

Vår Historia

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

MISS ANNA - NEWSPAPER EDITRESS

The Lindsborg News.

ANNA M. CARLSON, Ed. and Pub.
LINDSBORG, - - KANSAS

Adressera:

LINDBORGS-POSTEN,
Lindsborg, Kansas.

REDAKTION:

**CARL SWENSSON.
EMIL LUND.
E. PIHLBLAD.**

A. M. CARLSON, - Annonsagent.

Entered at the postoffice at Lindsborg,
Kansas, as second class matter, January
24 1898.

TISDAGEN DEN 30 AUG. 1898.

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

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Miss Anna M. Carlson might not have been the first woman in Kansas to become an Editor of a newspaper, but she was by far the most dedicated and wide-spread recognized.

Around 1880, Anna and family traveled across the waters from their homeland of Sweden, to the United States. Her father, Gust Carlson, quickly bought land in McPherson County and started farming. Anna was a quick learner, and at age 14 started her career in newspaper. As an apprentice at Salina's Herald she was taught to be a Compositor, or typesetter.

What's in an age? I know I just mentioned Anna was 14 when she started in the newspaper, but I also know she was elusive about her age. In her adult life most population censuses listed her age as "legal" or "Over 21", and censuses as a child placed her birth years from 1870 to 1877. Even her grave marker didn't list a birth date. So for further reference, just pick a year. In my opinion after getting to know her, Anna is timeless.

Back to newspapers, Anna also started working at a new paper called Weekly Tidings in 1890, the Pastor that started this publication in Salina brought his preaching to Lindsborg with the M.E. Church. It was a religious newspaper which led Anna to

go on a mission to Utica, Alaska the next year. Her purpose was to teach indigenous children. One year later, she returned to Kansas as the northern climate didn't fare with her. Anna immediately returned back to work at the Tidings

paper. June of 1894 Anna started working at the Lindsborg News, and helping with the Posten. Her abilities in all aspects of journalism were being acknowledged elsewhere, and she was being called on to help other papers. Anna was also approached about returning to Alaska in 1878 to teach, but declined.

May of 1898 Anna leased a newspaper in Oklahoma, and left both Lindsborg papers to pursue running it, one month later there was a typhoid malaria outbreak in that area, so Anna returned. Because she had been replaced in Lindsborg, Anna spent several weeks working at the Salina Union paper, and others like in Scandia.



MISS ANNA CARLSON,
Lindsborg, Kansas.

MISS ANNA - NEWSPAPER EDITRESS {CON'T}

Lindsborg Posten hired Anna as an An-nonsagent (Advertising Agent) after her return from Oklahoma as well.

In February 1899, Anna's brother Carl, who had been a long time retail man in Lindsborg, packed up with Anna to take over the Soloman Sentinel. This garnered a lot of attention statewide, as there were only four other women newspaper editors in the state at that point. Anna's wit and fairness in reporting helped draw in other newspaper men's attention too.

Professor Frank Nelson, owner and publisher of the Lindsborg News, decided to run for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and November 1898 leased the Lindsborg News to Anna. She had already been filling in as Editor while Frank campaigned.

One year later, after Frank won his election, decided to retire from the newspaper business and sell his complete interest to Anna. December 1900 Anna became owner, publisher, and editor of the Lindsborg News.

Notes came in from all over Kansas congratulating Anna on her success, many newspapers had already been following her writing, often both witty and conversational. It was about this time Anna accidentally created her world syndicated column, or editorial paragraph as was called. After taking over the Lindsborg News, she wanted to start a column, but was too busy to put much effort into titling it. So, she was thinking about Edison's Vidascope at the time, and that is what she called it. Anna fully intended to come up with a better name at some point. The Vidascope column would end up in many newspapers later on, near and far.

LINDSBORG NEWS.

ANNA M. CARLSON, EDITOR.

Entered at the postoffice at Lindsborg for transmission through the mails as a second class matter.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1899.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

I have leased the NEWS to Anna Carlson. Miss Carlson is well and favorably known to the readers of the NEWS and to the people of Lindsborg and vicinity. She needs no formal introduction. She has had more than eight years of experience in the newspaper business and is perhaps the best known news paper lady in Kansas to day. The readers and patrons of the NEWS can rest assured that Miss Carlson will give them a paper that will be a credit to herself and to the city and county. I know that she will receive the cordial and hearty support which she so well deserves.

