

St. Paul Mission Historical Society
P.O. Box 158
St. Paul, Oregon 97137
Newsletter – Fall 2020

We hope you enjoy the Fall 2020 edition of the St. Paul Mission Historical Society (SPMHS) newsletter. We welcome your suggestions for future articles. Please feel free to contact any of the board members with your comments and suggestions.

Mission of the Organization: Preservation of the history of early Oregon and the French Prairie region of the Willamette Valley. Preservation includes establishment of a historical trust for artifacts, written and spoken history of the St. Paul and French Prairie area, and publication of historical records of early Oregon.

The Annual Meeting of the St. Paul Mission Historical Society has been CANCELLED, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The safety of our members is of upmost concern and the board felt cancelling the meeting this year was the appropriate thing to do.

Elections:

Since we are unable to hold the annual in-person election this year, balloting will be done by mail. Claudine Lake, Don Koch, and Hunter Wylie's terms on the St. Paul Mission Historical Society Board expire this year. Society members may vote for members of the Society other than those named by writing in their names in the space provided on the last page. Write-in candidates should be members of the Society in good standing. Ballots must be postmarked no later than November 15, 2020.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors (three-year positions), please contact President Claudine Lake Smith at cmarilake@stpaultel.com. The Board is to consist of at least eleven members and no more than nineteen. The term is three years. The Board is short of the minimum number and would welcome anyone who is interested. The Board meets the third Thursday of each month (except October and December) at the MarionAg building two miles east of St. Paul. [Note: no in-person meetings until Covid restrictions are lifted.]

2020 Activities:

See later in this newsletter for updates, accomplishments, and goals.

Website:

www.spmhs.com.

Click on "Collections" to search thousands of photos and other historical St. Paul materials.

Murphy House Tour:

Please contact Claudine Lake for tours of the Murphy House. It is located behind the fire hall in town.

Dues:

It is again time for our annual dues drive. Your dues allow us to continue the work of preserving St. Paul history. Because the annual meeting where we would collect most dues has been cancelled, we are asking you to complete the form on the last page of this newsletter and send it in to the address indicated.

Meet Your 2019-2020 Board of Directors:

Claudine Smith Lake, President
Connie Lenzen, CG, FNGS, Secretary
Donald E Koch, Comptroller
Gretchen Brown, MLS
Tim Bergquist, PhD

Gerry Lenzen, Vice-President
Brenda Howard, Treasurer
Bill McKay
Hunter Wylie (resigned October 2020)

Board Accomplishments 2020:

- Received a grant for \$5,000 from the Schwemm Family Foundation to digitize the St. Paul family histories. The material has been digitized and is being formatted for upload to the SPMHS website.
- Funded the continuing digitization of historic St Paul artifacts that are on the SPMHS website.
- Published two articles on St. Paul history (both authored by Tim Bergquist) on the online *Oregon Encyclopedia* hosted by the Oregon Historical Society: “St. Paul Rodeo” (January 2020) and “Hugh Daniel Burns (1807–1870)” (April 2020). These articles join other articles authored by Tim. To locate all St Paul articles, go to the Oregon Historical Society website, <https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/>, and search for “St Paul.”
- Petitioned the St. Paul City Council to partition the SPHMS property into two separate lots, each with one house. Petition granted in August 2020.
- Donated to local St. Paul sports.
- Gave several tours of the Murphy House.
- Continued Murphy House maintenance.
- Claudine Lake uploads St Paul photos in the SPMHS collection to the Old St. Paul Oregon Photos Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/666219870135627/>
- The Board did not meet from March through September due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but business was conducted by email.

Board Goals 2020-2021:

- Finish uploading the St. Paul family histories to the website.
- Rework website with logo and branding.
- Partner with local resources to restore Brentano House.
- Apply for a grant to upgrade the Murphy House with electricity in every room, a handicap accessible bathroom (which requires water and sewer), and appropriate signage for both the house and artifacts.

Thanks to the following for their support this past year:

- Hunter Wylie for 26 years of dedication and service to the society. His efforts to maintain the Society properties are visible to the public. His delicious entrees at the Society potluck meetings will be missed.
- Tim and Eve Woodland family for work on the grounds.
- The Marion Ag Company for providing a place for the monthly board meetings.

- The St. Paul Telephone Company for allowing us to store Harriet D. Munnick archival materials.

Digitization Projects:

Denise Lucsason is still working on digitizing the Munnick and McKay records that go in the SPMHS digital collection. Your dues help pay for this project.

The SPMHS received a \$5,000 grant for from the Schwemm Family Foundation to digitize the St. Paul family histories. (<https://schwemmfoundation.org/>) This grant is to be used for the French Prairie Historical Stories Digitization Project. The histories filled three Banker boxes. Scan-It, a Beaverton, Oregon, scanning company, was awarded the contract on November 8, 2019. The original documents and digitized versions with a flash drive were picked up from Scan-It on March 3, 2020. There were a total of 3,072 digital images/pages produced.

The files are being every-name indexed and uploaded in Past Perfect format. When the process is completed, the images will be made available to the public. MaryAnne Maddoux, who had been an intern with the SPMHS for four years and graduated with her PhD from Oregon State University in June 2020 and is currently in Austin, Texas, was hired to load the images to the website. She is familiar with both the website and Past Perfect.

Partitioning SPMHS Property:

Don Koch submitted a petition to the St. Paul City Council to obtain a variance and partition the SPMHS property into two separate lots, each with one house. This was done because the property was an oversized lot of about 16,000 square feet and minimum lot sizes were 10,000 square feet. The property is located behind the fire hall. A public meeting was held in St. Paul on July 7, 2020 to discuss the variance/partition application. The petition was granted in August 2020.

Picture shows the Murphy House (circa 1903):

On balcony: Agnes

On porch (left to right): Nellie, Susan, Minnie, Lottie, Damian, and Bessie

On steps: James C. Murphy and Wife Elizabeth (Kirk) Murphy and son Peter Murphy and two unidentified people



Dues:

It is time for our annual dues drive. Your dues allow us to continue the work of preserving St. Paul history. Below is a membership application form. Please complete and return it with your annual dues to the address below.

If you are a Life Member or Benefactor, please update your membership information so we can keep our files current. Many of our Life Members continue to donate to the society, and we thank you for your support.

Our sincere thanks to all of our members for supporting St. Paul history. If you would like to contribute to the digitization of historic artifacts and maintenance of our collections, your additional donation would be greatly appreciated.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Individual: \$20 Senior: \$15

Family: \$35 Supporting: \$75

Corporate: \$200 Benefactor or Individual Life: \$500

Ballot:

Indicate your choice by an "X" in front of the name of the person for whom you are voting.

Claudine Smith Lake

Don Koch

____ K'Lyn Brentano

[Write in candidate] _____

Send your dues and ballot no later than November 15, 2020, to:

St. Paul Mission Historical Society, P.O. Box 158, St. Paul, OR 97137. Thank you!!