

OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September 2011

Calendar

September 8, 9, 10

Old Settlers Days

**Come visit us at our Olathe
Historical Society booth!**

Ken Roberts will be showing the Olathe history slides at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 10 in the McGilley Frye Funeral Chapel at the Old Settlers Celebration. Bob Courtney will then be showing the film on Marshall Ensor by Greg Sheffer.

September 15, 2011

General Meeting

**Mahaffie Heritage Center
7:30 p.m.**

October 10, 2011

OHS Board Meeting

**Mahaffie Heritage Center
7:00 p.m.**

November 17, 2011

General Meeting

**Potluck and Trash or Treasure
6:30 p.m.**

December 3, 2011

Holiday Homes Tour

December 12, 2011

OHS Board Meeting

**Mahaffie Heritage Center
7:00 p.m.**

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please contact
Maureen Donegan at
modoneg@hotmail.com.

Kansas School for the Deaf Celebrates 150 Years!

In 1861 the Kansas Territory had just entered the Union; the Civil War had just begun; and with a handful of students, the Kansas School for the Deaf, opened its doors for the purpose of educating students.

Five years after the school opened in Baldwin City, the staff and students relocated to the recently established town called Olathe. The city of Olathe and the Kansas School for the Deaf have literally "grown up" together through the years. Families that moved to the area in order for their children to attend the school, continued to remain in Olathe. The city has truly earned the recognition of being called one of the most Deaf Friendly Cities in America.

Join us on September 15th at 7:30 p.m. at the Mahaffie Heritage Center for a presentation by Sandie Kelley of the Deaf Cultural Center and William J. Marra Museum celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Kansas School for the Deaf. Sandie will share stories from the school's history that she has gathered in writing [Kansas School for the Deaf: A Pictorial History, 1861-2011](#). This 288 page volume will include 400 images that tell the story of the school.



Photo found online at jocomuseum.org

This photo of the 1894 Kansas State School for the Deaf baseball team includes Luther "Dummy" Taylor, who went on to play major league baseball with the New York Giants and the Cleveland Broncos. Taylor is seated in the second row, just to the right of the gentleman in the suit. Taylor is credited with expanding the use of sign language in the modern game of baseball. Taylor came from Oskaloosa, Kansas, and returned to teach and coach at the Kansas State School for the Deaf at the conclusion of his major league career.

OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD MEETING
HERITAGE CENTER

August 8, 2011

ATTENDING: BOB COURTNEY, MARGARET ENDECOTT, JOHN ANDRADE, SUSIE NIGHTENGALE, MARY COCHRAN

MINUTES:

The minutes of the June 13th, 2011 Board Meeting were read and approved.

FINANCIAL

Membership dues renew March 1 of each year. Membership forms are available at the Heritage Center.

CORRESPONDENCE – DONATION

The Olathe Lions Club made a donation of \$100.00 toward the Sheffer Film Project.

OLD BUSINESS

Items for donation to the Olathe Historical Society may be left in the Research Room at the Heritage Center. Index cards on the table need to include the name, address and phone number of the giver.

HOUSE TOUR – DECEMBER 3RD, 2011

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 3rd, 10am until 5pm for the Olathe Historical Society's Bi-annual Homes Tour.

104 East Elm, 509 South Chestnut, and 540 East Loula will be three of the homes on this year's tour. If you would like to volunteer or nominate a home please contact Bob Courtney at (913) 764-2494.

An artist for the Tour "mug" will be chosen and House coordinators are needed. If you would like to help with the 2011 Homes Tour please contact Bob at the number given above or contact one of our members.

"OLATHE – THE CITY BEAUTIFUL" FILM SERIES

Packaging of the first 4 films on 1 disc for sale during the Old Settlers celebration is on target and will be available. A motion was made, seconded and approved and the subtitle of "Windows into History, Volume 1" was chosen to be placed on the disc. A motion was made, seconded and approved that the discs have

the option of Closed Captioning. The films on the first disc include :

Indian Jim – The Bricklayer, Marshall Ensor, Lucinda Mahaffie, and Hodges Brothers Lumber
The discs will be available for the price of \$10.00 each.

