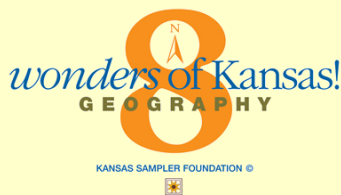


Vår Historia

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



QUEEN CITY OF THE SMOKY VALLEY



**PUBLISHED
BI-MONTHLY**



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Who is the “Queen City”? Why it’s Marquette, KS. There are many cities spread over the USA bearing the nickname Queen City of something, it just so happened that when Harrison Stephen Bacon, or H.S. Bacon as he went by founded this town in Sharps Creek township of McPherson County, he would give it the name of a city in which he came from.

Civil war veteran H.S. Bacon picked up the milling trade after moving to Marquette, Michigan where he owned and operated a flour mill. Now, Marquette, MI. carried the nickname Queen City of the North, so adapting their name for this new Kansas town could only be Queen City of the Smoky Valley. H.S. only came to Kansas to visit his parents and brother who had settled in Rice Co. the year before, 1871. They told him about some land on the Smoky Hill River that would be perfect for a mill.

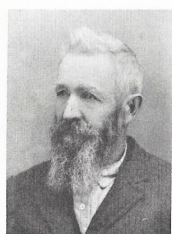
H.S. walked the river until he found a bend that had shale near the surface, making it ideal to build a dam. Once marking that area, he continued on until coming upon a log cabin dugout of the settlers D.N. Myers family. He explained he wanted to build a flour mill and purchased their

quarter of land and cabin for \$1,200. The next February, 1873 Bacon returned with his family. He purchased 10 acres on the North side of the river to build the mill. That land was owned by Anders Erickson, who owned the 80 acres where Marquette now sits.

The dam was built, then with the help of the Bacon’s son-in-law and daughter, who had came to settle, took teams and wagons to Salina to buy lumber and supplies to build a store. J.A. Foster, the son-in-law, had owned a drug store in Illinois. For this new store though it needed to carry everything, and that August even became the post office. The 1884 photo on page 3 shows the store in the fore-front left.

February 9th, 1874 Marquette, KS officially became a town, with charter and newly organized town company. The town company would make the flour mill a reality as well as platting out the town after purchasing the remaining 70 acres from Erickson for \$800.

Typically new towns build a church right away, but settlers had access to Swedish Lutheran Freemont (later Freemont). A log schoolhouse #8 was located one mile south but a stone schoolhouse was built 1875 in town while businesses came up. Bacon’s saw mill was erected 1873. (con’t)



H. S. Bacon, the town founder

QUEEN CITY OF THE SMOKY VALLEY (CON'T)

The saw mill supplied lumber to build the town, and the flour mill was built next to it in 1874. Once the post office moved from Lindh's home, which he named Calmar for his home in Sweden, to Foster's store, Marquette needed a mail carrier. Mrs. August Broman took on the job, walking to and from Lindsborg once a week to pick up and deliver mail. She was paid 75 cents per week.

The first house built on the town site was a stone structure built for H.S. and family in June of '73. Though it wasn't meant to be a hotel, the Bacons opened it up to many. In 1880 there were 11 people living there, including a teacher, miller, store clerk and a farmer. When Dr. Baird came in 1881 he set up a practice then built Marquette's first real hotel by '84.

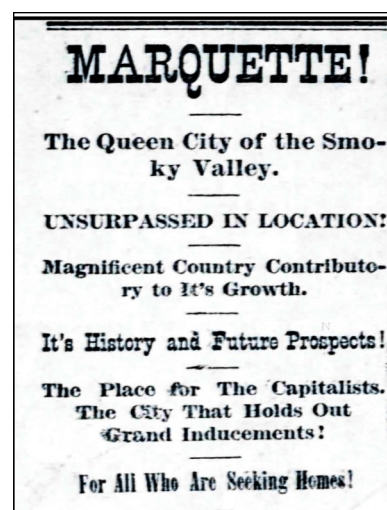
Although a couple of doctors made short stops in Marquette in 1878 and 1880, Dr. Olin W. Baird was the first permanent (and longest) doctor in the city. Before his death in 1928, he practiced over 50 years in the city. How he got to Marquette is the real story, see he was just passing through Kansas on an Indian pony en route to Texas from Nebraska. He made a stop in McPherson to rest overnight, and the next morning discovered his pony was having a colt. While waiting, he was told about Marquette and its need for a physician, so he went to check the town out and decided to set up a practice. Dr. Baird delivered so many babies that he brought three generations in from at least one family.



