

## St. Paul Mission Historical Society

P.O. Box 158

St. Paul, Oregon 97137

Newsletter – Fall 2019

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We hope you enjoy the Fall 2019 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** will be held on Sunday, October 13, 2019, at 10:30 a.m. at the St. Paul Fire District Office located in St. Paul. A light brunch will be provided at no charge. In order to provide an accurate head count, please RSVP to [cmarielake@stpaultel.com](mailto:cmarielake@stpaultel.com) and leave a message. The guest speaker is Tim Bergquist PhD, who will share his knowledge of early pioneer Hugh Daniel Burns and his carrying of the mail from Oregon City to Weston, Missouri, in 1846 under contract to the provisional government.

### Elections

On the agenda will be the Society's annual elections. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors (three year positions), please contact President Claudine Smith Lake. Her email is [cmarielake@stpaultel.com](mailto:cmarielake@stpaultel.com). The Board consists of at least eleven members and no more than nineteen. The term is three years. As a working board, each member chooses an area of interest.

One Board position is open for re-election in 2019.

Connie Lenzen (Secretary) – appointed by the Board to fill Maureen Ernst's term.

Several people have indicated their willingness to serve as directors, and nominations may be made at the meeting.

**2019 Activities:** Board members will report on activities this past year.

### Murphy House Tour

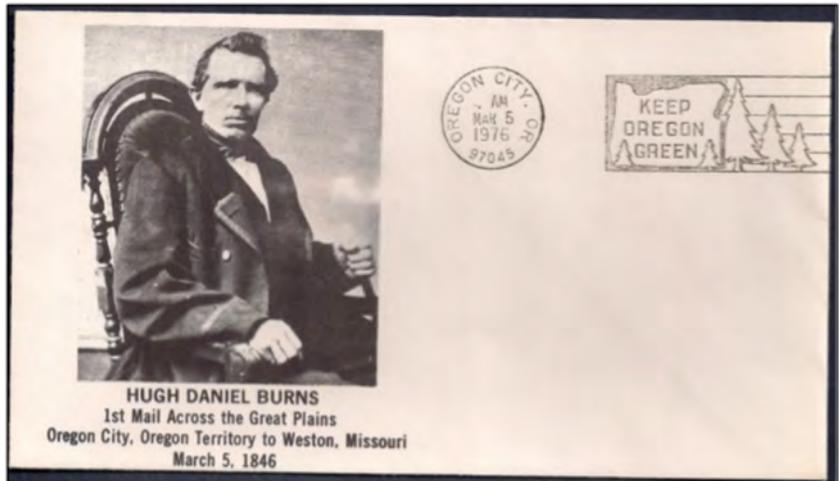
After the meeting, Claudine Lake will open the Murphy House across from the fire hall for a tour of the house. It's a beautiful example of how an early St. Paul family lived.

**Website:** [www.spmhs.com](http://www.spmhs.com). Click on "Collections" to search thousands of photos like this one of the Murphy House in 1903 and other historical St. Paul materials.



### **Hugh Daniel Burns (1807 to 1870)**

He was born in Tyrellspass, Westmeath County, Ireland, in 1807, the fifth of eight children. He came to Oregon in 1842 in the Elijah White wagon train. He was present at the May 2, 1843, meeting at Champoeg that laid the foundation for the first American government in Oregon.



Burns filed a donation land claim in 1842 for 640 acres across the Willamette River from Oregon City. He platted a townsite and called it the City of Multnomah. He served as one of three commissioners in 1847 to handle financing and raise a regiment of riflemen for the Cayuse Indian War. Burns received the contract from the provisional government “to carry the mail from Oregon City to Weston, in Missouri, for one trip only.” Postage was fifty cents per letter sheet with Burns to receive half. He departed on March 5 and traveled south to California and then across the Sierra Nevada. In 1976, as part of the U.S. Bicentennial Celebration, Joe McKay, a grand nephew of Burns and postmaster at St. Paul from 1958 to 1985, organized a ceremony in Oregon City to commemorate Burns’ ride. Oregon governor Tom McCall issued a proclamation making March 5, 1976, as “Hugh Daniel Burns Day.” Part of the ceremony included a horse ride carrying mail from St. Paul to Salem. Burns left Oregon for California after the death of John McLoughlin, whom he greatly admired. He died in San Francisco in May 1870 at age 63 and was buried there in Holy Cross Cemetery.

In addition, Tim will have on display his stamp exhibit “St. Paul, Oregon: A Survey of Its Postal History” which received a silver award at the 2019 PIPEX (Portland Stamp Exhibition) stamp show. He is also looking to acquire any covers with a St. Paul, Oregon postmark, especially pre-1900.

**Articles about St. Paul at the online *Oregon Encyclopedia* at <https://oregonencyclopedia.org> , hosted by the Oregon Historical Society (enter “St. Paul” in the search box)**

By Tim Bergquist

“St. Paul”

“St. Paul Roman Catholic Church”

“St. Paul Rodeo”

By Shawna Gandy

“Francois Blanchett (1795-1883)”

“Modeste Demers (1801-1871)”

“Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur”

By Melinda Jette

“French Prairie”

“Etienne Lucier (1793-1853)”

“Joseph Gervais (1777-1861)”

“St. Paul Cemetery”

### First St. Paul Postmaster

John F. T. B. Brentano, son of St. Paul's Doctor Brentano, was appointed St. Paul's first postmaster in June of 1874. Louis Delschneider took over as postmaster in April of 1880. His appointment lasted until the end of May 1880 when John F T B Brentano was again appointed postmaster for a term that lasted until May 1881.

