

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

**Fall 2016**

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 2016 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 9, 2016 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 [mernst@mtangel.net](mailto:mernst@mtangel.net) or 503.845.6208 and leave a message.

On the agenda will be the Society's annual elections. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Jean Abderhalden at [jeanfrank@stpaultel.com](mailto:jeanfrank@stpaultel.com). Three Board positions are open for nominations and they are:

- ☐ Maureen Ernst (Secretary) – 2016
- ☐ Monsignor Gregory Moys – 2016
- ☐ Steven Koch - 2016

Dr. David Brauner – 2017  
Don Koch – 2017  
Miguel Salinas - 2017  
Hunter Wylie – 2017  
Claudine Smith Lake – 2017

Jean Abderhalden (President) – 2018  
Gertrude Jette (Treasurer) – 2018  
Gerry Lenzen (Vice President) – 2018  
Brenda Howard (Treasurer) - 2018  
Rosella McKay – Past President

**WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER** –The SPMHS welcomes new board member Brenda Howard. Brenda has served on the Investment Committee since 2005. She has been very active with SPMHS and now serves on the board and as the Treasurer.

**Meet Your Board of Directors - 2016**

Jean Abderhalden (President) has lived in St. Paul on Champoeg Road for more than 50 years. Her husband and she have three children, all grown, and are now enjoying their retirement years. Jean reports that she has always been interested in history so it was a logical step to become a part of preserving the history of the area where she lives. She is currently president of the St. Paul Mission Historical Society and enjoying seeing things that are being accomplished.

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. He married Connie Miller at St. Andrews in Portland in 1959. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

Maureen Ernst (Secretary) is 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 include grant writing and communications.

She is retired from Mt. Angel Telephone and now has her own marketing and consulting business. She is 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 is the mother of three tall and talented children and seven perfect grandchildren.

Dr. David Brauner, PhD

David Brauner, PhD is a full 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 Champoeg State Park.

Msg. Greg Moys

Monsignor Greg Moys was born and raised in Portland. He entered Mount Angel Seminary High School in December, 1954, when his family moved to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. 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. While studying in Rome, he witnessed the first three of the four sessions of the Second Vatican Council and its two popes, Pope Saint John XXIII and Blessed Pope Paul VI. 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 1974-78. He became 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, 1988-1989, during its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Over the years, he has served as pastor at other Oregon parishes. Monsignor Moys is currently the President of the Oregon Catholic Historical Society and a member of the Saint Paul Mission Historical Society. He has a great love for family and Catholic church history.

Miguel A. Salinas

Miguel is the son of Arturo Flores Salinas and Maria Amezcua. Miguel was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. Although his parents migrated from Texas to St. Paul and worked in the hops since the late 40's, Miguel did not join them until 1954. Miguel attended St. Paul Catholic School in 1954-55. Migrant life took him to five different schools and three different states and two countries.

In 1959, Oregon became his permanent home. After graduating from Gervais High School in 1966, Miguel attended college and earned two degrees in Education. During his 31 year career in Education, he worked as a teacher and principal in seven different schools and three school districts. After retiring in the year 2000, he decided to engage in independent research; his subject: "Pioneros de Oregon" with emphasis on the migrants who came to the St. Paul area prior to 1960. In addition to his research and numerous home projects which keep him busy, Miguel and his family which is comprised of four children, four grandchildren and two sons in law launched a Recognition Program to commemorate and acknowledge the arrival and the contributions of Tejanos. Giving back to the community is something special. As a son of a Pioneer, Miguel also celebrates the arrival of his father and mother. His personal experiences during the last 50 years provide a unique foundation which he plans to share with the St. Paul Mission Historical Society. His short term goal is to complete the "Oral History" portion of his project and to share this unique journey with others.

Hunter Wylie is a retired sales executive and St. Paul resident. He has been active on our board for more than 23 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 which 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 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 is the Principal of Koch Landscape Architecture and a Pacific Northwest native with 25 years of professional experience. Nationally recognized for his artistic, sculptural and sustainable solutions to design issues, Steven's designs have impacted the success of urban revitalization.

