Vår Historia

SMOKY



VALLEY

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Due to unforeseen circumstances the June issue, #3 was not written and published, nor will it be. We hope you enjoy this and all future issues though.



PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY



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THE LIFE OF NETTIE MINTON

In today's society, it's somewhat normal for a twenty year old girl to travel across the country alone. It wasn't so much in 1882.

Nettie Minton did just that, from Ohio to Kansas to visit her brother Edwin. Edwin, or E.C. Minton as he went by, was Principal of Lindsborg school and had previously taught in McPherson.

Nettie was born March 14, 1862 in Muncie, Indiana to John III and Mary. John's I and II were prominent preachers of Methodist Episcopal churches, her father though, chose farming and missionary work. Nettie's mother was Mary A. Koch from Lancaster County Pennsylvania. The Kochs were a prominent family in the state. Nettie was also fifth in the line of eight children from the family.

Though Nettie spent time living in Pa. as a child, she graduated high school in Yellow Springs, Ohio at sixteen years old. July 26th, 1882 Nettie arrived in McPherson where her brother was living. At this time Lindsborg was building a two-story schoolhouse and the old wood building was being moved to Bethany Academy grounds.

Edwin convinced Nettie to move to Lindsborg and get her teaching certificate, which she did September 1st, 1882. Nettie was immediately hired as a first grade teacher.

Someone caught Nettie's attention once living in Lindsborg, Dr. J.B. Curtis. Nettie took an interest in medicine too, but with Dr. Curtis' marriage failing, it became more. Dr. Curtis' divorce was finalized August 24th, 1883, and Kansas had a law requiring couples to wait at least six months before they could remarry. November 28th, or three months later, Dr. Curtis and Nettie eloped to Kansas City, MO. and wed. Normally this wouldn't be regional news, but the newly divorced first wife, Minnie, tried to take her own life the day after the wedding, which is when she found out about it.

Nettie continued to grow as a teacher, and in August 1884 was hired as Lindsborg's Principal/teacher. In many ways following in her brother's footsteps, to this point anyway. E.C. went into politics, Nettie leaned toward medical.

September 1885 Nettie followed her husband and another Lindsborg doctor, J.D. England, to New York City.

(i) LINDSBORG GRADED SCHOOL.
1 Report of Charley Gabrielson
Pupil in Grade, for the month ending
Gard 23 1886
Days Absent 2 Scholarship 2/
Times Tardy Deportment 122 (2)
Arithmetic 20 Spelling . J Abgebra
Grammar . G Writing G Civil Gov't
Geography. 9.2 Map Drawing Natural Phil
Reading 9.7 Book Keeping History
Composition Deciamation
Mrs Curtis Teacher.
Alvin Chat' rton, Principal.

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THE LIFE OF NETTIE MINTON {CON'T}

The doctors attended Bellevue Medical College and Nettie took some courses at the Women's Medical College before returning to teaching. Nettie held the Principal position four years, and was paid \$75 per month to do so. According to the inflation calculator \$75 in 1885 is worth \$2,359.00 today. Teachers were underpaid even back then.

June 1888 JB and Nettie moved into their new home that they had built on north Main. That November a surprise five year anniversary party was thrown for the couple, it was reported twenty-two people attended, one gifting them a new couch. The current address is 226 N. Main, but don't believe it is the same structure.

Nettie attended Bethany College in 1889 to further her studies. She took Normal (teaching), English, and Vocal classes. She fancied travel, and the next year her and Miss Swenson went to Topeka to see President Harrison, who was traveling through.

By 1890, Nettie was assisting Dr. Curtis with surgeries, and after Dr. Curtis made the decision

to travel to Denver to be an expert in a murder trial, Nettie even saw patients and wrote prescriptions. Dr. Curtis stayed in Denver and got his license to practice there. It wasn't until September 1891 that Nettie moved there too, after wrapping up some details in Lindsborg and then visiting other relatives in Kansas.



