



Greetings From the Lyndon Area Historical Society,

It is with great sadness that I begin this 2022 Newsletter to inform you of our Vice President’s passing. Lois (Johnson) Pilgrim died January 2, 2022. Since 2016 Lois had been instrumental in creating the impressive annual tributes to our Lyndon area veterans. Before she died, Lois was already working on and had completed a display featuring the unsung courage and valor of women in the military. Lois’ display will be a feature of our 2022 Salute to Veterans Exhibit November 6, 2022. Lois is very missed by the LAHS Board, her friends and family.

The 2021 Salute to Veterans held on November 7, 2021, was well-received. Following Covid protocols, approximately 35+ visitors passed through our doors. Seventy-four veterans were honored. The exhibit was featured on [www.aroundptown.com](http://www.aroundptown.com) and in *The Echo*. The 2021 Honorees were: Everett Glazier, Floyd Walter Johnson, Jerry Pilgrim, Darrell Lee Mattson, Larry Rick, Duane Elliot Rick, and Peter Steven Schmidt. The 2021 exhibit will remain on display through March 31, 2022. You may contact us for a private viewing (Kris Bielema – 815-499-4015). Contact us if you are interested in having us create a tribute to a military family member or friend. We will mail you an information form.

With another year of Covid, we continue to navigate through the restrictions, precautions, and changes here at this Lyndon community gem. But all the while, our care for the facility and preservation of Lyndon history has not waned. We depend on your support. Your generosity is invaluable! Thank you! Our ability to host large-scale fundraisers such as our fun-filled Trivia Nights have been on hold since spring of 2020; yet our monthly expenses have increased significantly. Our income for 2021 is \$6459.00. We remain ever optimistic that 2022 will bring us closer to a vigorous schedule of fundraisers, exhibits, and events.

**Keeping Our Doors Open - 2021 Operating Expenses**

Expenses	Amount	Expenses	Amount
Utilities (gas/electricity/water)	1442	Newsletter Printing	328
Supplies/Exhibits/Archiving/Clerical	60	Repairs/Maintenance	95
Insurance	1057	PO Box	62
Pest Control	150	Bank Lock Box	32
Website	200	Postage	12
Laptop/ Printer (2020 grant monies used)	1030	TOTAL	4468

Contact Mary Ellen Rogers (815-778-4962) for further information concerning, our operating expenses, fundraisers, dues, donations, and memorials.

Reflecting on all we have accomplished sustains our commitment during these turbulent times. A metal roof, new gutters/downspouts, exterior trim painting, central AC, chairlift, carpeting, electrical updates, laptop/printer, and Wi Fi access are a direct result of your generous donations, grants, and fundraisers. Although Covid persists in battering our World and loved ones, our accomplishments remain impressive. We have been able to reopen our Little Free Library and continue to host our annual Salute to Area Veterans. The Robert (Bob) Shambaugh family graciously loaned us a family scrapbook. Bob gave LAHS permission to copy the numerous news articles, photos, and other memorabilia preserved in this rare and rich repository of Lyndon history. We continue to maintain the planter at Gibson’s Conoco. The ramp has been power washed, repaired, and stained. A generous neighbor provided the water for power washing. Historical society board members power washed and made the structural repairs. An anonymous donor supplied the stain and paid for the services of a professional painter.

The Lyndon Area Historical Society commends LEAP (Lyndon Economic Advisory Panel) for their efforts. LEAP is a committee of village residents who gather and brainstorm different ideas that would benefit the Village of Lyndon. LEAP is researching the process required to apply to the Illinois State Historical Society for a historical marker to be placed at the Old Lyndon Bridge. The Lyndon Area Historical Society can best provide the primary documents/facts required in the application. Through past citizen action (Save Our Bridge), the Old Lyndon Bridge was saved from demolition and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. This additional marker would enhance the current marker with historically significant Lyndon and bridge facts. Similar markers can be located by Illinois county on a searchable map through the Illinois State Historical Society website. LEAP is confident that this marker would promote Lyndon with a nod toward future tourism while highlighting the historically significant status of the Old Lyndon Bridge on the Rock River.

As for changes, most notable in 2021 was the stepping down of Carol Crady as president. In May of 2021, she made it official at our board meeting. To be perfectly honest, this left me with a lump in my throat as I considered the implications of that leadership change and the future of the Lyndon Area Historical Society. I enjoy history but the task of filling Carol's shoes was quite daunting to me and not something I would have normally considered. A member of our board put my name forward to take on the task. After this board meeting, I really did cry as I felt the burden of these new responsibilities. My fear of taking on a leadership role gave me concern...usually I am better as a helper.