## GUEST SPEAKER – Maryanne F. Maddoux



### Reconstructing Oregon's History By Maryanne F. Maddoux

The St. Paul Mission Historical Society (SPMHS) is constantly working to preserve the rich and diverse history of St. Paul, French Prairie, and Oregon. Over the years the SPMHS has amassed a vast collection of historic materials through generous donations and acquisitions. These materials are varied and include a wide assortment of items including: books, ceramics, glass, hand-written letters, store ledgers, family histories and photographs (Figure 1). In order to preserve these historic materials and make them publically accessible, SMPHS is digitizing its historic archives.



(Figure 1. Louis Labonte III and family #2005.2614)

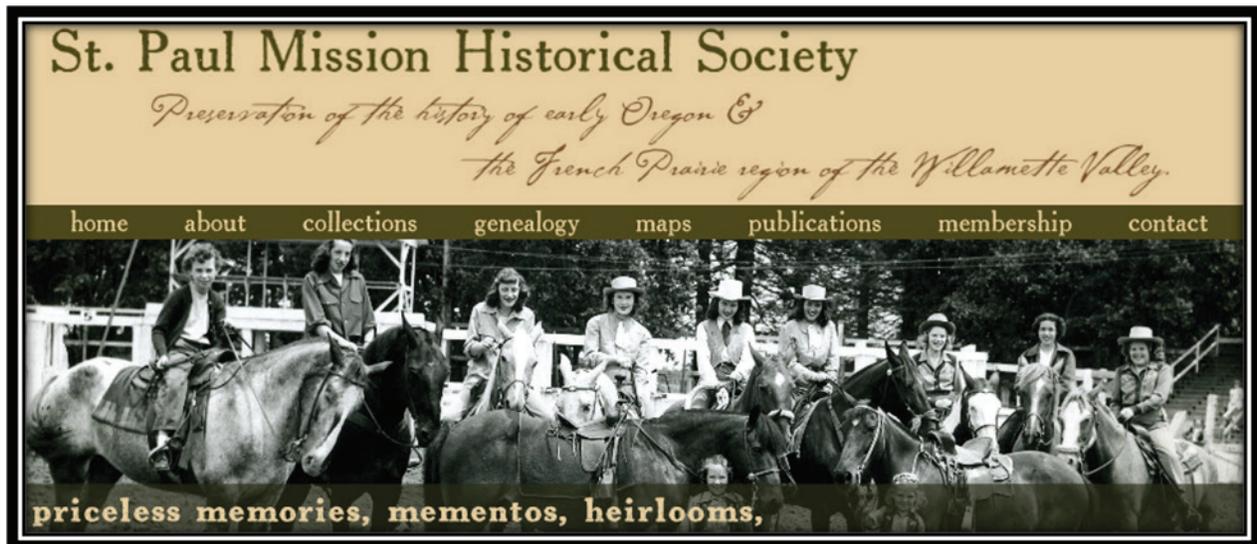
The SPMHS is currently working in connection with the Oregon State University (OSU) department of Anthropology to catalogue and preserve these historic materials. The artifacts are being digitized using PastPerfect, which is an archival computer program utilized by museums around the world. The collection is then physically preserved and archived for future research. The SPMHS collection provides rare insight for academic researchers, as well as a wealth of information for individuals working to maintain their own family histories through genealogical research. The SPMHS makes information available to individual researchers both locally and globally.

This year we have had the opportunity to process a great deal of information from the Harriet D. Munnick collection. Mrs. Munnick was an avid French Prairie historian and collector. In addition to a vast archival collection, she also collected glass and ceramics across French Prairie, in an attempt to recreate the material culture of the earliest settlers. In collaboration with Judith Sanders Chapman (1993), this work eventually led to a catalog of French Prairie Ceramics that is still utilized in research today. Within the boxes of materials catalogued this year, were hand-written notecards and fragments of glass from her ongoing work, that has yet to be published (Figure 2). These fragments can now be researched by pattern and added into the academic research of historians and historical archaeologists working on the history of French Prairie.



