



OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2015

Calendar

July 16, 2015
General Meeting
Program: Luke Spence
7:00 p.m.
Heritage Center

July 16, 23, 30
Family Fun Nights at Mahaffie
Free admission
6 p.m.

August 20, 2015
OHS Board Meeting
5:30 p.m.
Heritage Center

Old Settlers Days
September 10, 11, 12

Save the Date!
Olathe Historic Homes Tour
December 5, 2015
More information soon!

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>

Kansas City's Automotive History July Program

Did you know that Kansas City is the only city with General Motors, Ford, and Harley Davidson plants? Or that Kansas City is home to the oldest GM franchisee, Robert Greenlease? Join us on Thursday, July 16th at 7 p.m. at the Heritage Center to meet Luke Spence, curator of the Kansas City Automotive Museum. Spence will be sharing information about Kansas City's unique automotive history.

The Kansas City Automotive Museum, 15095 W. 116th St. in Olathe, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week. Admission is \$11, or \$9 for seniors and military, \$8 for students from 13 to 17 years old with ID and children from 4 to 12 years old, and free for younger kids. Memberships start at \$45.

Family Fun Nights at Mahaffie

- Enjoy a different theme of 1860s living history each week during Family Fun Nights at Mahaffie. The July 16th theme is Hit the Trail! *(may be switched with the July 23rd theme depending on the timing of the wheat crop). Hit the Trail features packing a wagon for the Oregon Trail, meeting the oxen in training, Day and Davy, and more! Learn how people packed for the Oregon Trail
 - See an oxen demonstration for the Santa Fe Trail at 6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
 - Play 19th century games
 - Make an 'S' hook in the blacksmith shop, ages 8 & up (\$3)
 - Pan for Gold! (\$2/pan)
- Kansas Wheat Harvest* on July 23rd features activities similar to when the Mahaffie Farm harvested wheat in the 1860s. Help bundle wheat after the horse drawn reaping demonstrations
 - Help flail wheat (knock off the kernels)
 - Play 19th century games
 - Make an 'S' hook in the blacksmith shop, ages 8 & up (\$3)
 - Lemonade for sale from the Questers
- County Fair night on July 30 features activities such as games, voting for animals and more. A pie-eating contest will take place at 7:30 p.m.-registration begins at 6 p.m., different age categories are featured and you must sign a waiver

FREE admission, stagecoach rides are \$3/person ages 3 & up, some activities require an extra fee.

OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING

June 18, 2015

Bob Courtney, Ann Johnson, Anne Seitz, Jayne Jones,
Mary Cochran, Mary Jo O'Brien, Maureen Donegan,
Karen Sutton Beets, Max Beets.

MINUTES

The minutes of the April Board Meeting were unavailable for this meeting and will be read at the next Board Meeting.

FINANCIAL

The Financial report was unavailable for this meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

The University of Kansas Religious Study Department is compiling a database on where collections of church histories are held in Kansas Communities. They contacted us for information on Olathe church histories, many of which can be found in the Kansas Room at the Olathe Public Library.

Mary Stuteville, daughter of Ed Duguid, provided Bob Courtney with a packet of Olathe history information and a CD of photographs that were shown as part of the Olathe Then and Now presentations at Old Settlers Days.

Pat Mummert contacted OHS about two chairs, one that belonged to William Pellet, the first mayor of Olathe, and John P. St. John, a governor of Kansas and one-time presidential candidate. More research is being done to authenticate the chairs' history.

The Friends Board of Olathe Libraries sent a thank-you note for the OHS participation in their Novel-Tea fundraiser.

Amy Hackler donated a cookbook that belonged to the Pellet family and a 1952 photograph of the employees of Hyer Boot, notable for its showing of diversity in hiring practices.

OLD BUSINESS:

FILM SERIES

Volumes 4 and 5 are presently completed or near completion and will be available for sale soon.

Volumes 1, 2 and 3 are currently available at the Heritage Center and Feeney's Hallmark and Volume 3

is also available at the Deaf Cultural Center. Also visit <http://www.olathehistoricalsociety.org> to place an order for all of the volumes. We are down to only 26 copies of the original 1000 ordered of Volume 1.

