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Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation

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Our Vision -

“to preserve its educational value for future generations.”

Visit our website:
www.oldstagecoachstop.org

WEDDINGS at the OSS!

We have had two lovely weddings this year at the Old Stagecoach Stop.

On August 25, 2021, Camryn Bickerstaff and Austin Sprenger were united in marriage at the first wedding of this season, officiated by Angel Sundance Serenity, minister of Serenity Country Chapel Weddings.



Kim Chenoa and Calvin Johnson were united in marriage on September 20, 2021, officiated by Brandon Swartz.



What a great venue for starting a new life together. Jan Primas helped with the setting and Mark Zurbrick provided beautiful fall flowers to make the occasion special for both couples. We wish all four of them many happy years together. If you are having a small, intimate wedding and looking for an unusual setting, keep the Old Stagecoach Stop in mind. As Laura Huffman commented, “I love that this old building is still the site of new beginnings and momentous occasions.” (See More About Weddings on page 2)

COPIES of the 1906 Map of Pulaski County which hangs in our 1915 kitchen are still available for \$10 each. This map hung in Gene Farnham’s office for many years. We will also have copies of the Civil War in the Ozarks map in color for \$15. This map can be seen in the Civil War room at the Old Stagecoach Stop.



SAVE THE DATE:

Dec. 3 – **Christmas on the Square** is being celebrated from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The decision regarding the Old Stagecoach Stop being open will depend on the county health status at that time.

MORE ABOUT OSS WEDDINGS

Having two weddings at the Old Stagecoach Stop in a month led Terry Primas to research what history we could find about weddings at the Stop. He found a record of another wedding held at the historic building. Reverend James Carney, a Baptist preacher, officiated at the first marriage (that we know of) during the Civil War, stating in a later pension affidavit that he "on the 31st day of August 1864 solemnized the rites of matrimony between Mr. W. B. Phillips and Mrs. Elizabeth M. Wilcox at the residence of W. W. McDonald in the town of Waynesville in the State of Missouri." William B. Phillips was a Union soldier and hospital steward at Post Waynesville. Mrs. Wilcox was the widow of a Confederate soldier who died at the Battle of Wilson's Creek. There have been many marriages since.



Camryn and Austin Sprenger



Kim & Calvin Johnson

We want to express our thanks to all of our ADVERTISERS in the annual *Old Settlers Gazette* - ISSUE 39 of the *Old Settlers Gazette* was delivered to our advertisers on July 19 & 20, 2021. This is a group effort, led by our author/editor **Terry Primas. The board does the difficult job of ad sales and delivery. The entire proceeds are put back into the building, allowing us to make improvements and maintain the building. If you did not get a copy, you can request one at tprimas@mac.com and we will mail you an issue. We appreciate all of the businesses and individuals who placed an ad in the Gazette, especially during this difficult time for small businesses. If you would like to place an ad next year for your business or as an individual, please contact one of the board members as soon as possible.**

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SPOTLIGHT ~~~~~

- Special artifacts at the Old Stagecoach Stop -

Signature Quilts

By Pam Barnabee

When I moved from suburban Illinois to the outskirts of the town of Big Piney, Missouri, in the mid-1970s, I became a member of a group called the Big Piney Friendship Club. It was a group of local women who met once a month at one of the members' homes to visit and take refreshment. I was given a pattern for a quilt block to piece together from fabric scraps of my choosing, with the center square to be in white so I could write or embroider my signature there. I can't remember if the hostess was expected to make signature blocks for all her guests, or if each guest was expected to bring a signature block to that month's hostess. At any rate, club membership dwindled over time and eventually ended. I never did collect enough blocks to create a quilt. The club was a tradition of an older generation than my own, a generation that surely felt the isolation of living in a small, rural town more deeply than did their daughters.

That was my introduction to the tradition of signature quilts, a tradition that dates back to the 1830s. In those days, autograph books were popular. Young women and men would gather signatures of friends and acquaintances; signers would often add messages, verses, or artwork. During this time, indelible inks were also being developed, and so the concept of collecting signatures was transferred to textiles.

Signature quilts were created in a number of ways. Sometimes, as in the Big Piney club, the recipient would receive a completed quilt square from each participant, so that she could use her own fabrics to complete the quilt top in a cohesive design. Other times, a single quilter or group of quilters would create the quilt top from fabrics donated by the other participants. Often, women organized "quilting bees" to complete the construction of the quilt. These were social occasions that might include the whole family. The quilt top, along with the layers of batting and backing material was placed in a frame, and multiple women worked to stitch it together. The less-skilled sewers among the group kept busy threading needles and cooking an elaborate lunch. While the women sewed, the children played and men socialized. Diaries written in the 19th century describe day-long bees that included evening suppers, sing-a-longs, and dances.

