

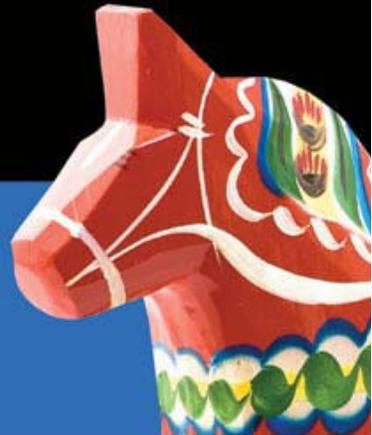
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SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE
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For Immediate Release
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The Höglund Dugout

LINDSBORG, KANSAS - 05/10/2011 -

One of the more unusual and unexpected sights in Kansas is the Höglund Dugout. Even though it is not readily apparent on the beaten path, the grave-like home dwelling is remarkable and worth searching out as one tries to imagine residing years in a rock reinforced 6ft x 12ft hole in the ground. The Dugout is located outside of Lindsborg near Coronado Heights.

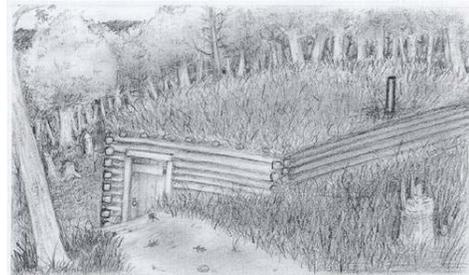


Höglund Dugout, 1993

Dugouts were not uncommon in the Midwest during the 19th century. A lack of building supplies, the price of lumber from the East and sparse growth of trees contributed to the phenomenon. In addition, most homes built above ground were produced cheaply with no insulation. The lumber homes were hot and dusty in the summer and cold and drafty in the winter. In contrast, a dugout constructed with and in sod was relatively snug and kept the harsh elements to a minimum. Normally "Scandinavian" dugouts, as they were known, were built into the side of a hill. There are examples of dugouts in Sweden, so perhaps this is where Midwest Scandinavian immigrants

conceived and developed the idea. However, the Höglund family lacked an incline on their chosen plot of land and therefore dug down.

Gustaf Höglund was born in July 18, 1841 in Fernebo, Sweden in the province of Värmland. He moved to Kansas as so many did, for a promise of a better life and religious freedom. Maria née Olsson was born September 20, 1846 and arrived in America with her family in 1869. Gustaf and Maria were married on January 8, 1871 by Rev. Olof Olsson (no known relation to Maria) in the



Conjectural drawing of the dugout dwelling in Swift County, MN, of Anna Byberg Christopherson Goulson by Steve Culler.

Bethany Lutheran Church where they both were members. Mr. Höglund built the Dugout where their first two children were born, Gustaf Jr. in 1872 and Alma in 1873. As the Höglunds were diligently occupied with farming, they found time to construct a shanty that served as their second home when Emil was born in 1875 and Lydia in 1877. By 1880 the building of

a large 2 story, five bedroom home was complete. Four more children were born after this time: Elizabeth in 1879, Gustaf Simon in 1884, Anna Olivia in 1886 and Alma Sophia in 1888. The home was built over the Dugout serving as a root cellar for years, preserving it for future generations.



An example of a dugout dwelling in Sweden.

The Höglund children proved to be robust as they all lived long lives which was quite extraordinary at the time. The children worked hard at their parent's farm and continued to labor long after their parents passed away. The children never married or moved from the farm.

The last of the seven Höglund children, Alma, died in 1975. The Höglund land was willed to Bethany Lutheran Church, the Bethany Home and the Lindsborg Community Hospital. A one acre plot on which the original dugout and homestead were located was deeded to the Smoky Valley Historical Association.

The dugout is open for public visits 1 mile west of Lindsborg on Wells Fargo Road (continue west from Swensson Street in town), and approximately 1/4 miles south on 12th Avenue. Or take Highway K-4 west out of Lindsborg and drive 1 mile to 12th Avenue. Turn north onto 12th and drive approximately 3/4 mile. The dugout is on the east side of the road and there is ample off-road parking provided by the Lindsborg Historical Association.



Contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau for more information regarding events in Lindsborg. Ph: (785) 227-TOUR (8687) or Toll free: (888) 227-2227. E: cvbdir@lindsborgcity.org. W: visitlindsborg.com. When in Lindsborg, please stop by at 104 E. Lincoln for all travel information. See you in the 'Borg--A Destination For All Seasons!

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