2015 HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

DATE OF THE TOUR: DECEMBER 5, 2015

The proposal was made to offer for sale stationery packets with pen and ink drawings of the houses on tour this year instead of the coffee mugs. Bob Courtney will investigate this possibility and talk with artist Roger Messersmith about the project. The final list of homes on the tour should be available soon.

OLD SETTLERS

We will be sharing a booth again with the Olathe Alumni Association. The theme for this year's Old Settlers Days is "Out of This World"! Dates are September 10, 11, and 12.

DISPLAY CASE

The next exhibit in the Olathe Historical Society gallery will feature Grace Bilger paintings from the OHS collection.

LIBRARY GRANT

The Olathe Public Library received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association to present programming and exhibits on Latino culture. OHS is hoping to host one of those presentations at our September general meeting.

CEMETERY GRANT

The city of Olathe, with the assistance of the Olathe Historic Preservation Board, received a Historic Preservation Fund grant to conduct a survey of the Olathe Memorial Cemetery and prepare a National Register Historic District nomination for the cemetery. Bob Courtney will be serving on a committee to help select a company for that process.

NEW BUSINESS

BEST WISHES

Leah Majors will be leaving her position with the city of Olathe. Leah has been our point of contact for reserving space for our meetings at the Heritage Center and at the Olathe Community Center. The OHS appreciates her excellent service over the years and

wishes her the best in her new endeavors. We will miss you, Leah.

COLLECTIONS

The Collections Committee meeting was held on June 4, 2015. Thank-you to Mary Cochran, Jayne Jones, and Peg Nichols who took notes. Also assisting were Margaret Endecott, Bob Courtney, Donna Rice, and Dan McFarland. The committee recommended that the OHS board review the Collections Policy guidelines at a future meeting to evaluate whether or not those

guidelines are meeting our needs. See below for more information from the Collections Committee.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

The next general meeting will be Thursday, July 16, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Thursday, August 20, 2015, 5:30 p.m. at the Heritage Center.

ADJOURNED

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Some of the interesting items reviewed by the Collections Committee in June:

- Glass photograph plates that are pictures from Kansas City, Kansas of crime scenes and car accidents. Anne Seitz will contact Debbie Hancock at the Wyandotte County Museum to see if they are interested in having them for their collection.
- A large nativity mural painting donated by Dan MacFarland that once hung in the First National Bank by Grace Bilger will be kept for the OHS collection. Jayne Jones donated a Bilger painting of a red barn in the snow. Other Bilger paintings in the OHS collection include a donation from Greg Sheffer of a pirate house in Savannah GA, a painting of the Hoff stone house, and a painting of a dam and spillway.
- Paintings by Robert Burns of the Ott House, the Pickering House, the Martin Van Buren Parker House, the Mahffie House, and the Lanter House were also reviewed and will be kept. A large painting by Lucie St. John, wife of John P. St. John, will be taken to the Topeka's Governor's mansion curator to see if they would like to have it for their collection. The framed painting was a wedding gift to Jesse Eagleston Holley.
- Additional items reviewed and accessioned include a red scrapbook from the 1953-54 VFW Women's Auxiliary, a portrait of C.W. Jones 1924-25, and a portrait donated by Mark Donegan from the VFW hall.
- A special thank-you to Dan MacFarland for his contributions to the map collection in the research room and Olathe High School pictures.



Photo from the Olathe Public Library collection found online through the Johnson County Museum

<http://www.jocohistory.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/opl/id/1290/rec/5>

Olathe Historical Society

Officers and Board Members

Officers

President	Bob Courtney (15-17)	764-2494
1 st Vice President	Lisa Leikam Jones (14-16)	783-4626
2 nd Vice President	Jayne Jones (15-17)	764-8039
Secretary	Margaret Endecott (14-16)	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 (14-16)	
Maureen Donegan (15-17)	782-0960	Ann Johnson (14-16)	829-2299
Maron Moore (15-17)	764-1824	Mary Jo O'Brien (14-16)	782-4270

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