



OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May 2015

Calendar

May 2, 2015

Commemorate Olathe 1865

10 a.m. Mahaffie farmhouse

1 p.m. Olathe Memorial Cemetery

Free Admission

Rain or Shine

May 21, 2015

General Meeting

We Belong

Film premiere

Olathe Community Center

7 p.m.

June 4, 2015

Collections Committee Meeting

10 a.m.

Heritage Center basement

June 5, 2015

Sunflower Wickets Tournament

**in support of programming at
the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop &
Farmstead**

June 18, 2015

Board Meeting

5:30 p.m.

Heritage Center

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>

***We Belong* Premiere**

Olathe: The City Beautiful Film Series

Please join us for the premiere showing of the latest film in the Olathe: The City Beautiful film series. Produced by Emmy-award winning Greg Sheffer, the film tells the story of Black Bob and the Shawnee Indians.

Please note the start time and location for the premiere. The program will be held at the new Olathe Community Center in conference room B on Thursday, May 21st. The start time will be 7 p.m.

Commemorate Olathe 1865

2015 brings together three milestones in the story of Olathe. In 1865, Olathe citizens experienced many different events—the end of the Civil War, the first burial in the Olathe Memorial Cemetery and the completion of the limestone Mahaffie farmhouse that can still be visited today. Activities at both locations help tell the story of these important events.

10 a.m. at the ***Mahaffie farmhouse*** (park at the Heritage Center)

- A presentation on mourning and funerals to connect 19th century practices to current practices
- A reenactment of the funeral of Susan Adair Henderson, Lucinda Mahaffie's mother who passed away at age 84. She is buried in the Olathe Memorial Cemetery along-side many members of the Mahaffie family. The Mahaffie formal parlor will be decorated for mourning her death and a horse drawn hearse will assist with the activities. The horse-drawn hearse has made many appearances in the Old Settlers Days parade. Penwell-Gabel Funeral Home of Olathe makes it possible for hearse to participate.

1 p.m. at the ***Olathe Memorial Cemetery****(park at Northview Elementary)

- Completion of the funeral reenactment of Susan Adair Henderson
- Themed tours of the Cemetery from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Themes include: gravestone symbolism, notable trees, the history of the cemetery and notable citizens
- Spiritual songs by the Second Baptist Church of Olathe from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Local author Tom Rafiner will present from his book *Caught Between Three Fires* focusing on the Border Wars at 3:30 p.m. The Sons of Union Veterans will assist with the closing ceremony.

OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING
April 16, 2015

Bob Courtney, Ann Johnson, Anne Seitz, Jayne Jones, Mary Cochran, Vicki Holdman, Mary Jo O'Brien, Maureen Donegan, Lisa Leikam Jones, Karen Sutton Beets, Margaret Endecott, Dan McFarland

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 19th Board Meeting were unavailable for this meeting and will be read at the next Board Meeting scheduled for June 18, 2015.

Minutes from the Annual Election of Officers held March 12, 2015, were read and approved.

NOTE:

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

FINANCIAL

The Financial report was read and approved.

The proposed budget for April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 was read and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

FILM SERIES

VOLUME 4 OLATHE NAVAL AIR STATION

VOLUME 5 OLD SETTLERS, CHIEF BLACKBOB, CIVIL RIGHTS, EARLY CHURCHES

Several of these films 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.

2015 HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

DATE OF THE TOUR: DECEMBER 5, 2015

Lindy/Tony Snethen 318 West Cedar

B. Crane/J. Mason 213 South Pine

Simply Reinspired Café and Antiques will join the Tour and have snacks available for sale along with antique items.

Karen Sutton Beets and Jayne Jones have volunteered to help Bob and Lila Courtney coordinate the 2015 Historical Homes Tour.

2015 is the 150th Anniversary of the Mahaffie House which will also be open during the Olathe Historic Homes Tour.

The Olathe Memorial Cemetery will celebrate 150 years with a "mock" funeral of Susan Adair Henderson (Mother of Lucinda Mahaffie) at the Mahaffie House on the morning of May 2nd complete with a horse drawn hearse. Following this at 1:30 p.m. will be a celebration service at the Olathe Memorial Cemetery on Woodland Street, complete with speakers on the Border Wars. The public is invited to attend both events.

