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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

Appreciation Day 2019 / Rt. 66 Oktoberfest

On Saturday, October 12, 2019 we will be celebrating **Appreciation Day** in conjunction with the **Rt. 66 Oktoberfest**. The OSS will be open for tours. Craft and food vendors will be set up around the square in downtown Waynesville so there will be great opportunities for a wonderful family day.

Appreciation Day is a reminder of the many friends in our community who have contributed so much to continue the rich history of the Old Stagecoach Stop. Without your past and on-going generous support, we would not be able to preserve this most historic place for future generations. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to keep history alive.



SPECIAL THANKS: With smiling faces and paint brushes in hand, four young members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints helped apply a new coat of paint to the front of the Old Stagecoach Stop.

Special Tour Groups

Model-T and Czech and Seniors - Oh, my! It's such a privilege to host unusual groups from around the world at our most historic Old Stagecoach Stop Museum. The Model-T group was from Springfield, the Czech group was from the Czech Republic, Italy, and Portugal, and the Senior group was from Oklahoma. In addition, we also have hosted or will host the Cave State Cruisers, the Chamber of Commerce Leadership group, the 44th Engineer group, families of graduating FLW trainees, and other special requests. We enjoy meeting people from around the world.

SAVE THE DATES:

Oct. 12 – **OSS Appreciation Day /Rt. 66 OktoberFest** - Activities on the Square - 11 am – 4 pm

Dec. 5 – **Christmas on the Square/OSS** will be open from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The kitchen table will be filled with food, coffee, mulled cider, and hot chocolate!

SPOTLIGHT ~~~~~

- Special artifacts at the Old Stagecoach Stop -

By Pam Barnabee

Concord Stagecoach Model



In the Old Stagecoach Stop's 1860s Tavern Room, it's hard to miss the model of a Concord coach, the type built by the Abbot-Downing Company of Concord, New Hampshire, and used by the Southwestern Stage Company to carry passengers and mail through Waynesville after the Civil War. Though each coach was made to order and no two were ever exactly the same, the bright red paint job with gilded trim and yellow running gear displayed by our model was the most favored color combination. The model was built and donated to us by retired teacher and model maker Jim Matthews in July 2014. It took him 3 months to research and build this exact miniature replica.

Coachbuilder J. Stephens Abbot is credited with designing the iconic stagecoach that he and wheelwright Lewis Downing began manufacturing in Concord in 1827, but there is evidence that the style developed earlier in both Albany and Troy, New York, the other major centers for stagecoach manufacture. Albany, Troy, and Concord coaches were all very similar. In contrast to earlier "stage-waggons,"

these coaches featured an oval body, a rounded top with a railing to secure luggage and passengers, and at least one side door. The driver sat outside, atop the coach. The most innovative feature of these coaches was the suspension system of "thorough-braces," three-inch thick strips of cured oxen leather that were strung in pairs to support the body of the coach and allow it to swing back and forth. This motion helped to absorb the shocks of the road, making the journey easier on the passengers, but more importantly preventing injury to the horses. Other amenities included leather "boots," front and back, for storing mail and luggage, and leather roll-down curtains on the windows.

There were several models of coaches, designed to accommodate six to twelve passengers inside. Two fixed leather-covered seats were situated the width of the coach, front and back. Between these, one or two additional benches formed middle seats, but they had no back support; passengers had to hold onto leather straps that hung from the ceiling. When filled to capacity, the coach provided about fifteen inches of space for each passenger.

There is no record to tell us the date that stagecoaches began carrying mail and passengers along Missouri's interior ridge road, the old trail of the Osage, through Pulaski County. The earliest record is for a contract awarded to the company of Burden and Woodson for a stage route from St. James to Springfield. It ran three times a week, taking two days to make the journey. We know that there was a Postmaster in Waynesville, David B. Lawrence, from 1850 to 1854. William Walton McDonald bought Lawrence's lot in Waynesville in 1854 and constructed the building now known as the Old Stagecoach Stop. McDonald was Postmaster from 1854 to 1859.

No local advertisements or notice of dissolution for the Burden and Woodson stage line has been found. The thread is picked up again after the Civil War, in a newspaper announcement on May 20, 1865, by Owen Tuller that his company had commenced daily mail coach service from Springfield to Rolla. Court documents in a personal injury lawsuit stemming from an incident in 1867 provide a few more interesting tidbits about stage travel through Waynesville. The fare from Waynesville to Arlington, a distance of about 20 miles, was \$2.50 and the trip took 6 hours, with a stop and change of drivers at Pine Bluff (Big Piney River crossing). The stage left Waynesville between midnight and 2:00 a.m.

