



**Lyndon Area
Historical Society**
Bridging the past with the future

February 2018 Annual Newsletter

Thank You!

Your support keeps our doors open. Your single (\$10.00) or family (\$20.00) membership dues go a long way. We could not host our events without your volunteerism and financial support. John Crady, Gary Sutton, Bryan Bowen, and Doug Dunlap volunteer their time and skills trouble shooting issues inherent in our 1863 building. A special shout out to Todd Kullerstrand who generously provided and grilled the pork chops for our 4th Annual Bridge Bash. We thank the PHS Leo Club and Art Club and their advisors for their assistance at both the Bridge Bash and Santa’s Workshop. The generous donations received from the Almyra (Tootie) Montgomery Powell Family, Rod and Linda Copeland, Carla Ann Harrison, Keith Crady, Vern Bielema, the Mary Bowen Memorial will be dedicated to the 2018 facility improvement projects.

2017 Financial Summary

Income Source	Amount	Expenses	Amount
Dues	420.00	Utilities	1261.69
Donations and Memorials	4570.00	Supplies for Exhibits, Archiving and Storage	1531.82
Fundraisers	4943.00	Insurance	940.00
Memorabilia	120.25	Wildermuth Pest Control	200.00
Facility Usage Fee	25.00	Website	230.00
		Other	100.00

Contact Mary Ellen Rogers (815-778-4962) for further information concerning donations and memorials.

Reflections of 2017

January	archiving and cleaning	September	4 th Annual Bridge Bash (fundraiser)
February	Basket Weaving Class (fundraiser)	October	Lyndon’s Best (exhibit)
March	First Full Board Meeting for 2017		Bowen Family Tribute (service)
April	Spring Trivia Night (fundraiser)		Trick or Treating (service)
May	Graduation Party (private event)	November	Fall Trivia Night (fundraiser)
			Honoring Lyndon Area Vets (exhibit)
June	Wedding and Prom Dresses (exhibit)	December	Ladies Christmas Tea (service)
July	Ladies Summer Tea (service)		Santa’s Workshop (service)

TOTAL RECORDED VISITORS FOR 2017 = 350+

Honoring Lyndon Area Veterans

On Sunday, November 12, 2017, we held our 2nd annual open house and exhibit – Honoring Lyndon Area Veterans. Thirty-two veterans were showcased. Informational posters were created for each. Uniforms and other memorabilia were also on display. Two of the Lyndon Area veterans featured in our 2017 exhibit were father and son.

Eugene H. Wollesen “Gene” served in the US Army in the Korea War (1950 – 1954). His parents were Henry and Helen Wollesen of Morrison, IL. Gene’s siblings were Arlene Pape, Evelyn Oetting, and Berniece Janssen. He was married to Betty Jean Taylor of Lyndon at the Lyndon United Methodist Church on September 12, 1954. Betty shared her wedding dress and wedding album with us. It was displayed at our June 2017 Wedding and Prom Dress Exhibit. Gene and Betty’s children are Tammy Jean Wollesen and Bryan Eugene Wollesen. Gene and Betty built their Lyndon home in 1955. Betty still resides there. Gene worked for GE in Morrison for 31 years. They owned and operated the Crow Valley Camp Ground from 1975 until 1995 when they sold it and fully retired. They spent many winters in Apache Junction, AZ. Gene is buried at Grove Hill Cemetery in Morrison, IL

Bryan Wollesen served in the US Army. He was stationed 1.5 years at Fort Benning, GA, 6 months at Fort Chaffee with the Cubans, and 1 year at Krietzsfeld Army Depot in West Germany. His parents are Gene and Betty Wollesen. His siblings are Tammy Wollesen and Maryanne Anderson. Bryan grew up in Lyndon, IL and still resides there. He has retired from the Dixon Correctional Center where he was a prison guard officer. He has since completed schooling and holds a degree as an LPN (licensed practical nurse).

If you are interested in submitting information on family members who served, please contact Lois Pilgrim at 815-213-1952. The 2018 Veterans Exhibit is planned for Sunday, November 11th. LAHS board members are also compiling service information to be published in a spiral-bound book – ***Honoring Our Lyndon Area Veterans***. We sure could use your help in creating the veteran’s posters/displays for our annual exhibit and in compiling information for this book!!!!

Remembering Our Lyndon Area Residents Who Have Passed Since Our 2017 LAHS Newsletter

Carl Belha, Mary Bowen, Grace Bowen, Marie (Madsen) Bowen, Beth E Tarvin, Betty Ann (Harrington) Soltow, Roger Kallenbach, June Metcalf, David Ricketts, Neal C. Olinger, Roy Osteen, Janet Port, Alymyra (Tootie) Montgomery Powell, Arlynn Reiling, John C. Taylor, Beverly (Rhine) VanOosten, Mary and Pete Crady, Ken McDonald, Claire Bolhaus

A Page from History (excerpt from Lyndon Historical Society Newsletter May, 1995)

“On January 12, 1995, wrecking equipment began the demolition of the Lyndon School which had been built in 1915, and for many years, used as grade and high school for the community. The building had remained empty for several years. Demolition of the old school leaves a vacant spot in the community and in the history of Lyndon. The gymnasium, built in the 1930’s, remains standing today, and will be put to some use in the near future...”

