

The Settlemier House
French Prairie Historical Society
P.O. Box 405
Woodburn, Oregon 97071



**Look what's "new" at the Settlemier House!
Two Settlemier chairs and George Settlemier's tool chest (1848), donated by Ken Settlemier**

Officers & Board Members

Dan Dinges,
FPHS President

Cindy Thomas,
Vice President/Tour Guide

Ruth Herman Wells,
Secretary

Ardith Stromme,
Treasurer

Peggy Dinges,
Corresponding Secretary/Wedding Coordinator

Merri Berlin
Bill Coleman, *Tour Guide*
Durrell Crays
Tamara DePue, *Grant Writer*
Richard Ellis
Everett Hemshorn
Lynnda Null

Membership

Information on renewing for 2009

Membership in The French Prairie Historical Society is one way to help support Woodburn's Historic Treasure - the Settlemier House. Dues are quite low compared to other societies at just \$20.00 for an Individual; \$30.00 for a Family and \$50.00 to \$100.00 for businesses. A one year membership is from January to December. It's time for everyone to renew their membership and we would appreciate payment by January 31, 2009. You may send your dues to: French Prairie Historical Society, PO Box 405, Woodburn, Oregon 97071. We welcome new members, so please let others know about The French Prairie Historical Society. The house phone number is (503) 982-1897.

Time is another way to help out and keep the Settlemier House alive with history. Members are invited to be volunteer tour guides, help with displays, decorate for Christmas, or maintain scrapbooks and historic information. Cindy Thomas is in charge of volunteers. Please give her a call on her cell number (503) 481-5401 if you want to volunteer in any way.

Weddings, Weddings, Weddings

Weddings are such a joyous occasion and they are especially wonderful when held at the Settlemier House. This past year 14 weddings were held at the Settlemier House.

The Settlemier House is advertised in The Bravo Guide, a Willamette Valley wedding guide book for brides. This January, for the first time, the Settlemier House will be represented in the Oregon Wedding Showcase held at the State Fair Grounds in Salem. We hope this event will help book more weddings. Weddings and chair rentals provide the majority of income for maintaining and improving the historic Settlemier House. Please pass the word to your family and friends that the Settlemier House is a great place for weddings, parties and even memorial services.

Upcoming Project

Oregon's 150th year of Statehood will be celebrated throughout 2009 in many local cities. The City of Woodburn will also commemorate 120 years of incorporation. Jesse H. Settlemier was instrumental in the process of making this little town in the French Prairie area a city. We honor him as "The Founder of Woodburn".

Students from Woodburn High School writing classes toured Jesse's home in October to learn more about the man and those times in history. To mark those achievements drama students will portray characters and act out historic scenes throughout the Settlemier House for visitors to enjoy. Watch the local newspapers and bulletin boards about this exciting production tentatively scheduled for:

January 15th- Tour for actors from 1-2(2:30) pm
Thursday, February 5th- Actor final dress rehearsal
12-3 pm
Thursday, Feb 5th- Opening night for actors, writers, and press 7-8:30 (Cast arrive at 6pm)
Friday, Feb 6th- Friday Performance 11-4 pm
(Cast there from 10-4)
Saturday, Feb 7th- Saturday Performance 11-4 pm
(Cast there from 10-4)

NOTE: The Settlemier House will be open to the public for tour regular hours: the first Sunday of the month - February, the 1st from 1-4 pm

The Curator's Corner

Next time you visit the Settlemier House, take a sharp left turn into the living room (parlor) and you'll find our newest furniture addition, a beautifully crafted, curved glass-front, oak display cabinet dating from the early 20th century. Board members, Durrell Crays and Merri Berlin, were picking up an item they'd won at Legacy Auctions when they fortuitously discovered this cabinet scheduled for the following weeks auction. Upon sharing the discovery, chairman Dan Dinges and several other board members made a trip to Legacy Auctions to view the cabinet and all agreed that we should attempt to win it at the upcoming auction. It was successfully purchased and moved into the Settlemier House the following week. The French Prairie Historical Society has been fortunate to gain many new items from the Settlemier Family due to generous donations by the family of the former household staff and the purchase of several items original to the house that were offered at auction. This lovely antique cabinet will provide you with the opportunity to view many of them.