OLD SETTLERS AND THE OLATHE SCHOOL DISTRICT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Olathe Historical Society and the Olathe School District Alumni Association will share a booth during the Old Settlers Celebration. The book of Olathe's history, "Trails, Rails, and Tales" will be available as well as the newly available disc containing the first 4 films.

The parade will be rerouted this year beginning 1 block South at the intersection of Kansas and Cedar Streets. It will then go 1 block East to Cherry then 1 block North on Cherry to Loula from there following it's normal route. The rides will be moved 1 block south to compensate for construction on the jail which is located at the Southwest corner of Santa Fe and Kansas Ave.

OHS WEBSITE – "GO DADDY"

Vickie Holdman contacted "Go Daddy", our website host, and found the reason for the inability to locate our site was a change in the address. The address now is www.OlatheHistoricalSociety.org . We invite you to visit the site and learn about our "Olathe – City Beautiful"!

JOHNSON COUNTY HERITAGE TRUST FUND GRANT – "I'VE PAID THE BILL", "QUANTRILL'S RAID ON OLATHE", "SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF" AND "WALNUT GROVE ONE ROOM SCHOOL"

Bob Courtney and Maureen Donegan attended several meetings and gave much information to boards granting funds for the above mentioned films, kiosks, preservation of documents and restoration of buildings to further the work of saving and giving information on the history of our city. As of the date of this Board Meeting no notification has been received concerning the granting of funds.

PROMOTIONAL BUDGETING

A motion was made, seconded and approved that \$300.00 be allocated for the printing of 1000 flyers containing information about meetings, contacts and merchandise available. These flyers will be placed in the Heritage Center and will be made available at area locations and events.

NEW BOOK OPPORTUNITY - "IMAGES OF AMERICA - OLATHE"

The Olathe Historical Society has been asked to become involved with preparing pictures and written material for the future publishing of a book about Olathe. Many cities in our state currently have a book about their city and our hope is to complete the information necessary for Olathe.

FAMOUS OLATHEAN CARDS

The picture of famous Olatheans of history, Events that have taken place in Olathe or Places of interest in Olathe are on one side and information of their fame is written on the back side. These can be made available to school children and at Olathe events. Susie Nightengale has volunteered to help with this project. Be watching for their debut!

NEW BUSINESS

A new and improved sign adding Olathe Historical Society and Kansas Travel Information Center is now in place at the entrance of the Heritage Center! This will inform the public that the Olathe Historical Society has a permanent location in our city.

LIZ SMITH PROJECT - ORAL HISTORIES

The Mahaffie staff is planning a "Grandparents Day" in September and would like to record oral histories for families. Help is needed with this project. If you are interested please contact Bob Courtney at (913) 764-2494.

GERALD HAY - BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS - SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2011

Bob Courtney, President of the Olathe Historical Society will give a presentation on the "history" of the Olathe Historical Society to the Commissioners at 9:30am, September 1 on the 3rd floor of the Administration Building, 100 South Cherry Street, Olathe, Kansas. All members interested are invited to attend.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 7:30PM

Sandie Kelley - 150th Celebration of Kansas School for the Deaf

NEXT BOARD MEETING - HERITAGE CENTER - OCTOBER 10, 7:00PM

ADJOURNED

Olathe Historical Society 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.



Greg Sheffer of Inversion Productions introduces the film, *A Place Called Home*, the story of the Mahaffies and their early years in Olathe at the July general meeting.



We loved the great turnout for the premiere of the film. Thank-you for joining us!

Olathe Historical Society

Officers and Board Members

Officers

President	Bob Courtney (11-13)	764-2494
1 st Vice President	Lisa Karstetter (10-12)	913-783-4626
2 nd Vice President	Jayne Jones (11-13)	764-8039
Secretary	Margaret Endecott (10-12)	782-0269
Treasurer	Vicki Holdman (10-12)	764-5076
Historian	Anne Seitz	768-6954

Board of Directors

Mary Cochran (11-13)	829-5078	Susie Nightingale (10-12)	785-760-1274
Maureen Donegan (11-13)	782-0960	Ann Johnson (11-13)	
Maron Moore (11-13)	764-1824	John Andrade (10-12)	829-8207

Olathe Historical Society
1200 Kansas City Road
Olathe, KS 66061