Archiving

LAHS Board members continue to archive Lyndon’s “treasures”. If you can find an hour or two a month to help us out, please contact Lois Pilgrim at 815-213-1952. You will find it a most fascinating journey! It is vital that we preserve all that we can of our rich and often overlooked past.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please remember!! We are sustained through volunteerism, fiscal diligence, generosity, ingenuity, optimism, and elbow-grease. ***Annual membership dues, donations, memorials, and fundraisers are critical to our continued existence.*** LAHS is not funded through any foundations, trusts, or endowments. Currently, we are working on grant opportunities. Please consider helping us by:

- Volunteering at our fundraisers, exhibits, and service projects
- Helping us create/build/stage exhibits and displays
- Becoming an active LAHS Board Member to assist in the operation of the facility and events

Proposed Facility Improvement Projects for 2018 and beyond...

- Repair some of the old wiring
- Repair the Lyndon Bridge Replica
- Repair the exterior concrete steps
- Replaster/Paint downstairs fellowship hall
- Research the feasibility of installing a stair lift to the basement fellowship hall

LAHS Wish List

- High Resolution projector for our Trivia Nights and Programs
- Museum-grade storage containers for archival materials
- Supplies for displays and exhibits (frames, posters, paper, decals, markers, printer ink etc.)

2018 Proposed Calendar of Events (All events and dates are subject to change. Refer to website calendar for updates)

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| • April 14 Spring Trivia Night | September | TBA |
| • May Ladies Coffee and Card Games | October 31 | Trick or Treating |
| • June TBA | November 3 | Fall Trivia Night |
| • July TBA | November 11 | Honoring Lyndon Area Vets |
| • August TBA | December 16 | Holiday Open House/Santa’s Workshop |

Usage of the Facility

Both the chapel and downstairs fellowship hall may be reserved for private events and celebrations. Visit our website for a copy of the Facility Usage Agreement. Consider LAHS for a class reunion. Contact Kris Bielema (815-499-4015) for further information.

Media and Marketing - www.lyndonareahistoricalsociety.org

If you wish to contact us, best to call Kris Bielema at (815-499-4015). We also are on Facebook as **Lyndon Area Historical Society**. "**You Know You Grew Up in Lyndon if You Remember...**" is another excellent Facebook page you will enjoy visiting. We are generally featured in The Echo, The Whiteside Sentinel, The Erie Review, the Fulton Review, and Aroundptown.com. Our website has a photo gallery, calendar, history, facility usage forms, genealogy research, Lyndon Bridge chronology, past issues of our newsletters, and a membership form.

Memorabilia For Sale

We have a variety of items available: canvas prints of Lyndon Bridge in winter, t-shirts, magnets, coasters, mouse pads, can coozies, postcards, notecards, Lyndon History Books compiled by Gene Harrington, Whiteside County History Books, and stagecoach schedule posters and Civil War posters of the 75th Regiment Company B – Lyndon Rangers.

LAHS Little Free Library

Right outside our facility is our Little Free Library - borrow a book...share a book!

Board Meetings/Hours

We meet the last Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at 405 4th St. West. All board meetings are open to the public. (No regularly scheduled meetings December - February). Generally, we are open Wednesdays from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. In the winter months (January – February), it is best to call Kris Bielema at (815-499-4015) if you plan a visit.

Sincerely,

*Carol (Richmond) Crady – president; Lois Pilgrim – vice president; Mary Ellen (Hunt) Rogers – treasurer;
Kris Burke-Bielema – secretary. Board Members: Bart Bielema, Jim and Connie Boonstra, Dale Ann and Terry Cook, Lindy Greenwood, Neil Johnson, Brady Nance, Alicia Wetzell, Kodi Wright*

Lyndon Area Historical Society Membership Form

Return this portion with your membership dues/donation/memorials.

To make a monetary donation and/or to become a member, please mark the appropriate area and mail your check to our address: Lyndon Area Historical Society PO Box 112 Lyndon, IL 61261.

Check Payable: Lyndon Area Historical Society We are a 501 (C) 3 tax-exempt organization.

_____ Single Membership (\$10.00)

_____ Family Membership (\$20.00)

_____ Monetary Donation/Memorial

(Please specify the intent of donation/memorial in the space provided below).

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I am interested helping out the Lyndon Area Historical Society. Contact me.

**Lyndon Area Historical Society
405 4th Street West
PO Box 112
Lyndon. IL 61261**

**LOCAL POSTAL PATRON
LYNDON, IL 61261**

