Lindsborg Milling Co. taking over the Crescent Flouring Mills.

With rollers in place, both mills could produce up to 250 →

-THE-
CRESCENT
FLOURING
MILLS.
THEO. TEICHGRAEBER, Prop.,
LINDSBORG, KAN.
First class custom and commercial work.
Keep on hand a good supply of all
grades of flour, rye flour, graham
flour, bran and feed stuffs.
Your Patronage Solicited
And good work, courteous treatment
and fair dealing guaranteed.

MILLING IN THE VALLEY (CON'T)

barrels a day. By Dec. 1892 Gust Toeves purchased the steam roller mill and renamed it Lindsborg Milling & Elevator Co.

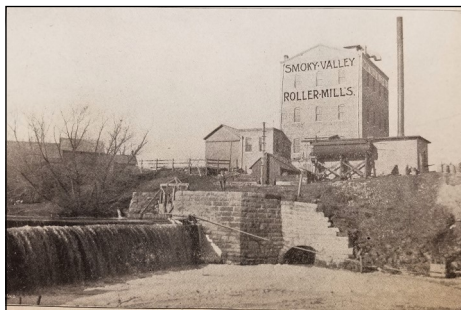
Mo-Pac Railroad added a bobtail track to the Smoky Valley Roller Mill at this time too.

October 14th, 1897, the Smoky Valley Roller Mill burned down. Flames were seen coming out of the top floor windows, and as a frame structure, wasted little time spreading. As devastated as Theo. was, within four weeks the first stone was laid to rebuild. John Nelson of Salina did the mason work, and A. Almquist and the Palmquist Brothers did all carpentry work. The new mill was bigger and state-of-the-art for 1898, even having its own electric light plant. The cost was about \$14,000 and boasted a larger water wheel as well as revamped dam.

The Lindsborg Milling & Elevator Co was continuing to grow too. In 1899 they received an order for 240,000 pounds of flour from a wholesale grocery chain in Illinois. Other products included Golden Eagle breakfast food and many other varieties. Both mills in Lindsborg were competitive, sometimes in other ways besides milling. After a fun baseball game one 1903 summer day, the employees from both mills had a friendly game of tug-of-war. Lindsborg Milling had twice as many employees as Smoky Valley, but how many contributed to this friendly game was unclear. It was clear that Lindsborg Milling won though.

THE SMOKY VALLEY ROLLER MILL.
(Water Power.)
FIRST CLASS custom & commercial work
HIGHEST PRICE PAID FOR WHEAT.
Courteous Treatment and
Fair Dealing Guaranteed.
THEO. TEICHGRAEBER

THE LINDSBORG MILLING & EL. CO.
Manufacturers of
THE BEST BRANDS OF FLOUR,
CORN MEAL & FEED
Custom Work Promptly Done.
Satisfaction guaranteed.
Your Patronage is Solicited.



the Philippines for US soldiers via the UP railroad in 1908.

Theodore Teichgraeber met an untimely death Dec. 1907 in Emporia while visiting a brother that had also just passed. His two sons, Emil and Carl, ran the Smoky Valley Roller Mill until 1910 when they had to sell to settle the estate. Two daughters, both married to Hagstroms, bought the mill at auction for \$36,600, then hired JF Andrews from McPherson to Manage it.

Another type of milling also started in 1909, the Lindsborg Ice and Alfalfa Milling Co. They

had hoped to run both off of the same engine, but quickly realized a separate engine

PURE CHRYSTAL ICE
Made from Pure Distilled Water
You can use this ice in your drinking water and feel that it is absolutely clean and free from all foreign substances.
Highest market price paid for alfalfa. The best alfalfa meal sold at the lowest market price.
Lindsborg Ice & Alfalfa Milling Co.

would need to be purchased to add the 10-ton ice plant to their Alfalfa Mill.