Photo by Daniel Dinges

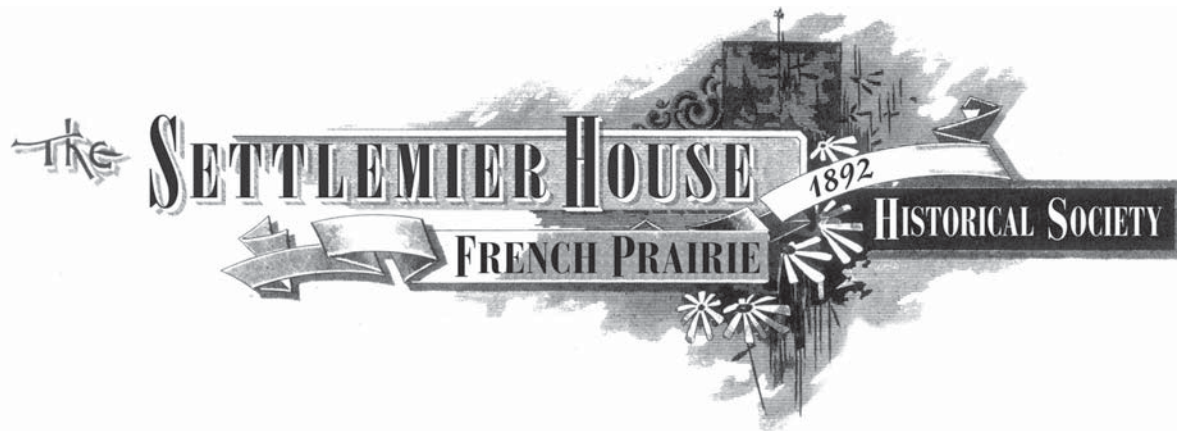
One of our auction purchases was the "Victrola" phonograph originally purchased by either Frank or Jesse Settlemier. While this quarter sawn oak cabinet most resembles a desk, it was a fine and expensive "state of the art" phonograph in its day and is a welcome addition to the house. Unfortunately time had taken its toll and the player did not work. Jon Graham, a restorer of mechanical musical devices (and many other antiques) generously donated his fee to restore this wonderful classic. Ask the docent to play it for you the next time you visit the house.



Photo by Daniel Dinges

There will be a new surprise in the kitchen as well. Board Member, Everett Hemshorn has generously loaned a beautiful combination wood and gas cooking stove that perfectly fits the period of the house and fills a long empty spot in the restoration of the original kitchen.

Written by Board Member Durrell Crays



January 2009

Dear Members and Friends of the French Prairie Historical Society,

Happy New Year!

Another year has come to pass. This means it is time once again to renew your membership in the FPHS. As you know your financial support helps us maintain the Settlemier House. Although the house is in very good shape it can be costly to keep up. This past year we addressed an age old problem with these glorious old mansions...dry rotting porches. When the hand rail came away in my hand I knew it was time. We were lucky to find a qualified craftsman and he did an excellent job. That kind of work does not come cheap and that is why we need your support. Please rest assured your donations are not wasted. We receive no taxpayer support. We are a nonprofit so we do not pay taxes. We have no paid staff and many volunteers. Your donations go a long way. In this age of CEO wrongdoing and government bailouts I hope you will invest your donations in something you can see daily right here in Woodburn Oregon. We would appreciate it very much.

The Board of Directors has decided to publish this newly formatted newsletter to keep our members and friends informed about what goes on throughout the year at the Settlemier House. The letterhead above was created from the original one used by the Settlemier Family for their nursery.

In 2008 there have been generous gifts, donations and acquisitions, several weddings, structural repairs and special events happening at the house. If you haven't been to the Settlemier House recently, then please consider a visit soon. Bring or tell your family and friends about the Settlemier House and come visit any first Sunday of the month between 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 12-18 and under 12 is free with a paid adult. If you choose to visit in February, there is a special production planned by the Woodburn High School Arts and Communications writing and drama classes. See inside this issue for more information.

Thank you for your continued support!

Dan Dinges,
President

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