

February 2021



Lyndon Area
Historical Society
Bridging the past with the future

Annual Newsletter

Greetings from the Lyndon Area Historical Society.

Our annual newsletters have always been a reflection of the previous year's exhibits, events, fundraisers, speakers, challenges, and accomplishments. As our board started this process for 2020, our first thoughts were to **share what we were able to do.**

Our sanctuary provided ample space for the social distancing needed to hold meetings. Several Village of Lyndon Board meetings and one Prophetstown Lyndon Tampico Education Foundation board meeting were conducted at our facility. The Lyndon Area Historical Society held but two official board meetings at our facility. Our board is composed of seniors and young parents. We thought it prudent to continue much of our work through emails, phone calls, texts, and limited in-person meetings. Much work was done at home. Several of us worked individually or in small groups to safely stage our annual tribute to Lyndon Area veterans. Twelve new posters were added in 2020 to our collection of over 130 tributes: Richard "Dick" Mayer, Allen Wayne Snyder, John Arthur Rushmyer, Ernest "Sonny" Johnson, Donald Fisk, Donald K. Woodard, Clarence "Woody" Woodard Jr., Daniel Franklin Millikan Jr., James "Jimmy" Truitt, Kenneth "Bud" Cady. 64 tributes were on display November 8, 2020. Aroundptown.com showcased the exhibit on their site. The exhibit will remain on display through March 15, 2021. You may call for a private viewing (Lois at 815-213-1952 or Kris at 815-499-4015). Contact us if you are interested in having us create a tribute to a military family member. We will mail you an information form.

Following COVID 19 protocols, we welcomed several visitors, including two members of the Holt Family. They donated several items owned by Dr. Aaron Holt, a Lyndon homeopathic doctor of the mid to late 1800's. We have received items donated to us from Bryan Bowen, Judy Buhlman, and the family of Anna Marie Belt Bretthorst. We will continue to have our facility open to visitors by appointment only.

Much needed income for our utility and insurance bills came from the kind generosity of a local business, former and current residents. A grant from the Funding New Beginnings Community Foundation has allowed us to purchase a laptop, printer, and archiving software. Our treasurer

diligently maintains a record of our fiscal status. Those records are available to you upon request. Currently, we cannot lease our facility for private events. We cannot have large gatherings for programs and fundraisers. We cannot have our Little Free Library open.

Times such as these demand that we remain focused on our mission – stewardship. We continue to preserve a record of our traditions and heritage while expanding our positive impact on our community. Our next challenge - becoming a community internet hot spot.

Currently, we are documenting and preserving the history of these most unprecedented times and its impact on all of us. Time Magazine August 2020 issue included an article titled – “*The Uncertain Future of Places That Preserve America’s Past*”. This caught our attention. That is us - here in small town Lyndon, Illinois. We are a repository of knowledge and wisdom of Heartland America. We must learn from our past struggles and document our current ones. We are a sanctuary in troubled times. We ask you to join us in this effort.

Please remember!! We are sustained through volunteerism, fiscal diligence, dues, memorials, fundraisers, ***availability of grant monies***, generosity, ingenuity, optimism, and elbow-grease.

Those annual membership dues, donations, memorials, and fundraisers are critical to our continued existence. LAHS is not funded through any foundations, trusts, or endowments. We are a 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity. All donations are tax-exempt. We can provide documentation of your donations for your financial records. We wish you good health, safety, resiliency, and peace.

LAHS Board: Carol (Richmond) Crady – president; Lois (Johnson) Pilgrim – vice president; Mary Ellen (Hunt) Rogers – treasurer. Kris (Pifke) Bielema – secretary. Board Members: Bart Bielema, Jim and Connie (McAndrews) Boonstra, Dale Ann (Stump) and Terry Cook, Lindy Greenwood, Neil Johnson, Brady Nance, Mimi (Zelinski) Sweetser, Alicia (Attig) Wetzell, Kodi (Dennison) Wright

Remembering Our Lyndon Area Residents

Please remember these former and current residents of the Lyndon Area who passed away in 2020: Anna Marie Belt Bretthorst, Ed Kelley, Anthony (Tone) Velazquez, Vera Hamstra, Irene Koester Ahrens, Linda Bannick Collin, Jimmy L. Church, John L. Crady, Kristine DeWitte (Lyndon postmistress), Linda Lou Waller Foldemauer, Lloyd Beal, Jerry A. Coffin, Loyd D. Crocker, Sandra S. DeJonge, June Matuszewich, Avis Sutton, Paul William Simester, Jana Kelley, Margaret Porter,

Randel Nance, Rose Rhodes, Henry James, Dale Janssen, David Ricketts Jr., Marilyn Waller Rippy, Larry Scanlan, Breanna “Bre” Scott Eich, Brian D. Scott, Wesley Smith, Duane Van Oosten, Dale “Bo” Wiersema, Daniel Merrill.

Marketing and Media

Kris Bielema (815-499-4015) is your contact. On Face Book, visit ***You Know You Grew Up in Lyndon if You Remember...*** Our website at www.lyndonareahistoricalsociety.org has a photo gallery, calendar, history, facility usage forms (currently not available), genealogy research, Lyndon Bridge chronology, past issues of our newsletters, and a membership form. We are often showcased in AroundPtown.com and The Sterling Gazette, The Echo, The Whiteside News Sentinel, The Erie Review, and the Fulton Journal. Look and Listen for PSA announcements of events on WLLT 94.3 FM, PSA boards at the PLT #3 District Office, Prophetstown Super Wash, Lyndon Village announcement board at the public works building on Commercial Street, and flyers posted throughout the Lyndon area.

Lyndon Area Historical Society Membership Form

Return this form to: Lyndon Area Historical Society 405 4th Street West PO Box 112 Lyndon, IL 61261

Check Payable: Lyndon Area Historical Society

_____ **Single Membership (\$10.00)** _____ **Family Membership (\$20.00)** _____ **Monetary Donation/Memorial**

Please specify the intent of donation/memorial _____

Name _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

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

**Local Postal Patron
Lyndon, IL 61261**

