



SDOP NEWS

Newsletter of the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers

January 2015

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2015! Greetings fellow Pioneers!!

Over the years we've spent considerable time traveling around to witness parts of the Oregon Trail—to discover places where our family histories once lived. While we generally focus on our "Pioneer" heritage and that group of hearty souls: men, women and children who came to settle Oregon Territory from the 1820's to 1850's, it's interesting to contemplate the actions and spirit of the two preceding generations of family who, in most instances, were no less intrepid than their children and grandchildren.

Many of us are fortunate to have a well documented history of our pioneer ancestry, for me it is Jeremiah Kenoyer & Elizabeth Cuppy Kenoyer who set out upon the trail in 1853. Recently I had the opportunity to visit a series of historic sites in the Philadelphia area that gave me a renewed perspective on the "Pioneer Spirit" that settled our country. I was struck by the nature of the generation that founded our country; defined our government, and most aptly demonstrate what being an American means. They did it first, after all.

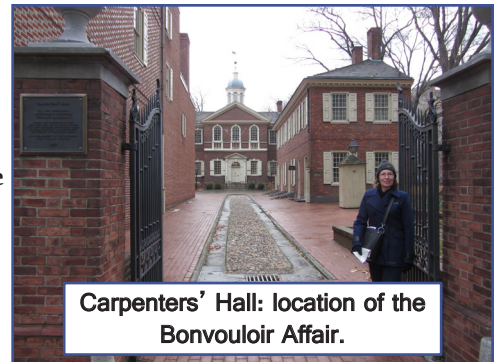
Jeremiah Kenoyer's maternal grandfather, John George Pfrimmer, was born in the French Province of Alsace in 1762. He was blessed to have had what was considered a 'fair' education studying medicine and surgery in Nevers, France and was fluent in French and German. Having barely turned age 20 Pfrimmer joined the French Navy as a surgeon and participated in the engagement between the British Admiral, Lord George Rodney and French Admiral Comte deGrasse at Dominica in the West Indies. Tradition has it that he received a saber wound while attempting to board an English vessel and from that time on he carried the scar on his face. Dr. John George Pfrimmer was the surgeon on board the French flagship when Admiral deGrasse blockaded the British Navy at Yorktown and was present as over 7,000



Liberty Bell with Independence Hall in background.

British troops led by Lord Cornwallis surrendered October 19, 1781 to General George Washington. This important victory buoyed American morale, reinvigorated French enthusiasm for the war and further eroded the already waning popular support of the conflict in Britain. Yorktown was the turning point in the then five year old Revolutionary War.

Our visit to Philadelphia included tours of Independence Hall, Congress Hall, the Liberty Bell, Valley Forge, American Philosophical Society Museum and Carpenter's Hall et al. All sites were fantastic to visit but the last mentioned was significant as we learned of the Bonvouloir Affair which took place in Carpenter's Hall between December 18 and 28, 1775. On three different nights during this ten day period four men met in secret sessions: John Jay, Benjamin Franklin, Francis Daymon, and Julien Achard de Bonvouloir. Bonvouloir was a French secret agent sent by King Louis XVI to gather information, assure the colonists of French support and to offer use of French ports after American independence was achieved. It is said that Bonvouloir's mission was so sensitive and so dangerous that if apprehended, the French would deny his existence since they were nominally at peace with Britain.



Carpenters' Hall: location of the Bonvouloir Affair.

The result of these clandestine meetings was to cause Silas Deane to be sent to Paris to begin negotiations for money, provisions and technical assistance on behalf of the soon to be organized American government. It was there, at Carpenters' Hall, that agreements were begun for the upstart of a new nation to obtain military aid and supplies crucial to sustain the fledgling government, its army and the visions of a new United States of America as its Founding Fathers aspired it to be.

