

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

Fall 2012

St. Paul Mission Historical Society Newsletter

Mission of 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.

We hope you enjoy the Fall 2012 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.

Greetings To All Our Members

The Annual Meeting of the St. Paul Mission Historical Society will be held on Sunday, October 28, 2012 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 maureene@mtangeltel.net or call 503.845.6208 and leave a message.

On the agenda will be the Society's annual elections. Three Board positions are open for nominations and they are:

- Jean Abderhalden (President) – 2012
- Gertrude Jette (Treasurer) – 2012
- Gerry Lenzen (Vice President) – 2012

Maureen Ernst (Secretary) - 2013

George Strawn – 2013

Monsignor Gregory Moys – 2013

Dr. David Brauner – 2014

Don Koch – 2014

Miguel Salinas - 2014

Hunter Wylie – 2014

Rosella McKay – Past President

BOARD VACANCIES –We now have vacancies on the board. If you are interested in hearing more about the position of board member, please contact President Jean Abderhalden at 503.633.2741 or e-mail: jeanfrank@stpaultel.com. We are a good group and guarantee you will enjoy the time serving on the board!

PROGRAM: Our guest speaker is award-winning author Jane Kirkpatrick. Jane is the author of more than 24 books including 18 historical novels. Many of her titles are based on the lives of real people or incidents set authentically in the American West. Her first novel, *A Sweetness to the*

Soul, won the coveted Wrangler Award from the Western Heritage Center. Her works have been finalists for the Christy, Spur, Oregon Book Award, WILLA Literary Award and Reader's Choice awards. Several of her titles have been Book of the Month and Literary Guild selections.

Jane moved to Oregon in 1974 after completing her master's degree in social work at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She worked in the disabilities field and became the director of the mental health program in Deschutes County and the first female president of the Oregon Community Mental Health Director's Association.

Homesteading & Family

Eventually, Jane "retired" to homestead and begin a new adventure in writing, working on the Warm Springs Indian reservation, growing watermelons, and attempting to grow grapes, alfalfa and cattle. The Kirkpatrick's new life included "clearing sagebrush and wrestling wind and rattlesnakes" while "homesteading" land on the John Day River in a remote part of Oregon known locally as Starvation Point. "It was our 'rural 7-Eleven' since our home sat seven miles from the mailbox and eleven miles from the pavement" notes the author. Additionally, she worked for seventeen years as a mental health and educational consultant on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in Central Oregon with both Native American and non-Indian communities, a position she left in 2002.

Twenty-one books sprang from that reservation trailer and Starvation Point ranch. Today, Jane lives in Bend and maintains a prodigious schedule. With more than 500,000 copies of her books in print, Jane Kirkpatrick has no plans to slow her writing. A new Dorothea Dix book will be released in April 2013.

Speaker & Philosophy

A lively and humorous speaker, Kirkpatrick is a frequent keynote presenter for conferences, women's retreats, fund-raisers and workshops. In addition to her historical fiction which dramatizes pioneer life, *Homestead* relates, with love and laughter, her own family's modern-day struggle to catch a dream in the Oregon Territory.

Jane believes that our lives are the stories that others read first and she encourages groups to discover the power of their own stories to divinely heal and transform. Visit her website at www.jkbooks.com for more information about her current projects and the privilege of following one's passion wherever the dreams may lead.

Jane will have books for sale and autograph books at the annual meeting.

CHAMPOEG RESEARCH RECOGNIZED WITH NATIONAL AWARD

The National Association of State Parks Directors has given Dr. David Brauner and Oregon State University one of its president's awards for park history. (Dr. Brauner is a SPMHS Board of Director)

Brauner's work at Champoeg State Heritage Area goes back decades, but it is the findings since 2002 that have generated new interest. Brauner and doctoral candidate Mollie Manion have been working with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to build the historical record of "the birthplace of Oregon." Through field schools conducted by the OSU Archaeology Department, digs have revealed artifacts that have challenged how historians think about Euro-American settlers of

this site and how they lived. This summer, nearly 1,000 visitors observed the students excavating the site and documenting their finds and learned of treasures and history of this significant site.

The park directors association promotes and advances the state park systems of America. Brauner accepted the award at its annual meeting.

"We've had many exciting finds at Champoeg," he said. "To call the area 'rich' is akin to calling Stonehenge a nice bunch of rocks, as the saying goes." Citing a strong working partnership with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Brauner added that "the honor of this award belongs to the public of Oregon. This work was conducted for pure research--out in the open, as a school, and with the public looking on."

"People think of parks as campgrounds, and places to play or picnic," said OPRD director Tim Wood. "We also need to remember how important a park can be to our history, our sense of who we are as a people."

The findings in 2002 have thrilled history and archaeology buffs. It was in that year that the rich, sandy soil of the old townsite was excavated below "the level of the plow." It yielded an intriguing secret: a large, square area that Brauner's team determined to be the hearth of an old homestead.

