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RECEIVED

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Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Ave NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter serves as my appeal about closing the Andover, IL post office. Andover is centrally located for Andover, Osco (which is also scheduled to be closed) and Lynn townships. It appears that the Postal Department has not considered closing the Lynn Center post office instead of Andover.

Besides being centrally located in the three townships, Andover has 242 PO boxes issued, compared to 38 for Lynn Center; it is the largest of the three towns, with a significant number of businesses that use the post office; it is the largest square foot facility of the three; it has the longest remaining lease of the three (thru October of 2014); it has fire and police protection (fire station across the street); it has ample customer parking, whereas the Lynn Center post office has very limited parking; it is a tourist destination, with thousands of visitors coming every year to the many interesting sites (many listed on the National Register of Historic Places).

For the record, we were told by Wendy Berg, Manager, Post Office Operations in Cedar Rapids, IA, that one of the reasons the Andover post office could be closed was because it has no dedicated postmaster. She said when the last one retired September 30, 2009, a hiring freeze prevented the USPS from naming a replacement. This is not true, since the hiring freeze did not take effect until July 28, 2010 – almost ten months later. She also told us in her May 5, 2011, letter that the USPS would provide pickup and delivery of mail by rural route service if the Andover post office was closed. The next month, she informed us at an informational meeting that mail for Andover customers would be placed in “cluster boxes.”

Please give this matter your urgent consideration. I am enclosing an Andover brochure.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ron Peterson

Received

OCT 25 2011

Enclosure

Office of PAGR

## Welcome to the VILLAGE OF ANDOVER

You don't have to leave the present to go back to a time when . . .

- folks sat around a wood stove and just visited;
- and grandma churned butter in her kitchen while she baked fresh bread;
- and churchgoers came to worship services driving a horse and buggy.

Memories of these past times still exist in Andover, Illinois, where residents share the past with present day visitors.

Andover is Henry County's oldest community. It was started in 1835 by the visionary Presbyterian minister Rev. Ithamar Pillsbury. The fledgling colony was patterned after New Haven, Connecticut, as its founder envisioned it to be a seat of learning, religion, and commerce.

The English pioneers had a mill which attracted many early settlers to the village. The mill, which was constructed in 1836, was Henry County's first industry.

Swedish folk "discovered" Andover in 1840 when a Swedish seaman, Sven Nelson, became a "landlubber" and settled to enjoy the beautiful prairie land and the scenic Edwards River.

Folks from Nelson's homeland learned about Andover and sailed the Atlantic Ocean, traveled by canal boat and covered wagon, and even walked long distances to settle in here.



*American Woman's League Chapter House*



*Augustana Lutheran Church*

These early settlers met with Andover hospitality - the same hospitality which exists in the village today.

Andover, a village of English and Swedish history, has preserved this heritage for visitors. The past is joined with the present in a pleasant Illinois rural atmosphere.

The Jenny Lind Chapel, constructed in the early 1850's, is the Mother Church of the national Augustana Lutheran Church. Just east of the Chapel, you will find Augustana Lutheran Church. This magnificent edifice, with a steeple towering 130 feet, dominates the prairie today as it did when it was built in the 1860's.

The Swedish Methodist Church, which was organized in 1849, provided ministry to the Andover area for 150 years. The newest church edifice, which was built in 1864, is now a private residence. The first Swedish-American Methodist parsonage in the world was built in 1855, and also is a private residence.



*Jenny Lind Chapel & Immigrant Museum*

***Andover has two museums which preserve its past.***

The Jenny Lind Chapel downstairs museum tells the story of the Swedish immigrants who came to Andover. Look closely, there are tiny Swedish hymnals, a Swedish spinning wheel and some accounts kept by the Rev. Lars Paul Esbörn, who received a \$1,500 donation from the "Swedish Nightingale," Jenny Lind, to build the chapel in 1850. A taped presentation by Swedish historian Dr. Conrad Bergendorff adds details to the displays.

The Andover Historical Museum, just west of the Andover Lake Park, also contains memorabilia of early life here. There's an "old timey" parlor complete with sheet music on the organ. Got a hankering to read about "the good old days"? Andover historians have collected scrapbooks full of old time news articles.

The museum is a testimony of the devotion of Andover people to preserving and sharing their history. Now the Andover Historical Society has also restored the American Woman's League Chapter House, which is located near the Historical Museum.

Plan to spend some time at the Andover Lake Park - a perfect spot for a family picnic with its pavilions and bandstand. There's playground equipment for youngsters and places for the "young-at-heart" to relax and enjoy their visit to Andover.

A visit to Andover means you can get away from it all - at least while you are here!