After the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783 and American independence cemented, John George Pfrimmer migrated and naturalized in America and came to reside in Washington County, Pennsylvania where he met Elizabeth

Senn; the pair were married January 6, 1784. In 1790 John George Pfrimmer began his ministry and involvement in the organization of the United Brethren church body, attending the second and third official conferences of the church in 1791 and 1800.

In 1808 Pfrimmer arrived in Harrison County, Indiana on horseback to settle and build a home near Corydon, then the site of the state capital of Indiana, where he and Elizabeth raised a family of six children. At the time, there were less than 12,000 white settlers in the Territory. Pfrimmer doctored, farmed, preached the gospel and worked with then Governor William Henry Harrison (9th U.S. President) who appointed him an appeals court judge. Notably, he built a chapel (Pfrimmer's Chapel) to allow folks to congregate and is recognized for transporting the first piano into Indiana territory.

On May 12, 1817 one of Pfrimmers daughters, Mary Magdaline Pfrimmer, married Frederick Kenoyer in Harrison Indiana. Frederick Kenoyer grew up on a homestead that was adjacent to the Pfrimmer parcel. He served as a teamster in the War of 1812 and joined the United Brethren as a preacher in 1827. His diaries and accounts in the United Brethren chronicle his exploits as a pioneer missionary and builder of four church buildings complete with altars. Frederick and Mary Pfrimmer Kenoyer began raising a family of eight, with Jeremiah Kenoyer, their first, being born November 22, 1819.



Washington's Headquarters, Valley Forge PA.

So, how did we get here and where are we going?

After visiting Carpenters Hall, I better understand the origin of French involvement in the Revolutionary War... which, as a direct result, allowed Grandpa Pfrimmer passage as a French Navel officer to America. His decision to stay in America after the Revolution set into motion several dynamics that ultimately brought him to Corydon, Indiana where he would influence the formation of a distinctly

American church denomination, as well as his community and family-- in particular his grandson Jeremiah Kenoyer.

It is incredible to ponder the amount of activity—even in the struggles associated with everyday life that these ancestors went through in the time spanning just over two generations, and how they and their endeavors knit together the very fabric of this great country which we are so blessed to live in. It is equally awesome to contemplate that a mere thirty-four years after his birth, in 1853, Jeremiah Kenoyer took the call to uproot his family of seven children and lead the Preachers Train westward on the Oregon Trail.

That's his story, though, and I will save it to tell another day.

Drew Ackerlund, SDOP President

Thank you
Betty Johnson

&

Margaret H. Stangel

- Brochure Printing Sponsors -

SDOP would like to send out a big thank you to these two generous ladies who funded 1500 brochures each. They have enabled our club to let many others know about what we do and how they can become part of SDOP.

If you would like to sponsor one or more print runs, please send your tax deductible donation to SDOP, Post Office Box 6685, Portland OR 97228-6685. We will brag about you in the newsletter unless you do not want your secret identity published.

Speakers Bureau Available

The SDOP Speakers Bureau is up and running. Do you have a civic, club, social or church group looking for a presentation? SDOP's Speakers Bureau representatives are available to speak at your organizations next gathering. Our presentations range from 30 to 60 minutes in length, include a PowerPoint program and information on Oregon pioneer history and genealogical and historical societies.

To book your presentation, please contact mel_fuller@att.net or drewackerlund@gmail.com

The Whitman Mission

The following letter was taken from the Transactions of the Twenty-first Annual Reunion of the Oregon Pioneer Association for the year 1893. The literary exercises were held in Portland at the Industrial Exposition building in the afternoon and were listened to by an immense audience. The Transactions of 1893 features a number of interesting letters written by Dr. Marcus and Narcissa Whitman. The following letter is one written by Narcissa Whitman to her Sister Jane.

Waiilatpu, April 2, 1846.

