

The Life of Edward Franklin Sox

By Cathy Ingalls, ARM board member

Edward Franklin Sox, a prominent man in a variety of ways in Albany years ago, is a name pretty much lost in the city's history.

The Illinois native, who died in 1928, taught English literature and mathematics at Albany Collegiate Institute, was "principal" of Albany's public schools, operated a hardware business, was active in civic, church and political affairs, and was a veteran of the Civil War.

Here's a detailed look at the life of Edward Sox.

Sox was born on his father's farm in Whiteside County on Jan. 28, 1846.

At age 18, he enlisted in the 140th Regiment of the Illinois Volunteer Infantry, serving in the Civil War until October 1864.

His regiment was organized at Camp Butler in Illinois and mustered in for 100 days. He saw action helping repulse Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forest's attack on Memphis.



Image of Edward F. Sox courtesy Paul Huzefka

There are records of him as the senior vice department commander at the 52nd national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in Portland in 1918.

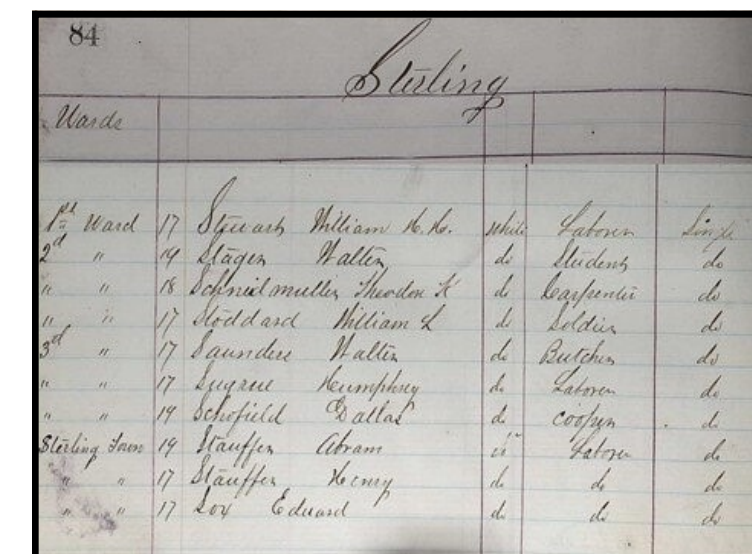
Sox attended Wheaton College and the University of Michigan.

He then moved to Portland, where he taught school for a few months before coming to Albany.

He worked at the institute, a Presbyterian college formed in 1867, from 1872-75.

His first wife was Weltha Young, one of his students and a member of the first class to graduate from the college. Her brother was S.E. Young, a well-known and successful Albany businessman.

After three years in Albany, the pair moved to Illinois for two years after which they left for Seattle, returning to Albany in 1886.



Wards					
1 st Ward	17	Stearns	William S. Co.	White	Laborer
2 nd "	14	Stager	Walter	do	Student
"	18	Schmidt	Thos. H.	do	Wagoner
"	17	Hodsdon	William H.	do	Soldier
3 rd "	17	Saunders	Walter	do	Butcher
"	17	Lygaree	Keunphrey	do	Laborer
"	14	Schofield	Ed. Hall	do	Cooper
Starling Town	14	Stauffer	Abram	do	Laborer
"	17	Stauffer	Henry	do	do
"	17	Sox	Edward	do	do