Old Settlers: It was moved, seconded and approved that the Olathe Historical Society will again share a booth with the Olathe Alumni Association and will have items for sale such as Olathe Historical Society films, books, and pins. We will also be advertising the upcoming 2015 Historic Homes Tour scheduled for Saturday, December 5, 2015.

The theme for this year's Old Settlers Days is "Out of This World"!

The Library Tea will be held April 25, 2015, at the Indian Creek Community Church using the theme of "A Stitch in Time" honoring Nellie Don, a dress maker of Kansas City, Mo. Ann Johnson and Karen Sutton Beets have gathered a Nellie Don dress, favors, chair covers, patterns and sewing notions to make a beautiful themed table sponsored by the Olathe Historical Society. Thank you ladies for your hard work!!!

June 5th will be the annual Sunflower Wickets Tournament to be held at Two Trails Park with the finals to take place on the Great Lawn at the Olathe Community Center. It was moved, seconded and approved that the Olathe Historical Society will sponsor a field for this event.

The paperwork has been sent to the Freedom's Frontier association so Olathe Historical Society will become a supporter and help publicize area events pertaining to the Border Wars.

A suggestion was made that the display cases feature a collection of Grace Bilger paintings now in the possession of the Olathe Historical Society.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob Courtney was invited to attend a meeting as the library is applying for a grant sponsored by the National Endowment of Humanities using a PBS DVD titled "LATINO AMERICANS 500 YEARS OF HISTORY".

Karen Sutton Beets will make plans for the July meeting at the Heritage Center.

COLLECTIONS:

The next Collections Committee meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2015, 10:00 a.m. at the Heritage Center basement. All who helped with the previous meetings are appreciated as much has been accomplished in determining the importance, organizing and

cataloguing the artifacts owed by the Olathe Historical Society.

The Past Present Collections Computer Program was discussed.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

The next general meeting will be Thursday, May 21, 2015 with the showing of the newest film "WE BELONG" about Chief Black Bob and the Shawnee. We plan to meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Olathe Community Center. Please note the earlier starting time and location of this program.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Thursday, June 18, 2015, 5:30 p.m. at the Heritage Center.

ADJOURNED

Special Note: Due to a variety of circumstances, the March OHS newsletter was not published. Since many items in the April minutes continue items from the February minutes, here are some brief highlights from the February minutes not referenced in April:

- Correction to December minutes should read: A member of the Mettus family contacted Bob wanting to donate a framed photograph owned by Oscar Smith of Olathe. The photo was taken at the Commissioning Ceremonies of the Olathe Naval Air Station on October 1, 1942.
- Mark Donegan donated 2 pictures from the now disbanded Olathe VFW along with a scrapbook from the VFW Ladies Auxiliary.
- The debut showing of the film on the Olathe Naval Air Station had 96 interested attendees at the Olathe Community Center on Thursday evening, January 15th. The film was very well received and many comments were made and memories expressed following the showing.
- A search is on for a picture of R. R. Osborne as an adult. If one is located please contact Bob Courtney.
- Bill Nix was unable to present his program in March as James Naismith due to an illness. **MANY THANKS** to Tim Talbott and Alexis Woodall for stepping in at the last minute. Tim presented a program on the history of cemeteries and tombstone symbolism, including the history of the Olathe Memorial Cemetery. Alexis shared information on the Commemorate Olathe 1865 programs coming up to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Mahaffie home.

Collections Committee Update: Many thanks to the following people who assisted with our collections: Margaret Endecott, Karen Sutton Beets, Ann Johnson, Mary Jo O'Brien, Bob Duncan, Mary Jane Duncan, Ken Roberts, Dan MacFarland, Peg Nichols, Bob Courtney, Max Beets, Anne Seitz. With their assistance, the OHS was able to take care of a backlog of donations. Recent donations reviewed included those from the Tressa Pitts estate, the Gordon and Riffe Pitts family, Patrons Bank, a letter from a member of the Ott family, high school yearbooks, and commemorative plates. Thanks to Ann Johnson for her expertise on the preservation of quilts and fiber art. We have refolded the Winters quilt according to recommendations and placed it with archival paper in an archival box and will refold it on a regular basis to better preserve it.

Just a reminder that all donations to the Olathe Historical Society should be related specifically to Olathe. To make sure that the items are received safely, please bring items to an OHS general or board meeting rather than just dropping them off at the Heritage Center. Please enclose a note with name, address, phone number, email, and what you know about the donation so that we can contact you about your donation.

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

Olathe Historical Society

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