My Dear Jane:--The season for sending letters has nearly arrived, and I begin to feel as if I must be about writing to some of my friends or they will complain of my negligence or forgetfulness. I believe I have written very few letters since the doctor returned. My health has been so poor, and my family has increased so rapidly, that it has been impossible. You will be astonished to know that we have eleven children in our family, and not one of them our own by birth, but so it is. Seven orphans were brought to our door in October 1844, whose parents both died on the way to this country. Destitute and friendless, there was no other alternative--we must take them in or they must perish. The youngest was an infant five months old--born on the way--nearly famished and but just alive; the eldest was 13--two boys and five girls; the boys were the oldest. The eldest daughter was lying with a broken leg by the side of the parents as they were dying, one after the other. They were an afflicted and distressed family in the journey, and when the children arrived here they were in a miserable condition. You can better imagine than I can describe my feeling under those circumstances. Weak and feeble as I was, in an Indian country without the possibility of obtaining help, to have so many helpless children cast upon our arms at once, rolled a burden upon me insupportable. Nothing could reconcile me to it but the thought that it was the Lord that brought them here, and He would give me grace and strength so to discharge my duty to them as to be acceptable in His sight. The Lord at the same time sent us a very good young man, originally from New York, whom we employed to teach an English school. He was of great assistance to me in bringing the children into good habits and advancing them in reading, as well as in the government of them. He was not pious when he entered the family, but the influence of being once

more in a Christian family called to his mind the feeling and prayers and tears of a pious mother and deceased father for him, and overwhelmed him. He went to a retired spot just below the house on the riverside and wept bitterly and poured out his soul to God in prayer and consecrated himself to His service. He immediately engaged in religious duty and was my associate in instructing and labouring with the children in Sabbath school and otherwise. Several families wintered here, which made the school quite large. At the annual meeting of our mission he united with the mission church. He is now in the Willamette teaching in the Oregon Institute. This was the winter of 1844 and 1845.

I received no letters from you or Edward (Narcissa's brother) that fall and thought it surprising that in all that great company you could not have sent us a single letter. I think I wrote you in the spring by Overton's party; hope you have got it by this time. It seems to me the immigration might bring me letters from my friends every year. I have not had a letter from mother in a great while, and I most envy you your privilege and wonder why you did not send it to me, so that I might have the reading also; the last from father was when doctor returned. I have just been writing to Edward how much we wish to see you both here and hope you will three of you come; there is work enough for you to do. We could give you a school all the time, an English school, our children and the children of the other families of the mission, perhaps some others; also, an Indian school some part of the time.

Dearest Jane, you know not what special tokens of our dear Redeemer's love and mercy we have been receiving the last three months. Last Saturday, however, was a day of all days never to be forgotten by me, while I live. And can you think what it was, beloved sister? It was this: The triumphant death of a dear brother in Christ. I wish I could enter into particulars and lay out the whole scene before you so that you could see and feel it as I do and those who were witnesses of his glorious departure. The individual was Joseph L. Finley from Illinois, who came over with the last immigration for his health; his disease was consumption, and deep-seated when he left the States. He was advised to stop here for the winter because it would be so unfavourable for invalids in the lower country in the winter. You will wonder how I could have the care of him in my feeble state of health and large family. He kept about until about the middle of January and during that time boarded with a cousin that stopped for the winter; when he became

confined to his room, I opened my bedroom to him, as there was no other on the premises suitable for a sick man, and a cousin, a young woman, came and took care of him until the families left for the Willamette, the first of March. Mr. Rogers, our school teacher, had the principal care of him, as also during the journey. He was without a well-grounded hope when he came here, and the Lord was pleased to bless our efforts for his salvation. He afterwards desired to unite with our church, and accordingly did Feb. 26th, in the company with Mr. Rogers, who had formerly been a member of the Seceders. Being in my family, I was very much with him and read and prayed with him daily towards the close of his life. He grew in grace steadily and felt that he was over-privileged to die in such a quiet place, where he could have the society of those who cared for his soul. Dear sister--he was a stranger, moneyless and friendless, in one sense--no relative who felt the responsibility of caring for him. He was just such a one as the Saviour says, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Mr. Finley was nearly 32 years of age--was never married.