Edward Sox Civil War enlistment July 1, 1863.
Photo Courtesy Paul Huzefka

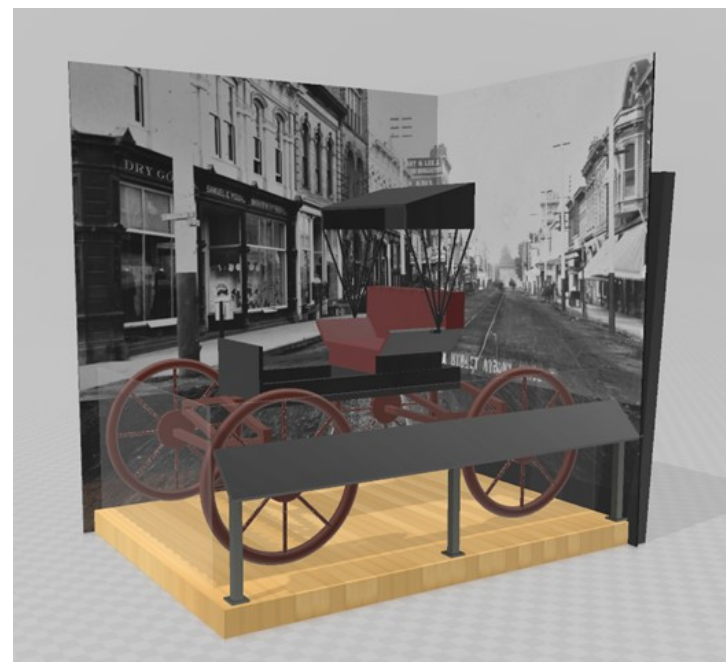
Upon their arrival in Albany, Edward Sox became involved in the hardware, implement and insurance business.

Sox operated his hardware store for the most part under the name Stewart & Sox Hardware Co. The firm sold the business to Barker Brothers Hardware about 1915. (cont. p.2)

Annual Membership Meeting - New Beginnings

It is time for our annual Membership Meeting. We invite all members to join us on January 20th at 6 pm for light refreshments and a presentation on the new beginning we have planned for 2022. Executive Director Keith Lohse will preview the changes to the Museum exhibits. The presentation is followed by the State of the Museum and nominations for our slate of Board Members:

Julie Lindgren-Bower,
Kitty Buchner, Linda
Collins, Jason Darling,
Cathy Ingalls, & Mark
David Spence.



Right: 3-D model of new Transportation Exhibit. See more sneak peeks at the Annual Meeting.

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Mom Dances in the 1950s

By Rebecca Blackburn

My name is Rebecca Blackburn. I have gathered a bit of my mother's story attending the dance halls in her day. My mother's name is Lavonne Mahr. She resides in Corvallis, OR, and had her 90th birthday last July 16, 2021.

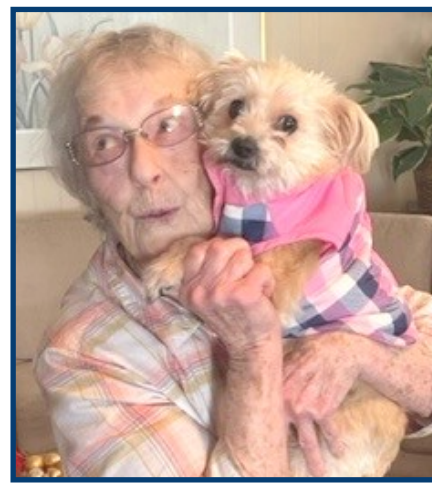
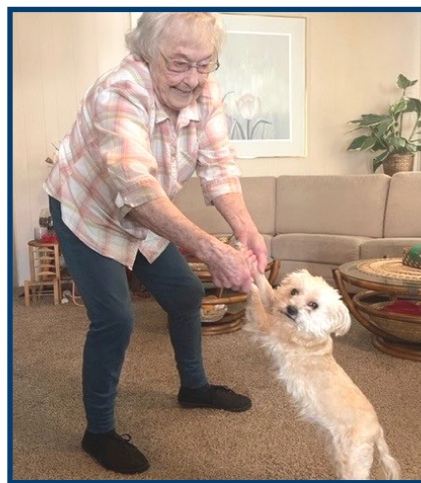
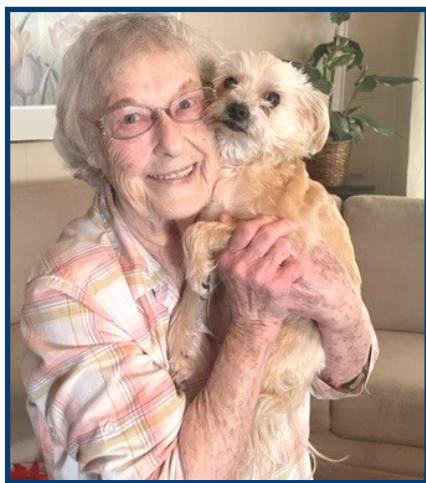
Lavonne is still dancing every day and nothing can stop her, certainly, not Pacific Northwest foggy nights. She and her friends would pile into a car and drive to Albany from Corvallis every weekend. One night it was so foggy she sat on one headlight bumper and a friend on the other with flashlights helping the driver find the way...just to go dancing! Hum, might this be what the Cottonwood Ballroom folks meant by "Over at the Tumble Inn it is a little bit of the wild side?" (Note from author: "Yikes, Mom!")