Dr Baird and family c1905

Dr. Baird also provided many more "firsts" for Marquette, first telephone and automobile just to name a few. He also helped form the first lodge, the Odd Fellows in 1887, and in 1903 helped form one in Lindsborg. On Lindsborg's Odd Fellows 25th anniversary in 1928, just a couple of months before his death, Dr. Baird personally handed out 25 year jewels to many Lindsborg members that were there from the beginning.

1886 should be a year Marquette highlights, as it was the year the Missouri-Pacific RR came through. It was also the year the brick plant, Smoky Valley Bank, and biggest ambition, Opera Block was built. Marquette also held their first city elections that year. The next year, 1887, Kansas passed Municipal Suffrage Legislation, allowing women to not only vote but even run for city office. Marquette didn't have any women running, but they sure did take advantage of this new freedom. A women's caucus was formed, with Mrs. Johnson elected as Chair and Mrs. Baird as Secretary. They submitted the "Women's Party" ticket, which some candidates were elected in. 117 votes were cast in Marquette, 24 of which were women. In Lindsborg there were 186 total votes, only 4 were women. Kansas was the first to pass women's suffrage and the first woman mayor in the nation was elected that year, in Argonia, KS.



Marquette has also had its share of tragedy, from flooding, large fires, and grasshopper invasions, but the biggest tragedy came in 1905 in the form of a tornado, or cyclone as called in the early days. May 8th was uneventful, except for a lightning bolt that came out of clear sky and hit the giant cottonwood tree near Bacon's house, startling everyone. Around midnight that tree was shredded by a tornado. Marquette had no warning as a path 100 yards in width cleared through a large section of city. It was estimated 1 in 7 citizens were killed or injured, breaking down to 30 dead and 60+ injured. 42 homes were destroyed as well as two churches and many businesses. Olof Olson set up his furniture store as a morgue and there were two mass funerals that week. Marquette soon found they had friends they never knew existed, bringing in thousands of dollars in relief donations. The Queen City held that crown and rebuilt with their heads held high. 🌿🏠👤

THE

Marquette Monitor.

VOLUME I MARQUETTE, KANSAS, FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1887. NUMBER I.

The Monitor.

There was no naval engagement during the civil war that was so far reaching in its results as the battle between the Merrimac and Monitor off the eastern coast at Hampton Roads. The confederate iron clad gun boat, the Merrimac was demolishing the union fleet when the Monitor appeared on the scene and after a severe encounter succeeded in vanquishing the confederate monster, and saved the union fleet. It is claimed by an eminent historian as one of ten decisive battles of the world. The Monitor was invented by Erierson, the famous Swedish gun boat builder. In honor of the great service rendered this country by that iron clad vessel, the Monitor, we christen the first newspaper published in Marquette.



Marquette, Kansas, in 1884, taken from Bacon Mill, looking north.

After 1905 tornado

❧ People Of Marquette Look Up! The Future Is Big With Promise! Let Us Build Anew A Better City. ❧

Due to Covid-19 social distancing our May program has been cancelled. We hope to reschedule this program in the near future. Stay safe during this trying time.

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

Cancelled!

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: _____

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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



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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 valley 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 two BOD positions open.

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.

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.

<p>Is a member of the SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, Inc. which has headquarters in Lindsborg, Kansas</p> <p>Was born in a log cabin ()</p> <p>Was born in Sweden ()</p> <p>Great-grandparents came from Sweden ()</p> <p>Forefathers were here before the Swedes ()</p> <p>Great-grandparents homesteaded in the Valley ()</p> <p>Attended one-room school ()</p> <p>Has worked at The Old Mill in operation ()</p> <p>Has sung in the Messiah Chorus ()</p>

TACK SÅ MYCKET!



SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
LINDSBORG, KANSAS 67456