

Spring, 2016

# OSS NEWS

Issue #46

## Board of Directors

## Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation

Jeanie Porter, President

Jan Primas, V. Pres

Kelly Howley, Sec.

Pam Barnabee, Treas.

Stephanie Nutt

Kitty McKelvey

Terry Primas

Glenna Scott

Dave Edie



Our Vision -

“to preserve its educational value for future generations.”

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

### Appreciation Day 2015

Our annual celebration of Appreciation Day was held in the back yard of the Old Stagecoach Stop on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the **Rt. 66 Oktoberfest**. The festivities at the OSS were well attended as were the activities all around the square. We had fun things for children to do including making butter, baskets, Civil War dolls, woodcarving, and period games. There are always many things to see and do in this historical backyard and the OSS was also open for tours. Craft and food vendors were set up around the square, and the Pulaski County Museum was also open for tours.

Appreciation Day is a reminder of the rich history we have here at the Old Stagecoach Stop and we

are forever grateful to Maxine Farnham and the original foundation members who had the foresight to save this most historic building and to envision what it could become for future generations. We are also grateful for the many people who made this dream become a reality so that we could enjoy the fruits of their labors today and in the future.

### SAVE THE DATES:

\*Mar. 19 - **St. Patty's Fest** on the Square- 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

\*Apr. 2 - **Old Stagecoach Stop** tour season begins. We will be open for tours every Saturday through September from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

\*Jun. 18 - **Freedom Fest** on the Square- 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

\*July 30 – **Old Settler's Day** in the Park 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

## **Christmas on the Square 2015**

Beautiful crisp weather and over 600 visitors to the OSS made this festival a delight for everyone.

The OSS passed out apple cider, hot chocolate, and coffee as well as sandwiches, veggies, cookies, breads, candy, and other snacks. Many other vendors around the square made this a wonderful family tribute to our community!

## **View from the Balcony**

**Jeanie Porter, President**

First, a huge thanks to Jan Primas, who has served as President for the past 3 years. We appreciate all of her hard work and dedication to the Old Stagecoach Stop for these years plus so many past years.

2015 was a very busy year for the Old Stagecoach Stop. We are thrilled that so many people in our community have taken the time to stop in to see our wonderful, historic building. We are also grateful for the many out-of-town visitors who have come from around the country and even around the world. They are always impressed with our museum and the history represented here. It makes us proud of our museum and our community participation in the preservation of this remarkable history of our town.

## **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.

[www.oldstagecoachstop.org](http://www.oldstagecoachstop.org)

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.

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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 museum has charter members, life members, and general members. 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.

## President's Annual Report for 2015

The Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation year just ending has been a gratifying one. Our goal is most certainly being accomplished. We had a record number of people visit our House Museum this season, 1,724. This number is derived from our visitor's log and we know that there are those who fail to sign, so the number is most likely greater still. Our normal tour season is Saturdays from April through September, but due to dedicated volunteers, we are now able to host tour groups at other times. School groups continue to learn county history via our historic building and 2015 brought thirteen 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes this spring. The Route 66 Fests held on the square the third Saturday of March, June, and October brought an increased number of visitors those days. We have participated in Christmas on the Square since its beginning in 1997 and that one evening each year continues to hold the record for the most visitors for one event. We count the number of cups we serve of our coffee, cider, and hot chocolate and we used 600+ cups on December 4, 2014. The table filled with food, donated and prepared by our OSS board members, our warm, tasty beverages, delightful dulcimer music, and the inviting warmth of our fireplaces draw people into the building.

Two special events this season involved evening hours. The National Speleological Society Convention was held in Pulaski County in July and we accommodated the group by opening the evenings of July 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Another group requesting evening hours was the Rt. 66 Association Spoke and Hub Tour on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Those evenings brought new visitors from various states.

With a building the age of ours, there is never a year without maintenance issues. We began our tour season with repairs to the HVAC system which is now serving us well. Other issues that were troublesome but have been resolved were the leaking gutter along the front of the building and a malfunctioning fireplace in the Tavern.

May brought the volunteers from Waynesville Americorps VISTA Summer Associates who completed a service project at the OSS. They cleared out the overgrown area of the backyard, and mopped, dusted, and cleaned inside the building. Their help was much appreciated.

In July our hardy group of volunteers turned ad salespersons delivered their bundles of the 2015 *Old Settlers Gazette* to our advertisers. The entire profit from this effort goes to the continued restoration and maintenance of our historic building. Sales, writing, editing, delivering are all done on a voluntary basis. The issues are much anticipated and we mail them throughout the U.S. And this year one was mailed to Qatar.