She danced to all the big bands, including one night up in Salem where the floor formed a circle around her and her dance partner, to Artie Shaw Live. Another night, she went dancing to the tunes of Louis Armstrong up in Portland. The Jitterbug was her favorite dance.

Lavonne worked at a dance studio and would teach ballet and tap moves to the Oregon State Beavers Football Team as it aided in their performance on the field in strength and agility.

In addition, my mother was approached by Talent Scouts of Arthur Murray Studios to work for them, as they knew a good dancer when they saw her dancing at Tumble Inn.

Today Lavonne does most her dancing "Cheek to Cheek" with her dog, Missy. "The spice to life is a bit of dancing," says Lavonne, "So kick up your heels."



Photos Courtesy Lavonne Mahr & Rebecca Blackburn

The Life of Edward Franklin Sox

(cont. from p.1)

While not at the office, at various times Sox served as a director of the YMCA, president of the Albany Iron Works, treasurer of the Albany Street Railway, director of the First National Bank, a delegate to the 1896 Oregon Republican Convention held in Albany, and he was a church elder.

Weltha Sox died in 1921, and he married Ella Gary Ellis in 1922.

Sox died in Portland and is buried in Albany's Riverside Cemetery.

Information for this story was provided by Paul Huzefka, a researcher for the Linn Genealogical Society, and the files of the Albany Regional Museum, 136 Lyon St. S.

Membership Benefits us All

A Museum membership has its perks; free admission, invitation to our annual membership meeting, and our member appreciation event. Higher levels of membership offer additional benefits including the North American Reciprocal Museum membership (NARM). Below you will find a highlight on NARM and a listing of all our benefits. Members play an important role in the Museum. Membership provides 20% of our operating funds, which means your membership will benefit all by keeping the lights on. Thank you for the support.

NARM Benefit Highlight:

Destination Tacoma Washington

By Kathwren Hayes

Visitor & Member Services Assistant

A visit to Tacoma had been calling me for some time. When I realized that Tacoma, Washington, had five NARMs (North American Reciprocal Museums) our Anniversary destination was sealed. NARM memberships are included with ARM memberships from the Hub City level on up.

We started our visit outside with Dale Chihuly exhibits that delighted my senses with large, bold shapes reflecting an array of color on the bridge in the Museum District. When I opened the door to the *Museum of Glass*, music notes came spilling out from the Tacoma Banjo Club. I tapped and hummed all the familiar tunes throughout the exhibits.

The following day we visited *Foss Waterway Seaport*. Thea Foss purchased a row boat in 1889 while her husband, Andrew, was working out of town. Andrew was so impressed by the amount of money Thea had made while he was away that he quit his job with the Rail Road and started making boats of fine quality. "Foss Maritime was founded by two Norwegian Immigrants with skill, business savvy and five dollars. A highly suggested must-see was *LeMay American's Car Museum* so see we did. My favorite tidbit was seeing the 1923 Lincoln Touring Car that was the first car to cross the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in July 1940. Four months later the Narrows Bridge collapsed. In July 2007, the same 1923 Lincoln Touring Car crossed the NEW Narrows Bridge and paid the first toll.

Our time at Tacoma allowed for only one more museum: The TAM (*Tacoma Art Museum*) couldn't help but feel empathy while reading Shirley and Bernard Kinsey's collection of rare letters, manuscripts, photos and books on the African American life and experiences in America.

After one week, my husband and I had saved \$132 in admission fees. We attended museums we might not have attended if we hadn't had a NARM membership and to sweeten the pot...when it's free you're not paying any sales tax, plus you'll receive 10% off in the gift shop but you still have to pay sales tax there.

Where would you go with a NARM membership? Take a look at possible locations for your next adventure at <https://narmassociation.org/>



Sponsorship Opportunities!

