



# OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November 2016

## Trash or Treasure

### Calendar

**November 17, 2016**  
**OHS General Meeting**  
**Annual Potluck Supper**  
**Program: Trash or Treasure**  
**Heritage Center**  
**6 p.m.**

**December 15, 2016**  
**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](mailto:bobandlilacourtney@att.net) at least 48 hours in advance.

#### **Olathe Historical Society** **Officers**

President	Bob Courtney (15-17)	764-2494
1 <sup>st</sup> V P	Maureen Donegan (16-18)	782-0960
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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>

Join us for our annual Trash or Treasure program and Potluck Supper! The potluck supper will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 17th at the Heritage Center, followed by the program. Michelle Staley, antiques appraiser from Lenexa, will join us to take a look at your antiques treasures. Michelle has loved antiques since she was a child. She has had the opportunity to work as a freelance archaeologist for the University of Texas and has participated in forensic investigations. Michelle brings 36 years of experience in antiques to our "roadshow". Please limit your "treasures" to one item per person!

The potluck supper will begin at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a food item for the supper to share based on your last name as follows:

A-I = main dish      J-O = side dish      P-Z = dessert

## Olathe's Presidential Candidate

John P. St. John, a Union veteran of the Civil War, moved to Olathe from Illinois in 1869 and set up a successful law practice. In 1872 he was elected to the Kansas Senate and in 1878, Kansas Republicans nominated St. John as their candidate for governor. He won by a large margin and was re-elected in 1880. St. John was a popular politician. His administration was noteworthy for investment in new state buildings, large additions to the Kansas State School for the Deaf in Olathe, and coal mines in Lansing opened to create jobs for inmates. He was also noted for providing jobs, housing and aid to the thousands of indigent blacks immigrating to Kansas from the south. St. John advocated a constitutional ban on the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, and the legislature followed his lead. As governor, St. John hosted "water banquets," at which no drinks stronger than water were served. In 1882, Governor St. John received an unprecedented nomination for a third term, but was defeated by Democratic candidate George Glick. Kansas' prohibition governor soon gained fame on the national stage. In 1884, St. John was so disappointed at the failure of the Republicans to include a prohibition plank in their national platform, he left the party and accepted the Prohibition Party's nomination for President. St. John campaigned energetically, particularly in New York, which he considered a key state. Nationally, St. John received 150,626 votes, with 25,000 in New York State. The result was that Grover Cleveland, the Democratic candidate for president, carried New York by fewer than 1200 votes and consequently won the presidency. St. John was widely vilified for deserting the Republican Party and pulling votes away that might have guaranteed a Republican in the White House. The backlash in Kansas was swift and sure, resulting in the legislature rechristening the county that bore his name. Undeterred, St. John continued his career as Prohibition advocate, traveling over 350,000 miles to make some 4,500 speeches for the cause. Over time, the bitterness over St. John's "betrayal" of the Republicans faded, although he remarked, "I believe I have been hanged in effigy more times than any other, and offered enough tar and feathers, to corner the market." St. John died at his home in Olathe at the age of 83 in 1916. The city honored his memory ten years later with the naming of John P. St. John Memorial High School, erected at the corner of Park and Water.

*Excerpted from the Johnson County Museum newsletter ALBUM vol. 17, no. 4 (fall 2004)*

OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 20,2016

Bob Courtney, Mary Cochran, Mary Jo O'Brien, Ken Roberts, Anne Seitz, Margaret Endecott

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 18, 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

Lindsey Givens of Arcadia Book Publishing which publishes books on cities under the name of "Images of America" would like an Olathe book. The Board elected to postpone this offer until a later date.

OLD BUSINESS

Film Series - Under Production

"Railroads in Olathe" is near completion

"Trails Through Johnson County"

"Hyer Boot Company"

"Buddy Rogers"

"Urban Renewal"

DISPLAY CASE

Olathe Trail Riders memorabilia is presently on display at the Heritage Center. This organization is no longer active but will always be a part of Olathe's history with their involvement in the Old Settler's Parade, Horse Shows, Rodeos, American Royal Parade, and in the pride of our city.

OLATHE MEMORIAL CEMETERY

The Kansas Historical Society will determine in November if Olathe Memorial Cemetery is to be named a National Historic Site.

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Olathe Historical Society Collections Committee met on August 25, 2016, a Thursday, with the following people in attendance: Karen Beets, Mary Cochran, Ann Johnson, Dan McFarland, Ken Roberts, Max Beets, Donna Reist, Margaret Endecott, Anne Seitz. We discussed our growing typewriter collection, accepted donations from Pat Mummert, a baseball uniform from Ralph Neighbors and discussed our larger items in basement storage. Much was accomplished. Thanks to those who attended.

Funding was requested and approved for a collections brochure and construction material in the Basement Collections area.

NEW BUSINESS

The November 17th, 2016 meeting is our yearly "Potluck" and "TRASH OR TREASURE". An antique dealer will be with us to look at each item brought. This meeting is always a favorite with various items for us to see.

The Potluck will begin at 6 p.m. with the program beginning at 7 p.m. Be thinking about which treasure you will bring this year!!!

TRICK OR TREAT Off The Street sponsored by the Mahaffie Farmstead and Stagecoach Stop will be Saturday evening October 29th from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Olathe Historical Society will host a table at KANSAS DAY 2017 at the ANTIOCH LIBRARY.

Election of officers will take place at the MARCH 9th, 2017 meeting. Up for election will be:

President - Bob Courtney

2nd Vice President - Jayne Jones

Treasurer - Vicki Holdman

Board of Directors - Max Beets, Mary Cochran, Ken Roberts

Margaret Endecott was appointed Nomination Chairman

Next General Meeting:

November 17th, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Next Board Meeting:

December 15th, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Adjourned