

Spring, 2020

# OSS NEWS

Issue #54

## 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

Dave Edie

Mark Zurbrick



Our Vision -

“to preserve its educational value for future generations.”

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

## Old Stagecoach Stop named Organization of the Year

The Chamber of Commerce chose the Old Stagecoach Stop as the Organization of the Year for 2020, recognizing our very historic building and Stagecoach Stop Foundation at the Annual Leadership Banquet in February, 2020. We are very honored to have received this award and very proud of the accomplishments of so many people down through the years to bring the Stagecoach Stop to its present glory. First and foremost, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Maxine Farnham who had the foresight to realize that the amazing history of this place should not be lost for future generations. By spearheading the formation of the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation, she prevented the building from being torn down, then worked tirelessly with the group of leaders involved to raise enough money to buy the building and begin the restoration. In 1989, when Terry and Jan Primas became involved through leading LEAP students in an archaeological dig, they became the lifeblood of bringing Maxine's dream to fruition. Through countless hours and dollars, they have spearheaded the restoration of the Stop to reflect its past history. We are also indebted to the financial support

received from community businesses and individuals to make all of this possible. We want to acknowledge the Tourism Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce who have been instrumental in making the Old Stagecoach Stop an important part of Route 66, bringing visitors from all over the world.

**On Appreciation Day/Oktoberfest,** Oct. 12, 2019, we were again reminded 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 very historic place for future generations. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to keep history alive.

### SAVE THE DATES:

TBD - **OPENING DAY** has been postponed until further notice. As soon as possible, we will be open every Saturday through September - 10:00 am-4:00 pm

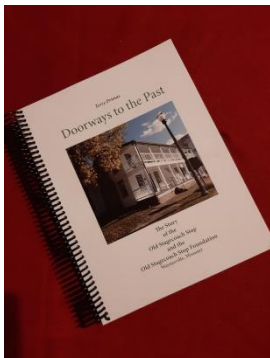
June 13 - **FREEDOM FEST** - a time to celebrate our great freedoms as a nation.  
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

July 25-26 - **OLD SETTLERS DAY**  
11:00 am - 4:00 pm on Saturday

Dec. 3 - **CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE**

# COMING SOON ~~~

A new, long-awaited book by Terry Primas will be available soon, examining the rich history of the Old Stagecoach Stop from its early beginnings in the 1850s to the present day. It is titled, **Doorways to the Past - The Story of the Old Stagecoach Stop and the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation.** 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 of tours to provide this history to the public. It will be available in one complete book and also as Part 1 only. We are excited to have the final edition ready to share sometime this summer.



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

## Podcasts: A New Feature on the website:

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

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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.

# SPOTLIGHT ~~~~~

## Docent's Corner -

By Pam Barnabee

### Frontier Log House Construction

Early settlers in America typically built their living quarters using logs; materials for building a log structure were close at hand and few specialized tools were needed. Today, we usually call such a log structure a "cabin," but in those times there was a distinction between a log cabin, which was built as a temporary, often rough, shelter and the more permanent structure that was a log house. Log structures didn't originate in America; 17th and 18th century migrants from Northern and Central Europe brought along their log construction traditions and techniques. The Scots-Irish, the ethnic group most often associated with the Ozarks, adapted the forms of their native stone houses to log construction. As waves of settlers traveled westward to new frontiers, their log construction methods and forms spread across the country with them.

Historians have described some basic house plans that these settlers used. The simplest was a one-room enclosure formed by four log walls joined at the corners, called a "single pen." A homesteader's first shelter often took this form, using round logs with the bark still on, a simple round or "saddle" notch joining the logs at the corners, and a dirt floor. After all, there was still land to be cleared, fences to be built, fields to be plowed and planted, and livestock to raise. A more substantial house could wait.

Single pen houses usually had a peaked (gable) roof with the chimney at the gable end. With a later addition, the single pen could easily be expanded to one of the more complex house designs.

Some of these other designs were double pen (a two-room house with two front doors, gable-roofed with end chimneys), saddlebag (a two-room house with central chimney and one or two front doors), central hallway (a two-room house with a central hall and centered front door), and dogtrot (a two-room house with an open central passage, all covered by a continuous roof, and end chimneys). Features common to all these house plans were that they were one room deep, had gabled roofs, had entrance(s) under the eaves (rather than on the gable end) and were generally one or one-and-a-half stories tall.

The Old Stagecoach Stop is an example of a dogtrot log house. That plan was particularly popular in the south, as the two pens on either end had side entrances that opened onto the central passageway or "dogtrot," allowing for air circulation and shelter from the heat. Generally, one end of the building was used for cooking and dining, while the other end was the family's living quarters. However in the case of the Old Stagecoach Stop, we believe the family resided in the pen on the south end of the building (the "McDonald Cabin") and the pen on the north end was used to accommodate stagecoach passengers (the "Tavern"). The dogtrot was enclosed at least as early as the Civil

War, as one can see from drawings made at the time.