By 1920, Lindsborg Milling & Elevator Co had 27 employees, and Smoky Valley Roller Mills had 12. Both were busy and shipping far and wide. In the late '20s, Smoky Valley Roller Mill didn't fare as well, and it was closed 1927. After sitting a few years, the Runbeck brothers bought it and gave it and the dam another overhaul, including converting the mill to electric. It reopened in a bigger and more productive

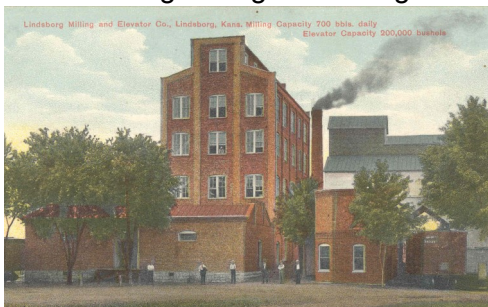
Safety First Flour
Takes the Uncertainty out of Baking.
ASK YOUR GROCER
Lindsborg Milling & Elevator Co.

OPEN OLD MILL
Lindsborg, Oct. 3.—The old Smoky Valley flour mill which has been closed for years, is being remodeled and will be opened this fall by Runbeck Bros.

fashion December of 1932. It is interesting to see the mill listed as "old" in 1932, but in retrospect, it was.

The milling industry overall was being taken over by larger companies, and most were being shut down, or "retired". Smoky Valley Roller Mill closed permanently in 1955. Lindsborg Milling & Elevator Co. was bought by Kansas City's Rodney Milling Co. in 1939, and also permanently closed in 1954.

I had mentioned there were over 300 flour mills in Kansas by the year 1900, by 2000 there were around 20. Today there are 166 flour mills Nationwide.



Another big order for Lindsborg Milling was from the US Government. Flour was shipped to

NEW!
Coronado Heights stickers
 available at
Old Mill Museum



Upcoming SVHA Programs

August 10th, 2021

Another Kansas Explorer: Etienna Veniard de Bourgmont

Rev. Richard Monson



Sept. 14th, 2021

The Kansas African-America Trail: Connecting Across Kansas

Denise Sherman, Exec. Director, The Kansas African-American Museum



Location:

Robert and Cathy Ahlstedt "Cracker Box"
 222 S. Coronado Ave. (Burma Rd)
 Lindsborg, KS.

All programs
 start at:
7:30 pm

Parking is limited, carpooling is suggested.

*All programs are tentative, please call or follow our Facebook page
 for updates.*

Refreshments will be served.

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

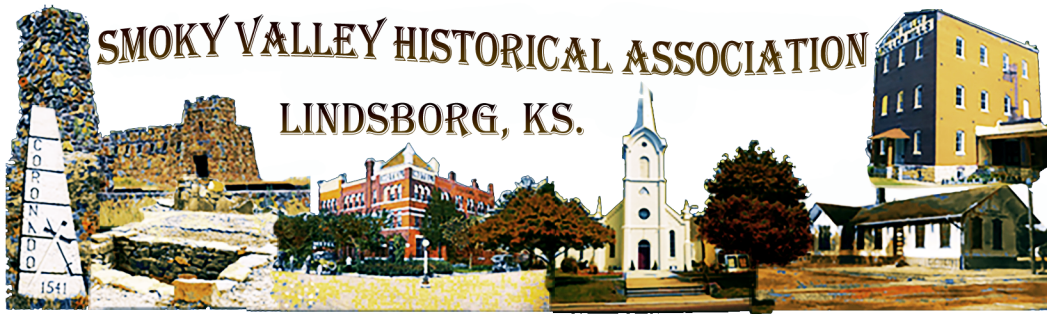


Smoky Valley Historical Association is a non-profit organization and is registered under 501(c)3

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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Meetings

We have bi-monthly meetings from September thru May and held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. There are five meetings per academic year (Sept.-May). Program starts at 7:30 p.m. with topics of local historical interest. Location is listed on schedule page 3.

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.

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 info:

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WWW.SMOKYVALLEYHISTORY.ORG



TACK SÅ MYCKET!



SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 LINDSBORG, KANSAS 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.