In the years that followed, it became clear that the hearth belonged to a larger site, approximately 20' x 20', with evidence of a later, additional 10' x 10' room. The structure clearly had been home to several different occupants over time. Brauner's team posits that it was first occupied in the early 1830s, making it the earliest documented settlement-era structure in the Pacific Northwest, and certainly one of the best preserved. It eventually became known as The Newell cabin, a nod to the most well-known occupant of the residence, Robert Newell.

Since then, the detritus of daily living nearly 200 years ago is showing up, piece by fascinating piece: bits of plates and cups, cutlery, marbles, window glass, a tin can, smoking pipes, a hairbrush, buttons, beads, a thimble. The site is rich with artifacts, all painstakingly catalogued and analyzed at OSU.

Plans for next summer are unclear right now, but Brauner hopes to build on 2012 findings, which included the discovery of the cellar of the structure, and some rare pieces of pottery.

2012 ACTIVITIES: Board members will report on activities this past year.

GRANTS: In 2012, we were awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Helen E. Austin Pioneer Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation. Project summary: Harriet D. Munnick was one of French Prairie's most prolific historians. Unfortunately, much of her work was never published and is unavailable to the general public. All of her research and documents were donated to the St. Paul Mission Historical Society and the Board of Directors decided that the next step in their on-going preservation project is indexing, digitizing, and cataloging of all material in a PastPerfect database. Oregon State University graduate students have been transferring all documents at the OSU Historical Archaeology Lab where the material is being organized, scanned and entered into a database. The end goal of this endeavor will be a digital collection of all of the Munnick research that will lend itself to both academic and public use.

We are very grateful to the Helen E. Austin Pioneer Family for allowing us to continue our research and preservation of French Prairie History. In 1976, Helen Austin, Catherine Zorn, and

Joe & Rosella McKay formed the SPMHS. These community leaders recognized the importance of preserving history that included valuable documents and artifacts. And, preservation continues to the next generation!

MURPHY MUSEUM RESTORATION - Starting 5 years ago SPMHS put a plan in place to restore the outside structure of the Murphy Museum. Our primary goal was keep all original structure where possible while bringing the Museum up to safe and well maintained standards. The first priority was restoration of the main porch and support structures on the side of the house. All were structurally failing and had to be replaced in total. The replacement structure was hand crafted by volunteers using donated high quality materials donated by Keith Brown Lumber of Salem, Oregon. The resulting porch structure matched the original structure down to the smallest piece of trim.

The second priority was to address all remaining repairs and lowering the ongoing maintenance costs. This year marked the end of our plan. We completed repairs on the front porch roof structure and rear steps, restored all the windows to original condition, restored or replaced failed siding, sealed all external surfaces and completely repainted the museum. This job was done by a contractor with excellent results. Our neighbors have shared many positive comments regarding the overall appearance of the museum and how it improves the look of the neighborhood.

The Murphy Museum restoration project is a great example of how volunteers and donations can be combined with private contractors to restore and maintain our history on the most cost effective basis with highest quality results. All donations and volunteer efforts toward the continued preservation of our historic building are appreciated and certainly visible to all.

WEBSITE: The website is up and running at www.spmhs.com. Designing a website is a long and tedious project with many details to be finalized before launching the site. Born and raised in St. Paul, local designer Lauren Wylie; Lauren Wylie Studio (www.laurenwyliestudio.com) has spent countless hours designing the website. Lauren is a freelance graphic designer, web developer, and photographer. Her projects include museum curator, small business consulting, and large historic display designs. She manages all project aspects including development of print materials, websites, online tracking, branding research, logo development, and signage.

THANK YOU: A special thank you to Bernice Davidson Brown for donating the lawn mowing services this year. The lawns around the museums have been mowed and are well tended by Bernice's crew.

Oregon Catholic Historical Society News – Our very own SPMHS board members are very active in the OCHS. Msgr. Greg Moys is incoming President and Gerry Lenzen is Secretary. Connie Lenzen is Vice-President. The OCHA Fall Event will be held in St. Paul on October 20. Cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members and includes lunch. The Fall Event includes a St. Paul Catholic Mission presentation and tour by Msgr. Greg Moys. For registration and details, contact Sr. Charlene at 503.906.1131.

DUES: Lastly, it's time for our annual dues drive. Below is a membership application form. Simply 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 Oregon***

history. If you would like to contribute to the restoration of our museums, your additional donation would be greatly appreciated. See you on October 28 at 11:30 a.m.

Maureen Ernst
Secretary & Board of Director
e-mail: maureene@mtangeltel.net
Evenings: 503.845.6208

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email Address: _____

- ___ Individual: \$15
- ___ Senior: \$10
- ___ Family: \$25
- ___ Supporting: \$75
- ___ Corporate: \$200
- ___ Benefactor or Individual Life: \$500

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