The Albany Regional Museum has items that need a little help. Special storage materials and spaces can be costly, but essential to preserving our past! Here are two items that are looking for sponsors.

Albany American Legion Band, 1930

(1989-014-200)



This photo was taken on July 13, 1930, when the Albany American Legion Band traveled to Jantzen Beach to take part in the first annual Northwest Amateur Band Contest. Playing to an audience of thousands, the American Legion Band quickly won first place, winning \$1000 in prize money, used to help pay for their uniforms.

**Needs: Print Box, Polypropylene Sleeve, and Custom-Made Folder Sleeve
Sponsor for \$50**



Albany Brewing Co. Glass

Over 100 years old, this glass was made in commemoration of the Albany Brewing Co. contribution to the Linn County display at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial held in Portland, OR which showcased the county's rich grains, grasses, fruits, woods, mill products, and more.

**Needs: Specimen Box, Dividers for Box, Acid-Free
Tissue Paper**

Sponsor for \$60

Some Facts on Tumble Inn, by Kathwren Hayes

The Tumble Inn opened on Thursday, August 14, 1924. It was built by Colonel. Ben T. Sudtoll and was located on two acres of fir trees north of Albany on the Pacific Highway (across from Wah Chang/ATI). In addition to a dance hall's 40 by 60 foot floor, there were two enclosed porches, a gentlemen's smoking room, the ladies parlor, dining rooms, a kitchen and a separate room for the orchestra. Wow! The Salem Orioles from Salem was the first orchestra to play at Tumble Inn.

- 08/12/1924 "An officer will be on the grounds to protect the automobile guests from Marauders and to enforce the 18th Amendment. No pity will be shown the person who attempts to break the laws."
- 10/20/1924 "With the hunting season just one week in progress, pheasants galore have been suppliedby American Legion."
- 10/31/1924 "A free bus will be operated....between St. Francis hotel and Tumble Inn"
- 03/7/1925 "Follow the crowd to Tumble Inn"
- 04/19/1928 "Gentlemen 75c, Ladies Free"
- 06/25/1929 "Always Crowded"
- 06/13/1930 "Make Whoopee at Tumble Inn"
- 03/05/1931 "Men 50c, Ladies 10c"
- 08/06/1943 "Don't come to Tumble Inn If you don't want to have a good time."
- 09/21/1943 "Tumble Inn closes for Labor Day weekend....personnel had worked without rest for two and one-half years."

A big THANK YOU goes out to Jim Creighton for sharing his collection of newspaper clippings from 1924 to the selling of Tumble Inn Club on April 8, 1955. Jim's collection will be on loan at the Albany Regional Museum until February 2022, if you'd like to browse through it. Our hours are Tues - Fri. 11-4, Sat 10-2. If anyone has a photo of the Tumble Inn or Colonel Ben Sudtoll, Albany Regional Museum would like to see it.

From the Director's Desk...



Executive Director Keith Lohse

... Tough Times Don't Last

It's hard to believe in just a few short weeks we will be ringing in a new year. As I look back on 2021, I feel immense gratitude. Through closures & restrictions, new events & more cancellations, our community has stuck with us. When I worked in trucking, we had a saying, "Tough times don't last, tough teams do." Our community of supporters has shown us how tough they are. Thanks to you, we have weathered another pandemic year. Whether you have given time, money, or a family treasure, thank you for your support.

To continue this theme of gratitude, you will find a listing of our members in this newsletter. We love our members because they love Albany's history. Thank you for your faith and trust in our mission to preserve and share your stories. On January

20th, we will hold our annual membership meeting. If you saw our recent appeal letter you know we have some important announcements coming that day, so I hope to see many of you there.

Speaking of our appeal, I appreciate all who have already contributed to the 2021 campaign. We have passed 50% of the goal having raised over \$7,850 already! We aim to end the year strong. Would you consider helping the Museum reach our goal today? For your convenience you can donate online at armuseum.com or over the phone by calling 541-967-7122. Be part of our tough team and move us towards our new beginnings in 2022.

With gratitude,

Keith Lohse

The Albany Regional Museum is strong and growing, thanks to our loyal members

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