W. W. McDonald built the Stop in the 1850's not as a rough, temporary first home for his family in Waynesville, but as a permanent structure. (And indeed, with additions and improvements by owners over the years and restoration efforts of the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation beginning in the 1980's, it has proved its permanence and is still engaging visitors at over 160 years of age.) Inside the building, you can see that the logs forming the walls are not round but are hewn flat on all four sides. Hewing a log is accomplished by first stabilizing the log on blocks with wedges set so that it won't roll, then marking guidelines along each side, scoring the log at two to three-inch intervals with your felling axe, and finally slicing off the chips with a broad axe. Repeat scoring and slicing on the opposite side; then turn the log and repeat on the remaining two sides. While hewing logs didn't require a skilled carpenter, it was a time-consuming process.

Another construction feature of the Old Stagecoach Stop is the use of half-dovetail notches, structurally superior to a round notch, to join the logs.



Whereas the round notch tends to hold rainwater in its concave surface, the dovetail notch slopes downward and out and prevents moisture from collecting and freezing in the joint. The way the dovetails interlock also prevents the walls from pulling apart, shifting sideways, or twisting away from the building. No nails or pegs are required to hold the structure together. Cutting dovetail notches requires only an axe and a ruler as tools, but does require a degree of skill. We have left open a section of wall between the McDonald Cabin and the kitchen addition so that visitors can view this notching detail.

While notching allows logs to fit snugly at the corners, gaps run along the length between each log. Builders filled those gaps with whatever suitable material was handy; this process is called chinking. At the Old Stagecoach Stop, scraps of wood were the favored chinking material. After chinking, the spaces were plastered over with daubing, a mortar-like substance. Recipes for daubing mixtures also varied according to what was available. The daubing originally used at the Stop was mud and lime, mixed with horsehair as a binder. Chinking and daubing sealed the walls against the elements, helped insulate against the cold, and kept out unwanted tiny critters. Daubing tends to crack and loosen over time due to freezing and thawing, expansion and contraction of logs, and settling of the building. Historically, patching and replacing daubing was a routine seasonal chore. Most of the original daubing at the Stop was replaced during restoration. Visitors to the Stop can see some of the original chinking

in a section of the McDonald Cabin wall, near the doorway to the Dentist Office.

### *Old Settlers Gazette –*

**ISSUE 38 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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## Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation President's Annual Report 2019

*Nov. 2018 to Oct. 2019*

*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'."*

We have enjoyed another exciting and eventful year at the Old Stagecoach Stop in downtown Waynesville, MO! Over 1,500 people have enjoyed the unique history we are privileged to share through tours and festivals. In our Visitors Register, we noted comments like: "Excellent!" "Cool!" "Great!" "Awesome!" "Fabulous!" "Enjoyable!" "Informative!" "Impressive!" "Cozy!" "Personable!" and "Incredible!" which assures us that our historic museum continues to delight and amaze people from all over our community, country, and world. We hosted

visitors from 63 of Missouri's 114 counties, 49 of America's 50 states, and 49 countries, of which Germany contributed about a fifth of foreign visitors. Additional tours this year were special groups including a regional Model-T group; a group from the Czech Republic, Italy, and Portugal; the Waynesville-St. Robert Chamber of Commerce Leadership Pulaski County Class; a senior group from Oklahoma; the Cave State Cruisers; the 44<sup>th</sup> Engineer retirees; families of graduating FLW trainees; and other special requests. We also participated in community events such as Freedom Fest in June, Old Settlers Day in July, Oktoberfest in October, and Christmas on the Square in December.

Old Settlers Day, which was again organized by the Pulaski County Museum, brought a special visit from "General Ulysses S. Grant" and Civil War re-enactors who provided living history demonstrations in the city park where they staged several battles throughout the day. These activities, in addition to the regular vendors and booths, brought many visitors to the Old Stagecoach Stop.

Special thanks to David Chuber, retired historian at Fort Leonard Wood, and wife, Teresa, who provided insight into Civil War medical knowledge and practices which enhances the interpretation of our Civil War hospital site. And special thanks to The River Church for providing a special shuttle van to and from the city park activities which increased our visitation numbers.

More than 600 people passed through our doors during Christmas on the Square in 2018. In the past five years, this popular event has provided the most visitors to the Old Stagecoach Stop. A 1915 kitchen full of Christmas cookies, breads, sandwiches, hot coffee, hot chocolate, and hot apple cider provided by Old Stagecoach Stop Board members, coupled with warm fireplaces and dulcimer music by Board member, Pam Barnabee, and her friends helped to make it a memorable evening. Christmas on the Square on December 5, 2019, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm will again be a highlight for the many people who pass through to warm up and get a few snacks.



