

## Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation

### Board of Directors

**Jan Primas, President**

**Kitty McKelvey, V. Pres**

**Kelly Howley, Sec.**

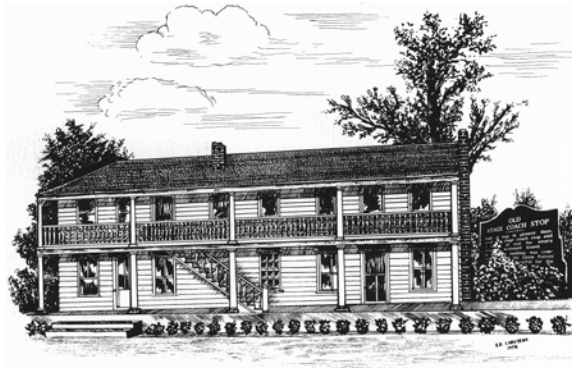
**Pam Barnabee, Treas.**

**Stephanie Nutt**

**Jeanie Porter**

**Terry Primas**

**Glenna Scott**



“to preserve its educational value for future generations.”

Visit our website:  
[www.oldstagecoachstop.org](http://www.oldstagecoachstop.org)

### **29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

At this year’s annual meeting two local authors introduced a new book to those in attendance. John Bradbury and Terry Primas took attendees on a picture tour through old Pulaski County as they discussed their new publication, **Old Pulaski in Pictures- Rivers, Rails, Roads, and Recreation, Pulaski County, Missouri.** The book contains more than 250 images that highlight the rich history of our county. This is a good volume to add to your collection if you are a “history buff.” Many of the images have not been included in any prior publications. The book is available locally in several locations, including the Old Stagecoach Stop. There is a list of locations on our website.

The Board is making a change in our Annual Meeting. Beginning this year, we will combine our meeting with the Fall Route 66

Fest and our OSS Appreciation Day. The date is Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Please put that date on your calendar and join us in the backyard of the OSS. This is our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and we hope to make it a special day. There will also be lots going on around the square. Below is a full list of days you might want to be aware of.

- Mar. 16-St. Patty’s Fest-OSS open/Activities on Square
- Apr. 6-OSS Opening Day
- June 15-Freedom Fest/OSS Open- Activities on Square
- July 22-Old Settlers Gazette delivered to advertisers
- July 27-Old Settlers Day-City Park/OSS
- Oct.19-Ocktoberfest-OSS Appreciation Day/Annual Meeting/Activities on Square
- Dec. 1-Christmas Parade/OSS open
- Dec.5-Christmas on the Square/OSS open

## VIEW FROM THE BALCONY

*Jan Primas, President*

I have served on the Old Stagecoach Stop board for many years and have served as Vice President and also Secretary. Taking on the office of President was never my ambition. I know that leading is far more difficult than following but now I find myself in that position. As I take on the role, my thoughts go to **Maxine Farnham** and how much I looked up to her. I do this as much for her as for the Foundation.

Maxine was an extraordinary woman. Were it not for her courage and foresight, coupled with the support of her husband, we might have no reason for this newsletter or the OSS Foundation. It was through the effort of Gene and Maxine that the rundown building on the square was saved from the wrecking ball. Since that time, she never faltered. Maxine's commitment and support for the OSS never waivered. As I think of her, which I often do, three words come to mind.

She was a **matriarch**, one of the elders or leading older members in a community. She was a **preservationist**, meaning to keep alive, to make lasting, to keep safe from harm. She was a **leader**, meaning to go before, to show the way, to conduct by guiding, to influence, to have top position or first place.

I believe that these words certainly described Maxine, and feel that those in our community who knew her, would agree.

In her last years, she found it difficult to participate as a board member, but she was always our advisor and an integral part of our board process and decisions.

Upon her death in 2010, the family named the OSS as the recipient of donations in her honor. We used the funds to make some major improvements.

The first was to make a change to the front entry to the building. An old photo showed the concrete steps leading from the sidewalk to each front door and also side banisters. With approval from the city, we poured the new concrete steps and added the side banisters. The second was to completely redo the archaeology display. The old display cases were removed, the walls repainted, the floor sanded, new glass front wall cabinets installed, plus a new TV and picture displays. Thanks to **Brown Woodworking** for building our cabinets, and **Terry Primas** for the restoration work with some help from **Hill and Lane Construction**. Thanks also to **Jerry Barnabee** for help removing the old cases. Stop by and see how much better it tells our archaeology story.

## **ON STAGE**

Maxine Farnham was a person of passions and talents. Thankfully for us involved with OSS, one of them was history, particularly local history. Maxine was of pioneer stock. Her father's great grandfather, Jesse Ballew, was one of a handful of early settlers in that large early Pulaski County. He built a log cabin in 1820 on the east bank of the Gasconade near what is now Hazelgreen. When new counties were formed from the original large Pulaski, the Ballew homestead wound up just west of the Pulaski/Laclede line. Jesse Ballew is acknowledged as the first white settler of what is now Laclede County.

