

Vår Historia

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ABERCROMBIES—131 YEARS OF LINDSBORG GROWTH



PUBLISHED
BI-MONTHLY



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When Thomas and Isabella Abercrombie immigrated to the United States from Scotland in 1848, little did they know their children, grand children, and great-grand children would contribute so much to a Swedish community forming north-west of their farm.

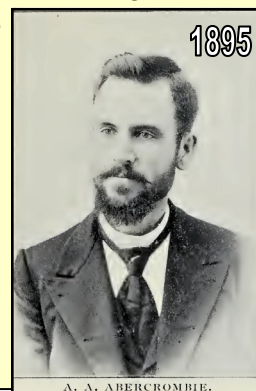
Alloch Almeron, or A. A. Abercrombie, was born March of 1868 in Spencerport, NY. As an infant, the family made their way westward and by 1877 bought a farm north of Galva, KS. in the eastern part of McPherson County. A.A. found he loved learning and books, and completed all required courses at home and the local public school.

In 1886, while "Old Main" was being constructed at Bethany College, A.A. enrolled in the School of Commerce, completing it in 1888, followed by enrollment in the College of Liberal Arts. It was during a Latin recitation class that he was sum-

mand to President Carl Swensson's office. Dr. Swensson had a keen way of watching students and when a sudden vacancy occurred in the School of Commerce for a teacher, he thought of A.A., who was a "Summa Cum Laude" graduate and possessed the qualities needed. As a teacher, A.A. took advantage of summer breaks and furthered his studies in Illinois, quickly becoming Principle of his School of Commerce. During his nineteen years with Bethany College, he ultimately taught management accounts; Professor of Commercial Law; Penmanship; Rapid Calculations; Bookkeeping; and Business Practice. Because of his business expertise he was often coaxed to work with Lindsborg businesses and on occasion did briefly. Though teaching didn't pay as well as the commercial world, no material assets were comparable

to spiritual values. A.A. married Ellida Ellison of Marquette, KS. in 1892, and had four children, three girls and one boy. Ellida would become Superintendent of Lindsborg public schools and Old People's Home. Both A.A. and C.A. (Chet), father and son, would play a role in Farmer's State Bank of Lindsborg as well. A.A. served as Director of the bank from 1908 until his death, he also organized the Messiah English Lutheran Church and served on the Board of deacons. Alloch also served many years as city council, city clerk, and even assistant Postmaster.

Alloch A. Abercrombie passed away Dec. 10, 1918 of lung fever at the age of 49 years.



A. A. ABERCROMBIE.

ABERCROMBIES—131 YEARS OF LINDSBORG GROWTH CON'T.

Chester, or C. A. Abercrombie was simple known as "Chet" to the locals. He was born 1908 in Lindsborg and practically lived his entire life at Farmers State Bank.

At the age of ten Chet got a job at the Lindsborg News-Record for a brief time, at twelve he was hired as a janitor of the bank and within one year became a remittance clerk. He continued his education while working, fulfilling his requirements for graduation and like his father, attended Bethany College.

At the age of eighteen Chet was afflicted with Polio, and missed eight months from work. All this time he kept a cheerful and optimistic attitude, which carried through his life. After a miraculous healing he resumed work and school, being promoted to Bookkeeper at the bank in the early 1930s.

Chet climbed the ladder over the years, becoming 2nd assistant cashier in 1934 and being elected to the Board of Directors

1944. He became Cashier and Secretary for the BOD 1946, and a year later Executive VP. It was about this time he also found a wife, Doris Ann, and would bring two boys into the family to add to Doris' older daughter.

April 6th, 1950 bank President Ebba Fornberg passed away, ending a long chapter with the bank. She was most revered for keeping the bank together during the great depression, making it the only surviving bank in Lindsborg. Another President was elected in though, giving Chet an opportunity to continue to prove himself. By 1954 it was decided to secure property on Main St. north of it's current location to build a new, modern bank. The job was tasked to Chet and he made it happen by the next year. The original bank property was sold to the city of Lindsborg and it still holds it's and CVB offices in it today.

August 1957 Chet was elected President, and his wife Doris to

BOD Secretary. Over the years the bank saw huge growth, and by 1979 Chet reached the mandatory retirement age for directors.

In appreciation for Chet's 58 years with the bank, he was honored with the title of Director Emeritus on January 23, 1979. Retirement would not last long though as he passed away April 29th, 1980.

Chet was just as active in the community as well, serving as city treasurer many years and other civic activities.