Historians identify two different kinds of signature quilts: "Friendship" quilts are made up of blocks that are all in the same pattern, while in the more formal "album" quilt each block is a different pattern. Either way, these signed quilts were popular gifts in the late 19th and early 20th century, to commemorate a variety of occasions. Bridal quilts were given from family members to brides (and/or grooms) upon marriage. Freedom quilts were given to a young man on his 21st birthday, as he left home to become an independent man. Presentation quilts were given to honor a member of the community. Remembrance quilts were given to family members or friends moving away from the area, to remember their loved

ones back home. Fundraising quilts were made to raise money for an organization or cause; people paid a fee to have their name added to one of the quilt blocks or a completed quilt was auctioned off.



In the McDonald Cabin, one of the two original rooms of the Old Stagecoach Stop, built in the 1850s by W. W. McDonald on what was then the western frontier, it's especially poignant to think of those pioneer families who left behind family and friends to settle a new and unknown land. A signature quilt would have been a treasured keepsake. Hanging on the wall is a signature quilt designed and constructed as a fundraiser in 2011 by Sara Price, a volunteer at our museum then. Community members paid \$5 apiece to sign a strip of muslin that Sara then used, along with reproduction Civil War-era fabric, to create the quilt blocks. Information from each signer was saved in a file box. A second signature quilt, a friendship quilt donated to our museum, lies on the rope bed. Who were these women who signed it? Who was it made for and why? Sadly, we will probably never know.



Sara and Pam with the quilt.

2021 Old Stagecoach Stop Activities Report

Submitted by: M. A. Zurbrick

Maintenance and Repair

Reinking in Tavern Room Replaced chinking between logs that had been knocked loose during the replacement of exterior wood siding.

Storage Room Additions Installed additional shelving to store infrequently used items and installed a bar to hang clothing. Fabricated a 25-compartment shelf unit to store small items such as office supplies and hardware that had previously been scattered throughout the museum in various drawers of period furniture.

Deep Cleaning In expectations of reopening the OSS in July, after being closed due to the Covid pandemic for nearly a year-and-a-half, OSS volunteers rolled up their sleeves and washed, swept, dusted, and polished the building back to a visitor-welcoming appearance.

HVAC Repairs The first-floor central air conditioning unit was repaired and the condensation pump located under the building was replaced. The pump was donated and installed by an OSS volunteer; however, the AC circuit board replacement required a HVAC professional, a cost of \$517.

Assorted Exterior Maintenance The gutters were cleaned out in April and again in October. We also kept the exterior facing the square clean and bright with a thorough power washing in June and October. The sidewalk and donation bricks were also power washed and all weeds in the cracks were sprayed and subsequently removed. An OSS volunteer also cut and removed trees, bushes, and vines adjacent to the McNeese building that were encroaching on the parking lot of our good neighbor, Security Bank of Pulaski County. With the

growth of the large hackberry tree on the north side of the OSS, grows our difficulty in opening the wooden door into the cellar. The decades-old door was trimmed as a temporary fix; however, a new frame and door is planned as a hopefully longer lasting solution.

McNeese Remodeling In September, the west room of the McNeese building was completely emptied in preparation for remodeling. This entailed donating a couch and chair to Good Samaritans, boxing up potentially still usable supplies and temporally storing them in the east room, and delivering a large host of unusable items to the dumpster. The sagging particleboard ceiling was also removed and disposed of.

Displays

Dentist Room Print A 22 x 27" framed print of a 1918 painting of an unnamed Army dentist in St. Nazaire during World War I was donated to the OSS. The soldier/dentist in the painting has a remarkable resemblance to 1st Lieutenant James Titterington, who served on the front lines in France as an oral surgeon during the last year of the war. Dr. Titterington returned to the United States, resumed his civilian dentistry practice, and in the mid-1930s, became the owner of the Tourist Hotel, now known as the Old Stagecoach Stop.

Other Small Items Additions to the OSS displays included a ceramic jug for the McDonald Cabin room. The inside of the wooden bucket in the cabin was sealed in order to hold water that could be "offered" to visitors using a dipper gourd. A cloth early Civil War-period haversack along with samples of hardtack and rifled musket cartridges now reside in the Civil War room. Several previously empty medicine bottles in the Dentist Room were filled with liquids and pills to better give visitors the impression that Dr. Titterington was well stocked and prepared to treat his patients' oral problems.

Financial Analysis and Reports

In March, three reports were submitted to the board of directors for their consideration.

The first report was a 14-page examination of the OSS's expenses and income for FY2017-2019. Our yearly expenses during this time averaged approximately \$6,600 for reoccurring expenses such as printing the Old Settlers Gazette, utilities, insurance, postage, and cleaning supplies. In addition, we had one-time expenditures, such as the replacement of the McNeese roof and hot water heater, which averaged an additional \$3,000 per year. During the same time frame, the average annual income was approximately \$15,400 with two-thirds of this revenue coming from the sales of advertisements in the Old Settlers Gazette. The rest of our income was from visitor donations, tour fees, memberships, and souvenir and book sales.

The second report was a 26-page discussion of six ways to reduce expenses and ten strategies to increase income in the future. It was estimated that if we implemented all six expense reduction strategies we would be able to reduce our annual expenses by, at best, \$700.

Implementing all ten income enhancement options could increase annual revenues by as little as \$1,800 to upwards of \$9,200.