November 14th, 1891 Dr. JB Curtis died of an accidental overdose of morphine, a practice he had been self-administering for many years. Nettie returned to Kansas, but got an offer to work in Pratt as County Clerk. Her brother and JB's family were all living in Pratt County by this time. She still did some teaching there too, but her long-time desire was to travel.

In 1893 Nettie stopped in Denver, on her way to Los Angeles. She met Alonzo J. Hammond, a cigar importer there and they married. Both moved to LA, where Nettie enrolled in the University of Southern California Medical College. May of 1896 Nettie was the only female graduate! She was now Dr. Nettie Hammond. She decided to go back to New York for another

six-month course to further her education. Upon returning to California, Nettie was appointed resident physician at San Francisco's Maternity Hospital. That didn't suit Nettie, and after six months she set up a private practice in LA, then took an extensive tour of Europe. Nettie worked in clinics and learned advanced medicine in Berlin, Germany; Vienna, Austria; and throughout Switzerland and France before returning to LA in 1900. In 1902 her second husband, AJ Hammond, died of appendicitis. The next year she made a stop in Lindsborg before going to Sweden on a vacation.

Not only did her medical practice take off in Los Angeles, but Nettie also became an investor in mining and other profitable investments. She made headline news though in 1909 when an investment broker known as the "300% Broker" robbed her of a lot of money. She wasn't the only one, and it made headline news nationwide.

Late 1911 Nettie married a prominent LA Dentist, J. Hamilton Thurston. The same year she was elected in to the Los Angeles County Medical Association, 1918, her third husband, Thurston, died from Pneumonia. Nettie never remarried after this, and never had any children of her own.

Nettie continued to travel, even boarding a ship to Hawaii a couple of times in the mid 1920s.

Dr. Nettie Thurston-Hammond went back to the University of Southern California, not as a student, but as a Professor. She taught Anatomy and Pathology for ten years. She had retired from her private practice by then, though came out on occasion for special cases or serving as an expert in a trial. Nettie died peacefully December 1st, 1947 at the age of 85. Her closest relative, and caretaker of

her estate, was her nephew, Carl Minton. Carl was a lawyer along with his brother Albert.

Nettie is considered a pioneer in Sothern California and is featured in a book titled "Historical and Biographical Record of Southern California" dated 1902.

Though her career flourished after leaving Lindsborg, taking that risk to travel to visit her brother when she was twenty paved a path for following dreams, and changing those paths when needed. Nettie became a world traveler, while being a teacher, principal, county clerk, physician, surgeon, and professor.







Dr. J.B. Curtis-

ALBERT N. and CARL W. MINTON ATTORNEYS AT LAW 8463½ South Vermont Avenue TWinosks 6879

Nettie's nephews and caretakers of her estate. Albert and Carl were Edmond's (E.C.) children.

Upcoming SVHA Programs

Sept. 12th, 2023

Saucers & Aliens

The Strange Collection of Dr. E.D. Janzen

Jim Gray "The Cowboy"

Nov. 14th, 2023

"Little Poova" Remembers Doc Bill (Dr. William Holwerda)

Betty Holwerda Nelson

Jan. 9th, 2024

History of Muse—the Stories Behind the Sculptures

Susan Whitfield



All programs start at:

7:30 pm

Location:

Messiah Lutheran Church—Fellowship Hall 402 N. 1st Street—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:			
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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 deductable.

Please mail to P.O. Box listed above. Thank You!

Memberships are renewed in the first quarter of each year



SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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Meetings/Programs

Smoky Valley Historical Association hosts bi-monthly meetings on the odd months, held on the second Tuesday. Programs start at 7:30 pm with topics of local historical interest. Location is listed on page three along with schedule.

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:

email us at:

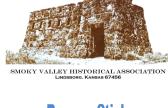
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SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 255
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WWW.SMOKYVALLEYHISTORY.ORG





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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.

All donations are tax exempt, we are a 501-(c)3 organization