FRANK NELSON.

During Anna's time as owner of the Lindsborg News, there were two English newspapers in town, the News and the Record. February 23rd, 1912 the two merged, with Anna retaining Editor and J.O. Stromquist handling Business Manager. Printing of the "new" paper was handled by Bethany Printing Co., which had handled the Lindsborg Record already.

Anna's writing was becoming more syndicated, and in demand, so running a newspaper had run its course. September 1915 she sold her interest in the Lindsborg News-Record and went with the Wichita Eagle and Newton Daily Kansan. During WWI, she found just how far her column was going, when a soldier clipped it out of the London Times and mailed it back to Kansas to his girlfriend.

Anna became a novelist in 1930, publishing her first of two novels. It was titled "The Heritage of the Bluestem", the second was "Grassroots Senator", published 1952. She wrote a couple historical books as well, more booklet size.

Anna had worked at many newspapers, including KC and Denver, and contributed to the Associated Press. In 1945 she was summoned back to Lindsborg for a "three-week" emergency assignment, that lasted until 1951 (as Editor again) when the paper sold and she retired. Her writing kept on going though, even as the 1957 Hyllnings Fest committee was planning and Anna was writing about it for the newspaper, she wasn't aware that she had been chosen Queen for that year.

A few days after Hyllningsfest, Anna fell at home. She didn't think much about, even got back to the typewriter and started writing. But when standing back up felt the pain. She had fractured her hip and ended up in surgery.

A few years later Anna had an illness, and on August 10, 1960 passed away while in Lindsborg Community Hospital. Her age? Whatever age you want to give her. All in all, Anna spent 70+ years in the newspaper business.



RULES OVER THE FEST—Anna Carlson, longtime Lindsborg newspaperwoman and author, is crowned queen of Lindsborg Svensk Hyllnings Fest by Mayor Joseph Levin. Hyllnings Fest is annual affair. During it, practically everyone dresses in traditional Swedish attire. (JOURNAL PHOTOS By Bill Huggins)

Anna(isms)

"No sensible woman objects to playing second violin in the family orchestra.

What she objects to is a first violin that always plays out of tune."



And now it is reported that the latest fad for women is to wear men's socks. We know of several wives who wear the trousers, and it's no fad either.—
Anna Carlson.

Upcoming SVHA Programs

May 10th, 2022

Local History of the Railroad and Fur Farming

Chet Peterson, Lindsborg



July 12th, 2022

Lindsborg Doctors, the First and other History

Betty Nelson, Lindsborg



Sept. 13th, 2022

Bethany College Update

Dr. Beth Mauch, President



Nov. 8th, 2022

The Santa Fe Trail Lives On! 1821-2022

Linda Colle, Santa Fe Trail Association



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: _____

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Memberships are renewed in the first quarter of each year

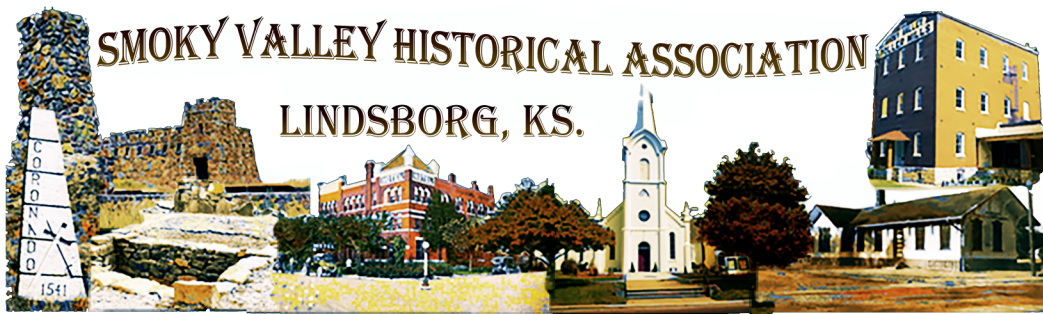


Smoky Valley Historical Association is a non-profit organization and is registered under 501(c)3

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/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:

info@lindsborghistory.org

or mail to:

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 LINDSBORG, KS 67456

WWW.SMOKYVALLEYHISTORY.ORG



SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 LINDSBORG, KANSAS 67456



Bumper Stickers
Available at Old Mill!

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.