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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

2021 – A Year of New Beginnings



Spring flowers are in bloom at the Old Stagecoach Stop. These always remind me of New Life – new beginnings, new possibilities, new opportunities! They also speak of hope – hope for a better tomorrow, hope that unpleasant memories will fade, hope that we’re not stuck where we are, but that change is always possible. When difficulties come, as they have this past year, we can believe that this, too, shall pass. Take a deep breath, pray about it, and then do the best you can with the resources you have. Even though we are not able to open the Old Stagecoach Stop on time this year, we have the wonderful opportunity to visit the oldstagecoachstop.org website to do a virtual tour and listen to the podcast

recordings of past residents.

We have learned how to do things differently this past year – even the Old Stagecoach Stop Board took advantage of the amazing ZOOM platform for our board meetings. Shopping habits have changed, church services have changed, including online live recording, smaller get-togethers have been improvised, eating out has been limited, and traveling has changed. Yet, we have managed to get through this, believing that it will be better soon. In the early days of the Old Stagecoach Stop, they did not have the science and medicine during times like this to help them get through the hard times. We have been so blessed in so many ways. We can believe that “Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift of God, which is why we call it “the present.” Bil Keane.

SAVE THE DATES:

TBD – **OPENING DAY** for the OSS has been postponed until further notice.

June 12 – **FREEDOM FEST** – a time to celebrate our great freedoms as a nation.
11:00 am – 4:00 pm

October 9 - **OKTOBERFEST**

Dec. 2 - **CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE**



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.

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

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 research of our county.

Podcasts: On the website:

Tune in to hear Dru Pippin, Jaretta Laughlin, Robert Lee Bates, Pearl

Brown Wilson, Louise Skaggs, Jiggs & Dorothy Miller, and Irene Mitchell Morgan tell stories from the "old days!"

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.

Old Settlers Gazette -

ISSUE 39 of the *Old Settlers Gazette* is currently in progress. This is a group effort, led by our author/editor **Terry Primas**. The board members do 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. We appreciate all of the businesses and individuals who place an ad in the *Gazette*. The board members will soon be out and about to procure the ads for this next exciting edition. If you would like to place an ad for your business or as an individual, please contact one of the board members as soon as possible.

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Shop Smile.Amazon

The Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation is now registered to receive donations through the **Amazon Smile Foundation**. When you shop at Amazon, you can log into your account at <https://smile.amazon.com>, select the Old Stagecoach Stop as your charity, and a portion of your purchase dollars will then go to our OSS bank account. Log in at the smile.amazon.com address every time you shop!

SPOTLIGHT ~~~~

Docent's Corner -

By Pam Barnabee

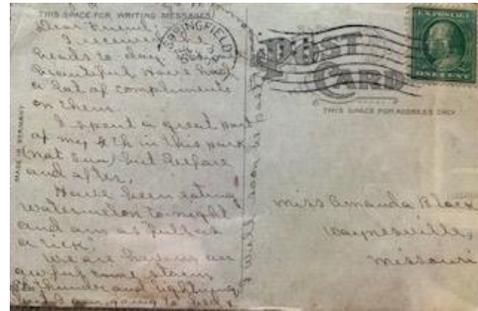
Amanda Black's Postcard Collection

To me, one of the most fascinating displays at the Old Stagecoach Stop is Amanda Black's postcard collection. If you're familiar with the history of the Stop, you may recall that from 1894 to 1915, the building was owned by the Black family and was named The Black Hotel. Amanda, known as Mandy to friends and family, was the daughter of hotel owners Lewis and Eliza Black and she helped run the business. Many guests of the hotel sent postcards to Mandy; to her mother, Eliza; and to Mandy's nephew, Jimmy Bostick, who also lived at the hotel; Mandy kept them all. She passed away in 1915 at the age of 52, and two years later the hotel was closed and the building rented, later sold, to a chain of occupants.

Fast forward eighty years to 1997. Amanda Black's postcard collection turns up at the Dusty Attic, a flea market in downtown Waynesville owned by friend of the Old Stagecoach Stop, Virgie Mahan. Virgie realized the significance of the find and donated the entire 104-card collection to our Foundation. What are the odds! This fortuitous series of events is the first thing that intrigues me about the collection.



The second thing I find really interesting is that most of the cards are simply addressed along the lines of "Miss Amanda Black, Waynesville, Mo."



I suppose when you realize that according to the census of 1910, the village of Waynesville had only 257 residents, it's not so surprising that the mail found its way to the right place. An interesting side note: while home delivery of the U.S. mail was authorized by Congress in 1863, home delivery did not begin in Waynesville until 1967. A notice in the *Pulaski County Democrat* newspaper on May 25 of that year stated that mail delivery would begin in October, with downtown delivery by a walking mailman and two motorized carriers to serve the outlying districts with curb service. A second notice in the issue of October 19, 1967, advised that delivery would start on the 21st of the month; curbside mailboxes with names and addresses were installed by the city at a cost of \$10.

