

The Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation was formed in April of 1983 and bought the building for \$40,000. A matching grant of \$13,200 was obtained from the Department of Natural Resources. With the grant, the exterior of the building was stabilized and restored to its 19th-century appearance.

The original debt was retired in 1992 and interior restoration began in earnest. The rest of the historic property, along with a small brick building, was acquired in 2003. Maintenance of the nearly 160-year-old building and small improvements consume most of the Foundation's resources.

The Old Stagecoach Stop is the oldest publicly accessible building in Pulaski County. The interior is restored to different periods, ranging from 1860 to 1960. The ten rooms reflect the history of the building and county. The house museum is open Saturdays, April through October, from 10 AM to 4 PM.

*The Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation* wishes to thank the following Lifetime and Sponsoring members whose generosity has made possible our continuing progress toward meeting our goal "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."

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These and the many annual memberships and generous donations have made our progress possible.

*If you would like to become a member, please visit us at the OSS and pick up an application or on our website: [www.oldstagecoachstop.org](http://www.oldstagecoachstop.org)*

**Amanda Black**

In 1894, Lewis and Eliza Black bought the Johnson House (now the Old Stagecoach Stop) from J. L. Johnson and renamed it the Black Hotel. Lewis died in 1899 at the age of 76, leaving the operation of the hotel to his widow Eliza, age 60, and oldest spinster daughter Amanda, who was 34 years old (portrait at far right).

Amanda was the chief cook at the hotel. Eliza rang a big bell at 11:45 each

day and guests sat down to a full meal which always included two or three meats and homemade breads. Room rental was 25 cents a day and the price of a meal the same.

Two great-nieces of Amanda, Wauthena Main and Carolyn Klein, presented the Foundation with a copy of her portrait on this page. The facial disfigurement was caused by medical treatment for digestive problems using mercurous chloride, known as calomel.



Although detail is hard to see in this poor image of the Black Hotel in 1898, Lewis and Eliza Black are sitting on the porch. Eliza is holding grandson Jimmy Bostick. Behind Eliza is widowed daughter Grace Bostick and oldest daughter Amanda stands behind Lewis.

The mercury was excreted in high concentration in saliva, leading to excessive salivation, loss of teeth, and gangrene of the mouth and cheeks in some patients. Calomel had been used since the 16<sup>th</sup> century and heavily during the Civil War and for some time after. It is a potent cathartic, causing the bowels to empty. A person with this affliction was said to be salivated. Emma Page Hicks, who knew Amanda, remarked in her *Pulaski County Democrat* "Early History of Pulaski County Pioneer Families" column, "This was what was wrong with Amanda. She was salivated. It took her teeth out and ate her lips and mouth until she looked pitiful. And when she went to church or anywhere she had a veil over her face. At this time it was very stylish to wear veils, pretty lacy ones that would hang down loose over your face."

Amanda had a wide circle of friends and was active in church and social affairs. Although Amanda did not travel much, friends and guests of the hotel sent her postcards from their travels which she collected and kept in an album. In 1997 some, if not all, of Amanda's postcards were brought into a Waynesville antique store called the

Dusty Attic. Virgie Mahan, owner of the store, realized the connection of the 104 postcards to the Old Stagecoach Stop and donated them to the Foundation.

In the picture below, notice the necklace worn by Amanda. It is a pendant watch, the face of which is not visible. Amanda's great-nieces also donated the watch pendant to the Foundation.

Amanda's portrait, postcard collection, and pendant watch are on display in the kitchen of the Old Stagecoach Stop where she spent so much time.



Amanda Black 1863-1915

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