

St. Paul Mission Historical Society  
P.O. Box 158  
St. Paul, Oregon 97137  
Fall 2018  
St. Paul Mission Historical Society Newsletter

We hope you enjoy the Fall 2018 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 14, 2018, at 11:30 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) or call Connie Lenzen at 503-244-4357 and leave a message. The guest speaker is Al Smith who will share his knowledge of the Cecil and Molly Smith Gardens. The meeting will conclude with a tour of the Murphy House for anyone who is interested.

### Elections

On the agenda will be the Society's annual elections.

**Board** If you are interested in serving on the board (three year positions), please contact President Claudine Smith Lake at [cmarielake@stpaultel.com](mailto:cmarielake@stpaultel.com). The Board is to consist of at least eleven members and no more than nineteen. The term is three years.

Two Board positions are open for nominations in 2018 and they are:

Gerry Lenzen (Vice President) – 2018

Brenda Howard (Treasurer) – 2018

The following people have expressed their interest in serving as Board members:

Janice Bernards

Gretchen Brown

**Investment Committee election:** Dave Buck

**2018 Activities:** Board members will report on grants and activities this past year.

**Website:** [www.spmhs.com](http://www.spmhs.com). Click on "Collections" to search thousands of photos and other historical St. Paul materials.

Photo of Daniel Murphy (1789 – 1866). He was the father of  
Matthew O'Connor Murphy, and great-great-grandfather of Joe  
McKay.

Photo is in the Murphy House.

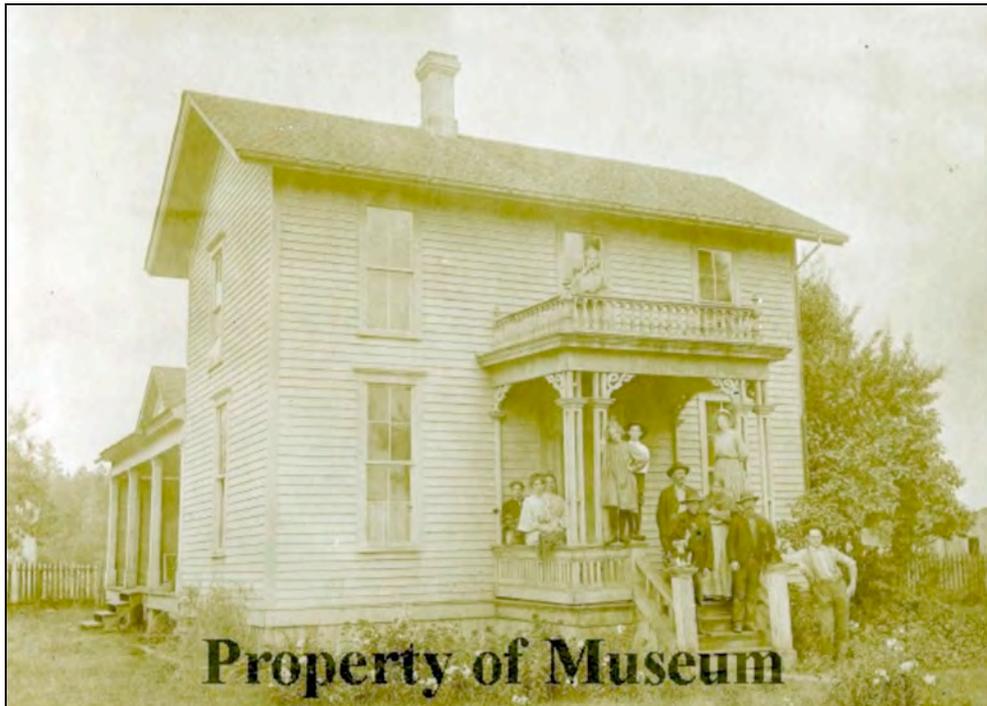


### **Cecil and Molly Smith Gardens**

Our guest speaker is Al Smith, and he will talk about the Cecil and Molly Smith Gardens. Cecil Smith was born on June 11, 1904, in Champoeg, the son of Bernard Michael and Anna (Kennedy) Smith. His parents and grandparents, Francis S. and Ellen (Nolan) Smith, are buried in the St. Paul Cemetery. Cecil and wife Molly started their gardens on Raybell Road, between St. Paul and Newberg, as a private family enterprise. As they collected rhododendrons, their gardens grew into the three-acre garden that it is today. As well as developing new rhododendron hybrids, they started rare species from seeds from China and cuttings from England. Al Smith, their son, worked alongside his parents. In 1983, the Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society purchased the property and continued to open it to visitors. It is a real treat for us to learn about this St. Paul enterprise.

### **Murphy House Tour**

After the meeting, Claudine Lake will open the Murphy House across from the fire hall for a tour of the house.



**Murphy House ca. 1903**

Matthew O'Connor Murphy was born in 1830 in Galena, Illinois, son of Daniel Murphy, a Deputy Surveyor. He came to the Oregon Territory with his parents and siblings in 1851. His father took out a donation claim northwest of St Paul in Champoeg, and Matthew took a claim next to his father. Matthew married Mary Ellen Costello, daughter of John and Mary Ellen (Burns) Costello, on February 4, 1856, in St Paul. Both Matthew and his father were hired to survey the newly opened territory.

