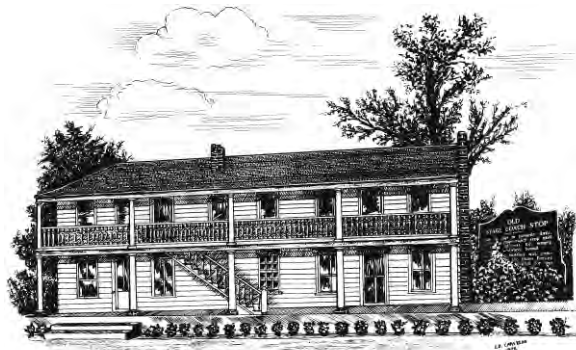


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Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation



Our Vision -

“to preserve its educational value for future generations.”

Visit our website:
www.oldstagecoachstop.org

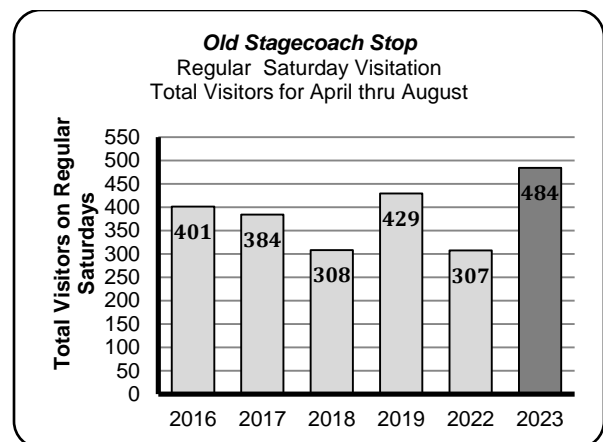
Old Stagecoach Stop on Path to a Record Year

Submitted by M. A. Zurbrick
 The Old Stagecoach Stop (OSS) has kept a detailed record of visitors to the museum since it opened to the public in 1995. Over the subsequent decades we have seen a somewhat steady rise in the number of guests hosted each year. And it looks like 2023 will not be an exception to that positive trend. What is exceptional is the rate of increase we are experiencing this year.

Excluding visitation associated with special events like Freedom Fest and Old Settlers Day, and tours offered during weekdays, visitation on “regular” Saturdays from April through August are significantly exceeding numbers posted for the same five month period for the past five years.

Looking at the years of 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2022, (we were closed in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid) we hosted between 307 and 429 visitors on regular Saturdays between April and August, with a five-year average of 366 guests. In the first five months of this year, 484 folks have signed our guest book. This represents a **32% increase** compared to the past five years!

After this year’s Christmas on the Square celebration, we will tally up all visitors and provide a final summary of 2023 visitation in the spring newsletter. While we are happy to report this steady increase in the number of folks visiting from near and far (Waynesville to Australia), our all volunteer staff numbers have remained essentially unchanged for more than a decade. If you’re a “history nut” and like visiting with others, you might be a great addition to the OSS team as a tour guide.



SAVE THE DATES:

- Oct. 14 – **Oktoberfest**- 11-4 pm
- Dec. 7 – **Christmas on the Square** is being celebrated from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

A Little Bit of History

In case you missed it, this article by Terry Primas is from this year's 2023 Old Settlers Gazette.

This column is not so much about the Old Stagecoach Stop as it is about the town it sits within and the square on which it is located.



Notice the parking meters in front of the OSS (above) and on the courthouse square (right). The story of the meters and home mail delivery in Waynesville are intertwined.

In the late 1950s, the City of Waynesville still did not have home delivery of mail. If you wanted your mail, you had to go to the post office to get it. To have home mail delivery, postal regulations required that the streets must be named and marked, along with house numbers. Not all of the streets had agreed upon names and there were two Olive Streets. Only the streets around the square had posts with names.

The parking problem caused by the highway and Fort Wood moved the City Council to consider parking meters along Route 66 and around the square.

A resolution to place meters around the square was passed on March 8, 1951, but the decision was rescinded a week later after negative local reaction. The parking problem persisted and despite divided opinion, parking meters were finally installed on the square and City Route 66 in July of 1958.



By the end of 1960, for the first time in the city's history, all of the citizens within the city limits of Waynesville were able to tell their friends what streets they lived on. Black-on-white street signs were erected, made possible from the proceeds of the parking meter fees. That led to black-and-white house numbers on residences in 1963. The final step in the progression was home delivery of mail in Waynesville. The city installed mailboxes with name and address at the curb for \$10.00. City home mail delivery commenced on Saturday, October 21, 1967.

The City Council voted to remove the parking meters in October of 1971.

The OSS no longer holds an **Annual Meeting** of the Foundation membership. The **Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation Annual Report** will be available on our website by January 5, 2024.