Changes in ownership occurred over the next few years, culminating in formation of the Southwestern Stage Company. Their first known advertisement appeared in February, 1868, and their last in 1870:

“The Only Direct, Quickest, Old Reliable, and Cheapest Route to **SOUTHWEST MISSOURI**, **WESTERN ARKANSAS**, **SOUTHERN KANSAS**, **TEXAS** and the **INDIAN NATION**. This Company employ none but sober and careful drivers, and carries passengers by new and easy riding four horse Concord and Troy coaches, in the quickest possible time consistent with safety, security, and comfort.”

The railroad was completed through Pulaski County in 1869 and surely led to the demise of long-distance stagecoach travel. Mr. McDonald sold his building in 1870 and moved to Richland to join his son-in-law in the dry goods trade.



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.

A Bit of History - The California House, located 7 miles west of Waynesville, was once a colorful Stagecoach Stop. It began operation in 1857 and was the site of many skirmishes during the Civil War. It was operated by Bennett and Sarah Musgrave until 1860 when it was acquired by Hugh McCain.

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Old Settlers Day, organized by **The Pulaski County Museum and Historical Society** was held on July 27 & 28, 2019 with 1862 Civil War reenactments at the park. Music was provided by the Back Porch Players, including a Civil War era service with period music on Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the park. Other activities included Civil War & Kickapoo Trace Muzzle Loaders camps, a YMCA Duck Race, night fire and artillery show. Special guests were “President Lincoln” and “General Grant.” Living History demonstrations, weapons and artillery inspections, crafters, and food vendors were also enjoyed by all.

Old Settlers Day – Special Thanks

- to **David Chuber** for sharing his knowledge of Civil War medicine for the fourth year. He 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.

- to the **The River Church** for providing the shuttle from the Old Stagecoach Stop to the park on Old Settlers Day. It was greatly appreciated.

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If you have been by the Old Stagecoach Stop recently, you may have noticed that it has a fresh, new look! Huge thanks to Mark Zurbrick who has done most of the prepping and painting on the upstairs and downstairs of the front of the Stop. It looks beautiful! Mark and Terry are in the process of updating the McNeese building behind the Stop for future use.

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**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 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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## View from the Balcony

### Jeanie Porter, President

Some very interesting data was compiled by Board member, Mark Zurbrick from our guest register. We had a total of 4,670 visitors from 2014 through 2018. The month with most visitors was September. On Saturdays, there was an average of 19 visitors. 40% of the visitors were from Pulaski County, while 18% were from the rest of Missouri, 40% were from the rest of the USA, and 2% were outside the USA. August through November saw the most Special Tours, with an average of 13 per tour. Christmas on the Square hosted 8 times more visitors (62%) than all the other events (Old Settlers Day, Freedom Fest, and Oktoberfests combined). We hosted visitors from 61 of 114 Missouri counties and 48 of 50 states, with Illinois and Texas being home to the most visitors outside of Missouri. We enjoyed visitors from 36 countries with Germany contributing more than a quarter of those visitors. 2019 numbers: As of Sept 21, the OSS hosted 582 visitors on Saturdays. This is nearly 24% greater than for the same time period last year and is about 6% greater than the five year average.

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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.

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## TAKING THE REINS

We owe a huge thank you to **all of our volunteers** who act as tour guides and assist with special tours and events. They play an integral role in keeping the building available for the community. With bus tours and special groups, as well as our regular Saturday hours, it takes many volunteers to keep the Stagecoach Stop open for the summer. 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.

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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.

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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.

We want to express our thanks to **all of our ADVERTISERS** in the annual *Old Settlers Gazette* –

ISSUE 37 of the Old Settlers Gazette was delivered to our advertisers on July 22 & 23, 2019. 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, stop by and pick one up on Appreciation Day or Christmas on the Square. If you are out of town, 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. 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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SPECIAL THANKS to **Jean Laughlin** for donating 2 beautiful family shaving mugs and a shaving brush which belonged to her grandfather, Leonard Wade Nickels. They look lovely on the sink in the 50s bathroom.

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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.

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 .

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