



OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2017

Pickering House Update

Join us on Thursday, January 19, 2017, for an update on the preservation work taking place at the Pickering House. Owner Terry Presley will discuss the progress being made on the home. Presley purchased the home five years ago and has dedicated hundreds of hours to its restoration. The Pickering House was on the Olathe Historical Society Homes Tour in December 2013 and will return to the house tour in 2017.

The Pickering House was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. The home was built over a period of ten years in the late 1870s and 1880s by Major Isaac Orlando Pickering, a Civil War veteran.

Pickering was an attorney who practiced with John P. St. John, a governor of Kansas and presidential candidate for the Prohibition Party. Pickering served as a city attorney, mayor of Olathe, and was nominated for governor by the Prohibition party in 1892 and 1894. His descendants lived in the house until 1960. Some renovations took place at that time and the house was used as a bed and breakfast in the 1990s and 2000s. More recently, the Olathe Historical Society assisted with the restoration of one of the stained glass windows in the house.

Come find out more about the rebirth of the home Pickering called, "Old Liberty Hall". The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Heritage Center.



Photo of the Pickering House from the 1996 Johnson County Museum Historic Preservation Survey.

Calendar

January 19, 2017

OHS General Meeting

Program: Pickering House Update

Heritage Center

7 p.m.

February 16, 2017

OHS Board meeting

Heritage Center

5:00 p.m.

If you plan to attend the meeting and are in need of a deaf interpreter, please contact Bob Courtney by email at bobandlilacourtney@att.net at least 48 hours in advance.

Olathe Historical Society

Officers

President	Bob Courtney (15-17)	764-2494
1 st V P	Maureen Donegan (16-18)	782-0960
2 nd V P	Jayne Jones (15-17)	764-8039
Secretary	Margaret Endecott (16-18)	782-0269
Treasurer	Vicki Holdman (15-17)	764-5076
Historian	Anne Seitz	768-6954

Board of Directors

Mary Cochran (15-17)	829-5078
Karen Sutton Beets (16-18)	
Ann Johnson (16-18)	829-2299
Ken Roberts (16-17)	
Mary Jo O'Brien (16-18)	782-4270
Max Beets (16-17)	

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please contact the Olathe Historical Society at olathehistoricalsociety@gmail.com. If receiving the newsletter by email, be sure to set your inbox settings to recognize this email as not being junk mail. Newsletters and meeting announcements can also be found on the Olathe Historical Society website at <http://www.olathehistoricalsociety.org>

OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2016

Bob Courtney, Mary Cochran, Anne Seitz, Karen Beets, Max Beets, Ann Johnson, Mary Jo O'Brien, Jayne Jones, Ken Roberts, Margaret Endecott, Betty Wallace

MINUTES

The minutes of the October 20, 2016 meeting were approved as read.

NOTE

Minutes of today's meeting are not yet approved. If corrections are needed they will appear in the following bi-monthly newsletter.

FINANCIALS

The Financial Report was filed on record.

CORRESPONDENCE

An antique framed tin type taken by T. G. Tuttle Photography of Olathe, Kansas has been given to the Olathe Historical Society. The picture is of two men in winter clothing holding shotguns. Carol Knox of Wisconsin made this donation.

Lindsey Givens, Arcadia Book Publishing, sent examples of their work for various cities of their book series "Images of America ". She will contact Bob again in March to see if the Olathe Historical Society is interested in helping compile an "Olathe" book.

Rosemary Schrepfer, in going through the artifacts of the June Miller Estate, donated a 1940's photograph of dignitaries at the Olathe Naval Air Station.

OLD BUSINESS

FILM SERIES

"Trails through Johnson County" is near completion

Other films coming soon include "Hyer Boot Company", "Railroads in Olathe", "Buddy Rogers", and "Urban Renewal".

DISPLAY CASE

In the month of March, the Olathe Historical Society display case at the Heritage Center will feature Olathe businesses of the 1950s and 1960s. Ann Johnson and Karen Beets have been gathering memorabilia along with artifacts in the Historical Society collection.