Two boys grew up in the shadow of their father, Chet Abercrombie, Chris and Jim (Biff). Both grew up in Lindsborg schools, both were Swedish Dancers, and both attended Bethany College. While both also

left Lindsborg for careers, Chris came back and made this historical association one of his passions in life.

Chris Abercrombie served as President of the Smoky Valley Historical Association for many years and because of his background in broadcasting completed many video interviews with Lindsborg's historians and people of interest. He was always fascinated with Coronado Heights and took the initiative to get it placed on the National Historical Register, and most recently securing a grant from the Kansas Heritage Trust Fund for improvements to Coronado Heights. That phase has been completed, and we are working toward financially supporting phase two, which is drain-



age reconstruction and road repair. Chris Abercrombie passed away this past quarter, as with previous board members and supporters of the Smoky Valley history, he will be missed.

Work continues on! Both Coronado Heights and Höglund Dugout are visited year-round from locals and tourists. Both are maintained on a volunteer basis with any costs incurred by SVHA and your donations. **To the right is Chris Abercrombie and Francisco Coronado, portrayed by Bethany College alumni Angelo Alessi.*



SVHA 2017 - 2018 Program Schedule

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

- **Nov. 14, 2017**—"History of the Opat family, Lindsborg" presented by Jason Opat, CEO of Integrated Media Group
- **Jan. 9, 2018**—Anna James, her home country of Uzbekistan and the chess connection to Lindsborg. Anna is the Executive Director of the Anatoly Karpov Chess School in Lindsborg.
- **March 13, 2018**—"From Lindsborg to France and back: The Lindsborg Boys During WWI" presented by Dr. Tom Jorsch, Bethany College History Professor.
- **May 8, 2018**—"The Orphan Train" presented by Shaley George, Curator of the National Orphan Train Complex, Concordia KS.

Programs will be held 7:30 pm at:

Bethany Home Activity Room, 321 N. Chestnut, Lindsborg.

Refreshments will be served after the presentations. Hope you can join us!

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

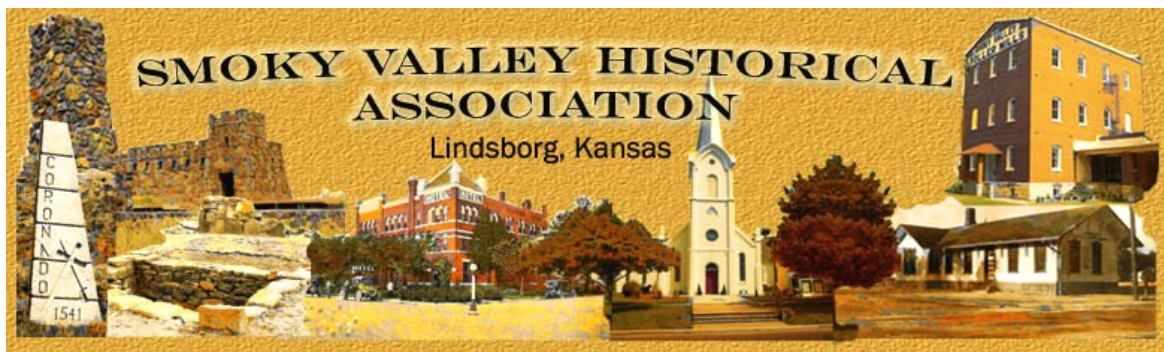


Smoky Valley Historical Association is a non-profit organization and is registered under 501(c)3

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Stewart - *President*
 Julie-Ann Neywick - *Secretary*
 Lenora Lynam - *Treasurer*
 Elly Ostlind - *Program Chair*
 Marvin Johnson
 Chester G. Peterson
 Robert Ahlstedt (*welcome new Director*)
 Dr. Duane Fredrickson - *Emeritus*

Interested?

We have two BOD positions open. Email to 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, 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 Val-



ley Historical
 Association.



Meetings

We have bi-monthly meetings starting with January and held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Bethany Home. All meetings are in the Activities Room. We have five meetings per year as July is skipped. 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.

CORONADO HEIGHTS PARK

Official T-shirt

CLOSE-OUT

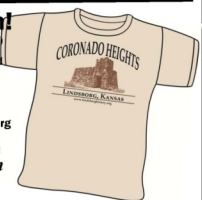
\$10.00 each!

(Plus tax - All sizes same price)

Adult/Youth sizes limited or gone - ask for sizes Available!

ON-LINE ORDERS:
www.smokyvalleyhistory.org

AVAILABLE LOCALLY AT:
 Old Mill Museum
 120 E. Mill St.
 Lindsborg



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.