



OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September 2015

Calendar

Old Settlers Days
September 10, 11, 12

Hispanic Heritage Month
September 15 – October 15

September 17, 2015
General Meeting
Program: Trade Along the Santa Fe Trail
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Heritage Center

September 26 & 27 2015
Wild West Days at Mahaffie
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday

October 15, 2015
OHS Board Meeting
5:00 p.m.
Heritage Center

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>

Hispanic Heritage Month Trade Along the Santa Fe Trail

The Olathe Historical Society is proud to host an event in the month-long celebration of Hispanic Heritage supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Library Association, *Latino Americans*, the Olathe Public Library, and the Francis Family Foundation. The program, *Trade Along the Santa Fe Trail*, will be held from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 17th at the Heritage Center at Mahaffie.

Latino Americans is the first major documentary series for television to chronicle the rich and varied history and experiences of Latinos, who have helped shape North America over the last 500-plus years and have become, with more than 50 million people, the largest minority group in the U.S. After a showing of the episode, *Foreigners in Their Own Land*, Gene Chavez, Ed.D., will discuss trade along the Santa Fe Trail, including the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm.

Other episodes of the series being shown include the following: *Empire of Dreams* will be shown at the Heritage Center on September 22nd. Railroads crisscross Olathe, carrying goods and people throughout the nation. Learn about the families who fled the Mexican Revolution of 1910. Antonio Delgado, Ph.D., will share his recent research regarding refugees who fled north to Kansas and worked for the Santa Fe Railroad. The time for this program is 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Prejudice and Pride will be shown at the Heritage Center on October 15th. Dr. Chavez will provide a historical overview of the Latino struggle for civil rights. Members of groups past and present who led those efforts are invited to attend. Music will be provided by local Panamanian/Mexican musician Enrique Chi. The time for this program is 6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Other events during Hispanic Heritage Month include:

September 29th, 5 – 6:30 p.m., Olathe Public Library Indian Creek Branch – U.S. Economic Policies Panel – Judy Ancel, director, Workers Education and Labor Studies Program at UMKC and Peter Haney, assistant director, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies at KU, will discuss the impact of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and other U.S. economic policies on Latin America.

October 13, 7-9 p.m., Heritage Center at Mahaffie – Latino American Culture Celebration – Music by local Latino band Trio Atzlan, a fashion show of traditional Latin American dress and dancing by El Grupo Folklorico Atotonilco.

For more information on all events, go to <http://olatheks.org/content/hispanic-heritage-month>

OLATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2015

Attending: Bob Courtney, Jayne Jones, Ann Johnson, Mary Jo O'Brien, Anne Seitz, Karen Sutton Beets, Mary Cochran, Margaret Endecott

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 18, 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.

FINANCIAL

None

CORRESPONDENCE

KU Religious Studies Department is requesting help in locating history on Olathe Churches.

The funeral leaflet and a thank-you note from the Cliff Ball Family were shared with each Board Member present.

Freedom's Frontier information announcing a Kansas Birthday Party celebration to be held January 9, 2016. Would the Olathe Historical Society like to have a table during the event?

A thank you note was received from the Mahaffie Foundation for the donation of tapes and a book during the presentation of "Bootloose" a melodrama and a fundraiser for the Foundation.

Carolyn Holland donated 3 wooden nickels from Olathe's Centennial.

OLD BUSINESS

The Olathe Historical Society has been active with a group called Johnson County Partners in Preservation to try to find alternative funding for the preservation of history and historic sites in the county since the elimination of support by the state of Kansas, which has meant loss of funds to the Kansas State Heritage Trust Fund subsequently affecting the Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund.

Pat Mummert was noted in the Johnson's County Gazette honoring her as a Gold Star Mother in the loss

of her son during the Vietnam conflict.

Film Series

Volume 4 Olathe Naval Air Station is currently being printed with the hope of being available soon!

Volume 5 Old Settlers, Civil Rights, Chief Black Bob, and Early Olathe Churches

Olathe Historical Homes Tour will be Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Homes on the Tour

Snethen Home - 318 West Cedar

Crane/Mason Home - 213 South Pine

Brinkman Home - 208 South Pine

Simply ReInspired - 108 West Cedar

and... the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm in celebration of 150 years!

The Olathe Historic Preservation Board and the city of Olathe have received an \$18,000 grant to survey the Olathe Memorial Cemetery in hopes of it being placed on the National Historic Register. The cemetery will celebrate 150 years. Bob Courtney, representing the Preservation Board, and Lila Courtney, representing the Olathe Garden and Civic Club which is developing a walking tree tour of the cemetery, will meet a reporter from the *Kansas City Star* at the cemetery on Friday, August 21st for an interview.

The Olathe Public Library has received \$10,000 for Hispanic Heritage awareness. The Olathe Historical Society will host a program on Hispanic Heritage on September 17, 2015, 6:30 pm at the Heritage Center.

The Olathe Historical Society will share a booth with the Olathe Alumni Association during the Old Settlers celebration held September 10, 11, and 12, 2015. Please sign up to work a shift during these days.

The Olathe Historical Society Display case at the Heritage Center will soon hold a display of GRACE BILGER paintings! Be watching for this!!!