The Matthew Murphys lived in a small house on the banks of the Willamette River. There were three rooms on the first floor – kitchen, dining room, and sitting room. Two bedrooms were on the second floor. The Flood of 1861 threatened to sweep away the house. After the flood, the house was moved to the St. Paul road, and a five-room addition in front of the original structure was built.

In 1870, there were seven children in the Murphy home. James, age fourteen was the eldest, and Lucy, age one, was the youngest. The Murphy real estate was valued at \$6,000, and his personal estate was valued at \$1,5000.

In 1880, the Murphy household consisted of the parents and nine children ranging in age from three to 20-years of age. Hung Wong, a Chinese servant was living with the family.

Matthew Murphy died on May 27, 1906 and is buried in the St. Paul Cemetery. His parents and other Murphy family members are also buried in the cemetery.

As a side-note, Joe McKay, founder of the SPMHS, was the great-grandson of Matthew Murphy and was the person who arranged the house move.

### **In Memory of Maureen Ernst**

Maureen Ernst was the St. Paul Mission Historical Society secretary and founding board member dating back to 1976. Her family roots in St. Paul date back to the early 1870's. As a board member, her contributions included grant writing and communications. She retired from Mt. Angel Telephone and then had her own marketing and consulting business. She was active in the community of Mt. Angel as a board member for the Mt. Angel Chamber of Commerce, co-founder of the Mt. Angel Hazelnut Festival and Mt. Angel Lions Club. She was the mother of three children and had seven grandchildren. On April 23, 2018, five days before she died, she passed on words of advice. Some of them are repeated here.

Give back to your community. And do it because you want to.

Give whenever you can.

Learn how to receive & how to say thank you.

Learn to accept.

Have no expectations of people.

Always have your passport updated.

On being a grandma, hold the babies tight.

Be involved with your kids. Go to their events.

If you don't have time for someone, it is okay.

When your kid is talking to you, get on their level & make eye contact.

Don't wait for someone else to do the job.

Know your ancestors and appreciate what they did for you.

Friends: some fade, some stay forever.

Go to festivals.

Beer is garbage unless it's an IPA.

Drink wine and beer with friends.

Go to the casino, Holy Spirit Mountain.

Women need their own money.

Women need an education. Be book smart.

Take kickboxing.

Be the kind of Grammy that other kids can call. It's okay to keep secrets.

Plant easy plants.

Don't do drugs. Hard drugs.

Vote, no matter what.

Always have a baseball bat at your front door.

Be a feminist.

Put Cool Whip on your pancakes.

Take care of your teeth.

Send thank you cards.

Go fast and the wrinkles won't show.



Taken from Maureen's Facebook page. Her granddaughter is maintaining the site.

Thanks to all of Maureen's friends who made donations to SPMHS in her name.

## Meet Your 2018 Board of Directors

**Dr. David Brauner, PhD** David Brauner, PhD, is a professor with the Department of Anthropology at Oregon State University. Dr. Brauner has presented his selected papers including “The Untold Story at the End of the Oregon Trail”, “Archaeology of the French Prairie Métis” and “Shadow Land: Forgotten Peoples of the Old Oregon Country” to organizations in the U.S. and Canada. His credits include project director of the archaeological and historical research of the Robert Newell Farmstead at Champoege State Park.

**Brenda Howard (Treasurer)** Brenda says, “I was born and raised in the beautiful Willamette Valley. With the exception of a few years, I have always lived within 10 miles of St. Paul. About 20 years ago, I did a research project on the area and became interested in the lives of several members of the Wilson Hunt Price expedition that traveled overland from St. Louis, Missouri to Astoria, Oregon, arriving in 1812. Members on this expedition include John Gervais, Madame Marie Dorion and Etienne Lucier. I graduated from Mt. Angel College with a degree in Sociology. I worked with emotionally disturbed children for several years, then traveled abroad for a year and a half. I returned to the Willamette Valley to work, marry, and settle down moving with my husband to St. Louis (Oregon) in 1980. Our three children live in the area. I am a member of the St. Paul Rodeo Association, the Sacred Heart School Advisory Board (Gervais), and the Archdiocesan Historical Commission.” Roger and Brenda Howard were inducted in to the St. Paul Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2008, especially recognizing their work on the Wild West Art Show.

**Hunter Wylie** Hunter is a retired sales executive and St. Paul resident. He has been active on our board for more than 24 years. His primary focus for the historical society is building maintenance, information technology services, building an information-based museum for future generations and “head gopher.” Our board members will confirm that he is a very good “head gopher”! Hunter is a community volunteer that includes teaching applied technology to high students at the St. Paul High School. He is also a member of the St. Paul Rodeo Association.