In addition to special events, the Old Stagecoach Stop Museum is traditionally open every Saturday from April through September to share our amazing history.

The Old Stagecoach Stop got an amazing facelift this summer! The entire front of the building, upstairs and down, was scraped and painted by Board member, Mark Zurbrick. He received some much appreciated help from young volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for painting the banisters on the balcony and the porch columns, a very tedious job. The entire project required \$720 of donated materials including 4 dozen tubes of caulk and 10 gallons of paint, along with 170 hours of volunteer labor.

A new, eye-catching, coroplast and aluminum Open/Direction sign that pointed the way to the OSS was fashioned for the corner of Historic Route 66 and Lynn Street. Volunteers had been lugging rather heavy sandwich board signs to that corner for more than 25 years. MoDOT gave the OSS permission to attach the new, lightweight sign to one of their posts.

Also added to the front of the building was a new Open/Closed information sign with custom printing provided free of charge by Lone Oak Printing.

With the realization that the McNeese building, the World War II brick building behind the OSS, needed some serious attention, the process of getting bids and making improvements began. A new roof was put on by Ludlow Roofing LLC, including new sheathing, underlayment, flashing, and architectural composite shingles with a 30-year guarantee at a cost of \$3,570 in materials and labor. The front of the building also received a fresh coat of paint. (Note: Thank you to Terry Primas for providing some of the details for this report, taken from his upcoming book on the history of the Old Stagecoach Stop.)

The interior renovation in the east room of the McNeese building involved installing a new ceiling, a ceiling fan, window blinds, and wraparound fluorescent light fixtures which more evenly illuminate the room. Additional wiring for light switches was added and the

walls were re-painted. A bookcase was built to hold OSS records and a table was added so that Board meetings can be held in the room. Thanks to Board members Terry Primas and Mark Zurbrick for all their hard work in completing this project which required 60 hours of volunteer labor and \$720 in donated materials.

Other improvements for the OSS included a sealer which was applied to the masonry on both chimneys, and new flashing which was installed between the first row of shake shingles and the gutter on the front of the building, at a cost of \$880.00.

In the early years of this century, when we were co-sponsoring Pawpaw Daze with the Planters of Pulaski County, we planted four pawpaw trees in the back yard of the OSS. The yard is not the usual habitat for such trees but we gave it a try. We planted the tree in the picture in 2005. In 2017, it finally bore a handful of fruit with a few more the next year. In 2019, the tree brought forth 52 pawpaws!



A huge thanks to all of those businesses who supported The Old Stagecoach Stop with ads in the *Old Settlers Gazette*, our annual historical edition of past and present news of Pulaski County. Spring brought out the hardy ad sales team (aka OSS Board members) to contact businesses for ads in the Gazette. After months of intensive writing and editing by Terry and Jan Primas, the free *Gazettes* were delivered to advertisers and locations around the county, and also mailed to patrons throughout the U.S. The entire profit from this project goes to the continued restoration and maintenance of our historic building. A special THANK YOU to all of the other volunteers who help this and all other Stagecoach Stop activities preserve and share the history for this community.

Our website, [oldstagecoachstop.org](http://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 is a rich source for research of our county. Also, visit our page at [facebook.com/Old Stagecoach Stop](https://facebook.com/OldStagecoachStop).

As we look back on 2019, we reflect on the great privilege of continuing the goals established by the founders of this historic site. We are proud to be situated along Route 66 and allowed to share history with the many travelers who are touring the "Mother Road" from Chicago to Santa Monica. 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.

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## **View from the Balcony**

**Jeanie Porter, President**

This has been another wonderful year for the Old Stagecoach Stop. Our number of visitors has increased again, cumulatively hosting people from 63 of Missouri's 114 counties, all 50 states, and 49 countries. That is an amazing record, considering we're "off the beaten path" - (a few miles from I-44 and just off historic Route 66 which runs parallel to I-44 in Pulaski County) - about halfway between St. Louis and Springfield. People continue to be fascinated by the restoration of the building, especially with the unique feature of learning about each era of its history by taking a tour with one of our wonderful board members and volunteers. If you haven't been here recently, be sure to schedule one of your Saturdays this summer to visit this very historic place.

## **Christmas on the Square 2019**

Over 900 visitors streamed through the Old Stagecoach Stop for our favorite event of the year to enjoy apple cider, hot chocolate, and coffee as well as sandwiches, veggies, cookies, breads, candy, and other snacks. Pam Barnabee provided special music on her dulcimer while other board members guided the visitors through the line to enjoy the delicious treats. Other vendors around the square helped to make this a wonderful family tribute to our community!

## **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](https://smile.amazon.com) address every time you shop!

**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.

## 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