However, knowing Carol Crady will still be present as a board member and provide support encourages me. I am very grateful, Carol! Though I have always been interested in history, I never really considered local history until I moved to the Lyndon area in 2017. It was at a Bridge Bash where I met Lois Pilgrim. She invited me to come to the historical society. I have been involved here ever since. The memory of a radio broadcast provides further inspiration as I assume the presidency of the Lyndon Area Historical Society. Two very significant messages from that radio broadcast have motivated me to become involved at a level I never intended. The first message: *"the more children know about their family's history, the stronger their sense of control over their lives, the higher their self-esteem and the more successfully they believed their families functioned turned out to be the best single predictor of children's emotional health and happiness."* This quote is from Bruce Feiler summarizing a study on the resilience of children. The second message speaks of "genealogical consciousness": *"the act of being aware and having a sense of responsibility to our ancestors, progenitors and all of future humankind is an act of altruistic selflessness. Not only does it help the individual (families), but all of humanity."* This second quote comes from Amy Harris, History Professor at Brigham Young University. These takeaways have shaped my thoughts on the importance of caring for LAHS. You can read more about the information I mentioned at: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/why-we-need-family-history-now-more-than-ever>

As stated in our annual newsletters: ***"we are sustained through volunteerism, fiscal diligence, dues, memorials, fundraisers, availabilities of grant monies, generosity, ingenuity, optimism, and elbow grease."*** LAHS is not funded through any foundations, trusts, or endowments. Because we are a 501 ( c 3) non-profit entity, 100% of all contributions (donations and memorials) **must be directed solely** to the care, operation, improvement, and maintenance of the Lyndon Area Historical Society. All donations are tax exempt. Please consider us in your retirement planning and/or IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Contact your financial advisor/ tax preparer for further information on the most current IRS guidelines for charitable donations. The Lyndon Area Historical Society treasurer will provide documentation of your donations for your financial records. We thank you for being a part of the society and your continued support as we look forward to the future with a firm grip on the past.

And so, it is with a great sense of honor, duty, and personal conviction that I take on the task of presidency at our Lyndon Area Historical Society. Though my history here is brief, it is so very important. It only started about 27 years ago when my parents first moved here. But, shortly after that, my connection here took on greater sentiment when my now husband Peter and I announced our engagement at my parents' under-construction home on the Rock River. That weekend Pete even painted a little watercolor of the barn-like structure. What has happened in the past, what goes on presently and what happens in the future of the town of Lyndon very much matters to me. It is very worthy of our steadfast stewardship.

With Kind Regards – Mimi Sweetser, LAHS President

## Remembering Our Lyndon Area Residents (Obituaries 2021)

Diane Livingston Bellows (3/15), Kathleen Oltman Book (4/5), Michael Bowen (8/13), Velma Johnson Buhlman (2/4), Wilma Jane Overly Cornelius (7/11), Jeanette Vahle George ((2/24), Kelly Russell Hicks (5/12), Claudia Jacobs McDonald (2/24), Carol Kallenbach (3/28), Mary M. McWilliams (11/12), Kurt Mills (10/28), Ruth Mitick (8/25), Alastair Reid Muir (12/10), Marilyn L. Pifke (4/26), Clarence Reiley (4/7), Robert Sisson (4/28), Robert Swanson (1/31), Betty Lou Wiebenga Taylor (7/15), Richard Taylor (3/13), Susan Bennet Walatka (12/14), Brian Williams May (5/2), Thomas David Zelinski (4/30)

## 2021 Grants

**Funding New Beginnings Community Foundation** – Wi-Fi Access and installation of outside water spigot. Wi-Fi Access enhances our clerical, research, and organizational capabilities. Water spigot allows us to maintain exterior of building and to plant a shade garden on the property.

**Usage of the Facility** - Due to Covid 19 guidelines and insurance restrictions, the use/rental of our facility for large private events is on hold.

## Media and Marketing

If you wish to contact us, call Kris Bielema at (815-499-4015). ***You Know You Grew Up in Lyndon if You Remember...*** is an excellent Facebook page you will enjoy visiting. We are often showcased at [www.aroundptown.com](http://www.aroundptown.com). Currently, our website is functional but is being updated. It does have a photo gallery, history, facility usage forms, genealogy research, Lyndon Bridge chronology, past issues of our newsletters, and a membership form. [www.lyndonareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.lyndonareahistoricalociety.org). The village website is: [www.villageoflyndon.org](http://www.villageoflyndon.org).

## Memorabilia For Sale

We have a variety of items available: t-shirts, magnets, coasters, mugs, mouse pads, can koozies, postcards, notecards, Lyndon History Books compiled by Gene Harrington, and Whiteside County History Books. Beautiful, photos of the Lyndon Bridge can be ordered.

## Board Meetings and Museum Hours

Board meetings are the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at 405 4<sup>th</sup> St. West from March – November. Generally, we are open Wednesdays from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. It is best to call ahead (Kris Bielema at 815-499-4015) if you plan a visit.

## LAHS Officers/ Board

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

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### Lyndon Area Historical Society Membership Form

Return this portion with your membership dues/donation/memorials.  
You keep our doors open! Thank You!

To make a monetary donation and/or to become a member, please mark below. Return this form to: Lyndon Area Historical Society 405 4<sup>th</sup> Street West 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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Local Postal Patron**  
**Lyndon, IL 61261**