(Figure 2. Harriet D Munnick Collection Glass Fragments)

The digitized historic materials collected and stored in PastPerfect are available for anyone to research online. The SPMHS' website provides guides and research links for aspiring genealogists and veteran researchers alike (Figure 3). The "Genealogy" tab on the main page of the website offers general information on genealogy and local information including: Early French Canadian settlers, the History of St. Paul, Friends and Family of French Prairie, Catholic Church Records, and the St. Paul Cemetery.



(Figure 3. The SPMHS website homepage)

The "Collections" tab provides a link to the digitized collection in PastPerfect. This catalogue of information is detailed and includes many primary documents held within the SPMHS archival collection. The search engine provided by PastPerfect is capable of retrieving specific information, such as a family name, or more general information by search term. Please visit the SPMHS' website to learn more about the work being done by the St. Paul Mission Historical Society and start your research today.

The St. Paul Mission Historical Society Website: <http://spmhs.pastperfect-online.com/index.html>

Maryanne Maddoux

**About the author:** I graduated from Oregon State University with a Master of Arts in Applied Anthropology in 2016. Over the last few years I have worked as an intern for the St. Paul Mission Historical Society, performed archaeological fieldwork for a local cultural resource management firm, volunteered in the archaeological lab at Fort Vancouver, and I oversaw the lab at the 2014 OSU Champoeg Field School under the direction of Dr. David Brauner. The focus of my research pertains to the settlement of the Oregon Territory during the 1800s. My Master's thesis is an examination of archaeological excavations conducted at a Chinese laundry in The Dalles, Oregon. I am continuing my research of the early settlement of Overseas Chinese communities in Oregon, while working towards the completion of my doctoral degree at OSU.

Steven is the current owner and steward of the William Case House 1858-59 restored by Wallace Kay Huntington and Mirza Dickel. Steven has lived in the Case House since 2013 when Wallace returned to the Portland after the death of his wife Mirza in 2012. The 3 acre formal garden designed by Wallace over the course of 36 years remains intact as part of Wallace's personal legacy. Wallace died in March of 2015 and is buried next to Mirza in the Champoege Cemetery.

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 thru being a co-founder of the Halprin Landscape Conservancy in Portland and his participation in The Cultural Landscape Foundation based in Washington DC.

Claudine Smith Lake "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!"

Brenda Howard "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 which 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.

Rosella McKay is Immediate Past President. Rosella and her late husband Joe were the founders of the historical society in 1976. Joe served as president and Rosella was always in the background supporting Joe's efforts to preserve the local history. They were married for fifty years with twelve children, twenty-six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Rosella worked for eighteen years for the US Postal Service and is now enjoying her retirement in St. Paul. Rosella continues to stay active with the historical society. She enjoys spending time with her family and attending ball games and school functions.

**2016 ACTIVITIES:** Board members will report on grants and activities this past year.

**WEBSITE [www.spmhs.com](http://www.spmhs.com)** : The website has been updated and now includes Facebook! **New!** We are receiving lots of interest in our photo collection and historical reference directory so the photos are now easier to locate. People are interested in studying their genealogy and the website is a great place to start your searches! **New!** Noted Genealogist Connie Lenzen is writing "French Prairie Pioneer Biographies".

Connie is certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists and 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" and has written articles for the award-winning NGS *Quarterly*. She authored the "Twentieth-Century Research" course for the National Institute of Genealogical Studies (NIGS)

**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 9 at 11:30 a.m.

Maureen Ernst  
Secretary & Board of Director  
e-mail: [mernst@mtangel.net](mailto:mernst@mtangel.net)  
Evenings: 503.845.6208

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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!!