

St. Paul Mission Historical Society (SPMHS)

P.O. Box 158

St. Paul, Oregon 97137

Newsletter – Fall 2024

We hope you enjoy this Fall 2024 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 Society:

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:

It will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2024, 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 or call Connie Lenzen at 503-810-4327 and leave a message.

The program will be about the St. Paul Cemetery Association. Their website is https://www.restinggardens.com/cemetery/st_paul_cemetery_st-paul_or_usa. This website includes a complete map, listing of deceased, photo gallery, rules and regulations, and policies and prices. The map is interactive and searchable. Photos and obituaries are being updated and added.

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. 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. The Board usually meets the third Thursday of each month (except October and December) at the MarionAg building two miles east of St. Paul.

Five Board positions are open for re-election in 2024:

Gerry Lenzen (Vice President). Brenda Howard (Treasurer), Rev Scott Baier, Tim Bergquist, and Maurice Smith.

Nominations may be made at the meeting for additional board members. We welcome anyone who wants to join the board.

2023-2024 Activities:

Board members will report on grants and activities this past year. See later in this newsletter for updates, accomplishments, and goals.

Murphy House Tour:

Claudine Smith Lake conducts tours of the Murphy House by appointment. She prefers two weeks notice for scheduling purposes. The house is located behind the fire hall in town.

Board of Directors 2023-2024:

Claudine Smith Lake, President
Connie Lenzen, CG, FNGS, Secretary
Donald Koch, Comptroller
Rev Scott Baier
Tim Bergquist, PhD

Gerry Lenzen, Vice-President
Benda Howard, Treasurer
K'Lyn Brentano
Maurice Smith

Board Accomplishments 2023-2024:

- Continued work on organizing and cleaning the Brentano House contents.
- Upgraded the exterior of the Brentano House, including roof, windows, and doors.
- Received a grant of \$5,000 from the Fred W. Fields Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. The purpose of the grant is for general operating support.
- Received \$200 from the St. Paul JCs for the St. Paul Post Office 150th Anniversary celebration. Also received the following donations for the Brentano House renovations: Dean Werth- \$1,000; Ernst Irrigation- \$500; Ernst Nursery- \$1,000; John Heiser- \$500.
- Applied for grants to continue preserving French Prairie history.

Board Goals 2024-2025:

- Apply for grants to upgrade the Murphy House with electricity in every room, and a handicap accessible bathroom (which requires water and sewer).
- Continue work to renovate the interior of the Brentano house.
- Continue upgrading the website to current standards and making the archives more accessible.

Thanks to the following for their support this past year:

- Marion Ag for the meeting room for the board monthly meetings.
- The volunteers who have mowed the Murphy and Brentano house lawns.
- Bill and Kathy Coleman for gifting Rose Coleman's piano music, spanning decades.

Joe and Rosella McKay Service Award:

The Society established this Award for outstanding service to the Society. The inaugural awards will be made in 2024; after that one per year. A plaque will be placed in the Murphy House. The recipients will have their name added to the plaque as well as receive a certificate acknowledging their contributions at the annual meeting. The awardees for 2024 are Catherine Zorn and Gertrude Jette. Detailed biographies and pictures will be provided in the Spring 2025 newsletter. That newsletter will also have a call for the 2025 nominations.

Brentano House Restoration - How You Can Help:

This last spring (2024) a storage container was purchased and moved on site by Brentano Farms. It is on loan until SPMHS no longer needs it. It is located behind the two historic houses.



In June of this year, several Brentano Family volunteers moved everything out of the house and into the storage container. This included furniture, large historic pictures in frames, boxes of artifacts, and boxes of the St. Paul Catholic Records books. Everything is now stored in the container, protected from the weather, and locked.

Most recently, Alpha Environmental Services removed and disposed of the flooring and performed the asbestos abatement work. The cost for their services was \$5,440.

Additionally, several private donations have been made by local businesses, totaling \$3,000; these include Dean Werth- \$1,000; Ernst Irrigation- \$500; Ernst Nursery- \$1,000; John Heiser- \$500. We thank them for their donations.

Specific items to be included for the interior work will be: ADA accessibility, water, and sewer hookup to city services, updated electrical, restore original fir flooring, drywall, plumbing, paint, and heating. The bathroom area will consist of toilet and sink only, and the kitchen area will be sink and coffee area only. These updates and repairs will allow for safe use and access for the public.

Additional funding is needed to complete the inside renovation. A detailed budget for the inside work has been completed. We plan to continue with the needed work and continue to need donations.

To donate, please mail a check to St. Paul Mission Historical Society, with THE memo of "BRENTANO HOUSE". A separate checking account has been set up specifically for the Brentano House.

WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE ANY SUPPORT!

