

OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2011

Calendar

January 20, 2011
OHS General Meeting

Film Showing
Marshall Ensor

By
Greg Sheffer

7:30 p.m.

Heritage Center at Mahaffie



February 7, 2011
OHS Board Meeting

7:00 p.m.

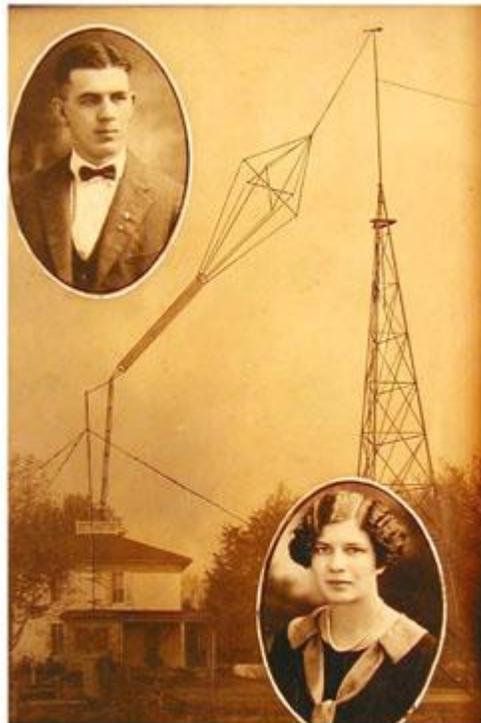
Heritage Center at Mahaffie

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please contact Maureen Donegan at modoneg@hotmail.com.

Marshall Ensor

Join us on January 20, 2011 for popcorn and pop as we watch Greg Sheffer's latest production, a film on Olathe's Marshall Ensor. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Mahaffie Heritage Center. Sheffer will be there to share information about the process of making this film.

Marshall Ensor was a 1917 graduate of Olathe High School. After graduation, he taught Industrial Arts at Olathe High School. Except for a brief period during World War II, he taught there until he retired in 1965. Ensor was a pioneer in amateur "ham" radio and received the Paley Award in 1940, given by CBS President William Paley. During his teaching career, Ensor helped more than 10,000 listeners become proficient ham radio operators. The Ensor Park and Museum is located south of Olathe and houses Ensor's original ham radio station equipment. The home is on the National Register of Historic Places and has recently been repaired and renovated with grants through the Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund.



Ensor Farm with Marshall and Loretta Ensor from a 1926 photograph

Image courtesy of Larry Woodworth, Ensor Farmsite & Museum Director--this image was originally published in the January 24, 1926 edition of The Kansas City Journal Post

Marshall and his sister, Loretta Ensor established one of the most complete amateur radio transmitting stations in America on their property during the early history of radio. *The Kansas City Journal Post*, on January 24, 1926, under the headline *Kansas Has Lone Woman Radio Amateur in West*, stated "Kansas boasts the only woman Amateur radio operator in the Middle West. Her name is Miss Loretta Ensor in the Olathe city directory, but to virtually every amateur within hearing distance---and these days that means clear around on the other side of the world---she is 9UA." The survival of Ensor Farm and its radio history was ultimately in Loretta's hands, who established the Ensor Farmsite & Museum so that others might see how things used to be on a working farm.

OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board Meeting
Heritage Center
December 13, 2010

ATTENDING: Jayne Jones, Maureen Donegan, Anne Seitz, Mary Cochran, Susie Nightingale, Lisa Karstetter, John Andrade, Liz Lumpkin

MINUTES:

The minutes of the October 10, 2010 Board Meeting were read and approved.

FINANCIAL:

There was no financial report.

OLD BUSINESS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION POLICY:

Liz Lumpkin, who works at Mahaffie 2 days a week and at the Johnson County Museum 3 days a week, attended our meeting to help us with our questions about collections management. The following are points raised during the board's discussion on collections management:

- The first step in developing a collections policy is to determine what we want to collect and how we want to limit what is collected.
- Having a limited display space that requires us to rotate exhibits is actually beneficial in that it helps to protect artifacts when they do not have to be on display at all times.
- We need to develop a mission statement (to the point/brief) and a vision statement that can provide more details. Susie suggested "Preserve Olathe History" as a mission statement. Everyone is encouraged to brainstorm

ideas and bring them to the next board meeting in February.

- It was general consensus that we do not want to borrow artifacts for future exhibits because of liability issues and because of the amount of time it takes to collect and return artifacts.
- A collection plan could be developed around future display themes planned down the road.
- Discussion on the collections policy, mission statement, and vision statement will be continued at the next board meeting in February.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BYLAWS

The bylaws were reviewed and suggestions made for revisions, particularly to remove references to "places" as those now fall under the work of the Olathe Historic Preservation Board. Jayne will bring a draft of the recommended revisions to the February board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

COLLECTIONS

Anne took the Board on a tour of the research room. The main table in the room is covered with photographs that need to be organized. Anne will box the photographs in protective archival boxes for now to preserve them until they can be organized. It was also discussed that additional archival boxes can be purchased for other artifacts that are currently not protected or catalogued.

John raised the question as to what it will take to have a fully functioning research room. Now that the Olathe Historical Society has a "space", it probably is also necessary to develop a plan for the future that includes hiring services to continue cataloguing and maintaining our collections as the size of the collection outgrows the ability in time and expertise of volunteers to keep up with the

work. A need to increase membership in the Olathe Historical Society was also expressed.

COLONEL JOHN T. BURRIS GIFT

Bob Courtney received communication from a descendent of Col. John T. Burris, an 1858 Olathe settler who fought in Jim Lane's regiment during the Civil War. He came back to Olathe after the war and served as a judge. Burris is noted for having delivered the decision in the 1890 court case against the Olathe Board of Education on segregation in the Olathe elementary schools. The relative is sending to Bob, for the Olathe Historical Society, Burris' sword and some other artifacts that belonged to him.

BOARD ELECTIONS

Board elections will take place at the general meeting in March. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee or in serving on the board, please contact Jayne Jones.

UPCOMING DATES

January 20, 2011 – General meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Heritage Center. Presentation of the Marshall Ensor film produced by Greg Sheffer. Popcorn and pop to be provided.

February 7, 2011 – Board meeting, 7 p.m., Heritage Center

ADJOURNED

Olathe Historical Society

Officers and Board Members

Officers

President	Jayne Jones (09-11)	764-8039
1 st Vice President	Lisa Karstetter (10-12)	913-783-4626
2 nd Vice President	Bob Courtney (09-11)	764-2494
Secretary	Margaret Endecott (10-12)	782-0269
Treasurer	Vicki Holdman (10-12)	764-5076
Historian	Anne Seitz	768-6954

Board of Directors

Mary Cochran (09-11)	829-5078	Susie Nightingale (10-12)	785-760-1274
Maureen Donegan (09-11)	782-0960		
Maron Moore (09-11)	764-1824	John Andrade (10-12)	829-8207

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