During the Civil War, Maxine's ancestors on her mother Molly's side, the Carvers, settled a couple miles south of Wheeler's Mill on the Gasconade, southeast of Crocker. This area became known as Sweet Home, after the school of that name. Mart Ballew was one of the teachers. Consider that if Mart had pursued his teaching career closer to his home place, he would not have met the Carver family and daughter Molly at Sweet Home.

Maxine grew up steeped in county history and civil and civic affairs. Her father, Mart, was elected Circuit Clerk and Recorder when

she was three years old. Mart succeeded Wood Carver, a relative of Maxine's mother, Molly. Wood later served as county sheriff. Maxine spent many afternoons as a child in her father's office at the courthouse and as a teenager helped him with his workload. Those experiences instilled not only an interest but a prodigious knowledge about the county's history and people.

But her interest in history wasn't just academic or passive. She was also an activist, particularly in the case of the Old Stagecoach Stop. Her catalytic efforts in saving that oldest county structure resulted in its preservation. Terry and I came to appreciate Maxine's knowledge and talents when we became involved with the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation. When working on a display or an article, confusion over an event or fact often occurred. The remedy was always the same: "Go see Maxine." Not only would we get the fact cleared up, but, most often we got the historical context to go with it. One such incident occurred when we had questions about the native stone building on Rt. 66 in the county. Terry was sure that one of the buildings had been overlooked as a vintage roadside structure. We asked Maxine about the rock building in west Waynesville that is now an

insurance office. Did she know anything about it? She responded, "Oh sure. That was originally the Roubidoux Gardens, a restaurant. My father and Warren Wyrick had Vern Pruitt build it for them." Vern Pruitt was the master stonemason of Stoneydell fame.

One of our best memories was taking Maxine to St. Louis to get Midwest Living magazine's preservation award some years

ago. When she accepted the award on behalf of the foundation, in typical Maxine fashion, her acceptance remarks were all about the efforts of other people and downplaying her own role.

Maxine's life was exemplary in so many ways. She certainly motivated us toward our interest in local history. She did her ancestors proud.

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FRIENDS of the FOUNDATION- The brick bed is almost full. We have approximately 100 bricks left. If you have not purchased one for your family, or in memory of a loved one, you might want to do so this season. They make good gifts for a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion.

Fill in and detach the form below to have a brick with your choice of engraved inscription. The inscription can be up to three lines, with **no more than twelve characters and spaces per line**.  
 Make checks payable to OSS Foundation. Bricks are **\$25.00** each. Detach order form and mail to: Jan Primas, 10925 Western Road, Duke, MO 65461.

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

## **TAKING the REINS**

At our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, **Stephanie Nutt** was re-elected to the OSS board, but this year her role will be different. Stephanie has been serving as our President since 2009 and we thank her for her dedication and many efforts on behalf of the Foundation. She was ready to relinquish the responsibilities of office, but willing to continue as a valued board member and tour guide. Thanks Stephanie.

This past summer Stephanie appointed **Kitty McKelvey** to the board, to complete the term of a board member who resigned. We welcome Kitty, who also took on the role of Vice President.

Recently a bean pot was donated to the Old Stagecoach Stop by **Bernadine Duddridge**. The last newsletter had an item regarding the history of the pot. We heard from Bea this month and she wanted us to make a correction. When **Oliver Schockley** returned to the area after the Civil War, his five farms were on the Gasconade on what is now Lexington Road, not Cardinal Road as was previously stated. Thanks Bea for the correction and also for your donation to the Foundation.

A huge thanks goes to OSS board member, **Glenna Scott** for the work she is doing preparing a database/map of all the bricks in the brick bed. We often have calls asking about the placement of a specific brick and soon we will be able to quickly pinpoint its placement.

Vendors interested in Old Settlers Day can find contact information for our chairperson, **Kelly Howley** and an application on our website. The date is July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Editor **Terry Primas** is hard at work on this year's Old Settlers Gazette. If you have any old pictures you'd like to see published, please contact us.

Our senior board member, **Phil Bolduc** has taken a break from the board. He has been involved with the OSS since its inception. We hope that he will be ready to serve again soon. Happily for us he will continue to volunteer as a tour guide and for special occasions.

We extend our sympathy to the **Driscoll family** at the death of their son **Chris**. We will miss Chris in his Civil War regalia, walking on the square.

Many thanks to **Gary Gaffner**, **Lorel Rigsby Gaffner** and **Jackie and Al Raphelson** for their generosity and continued support.

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## Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation Renewal/New Membership

The work of the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation is supported by memberships and donations. We invite you to join the Foundation at any one of the membership categories listed below. You will receive biannual mailings of the OSS News and invitations to special events sponsored by the Foundation.

Send to: Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation, P.O. Box 585, Waynesville, MO 65583

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City-State-Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

You may use my email address for :  *special event announcements*  
(please check all that apply)  *OSS Newsletter*  
 *membership renewal notice*

Regular Membership \$10.00  Family Membership \$15.00  Patron Membership \$25.00  
 \*Sponsor \$100.00  \*Lifetime Membership \$250.00

\*Sponsor and Life members will be recognized in the Old Settlers Gazette. However, if you prefer to remain anonymous, please check here. \_\_\_\_