But returning to the postcard collection: the final delight is that the majority of the cards are what is known as "real photo post cards." This type of postcard was produced between 1903 and 1930. Nowadays, real photo postcards have been replaced by photochrome cards that are produced through an offset lithographic printing process. However, "real photos", as the name implies, are made by developing photographic negatives directly onto special postcard-sized photographic paper. Typically, they were produced in small numbers - many were one-of-a-kind - and depicted local scenes and events.



Street Scene, Dixon, MO

Real photo postcards represent the merger of two turn-of-the-century fads: postcards and photography. The first illustrated souvenir postcards were produced for the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. They were a huge hit with the 26 million people who visited the fair. In 1898, the U.S. Post Office cut the cost for mailing a privately produced postcard in half - to one penny. During the "Golden Age" of postcards, 1900-1915, millions of them were sold and used. Prior to 1907, a message had to be written on the illustrated side of the postcard as the back of the card, by law, was reserved for the address only. A caption could be added to the photo by scratching it into the negative; larger studios would add a title by using a hand stamp or exposing text directly onto the negative. In 1907, the U.S. joined most of the European countries in authorizing a "divided back" so that a message could be written on the left half and the address on the right.

Meanwhile, in 1900, the Eastman Kodak company introduced their Brownie box camera which sold for \$1. By 1905, an estimated 10 million Americans had become amateur photographers. In 1902, in response to the postcard craze, Kodak began selling photo paper with a pre-printed postcard back. In 1903, they introduced the No. 3A Folding Pocket camera, which used film specifically designed for postcard-sized prints. Amateur photographers could now have their own photos printed directly onto postcard paper and send them through the mail. Postcards became a primary way of sharing travel snapshots, as well as photos of home and family, with family and friends. Studio photographers also started producing cards for sale. Most of the real photo postcards were created in black-and-white. Any colors were added by hand, after printing. Special coloring kits were marketed to the amateur photographer.



In contrast, the photochrome cards that replaced real photos have bright colors and glossy finishes. But with the shift to centralized, mass production, we've lost those charming images of everyday life that were celebrated in real photo cards. The loss was inevitable: with today's electronic mail and social media, postcards are no longer the most convenient way to communicate and share photographs with family and friends. Cost is also a factor. In 1952, postage was still just a penny, but the price has risen steadily to today's rate of \$.36. Collecting postcards is still a popular hobby, however, ranking third worldwide behind only stamp and coin collecting. The word "deltiology" was coined in 1945 to describe the study and collection of postcards.

As of this writing, the Old Stagecoach Stop remains closed to visitors due to the pandemic. However, you can view many of Amanda Black's postcards on our website, oldstagecoachstop.org, at the link to the Vintage Image Gallery.



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 and also in this Spring newsletter.



Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation President's Annual Report 2020

Nov. 2019 to Oct. 2020

Our Mission: "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'."

Last year I started my Annual Report with, "We have enjoyed another exciting

and eventful year” Well, this year has certainly been “eventful,” but not exactly “exciting!” We were very saddened to make the difficult decision to not open our beloved museum for the 2020 season given the impossibility of providing a safe environment for our volunteers and visitors.

We are especially sad that we will not be able to provide our huge table of goodies and drinks for the 2020 annual Christmas on the Square, our most popular event of the year. That event was wonderfully enjoyed in December of 2019, with more than 600 people passing through our doors. Our 1915 kitchen full of Christmas cookies, breads, sandwiches, hot chocolate, hot apple cider, and hot coffee provided by Old Stagecoach Stop board members, coupled with warm fireplaces and dulcimer music by board member, Pam Barnabee, helped to make it a memorable evening. We have served drinks and food at Christmas on the Square since it began in 1997.

However, not being able to be open for the 2020 season certainly did not mean we were idle all year! Some important things did happen this year in spite of the closure.

~ In spite of unexpected challenges, we were able to publish and distribute the annual Old Settlers Gazette throughout the community and beyond for the enjoyment of our faithful advertisers and readers. This meant finding new and creative ways to make this venture possible. A huge thanks to our able volunteers and to all of our advertisers who themselves were often struggling to keep their small businesses open, but who were still generously supportive of our efforts. Thanks to Jan and Terry Primas’s deft typing and layout skills, the Gazette was published and distributed on time!

~ In 2019, the front of the Stagecoach Stop got a much needed facelift with new paint. This summer, we contracted with Townsend Painting of Waynesville to scrape, repair, and paint the other three sides. As you can see, it was sorely needed and has made a tremendous difference in the appearance of our cherished museum. There was a significant amount of rotted boards, especially around the windows, which needed to be replaced.



The work began in October and was completed the following month. A combination of many unexpected repairs, difficulty getting materials, and inclement weather made it a challenging project. We are thrilled with the final look and hope that it will impress and please local citizens and visitors alike.

