



# OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March 2016

## Calendar

**March 10, 2016**

**OHS General Meeting  
Program: James Naismith  
Olathe Community Center  
7:00 p.m.**

**March 20, 2016**

**KCPT Broadcast of  
Olathe: The City Beautiful  
Volumes 4 & 5**

**Check your TV guide for broadcast  
times.**

**Spring Break Living History at  
Mahaffie**

**March 18, 19, 20  
10 a.m.**

Enjoy Spring 1860s Living History  
activities that may include:

- Stagecoach rides (weather and ground conditions permitting)
- Blacksmith and cookstove demonstrations
- Horse powered plowing demonstrations throughout the day
- Visit the Mahaffie House
- Enjoy exhibits in the Heritage Center and the Agricultural Heritage Barn

Admission: \$7/adults, \$5/children ages 5-11, (Olathe residents receive \$2/off admission)

**April 21  
OHS Board Meeting  
Heritage Center  
5:00 p.m.**

## James Naismith comes to Olathe



Join us on March 10, 2016, as we welcome James Naismith (aka Bill Nicks). Nicks will be joining us at the Olathe Community Center at 7 p.m. in Room C to portray James Naismith, inventor of the game of basketball in 1891. In 1898, Naismith became the first college basketball coach at the University of Kansas and remained there as coach, faculty, or athletic director for almost forty years. Nicks, as Naismith, will share many interesting facts about “himself” and the history of basketball, just in time for “March Madness”!



*Receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from the Olathe Public Schools for the donation of DVDs in the Olathe: The City Beautiful film series to each Olathe school. From l to r: Superintendent Dr. Marlin Berry, BOE member Joe Beveridge, OHS President Bob Courtney, OHS Board member Maureen Donegan, film producer Greg Sheffer, and OPS Community Liaison facilitator Heather Schoonover.*

**OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 18, 2016**

Bob Courtney, Anne Seitz, Maureen Donegan, Ann Johnson, Mary Cochran, Vicki Holdman, Jayne Jones, Karen Sutton Beets, Margaret Endecott

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 17, 2015 Board 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**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A framed Certificate of Recognition was presented to the Olathe Historical Society by the Olathe Public Schools on January 7, 2016 for the donation of copies of each of the five volumes of the Olathe City Beautiful film series to each school library.

Bob Courtney has been contacted by students wanting historical information for essays they are preparing. The Olathe Historical Society has a Research Room located in the Heritage Center with various information and photos of Olathe. We are grateful for the many hours spent in its organization.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Film Series Volume 5 is available for purchase. Volume 5 contains Mr. Old Settlers: The Old Settlers day, We Belong: The Black Bob Band, There Shall Come a Day: Civil Rights in Olathe, and Early Olathe Churches.

The films may be purchased at the Heritage Center, Feeney's Hallmark Store and on line at [Olathehistoricalsociety.org](http://Olathehistoricalsociety.org) for \$10 each.

Films in process now include "Railroads" and "Trails through Johnson County".

**Olathe Memorial Cemetery**

A New Orleans firm has been chosen and hopes to complete the survey of the cemetery by end of the summer. The hope is that Olathe Memorial Cemetery will be name an historic site by the National Parks Service.

**Display Case**

The GRACE BILGER display is in the process of completion and viewing will begin in the next few weeks.

**Pickering Stained Glass Window**

Donations for repairs to the beautiful window have been received by many generous members and friends. It has been repaired and returned to the Pickering House.

**Novel Tea - April 9th**

Theme: "Childhood Memories"

Olathe Historical Society will be sponsoring a table. Tickets may be purchased by contacting Sharon Markey at (913) 782-4964.

**Slides to Digital**

A machine has been made available for taking the many slides in the possession of Olathe Historical Society and changing them to new digital technology. This will be helpful in the preservation and preparation of programs to be presented.

**History of Street Names**

An interesting and informative program was given by Bob Courtney at the January meeting. Thanks go also to Mary Cochran for the many hours she has given in researching the names and their history.

**Mahaffie Gala**

In celebration of 150 years of the Mahaffie House standing in its present location in Olathe a Gala will take place Saturday evening, February 20th. The Olathe Mirror newspaper dated February 22, 1866

reads "Do not forget the social party to be held this evening at J B Mahaffie's".

#### Collections Committee

Donations from First Presbyterian Church and the rest of the June Miller/Ernie Miller donations were reviewed by the committee on February 11, 2016. Ann Johnson, Mary Cochran, Karen Sutton Beets, Max Beets, Donna Reist, Ken Roberts, Mary Jane Duncan, Peg Nichols, Dan MacFarland, Bob Courtney, and Margaret Endecott reviewed a long list and accomplished so much. Our scribes were Karen Sutton Beets and Margaret Endecott. We reviewed very old large history books, clothing, photographs, awards, and items from a historic church with connections to Mahaffie. Decisions about what to keep were based on our Collections Policy. Thanks to all who participated.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Elections will take place at the March meeting.

The following offices will be presented:

Lisa Jones - 1st Vice President  
Margaret Endecott - Secretary  
Board Members  
Maron Moore (vacancy) 1 year  
Mary Jo O'Brien  
Karen Sutton Beets  
Ann Johnson

Next General Meeting  
March 10, 2016 7 p.m.  
Olathe Community Center Room "C"

Next Board Meeting  
April 21, 2016 5 p.m.  
Heritage Center

Adjourned

## Join the Olathe Historical Society

### Contact Information

Name	
Street Address	
City, ST Zip Code	
Phone	
E-Mail Address	

### Dues

March 1st is the renewal date for Olathe Historical Society Dues. Individual dues are \$10/year, Sustaining Membership is \$25/year, and Lifetime Membership is \$100. Dues can be mailed to the Olathe Historical Society or brought with you to our next general meeting.

Please mail this application and your enrollment check to:

Olathe Historical Society  
1200 Kansas City Road  
Olathe, KS 66061

Thank you for joining the Olathe Historical Society! For more information, please visit our website at [www.olathehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.olathehistoricalsociety.org).

# Pellet Place



Did you have an opportunity to visit Pellet Place on the Historic Homes tour in December? Would you like to know more about the home? The house at 213 S. Pine, Olathe, Kansas, was built in 1906 for James Sutton Pellett and his wife, Estelle (Conn) Pellett. James Pellett was a banker and was active in Olathe's government and schools, including serving two terms as mayor from 1913 to 1919. James Mason and Bruce Crane, the current owners, would like to invite you to visit their website at <http://www.pellettplace.org> (the photo above is from that site). Included on the site are photographs of the house as it underwent renovation and a history of the Pellett family.

## **Olathe Historical Society**

### **Officers**

President	Bob Courtney (15-17)	764-2494
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Lisa Leikam Jones (14-16)	783-4626
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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
Mary Jo O'Brien (14-16)	782-4270		