St. Paul Post Office 150th Anniversary:

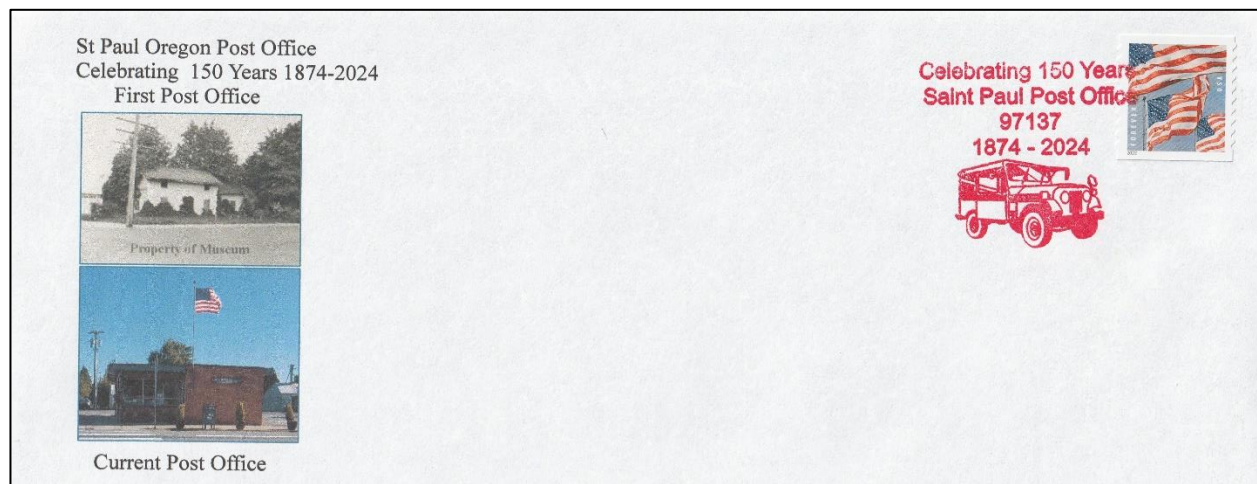
On Monday, June 24, 2024, at 1 pm a celebration was held behind the post office to celebrate the 150th anniversary of continuous service. The St. Paul Mission Historical Society sponsored the celebration and Tim Bergquist organized it and also served as MC.

Tim and K'Lyn Brentano met with the postmaster Colleen Nolen in mid-April to get her approval and support, which she enthusiastically provided. An application was submitted in May 2024 for a pictorial cancellation to the postmaster who forwarded it to the regional office in Portland. Tim then created a cachet for both a large and small envelope (see the image at the bottom of page). The cachet shows the first and current post offices.

Claudine Smith Lake contacted the St. Paul JCs who provided \$200 to support the event. After Tim drafted a publicity release, Gerry Lenzen contacted the two local newspapers: the *Newberg Graphic* and the *Woodburn Independent*. They both published an article about the upcoming event. In addition, an announcement was placed in the St. Paul Catholic Church bulletin.

Tim created a bi-fold 5.5 inch by 8.5-inch program that listed the participants and included several images. Members of the board helped set up (and later take down) the tables, canopy, chairs, and sound system. The invocation was given by Reverent Scott Baier, pastor of the St. Paul Catholic Church, and then Mayor Marty Waldo and Postmaster Colleen Nolen spoke. There were also recollections from the audience. Tim displayed his stamp exhibit titled *St. Paul, Oregon 97137: Its Postal History Since 1874*.

Finally, there was a cake and cookies along with bottled water, provided by Kathleen Bergquist, Tim's sister. Two tiny postal vehicles Tim purchased from the US Postal Service were placed on the cake (see image to the right, courtesy of K'Lyn). There were about 40 people in attendance. The celebration lasted about 30 minutes.



Tombstone Found:

The St. Paul Mission Historical Society received an email from a woman about a “found” tombstone.

”My husband and I recently purchased a property in Canby that had been owned by the same family for over 100 years.

Upon exploring the property, we discovered a large, very old gravestone with the name Daniel Murphy, born 1800 and died in 1866.

When I did an internet search, I learned that there is a Daniel Murphy buried in St. Paul Catholic Cemetery and dates on marker are the same. The previous property owner did not volunteer information about how the gravestone came to be here. We would obviously like to have this stone get to the right place. If you can help or connect me with someone else who can, that would be great!”



Daniel Murphy was the father of Matthew O. C. Murphy whose house is on the SPMHS grounds (across from the St. Paul Firehall). Both Daniel and Matthew were surveyors for the General Land Office. Daniel Murphy died on 21 January 1864 and was buried two days later in the St. Paul Cemetery where his wife, Catherine, was buried. Both of these burials were in the “old” cemetery, the one that was near the church on Main Street. The new (current) cemetery was opened in 1875.

Matthew O. C. Murphy (1830 – 1906) purchased plots in the new cemetery, and small markers were placed for Daniel and Catherine Murphy.

Is there anyone out there who can help this woman restore Daniel Murphy’s stone to St. Paul?

Fred Meyers Community Rewards Program:

Apply for a Fred Meyer's Shopper's Card for free and link it to St. Paul Mission Historical Society. Fred Meyer donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating Fred Meyer Community Rewards organizations.

[Use this link: Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program to get started.](#)

Sign in or create an account, then search for the St. Paul Mission Historical Society in the list of organizations.

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 or bring it to the annual meeting.

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 27 at 10:30 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

Bring your dues to the Annual Meeting or Send it no later than November 1, 2024 to:
St. Paul Mission Historical Society, P.O. Box 158, St. Paul, OR 97137. Thank you!!

Website: www.spmhs.com.

The website has been updated extensively with lots of new information including stories and articles.