OLATHE MEMORIAL CEMETERY

In November, the state of Kansas placed the Olathe Memorial Cemetery on its Register of Historic Sites.

It will now be submitted to the National Committee in hopes it will be honored nationally as well.

KANSAS DAY 2017

Mary Jo O'Brien will represent the Olathe Historical Society at the Kansas Day event to be held at the Johnson County Main Library on 87th Street, Overland Park, Kansas.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

On March 9, 2017, positions to be voted on will include:

President
Bob Courtney

2nd Vice President
Jayne Jones

Treasurer
Vicki Holdman

Board of Directors
Mary Cochran
Ken Roberts
Max Beets

COLLECTIONS REPORT

Collections Meeting, Thursday, January 12, 2017 10:15am, Heritage Center

Discussion on artifacts for review in Collections Meeting, Library check out system, multiple and unneeded books recycling, dating on maps, and framing of maps

NEW BUSINESS

Next Meeting Program will be the "PICKERING HOUSE" update by Terry Presley, present owner and restoration expert to be held January 19, 2017 at the Heritage Center.

HOMES TOUR 2017

We already have two homes lined up for being on the 2017 Olathe Historical Society Homes Tour scheduled for December 2017:

Ryan Hill Home
414 South Water
Pickering House
Terry Presley owner
507 West Park

If you would be interested in helping or showing your home, please contact Bob Courtney at (913) 764-2494.

A motion was made, seconded and approved that the Olathe Historical Society become a member of the Johnson County Kansas Heritage Foundation.

Next General Meeting
January 19th, 2017
Heritage Center 7:00pm

Next Board Meeting
February 16, 2017
Heritage Center 5:00pm

ADJOURNED

Remembering John Glenn

By Greg Sheffer

Greg Sheffer, director and producer of the Olathe: The City Beautiful film series, interviewed John Glenn for the film "The Flying Jayhawks", the story of the Olathe Naval Air Station. Greg shares his memories of his interview with Glenn for the film:

Once I found that John Glenn had his own office and secretary on the Ohio State Campus I immediately called. I spoke with his secretary and she said that the request for an interview would be passed on to Glenn. I think it was only a few days later and she called me back with some open times for an interview. We were talking about possible dates for a while and then she said, "why don't you just talk to Mr. Glenn?" She transferred me over and suddenly I'm talking with John Glenn. He was extremely nice and accommodating. In fact, he kept asking me if it was really worth it for us to travel to Ohio to interview him. He kept saying, "I was only at ONAS for a few months and it is a long way for you to travel." I kept reassuring him that it would be well worth it for us to travel and interview him. I don't remember the time frame between the call and the interview, but we went to Ohio and conducted the interview on Nov. 9, 2012.

Ohio State has the John Glenn College of Public Affairs and an entire building dedicated to this school. At the top of this building in Glenn's office and conference room. We set up for the interview in the conference room and waited for his arrival. When he arrived his wife was with

him and it was like two very kind neighbors had just entered the room. There was no sense of grandeur, just two down to earth, very kind people. Glenn's wife even asked me about my family. Glenn had done interviews like this a million times over most of his life and they still treated us like this was very important. They were not rushed and gave us their full attention. During the interview we asked Glenn about his time in Olathe and flying out of ONAS. His time at Olathe was uneventful for him as he was already a pilot and he was at ease going through primary training. I had brought some 8x10 photos for Glenn to sign. He gladly did so after the interview.

It was a fantastic opportunity to include John Glenn in our film on the ONAS. Beyond the fame and accomplishments of Mr. Glenn, I am most impressed with his character. He treated us with respect and gave this small interview for a small film his full attention and support. I am very grateful we have this important interview for posterity.

"The Flying Jayhawk", as well as the other completed films in the series, can be borrowed from the Olathe Public Library or can be purchased at Feeney's Hallmark at 135th and Black Bob Rd. and through the Olathe Historical Society website at <http://www.olathehistoricalsociety.org>.