**Donald E Koch** Don was born and raised in St. Paul. Don attended St. Paul Parochial, Serra Catholic High and OSU. Major careers include: Cost Accountant/Financial Analyst at Tektronix, Inc. for 15 years followed by 20 years and counting as an Independent Real Estate Investment Analyst and Consultant.

**Steven Koch PLS, FASLA** Steven is the Principal of Koch Landscape Architecture and a Pacific Northwest native with 28 years of professional experience. Steven is the former owner and steward of the William Case House 1858-59 restored by Wallace Kay Huntington and Mirza Dickel. Steven restored the 3-acre formal garden over the course of three years. Steven’s interest in the French Prairie stems from his family ties linking him to many familiar names in the region. His interest in history is demonstrated through being a co-founder of the Halprin Landscape Conservancy in Portland and his participation in The Cultural Landscape Foundation based in Washington DC. Steven maintains his practice designing residential gardens and commercial landscapes

**Claudine Smith Lake (President)** Claudine says, “I was born to James and Carol Merten Smith in 1946. I was educated in St. Paul school, Sacred Heart, Oregon State, and graduated from Mt. Angel College. My majors were Psychology and Sociology, and my minors were English and Theatre Dance. Les and I raised our children in Gervais, Oregon in the old Goulet house at Hopmere,” says Claudine. “Over the years, I always worked from the home, as I had four children in five years. I spent 23 years as a proctor parent for Catholic Community Services and later Oregon Youth Authority. I retired in 2009 and we rented out our house and bought a house in St. Paul. My interest in St. Paul history and Oregon

history was instilled by my parents, though I hadn't paid much attention to it until I returned to St. Paul. The decision to return to St. Paul was fortunate, as I love living in this town again. Currently, I am involved with uploading old St. Paul historical pictures to Facebook, remodeling our house, playing a lot of bridge, and walking my English bulldog, and recently joined the St. Paul Historical Society. I am loving life!"

**Connie Lenzen, CG** (Secretary) Connie is certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists and is a past president of that organization. She has served as a National Genealogical Society Director (NGS). She authored the NGS *Research in the States* guide, "Research in Oregon." She currently teaches the online course "Genealogy Principles" for Boston University. Her biographies for the early French Prairie settlers can be found on the SPMHS website, <http://spmhs.com/>. There are currently bios for Pierre Belleque, Etienne Lucier, The Gagnon families, Hugh Cosgrove, F X Laderoute, and Francois Rivet. The bios are pro bono, and any current member of the Society can request a biography be written for their early family.

**Gerald Lenzen** (Vice President) was born in Wisconsin. He migrated to Portland, Oregon, with his parents in 1941. Gerry is interested in the early French Canadians and Iroquois Indians who settled on French Prairie prior to the American arrivals in 1843. Gerry is an active member of the genealogical community. He is a Life Member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) and past-president of the Genealogical Council of Oregon (GCO). He is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) and the National Genealogical Society (NGS). Gerry has been a member of the SPMHS for more than 25 years. Gerry graduated from Portland State College and worked for the Bonneville Power Administration from 1961 until retiring in 1994.

**Msg. Greg Moys** Monsignor Moys was born and raised in Portland. He graduated from Mount Angel Seminary High School in 1957 and Mount Angel Seminary College in 1961. He attended the Gregorian University in Rome with residence at the North American College completing his theological studies in 1965. He was ordained a Catholic priest on December 16, 1964, for the Archdiocese of Portland in Saint Peter's Basilica, Vatican City State. He was appointed by Archbishop Edward Howard, archbishop of Portland, to teach religion at Central Catholic High School, Portland. He later taught at Saint Mary's Academy, Portland, and Regis High School, Stayton, becoming Principal of Central Catholic from 1974 to 1978. He was Chancellor of the Portland Archdiocese from 1983 to 1990. During that time, he also served as parish administrator of Saint Paul parish in Saint Paul, Oregon, 1988 to 1989, during its 150th Anniversary celebrations. After serving other Oregon parishes, he was reappointed pastor of Saint Paul Parish in 2009 being present for the 175th anniversary of Saint Paul Parish in 2014. Monsignor Moys is currently the President of the Oregon Catholic Historical Society. He has a great love for family and Catholic church history.

**Jean Abderholden** Jean is the immediate past president. She has lived in St Paul on Champoeg Road for more than 50 years. She and her husband have three adult children. Jean has always been interested in history, and it was a logical step to become part of preserving the history of the area where she lives.

**Rosella McKay** Rosella is a past president. Rosella and her husband Joe were founders of the historical society in 1976 – along with Catherine Zorn and Helen Austin. Rosella and Joe were married for fifty years and had twelve children. Rosella worked for the US Postal Service and now enjoys retirement living in the lovingly restored Kirk House across from the fire hall.



The rectory and church in 1900. Notice the stack of wood in the street.

**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 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 14 at 11:30 a.m. at the St. Paul Fire Hall.

Connie Lenzen, Secretary & member of the Board of Directors

e-mail: [connielenzen@gmail.com](mailto:connielenzen@gmail.com)

Evenings: 503-244-4357

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!!