Our OSS website has become another key vehicle to help us fulfill our mission. The [oldstagecoachstop.org](http://oldstagecoachstop.org) is visited often and now with the historic pictures, and the archives of all the *Old Settlers Gazettes*, it is a place for researchers to gather information.

In 2015, as a Foundation, we continued our commitment toward the goals set by our founders. The building is well cared for and well used. We are an integral part of the community and provide many and varied activities and opportunities in and around the building.

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## MONOPOLY

We have enjoyed sharing our vintage Monopoly game board in the 50's room with tour groups for some time, giving credit to Charles Darrow for inventing the game. Recently, an article in the Smithsonian magazine, Jan. 2015, brought a new twist to the story. Monopoly's story actually began decades earlier with Lizzie Magie who worked at the Dead Letter Office in Washington, D.C. She appeared in plays and was also a writer of poetry and short stories. In 1904 she received a patent for an invention she called the Landlord's Game, with the stated goal of "demonstrating the evils of accruing vast sums of wealth at the expense of others," hoping people "would discover that they are poor because Carnegie and Rockefeller have more than they know what to do with." The game spread freely and it was a Quaker iteration that Darrow copied and sold to Parker Brothers in 1935 with a tall tale of inspired creation. Magie sold her patent to Parker Brothers for \$500 that same year, still hoping her tool for "teaching inequality would finally reach the masses." Monopoly became a hit, but instead came to mean the opposite, teaching people to cheer when someone goes into bankruptcy. I guess our story to the tourists at the OSS needs to be revised!

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### Excerpt from the Chamber of Commerce "History"

The Civil War had a dramatic affect on Waynesville. The area was predominantly Southern territory at the start of the war, but many residents avoided joining the battle. Its location

on the Old Wire Road placed Waynesville in the middle of the supply route on which the Union Army moved men and supplies.

The arrival of the Union Army and its establishment of a fort on the bluff overlooking the Roubidoux Spring forced locals to pick their allegiances. The once peaceful agricultural community soon found themselves at odds with neighbors and family members. The Union fort's mission was to protect the Old Wire Road. A historical marker on Fort Street is all that remains.

As the Civil War escalated in Missouri, many Waynesville residents left. Men joined either the Union Army or Confederate militias or guerilla groups; women and children moved to safer territory in Illinois. Farms, homes, and businesses were looted and destroyed or burned. Many residents never returned; those that did, found their homes destroyed, overgrown, and livestock lost.

The Old Stagecoach Stop was turned into a hospital to treat wounded soldiers. Since its construction, the structure has stood as a silent witness of the eras of Pulaski County history. It survived through the settlement, Civil War, reconstruction, the traffic on Route 66 and World War II. Always evolving with the times, the Stagecoach Stop was also used at varying points in history as a hotel, dentist's office, apartments, and now a museum with restoration reflecting its rich history.

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**ISSUE 34 of the *Old Settlers Gazette*** is currently in progress. 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. We appreciate all of the businesses and individuals who placed 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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**The Pulaski County Museum and Historical Society** will again be organizing **Old Settlers Day** this year. It is a great fundraiser for them and we appreciate their efforts. They are planning many new additions to the festivities and I'm sure you won't want to miss it. It will be held on July 30 and will include a Civil War reenactment, with soldiers coming down from the old fort site, taking down the Confederate flag and hoisting the Union flag, and then chasing the Confederate soldiers down to the park where there will be a battle reenactment. The cavalry will be camped at Laughlin park and will ride to the park via the trail under the bridge for the reenactment. "General Grant" will also make an appearance. There will be women camped in the backyard of the Old Stagecoach Stop doing demonstrations of cooking, sewing, and looking after the wounded. Music will be provided by the Back Porch Players from Nixa as well as Native American and Scottish dancers. A Civil War era service with music by the Back Porch Players will be held on Sunday morning

at 9:00 am in the park. Other vendors at the park will include homemade soap, blacksmithing, homemade root beer and homemade bread and butter.

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## **TAKING THE REINS**

A special thanks to Bill & Annette Catts for their donation of his mother's apron from the 1940's. Cordelia Gertrude Catts, who was born Nov. 12, 1912, made the apron on one of her early Singer sewing machines, often wearing it to work around the house. The style at that time was a wrap around over the shoulder apron. Bill and Annette also donated an old toaster that belonged to her mother for our 50's kitchen.

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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. If you are interested in **joining our Foundation Board**, or **volunteering** at the Old Stagecoach Stop, contact a current board member. We welcome new volunteers. **How about you?**

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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.