NEW BUSINESS

The Collections Committee has recommended a wording change in our Collections policy. Discussion followed with a decision to be made at a later date.

Permission was granted to add additional names of Board Members to the information at the Heritage Center for use when they receive calls and questions

concerning the Olathe Historical Society.

HERITAGE CENTER
SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 6:30 p.m.

The Board approved the new time of 5 p.m. to begin the bi-monthly Board meetings.

Next Board Meeting
Heritage Center
October 15, 2015 5:00 p.m.

The Library has received a request for photos of Olathe and they have contacted the Historical Society about the photos in our possession.

Adjourned

Next General Meeting

For Want of Only One Penny

The loss of only one penny will have a tremendous impact on the non-profit Johnson County heritage groups beginning with next year's county budget. That one penny came from a 26 cents per \$100 fee on mortgages in Johnson County. Imagine the consternation among Johnson County heritage groups and our Johnson County Commission when the elimination of that fee, a highly regarded and longstanding revenue source, was attached to a piece of legislation and quickly passed in December, 2014, by the Kansas State Legislature without regard to unintended consequences.

Never knew about any of this? That's not surprising. A small fee of 25 cents per 100 dollars of mortgages filed had been legislated by the state in 1925 to protect a developing mortgage industry against defaults. In 1991, one cent was added to the mortgage fee for the purpose of funding the Kansas State Heritage Trust Fund. All funds collected over one-hundred thousand dollars went to the county into a Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund (JCHTC) where it was accumulated and carefully administered and distributed by the County Commission. Since 2002, an estimated \$2.9 million dollars were awarded through the JCHTF. These grant funds have been applied to one-hundred twenty-six County-wide preservation projects, providing support to thirty-five different organizations, both municipal and registered 501(c)(3).

Examples of grants approved for special projects ranged from filming by the Overland Park Historical Society of the DVD, 'Rails to Suburbia', the story of the Strang Line Interurban and Overland Park, to several DVDs created by the Olathe Historical Society that have been the recipient of twelve EMMY awards. There were grants to refurbish and add to the trails markers in Johnson County and many more projects that you may have seen or visited but did not know how they were funded.

As a matter of public record, recipients of these grants from 2002-2015 include, but are not limited to, the Historic Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm, Johnson County Community College, the Johnson County Museum, the Shawnee Indian Mission Foundation, the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, the Gardner Historical Museum, Shawnee Town 1929, the Deaf Cultural Center Foundation, the Monticello Community Historic Society, the Overland Park Historical Society, the Olathe Historical Society, and the Mid-America Nazarene Library. These organizations have used grants from this fund for many special projects which have added to the cultural experience, education, and enjoyment for both residents and visitors to Johnson County. In addition, and also as a matter of public record, Johnson County municipalities of Lenexa, Mission, Westwood Hills, DeSoto, and Olathe benefited from the JCHTF, including the Johnson County Library System, the Deanna Rose Farmstead, and the highly valued Johnson County AIMS mapping project.

Those grants, when added to the efforts of dedicated volunteers in these organizations, did some amazing things benefiting the very residents and businesses whose mortgages helped it grow. New residents come and businesses thrive in Johnson County not just because of the lure of our excellent schools and well administered municipalities, but also due to the cultural advantages available here. "Thank-you" to all who helped pay for some of those advantages through the years by their mortgage fees. It is no more, thanks to some very big real estate investors who lobbied the

Kansas Legislature in 2014 for the fees to end in that form. Large real estate investors had to pay the mortgage fee for the big shopping centers they were building and they may not have realized, or perhaps even cared, about the result of the fee's elimination. For years it had been labeled a tax by the legislature, thus misrepresenting the intended original purpose of the fee.

The heritage groups mentioned above formed a collation in December 2014, *Partners in Preservation*, to inform the public of the problem and to come up with alternative funding. We will continue to operate our organizations but with limited and shrinking resources, limited public access, significantly reduced educational programming, and with limited funds for unforeseen, out-of-budget expenses. We will survive, but it will hurt. You can visit our Facebook page, JOHNSON COUNTY PRESERVATION PARTNERS, to leave your comments and ideas.

The Shawnee Indian Mission Foundation has been notified that due to continual state budget cuts, their budget will be cut over 50% and the hours of operation cut to two days a week, starting September 8. THE SIM State Historic Site will be closed from November 1 until April 1. As an example, previously SIM had benefited from over \$450,000 awarded through the JCHTF. They are devastated by the development caused by the state and cannot raise funds fast enough to stop the bleeding.

This mortgage fee change will not only affect non-profit heritage groups, but the loss to Johnson County's general fund over the next five years is estimated to be as much as 45 million dollars! Some of that fund supports the Johnson County Library and Johnson County Museum. It will take the support of the entire Johnson County community, both public and private sectors, to come together to secure a solution that will effectively preserve the legacy and heritage that is Johnson County, Kansas.

Those who passed this legislation had little regard of the impact to our Johnson County government and the many historical organizations in our county who preserve our past for present and future generations.

With concern for future preservation, we are signed,
Johnson County Partners in Preservation

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