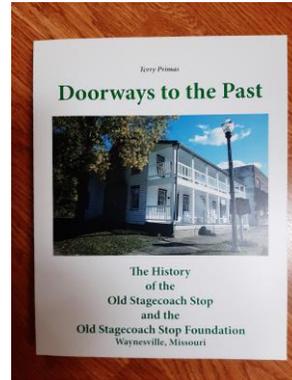
~ The storage room north of the Dentist Room inside the Stagecoach Stop was reorganized and decluttered with old shelves being removed, walls and ceiling patched and painted, and new custom-built shelving installed. It now holds all office, cleaning, and maintenance supplies, along with food service supplies associated with Christmas on the Square, materials that were previously located throughout the OSS. It is a beautiful sight to behold! Thank you, Mark Zurbrick.

~ Leakage was found in the water system under the sink cabinet in the Kitchen that had caused some rotting of the floor and joists. All was repaired or replaced and a new water heater and associated pipes and valves were installed. Several fittings in the second floor bathroom also needed repair. The gutters were cleaned and the exterior front, sidewalk, and donation bricks were all power washed.

~ Additions to the OSS displays included an oak framed slate and chalk to show period prices of food and drink in the Tavern Room, a set of reproduction 1860's period scissors, and an 1850-1860's period work dress for the knock down wardrobe in the McDonald Room.

~ The much awaited Old Stagecoach Stop history by Terry Primas, **Doorways to the Past - The Story of the Old Stagecoach Stop and the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation**, is now available. The first half of the book features the first double-pen log cabin built by William Walton McDonald for his stagecoach business, the Union Army takeover of the building for a Civil War Hospital, the long list of owners turning it into a hotel and then apartments, to the condemnation of the building by the City of Waynesville. The second half features the formation of the foundation to save the building, the many fund-raisers to buy and restore the building to turn it into a museum, and the current activities and tours to share this history with the public. We are excited to now be able to also share this amazing history in book form. It features 348 pages and more than 300 images. The cost is \$45 plus \$6.00 postage. Contact Terry Primas at tprimas@mac.com to purchase a copy. (Note: Update, April, 2021 - This version is already sold out. However, a new

revised, somewhat smaller version will be available soon. Please stay tuned!)



Our website, www.oldstagecoachstop.org continues our mission of preserving the history of the Old Stagecoach Stop and the surrounding area. It includes historic pictures, archives of all the *Old Settlers Gazettes*, and podcasts with past residents telling stories from the "old days," including Dru Pippin, Jaretta Laughlin, Robert Lee Bates, Pearl Brown Wilson, Louise Skaggs, Jiggs & Dorothy Miller, and Irene Mitchell Morgan.

Another 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 research of our county.

Also, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OldStagecoachStop where Jan Primas posts many lovely pictures of the Stagecoach Stop as well as short stories or articles from yesteryear.

As we look back on 2020, we reflect on the challenges of this most unusual year

and are grateful for the great privilege of continuing to meet the goals established by the founders of this historic site. We are thankful that so many people from our area, from around the country, and from around the world have visited and enjoyed our museum, faithfully preserved for future generations. We are looking forward to 2021 and hope to again open the Old Stagecoach Stop Museum as in past years -- traditionally every Saturday from April through September, plus numerous special events.

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## **View from the Balcony**

**Jeanie Porter, President**

I haven't had the opportunity to "View (much) from the Balcony" this year. We continue to wait for a safer time to once again open the Old Stage-coach Stop to be able to share our most wonderful history. I want to give a "shout out" to our fantastic volunteers who keep this history alive from the background. The nine board members have met faithfully via Zoom for our monthly meetings, although we miss seeing each other in person. Terry Primas has been diligently keeping his computer humming with the complex task of editing and producing the *Old Settlers Gazette*, as well as generating a smaller, revised version of *Doorways to the Past*, the history of the Old Stagecoach Stop and the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation, which will be available soon. Jan Primas, Pam Barnabee, and Kelly Howley have loyally continued their duties as Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Mark Zurbrick has persistently found things that needed to be repaired, replaced, or enhanced. All of the board members do the difficult task of visiting local merchants to procure the ads for the *Old Settlers Gazette* and they are always willing to support and help in any

way that is needed. Without these faithful people, the Old Stagecoach Stop would not be kept alive. When you see any of the board members, please thank them for their part in keeping this history flourishing for the community and for the future. If you would like to join us on this mission, please contact one of the board members listed on the front page.

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## **Fascinating Facts about Pulaski County, Missouri --**

- ~ The county was organized in 1833 and named for Kazimierz Pułaski, a Polish patriot who died fighting in the American Revolution.
- ~ It was a stage stop on St. Louis to Springfield Road, also called Wire Road for the telegraph line strung by the Union Army.
- ~ French explorer Du Tisne traveled this former Indian trail in 1719. Cherokee Indians camped here on their 1837 Trail of Tears removal to Oklahoma.
- ~ The 4th Pulaski County courthouse was built in 1903 and is now the Pulaski County Museum.
- ~ Fort Leonard Wood was founded in 1940 as a World War II training and replacement center. It became a permanent military reservation in 1958. Named for Major General Leonard Wood, the Fort, by 1960, was the nation's largest center for training U.S. Army Engineers.

**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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_.

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