The 7-page third report focused on other potential investment strategies for funds currently held in checking and money market accounts. After further discussions and deliberations, the board of directors voted to move a portion of our savings into a Vanguard no-fee total market equity mutual fund. We are expecting this change to result in our savings to grow at an average rate of about \$3,000 per year.

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ON BOARD



The Old Stagecoach Stop is the oldest publicly accessible building in Pulaski County. Who owns the museum? If you're a member of the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation, you're one of the owners. The Old Stagecoach Stop Board has nine directors that conduct the business of the museum. Those same nine people make up the majority of the volunteers who keep the building open on Saturdays, April thru September and for special tours and events. Without their dedication, there would be no Old Stagecoach Stop House Museum.

The **Vision** of the **Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation**, as noted on our website is "to preserve, restore, protect and maintain the historic structure in Waynesville, Missouri known as the "Old Stagecoach Stop" in order to permit its educational value to be appreciated by future generations; to engage in educational and charitable activities related to the "Old Stagecoach Stop."

Old Settlers Day, organized by **The Pulaski County Museum and Historical Society** was not held this year, due to the current health status in the county. We look forward to enjoying it again next year.

The OSS no longer holds an **Annual Meeting** of the Foundation membership. The **Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation Annual Report** is available on our website in November.

Old Stagecoach Stop Activity

There are two ways to keep abreast of the Foundation's activities. We have a website and a Facebook page that are active and have current news/events.

Our Facebook page is listed as: Old Stagecoach Stop Museum and Foundation or go to [Facebook.com/oldstagecoachstop](https://www.facebook.com/oldstagecoachstop) if you do not have a Facebook page.

The website also has the current and all past issues of the *Old Settlers Gazette* available for reading/research. www.oldstagecoachstop.org

Podcasts on the Website

Tune in to hear Dru Pippin, Jaretta Laughlin, Robert Lee Bates, Pearl Wilson, Louise & Argus Skaggs, Jiggs & Dorothy Miller, and Irene Mitchell Morgan tell stories from the "old days!"

Virtual Tour - A New Feature

A new feature on our website is a virtual tour where visitors can start a guided tour or click on a map of the building and explore each room, floor by floor. Terry Primas spent many hours taking pictures, processing historic images, and laying out and revising the new web pages. With assistance from his wife, Jan, the virtual tour was completed and now provides an enjoyable journey for visitors. The website is a rich source for resources of our county.

Membership Please remember to renew your membership. The form you need is included on the back page of this newsletter. We need the support and interest of the community to continue our mission. Questions about your membership status - email pamela.barnabee@gmail.com

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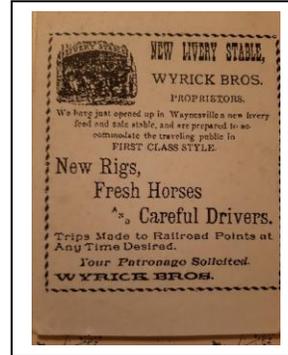
View from the Balcony

Jeanie Porter, President

We were grateful to once again be able to conduct tours of the Old Stagecoach Stop this year, although it was on a limited basis. We were open by appointment only. Two volunteers were scheduled for each Saturday and were "on call" for those wishing to schedule a tour. Frequently, tours were also conducted during the week, subject to an available tour guide. Many times when parents are here for Fort Leonard Wood graduations, they are looking for places to visit in our county, so we were able to meet that need whenever possible. We were so thankful that we were able to share our wonderful history with a large number of people, although not nearly as many as usual. We were even blessed to have two weddings at the Stop, one in August and one in September. If you're looking for an unusual setting for a wedding, we encourage you to contact us and we will do our best to accommodate your special day.

Thanks to our wonderful board members, the Stagecoach Stop received a thorough cleaning before tour season started. Since it had not been actively used for tours for over a year, it desperately needed that effort. It is sparkling clean and awaiting your presence for a tour. Call Jan at 573-528-7150 or Jeanie at 573-336-3561.

One thing that never ceases to amaze me is the comparison of how things were back in the early days of the Old Stagecoach Stop and how they are today. Here are two examples:



They call them the "good old days," but having only horses for daily transportation, especially in the winter, must have taken great strength and courage. And ladies, imagine buying a new pair of shoes for only 95 cents! Amazing!

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to visit the **Trail of Tears Exhibit** in Laughlin Park in downtown Waynesville. This site on the National Historic Trail commemorates the encampment of the Cherokee Indians as they were forced to move along the infamous "Trail of Tears" in 1837 and 1839.

Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation Membership Application

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.

Complete this form and mail to:
Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation, P.O. Box 585, Waynesville, MO 65583
Please make checks payable to Old Stagecoach Stop.

Name _____

Address _____

Email address _____

You may use my email address for:
(please check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>special event announcements</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>OSS Newsletter</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>membership renewal notice</i>

Level of Membership:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> *Sponsor \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> *Life \$250	

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

** Questions about your membership status - email pamela.barnabee@gmail.com

Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation
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