We felt, that is Brother Rogers and myself, that we were abundantly rewarded for all the care and labour we had bestowed upon him. It was such a glorious sight, especially to Brother Spalding and Brother Rogers, who had never seen the like before. Husband and myself saw much the same in Mrs. Satterlee, at Liberty, when we were coming to this country. Let us praise the Lord, dear sister, and live so that our death may be as triumphantly glorious.

Affectionately your sister,
Narcissa Whitman

Letter Contributed by Mr. Edward W. Prentiss, Quincy, Illinois, Narcissa Whitman's brother.

Whitman's mission at Waiilatpu became a regular stopping place on the Oregon Trail from 1843 to 1847. In 1844, the seven orphaned children of Henry Sager and his wife, who died on the plains, were entrusted to the care of the Whitmans. The 2 oldest, boys, were killed in the Whitman Massacre.

George Brune Remembrances

As I sat with the large group of friends and family at George Brune's funeral I thought that I'd never known a finer man. I wish I'd known him from the time he joined SDOP and on to his time as president. As it was, I met him the day in March 2006 when I joined the group. He was on the board then and for several more years. A kindly presence at every board meeting and event. George was often ready with a wise compromise on contentious issues. On a lighter note. The huckleberry desserts that he and Mona brought to events will never be forgotten.

-Ellie Nelson

How do we describe George? Like most people, we would say, one of the best friends we ever had. Jim knew him through the court system when they both worked there. I met him when I was President of SDOP. He talked about his ancestry and Jim talked him into joining. One of the best things Jim did for SDOP! George became a very active member and along with Merle Miller and Jim were a constant help to me. They always hung the banners at Champoeg Park annual picnic and set up for me. One year, George and my mother, Mary Sharp, made Indian fry bread for the whole group of over 100 people. They both dressed in their Indian regalia. George was able to get wild huckleberries and he often brought a dessert made from them...many people has never had huckleberries or had not had them for many years before George introduced

them to the picnic. Along with his many contributions to SDOP, He was also very involved in his working years trying to help teenagers get on the right track in his practice. Aloha George...



Hugs,
Jeannie Phillips

Land Patents

With the acquisition of the Oregon Country by the United States in 1846, a key federal agency, the United States General Land Office (GLO), was summoned to fulfill its primary mission – the administration, survey, and disposition of all of the landed property in Oregon, collectively known as original public domain lands.

As our pioneer ancestors experienced early on, the primary title transfer document used to convey the public domain lands of the United States into private ownership was and is the land patent. The land patent is basically a quitclaim deed issued and guaranteed by the United States Government. It does not constitute title but is mere evidence of right to title under existing law. The GLO district land offices were required to certify entitlement to a land patent by issuance of a final certificate upon satisfaction of all statutory requirements by the entryman or purchaser.

The first land patent in the Oregon Territory was issued on April 1, 1858, to the heirs of Charles Gaemblick of Benton County under the Military Veterans Scrip Warrant Act of 1847. The second patent in the Oregon Territory, and also the first donation land claim patent, was issued on April 18, 1858, to James and Rhoda White of Polk County. The Whites had originally settled their land claim in 1845 under the authority of the Provisional Government, and it was later perfected under the 1850 Donation Land Act. As was typical for early pioneer settlers in the Willamette Valley, the Whites had to wait thirteen years for American Indian title to be extinguished and the GLO land survey to be completed before the land patent could be issued.

The issuance of land patents was greatly curtailed during the turbulent Civil War years of 1861 to 1865 – delaying most donation land claim patents until after the war. Prior to 1964, land patents contained the name of the President of the United States but were actually signed by other authorized government officials in Washington, D.C. By 1965 land patent issuance was delegated directly to the field offices of GLO's successor, the Bureau of Land Management.