In 1893, John F. T. B. Brentano received an appointment as the Grand Ronde Indian Agent. He and his family lived on the reservation. This photograph, taken in 1895, shows the family at Grand Ronde Block House. From left to right, Kate (Ahern) Brentano, Lizzy, John Brentano, and Mary.



The Brentano family in St. Paul.

Estimated date is between 1890 and 1905 based on dress and year range of C.A. Brentano's ledger (available to view on the St. Paul Mission Historical Society website, <http://spmhs.com/collecti ons.html> )



The photograph was placed inside the cover of C.A. Brentano's ledger - Accession# 2018

## Meet your current 2019 Board of Directors

Claudine Smith Lake, President  
Gerry Lenzen, Vice-President  
Brenda Howard, Treasurer  
Donald E Koch, Comptroller  
Connie Lenzen, CG, FNGS, Secretary  
Bill McKay  
David Brauner, PhD

Gretchen Brown, MLS  
Hunter Wylie  
Janice Bernard  
Msgr. Gregory Moys  
Steven Koch, PLS, FASLA  
Tim Bergquist, PhD

**An introduction to the board members elected at the Fall 2018 Annual Meeting.** Their terms will run for three years.

**Tim Bergquist, PhD.** Tim is a native Oregonian. His connection to St. Paul is through his mother Peggy Connor, whose ancestors arrived in 1871. His grandparents were Gerald Connor and Marie Kirk, who had a farm west of town. In 1991, he retired as a Major after serving 20 years in the US Air Force. In 2015, he retired as Professor Emeritus of Quantitative Analysis from Northwest Christian University after 19 years of full-time teaching. His academic background includes two bachelors (Math-1971 and History-2015), three masters (Statistics-1973, Business Administration-1975, and Operations Research-1985), and one PhD degree (Decision Sciences-1996). In addition, he is a Professionally Accredited Statistician and a Certified Quality Manager. He is a platypus since he has degrees from both OSU and UO. He is a member of three professional, two historical, and five philatelic organizations. He is also the co-author of a statistics textbook and the author or co-author of over 25 articles and 50 conference papers.

**Janice Bernard.** Janice was born and raised in St. Paul, attending St. Paul Parochial school and St. Paul High School -- graduating in 1972. She began work right after high school, acquiring various skilled labor jobs.

Her family owned Bernard Chevrolet, Motors, Wrecking and Towing. Grampa Pete Bernard was also head of the WPA, which included the building of the St. Paul City Hall. He and his brother Walter built the Rodeo Grandstands and many homes in the St. Paul area. Janice's daughter is a descendant of Pierre Belleque and a 7th generation Oregonian. Janice enjoys reading and learning about the history of St. Paul and the surrounding areas.

**Gretchen Brown, MLS.** Gretchen is descendant of French Prairie pioneers. She was employed as a librarian and library manager for Multnomah County Library for many years. Retired now, she devotes her time to freelance research projects, canine sports, and family lore. Gretchen is a member of the Oregon Trail Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, and St. George Orthodox Church. She is a life member of Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers and the St. Paul Mission Historical Society.

## New board member elected at the June 2019 Board Meeting

### Bill McKay

Bill McKay. Bill was born and raised in St. Paul, Oregon. He attended St. Paul High School, Chemeketa and graduated from The Virginia Military Institute with a degree in civil engineering. He served as a Lieutenant and Captain in the Army Engineers and has worked in the engineering profession his entire adult life. He has one grown daughter, Kassie. His interests include literature, art, and military history.

## Board Accomplishments in 2019

- Contracted with PARC Resources for grant applications
- Sorted boxes of materials from Harriet Munnick estate
- Began inventorying the unaccessioned Munnick materials that were returned from OSU
- Continued digitizing the accessioned Munnick materials
- Donated to local St. Paul sports
- Gave several tours of Murphy House
- MaryAnne Maddoux, digitization intern, graduated in June with her PhD from OSU
- Submitted two articles related to St. Paul to Oregon Historical Society's *Oregon Encyclopedia*

## Board Goals 2019-2020

- Obtain grants to finish digitizing Munnick and McKay materials
- Rework website with logo and branding
- Work with local and regional organizations

This picture shows the sternwheeler *Orahamona* at Mission Landing. The Landing has been in the Connor family since 1876 when Simon Connor purchased it from Peter and Elizabeth Kirk. The Kirks arrived in St. Paul in 1870 and the Connors in 1871 where they purchased the Jesuit St. Xavier Mission property. Simon Connor was the shipping agent at Mission Landing and his house on the bluff was a place where people waited for the steamboats.



**DUES:**

Lastly, it's 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.

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. See you on October 13 at 11:30 a.m. at the St. Paul Fire Hall.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual: \$20

Senior: \$15

Family: \$35

Supporting: \$75

Corporate: \$200

Benefactor or Individual Life: \$500

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

Thank you!!

Tim Bergquist, SPMHS Director