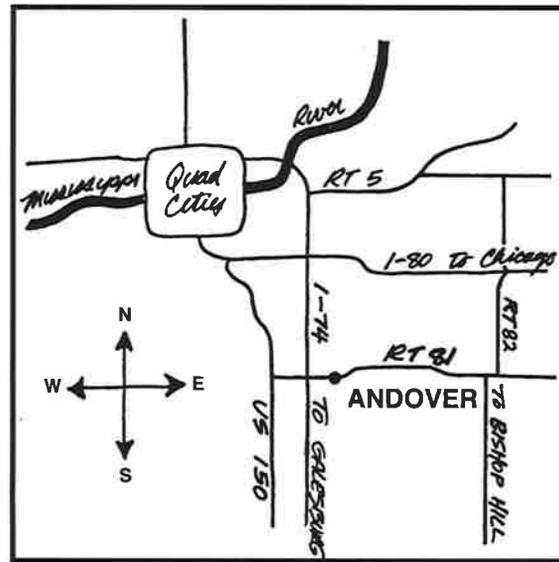


*Andover Historical Museum parlor*

	PINE	OAK	MULBERRY	LOCUST	ELM	CEDAR	BEECH	ASH
4TH								
5TH	11		2 3	7 1		US HIGHWAY 81		8
6TH	5	4	10		12			9
7TH								
8TH	16	6						

### IMPORTANT SITES TO VISIT

- ANDOVER LAKE PARK** - This beautiful and well-equipped 10 acre park is the central location for many of Andover's festivities.
- ANDOVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GROUNDS** - This home of August Rehnstrom was built in 1861 by Eric Berglof, and served as a temporary haven for Swedish immigrants in the 1860's. On the front lawn you can see the bell salvaged from Andover's first two-story school, millstones from the original historic Edwards River Mill, and a historic marker denoting the fact that the first post office in Henry County was established in the Andover Colony in May of 1837.
- AMERICAN WOMAN'S LEAGUE CHAPTER HOUSE** - Built in 1911, and listed in the National Register of Historic Sites, it is now owned by the Andover Historical Society.
- AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH** - The second church building of the Andover Lutheran congregation. Built in 1867, this "Cathedral of the Prairie" seated 1,000 people.
- JENNY LIND CHAPEL** - Named after the famous Swedish nightingale singer, who contributed a sizeable contribution to the construction of this building in the early 1850's, it is the "Mother Church" of the former Augustana Lutheran Church of America.
- FORMER SWEDISH METHODIST CHURCH** - Built in 1854, this church served the first Swedish congregation in Andover.
- SITE OF ANDOVER'S FIRST TWO-STORY SCHOOL** - Built in 1858 (Andover's first school was located just south of the colony, and was erected in the late 1830's).
- OLD SOUTH ANDOVER - PEORIA STAGECOACH ROAD** - Following this road approximately 1 1/2 miles south takes you to the site of the Edwards River Mill, which was constructed in 1836.
- PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY** - Andover's founder, the Rev. Ithamar Pillsbury, and many other English settlers are buried here.
- FORMER FIRST SWEDISH METHODIST PARSONAGE IN THE WORLD** - Built in 1855.
- CHOLERA CEMETERY** - Scores of people were buried in open trenches here in 1852-1853. At the peak of the dread cholera epidemic, wagons went from house to house in the colony picking up bodies.
- HOME OF ANDOVER'S FOUNDER** - The Rev. Ithamar Pillsbury.
- WILLIAM S. WOOLSY HOUSE AND UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SITE** - Built in 1838.
- ANDOVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SITE** - Built in 1856. This congregation was organized in 1838.
- SITE OF ANDOVER INN** - Built in 1838 & **ANDOVER STEAM MILL** - Built in 1879.
- MIX-LOBECK HOUSE SITE** - Where the Swedish Methodist Church was organized August 26, 1849, and the Swedish Lutheran Church was organized on March 18, 1850. Built in 1837.



Andover is easily accessible by Interstates 80 & 74 or U.S. Route 150. Located on Illinois Route 81 just east of Exit 24 on Interstate 74, it is midway between the Quad-Cities, Galesburg and Kewanee.

Mark these special days to visit Andover

Last Sunday in April  
*Founder's Day Service, Jenny Lind Chapel.*

1st Weekend in June  
*Andover Colonial Days.*

Last Sunday in September  
*Swedish Högmässa, Jenny Lind Chapel.*

1st Saturday in December  
*Andover Christmas Walk.*

Christmas Day, 6:30am  
*Julotta early morning service  
Augustana Lutheran Church.*

For more information, please contact the  
*Henry County Tourism Bureau*  
309-937-1255 or toll free at 877-436-7926  
[www.visithenrycounty.com](http://www.visithenrycounty.com)

Photos courtesy of Austin Oaks Portrait Studio  
Andover, IL 309-521-7066



*Andover Lake Park*

# ANDOVER ILLINOIS

*Where Tradition Meets Progress*



*Jenny Lind Chapel & Immigrant Museum*



*Andover Historical Museum*