Welcoming the New While Sharing the Old

by: M. A. Zurbrick

Readers of past Old Stagecoach Stop (OSS) newsletters regularly read about what is new at the museum; be it a donated artifact, redesigned display, visitor statistic, or other news of “what’s new”. However, rather than focusing on an inanimate object or an interesting number, we are going to focus on what has been, and continues to be, the OSS’s most important resource, our VOLUNTEERS! Many have been acknowledged in past newsletters, articles, and books, for their four decades of preserving and sharing history with visitors from near and far. Now we add another person to that noteworthy list of folks who have helped keep this more than a century-and-a-half-year-old building standing, and its rich history alive.

Our newest volunteer is also our youngest volunteer. Joseph Chaney is a local 8th-grade student with an admirable ability to share history with others, be they fellow students, or folks old enough to be his grandparents.



He is also quite willing to tackle the less “glamorous” aspects of volunteering at the OSS. One of his first “jobs” in the summer of 2022 was removing decades of dirt from the cellar floor.



On Saturdays this summer, when he was not preparing the building for opening and greeting visitors, he was washing windows, sweeping floors, and oiling furniture. He has also become adept at “keeping the lights on” (by refilling the oil lamps).

Those of you who visited the OSS during the 2022 Christmas on the Square event may have been welcomed at the door by Joseph, who offered candy canes to younger visitors. You might have also seen him during this year’s Old Settler’s Day, when he handed out free Old Settlers Gazettes, to folks in the park.

What Joseph likes best about volunteering at OSS is getting to meet people from all around the world and having the opportunity to learn and share history with others. When Joseph isn’t volunteering at the OSS, he enjoys all kinds of outdoor activities and cooking.

(continued from p. 3 – Joseph)

If you think you might like to join Joseph and the rest of us OSS volunteers, please contact Jeanie Porter, OSS board president, at 573-336-3561 or Jan Primas, OSS vice president, at 573-528-7150.

Foundation Formation Anniversary

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of the purchase of the Old Stagecoach Stop and the incorporation of the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation. The vacant and dilapidated “old hotel, as it was referred to by that time, had been cited by the City of Waynesville as in violation of a city ordinance prohibiting “hazardous buildings” in the spring of 1983. The owners did not intend to rehabilitate the structure. Lifelong Waynesville resident Maxine Ballew Farnham and husband Gene did not want to see the oldest building (placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980) razed. Along with another couple, Connie and James Martin, they purchased the building with the intention to pass it on to a public group for preservation. However, no public or nonprofit organization was willing to assume the debt of and responsibility for the old hotel. A meeting of interested people, a steering committee, met to determine a course of action. The committee included the State Representative of the 131st District Jim Mitchell, Maxine Farnham, Gene Farnham, Connie Martin, Jim Martin, Robert Dodds, Helen Dodds, Sue Hansen, Dan Graves, and Gary Porter. The course of action turned out to be the creation of a new nonprofit entity. With the guidance of Attorney Bill Morgan, the committee drafted Articles of Incorporation of a General Not-For-Profit Corporation. By the end of June 1983, the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation was a reality.

We want to express our thanks to all of our ADVERTISERS in the annual *Old Settlers Gazette* – **ISSUE 41 of the *Old Settlers Gazette*** was delivered to our advertisers on July 24 & 25, 2023. 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.

Old Settlers Day, organized by **The Pulaski County Museum and Historical Society** was held this year on July 29-30, 2023 with many activities, music, and vendors.

Special Thanks to David and Teresa Chuber for once again sharing their knowledge of Civil War medicine for the sixth year. David was wonderful with our visitors, young and old, as he demonstrated many types of instruments and explained many aspects of medicine practiced during the Civil War. Teresa shared her knowledge of herbs used during that time. They donated a special handmade rolling pin for our 1915 kitchen.

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.

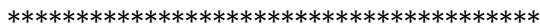
Find us at: www.oldstagecoachstop.org



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.



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.

View from the Balcony

Jeanie Porter, President

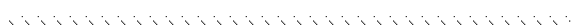
It’s been a wonderful summer at the Old Stagecoach Stop. We have had so many interesting visitors from around our county, state, country, and world!

We still often get some local people who say, “I’ve lived here all my life but have never been inside this place!” We encourage everyone to visit, at least once!

A special thanks to Rochelle Maubach for featuring the Old Stagecoach Stop with pictures and great articles in the *Pulaski County Weekly*. Interestingly, as she was interviewing Jan Primas and me for the article, we were sitting in the business cabin at the Stop on a weekday when we were interrupted several times by people just passing by and wondering if they could come in. The first couple was from **Paris, France** and they were traveling Route 66. The second couple was from **Texas** and had just attended their son’s graduation on the post. Rochelle was quite impressed with those special visitors!

We are impressed with the fact that we have had visitors from all 50 states and over 50 countries. Thanks, in part, to our amazing Pulaski County Tourism, we are featured as part of Route 66. So when visitors are traveling from Chicago to Santa Monica, they often stop to visit. We love sharing our historic museum with visitors from near and far.

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



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)*

special event announcements
 OSS Newsletter
 membership renewal notice

Level of Membership:

Individual \$10

Family \$15

Patron \$25

*Sponsor \$100

*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
P. O. Box 585
Waynesville, MO 65583