During the history of the GLO and the BLM, more than seven million land patents have been issued nationwide, of which approximately 200,000 were issued for lands in Oregon and 150,000 in Washington State. More than 95% of the land patents in Oregon and Washington were issued under the Homestead Laws, the Cash-Sale Entry Act, or the Donation Land Act.

-Champ Clark Vaughn

Mascot Needed!

Do you have a Prairie Schooner in your barn? SDOP is currently seeking a wagon to serve as mascot for our organization. If you have or know of a wagon (replica or original) in your neighborhood, please email Cleve Parker at moosegarden@msn.com Thanks!



Newsletter designer Jake Root makes it home to Oregon for the holidays and is able to spend a great afternoon with his cousin (and Treasurer) Mary Laws and her husband Jim.

Double Your Donations

Does your workplace corporation allow for matching gifts to qualified non-profit organizations? We'd like to talk to you about the special opportunity you have to magnify each charitable dollar you allocate. Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers can provide your HR or payroll department with the necessary information to construct this type of gift.

Please contact Mary Laws at jandmlaws@aol.com.

Send us your Heritage Story!

Do you have a special story about your wagon train roots that you would like to share? SDOP members are welcome to contribute stories related to their family history and the Oregon Trail. Topics that come to mind are stories of arrival in the Willamette Valley; stories of heroism or incredible deeds that happened on the trail; tragic endings or incredible beginnings.



Calendar Events

January 10, 2015 Saturday

Location: Washington County Museum
Hillsboro Civic Center Plaza Building
120 E Main Street Hillsboro, Oregon 97123
Time: 12:00 pm luncheon at Elmer's Restaurant
390 SW Adams Ave, Hillsboro, OR.
1:30 pm (if additional meeting time is needed)
Board Meeting at the Museum
with optional self tour after.

February 15, 2015 Sunday

SDOP Banquet
Location: Monarch Hotel
Clackamas, OR
Save the date!

April 18, 2015 Saturday

Location: Bowman Museum/Crook Cty Historical Society
246 N. Main St, Prineville OR 97754.
Lunch and tour followed by Board Meeting.

June 13, 2015 Saturday

Annual Meeting
Location: High Cliff Restaurant
Oregon City, OR
All SDOP members invited!

July 18, 2015 Saturday

Annual Picnic
Location: Champoeg State Heritage Area
Time: Board Meeting followed by
12:30 pm Potluck Save the date!

Leave a Trail Marker for Generations to come

You can turn your gift into a legacy that will fund Oregon Pioneer Heritage for generations to come. By including Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers in your estate plans, you can provide resources necessary to keep our organization equipped to stay the course set in 1901. If you would like to include Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers in your estate plans, you can use the following language:

"I give, devise and bequeath to the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers not-for-profit organization (EIN: 23-7455151) located at Post Office Box 6685, Portland OR 97228-6685 the sum of _____ dollars (or _____% of my estate, or the residual of my estate, or otherwise describe the gift) for the general purposes and uses of the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers at the discretion of the Board of Directors."

For more information about a gift or endowment to SDOP contact Drew Ackerlund at 503-730-0930.

Help Wanted

Notice: Seeking Publicist

SDOP is actively recruiting a publicist to lead in developing and monitoring public relations activities for SDOP. Duties to include writing and delivering press releases, coordinating affiliate member calendars with SDOP members relations and posting relative news bits in newsletter. Please email drewackerlund@gmail.com for more information.

Notice: Seeking Webmaster

SDOP invites you to apply as the organization's Webmaster. Please contact Mel Fuller at mel_fuller@att.net for more information and a complete description of responsibilities.

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Welcome New Members!

We are proud to have you in our growing pioneer family!

Life Member

Colleen M. Maxfield Daniels

Ancestor

Theresa Carter Ellis – 1847

In Memoriam...

Our sympathy is extended to the families of the following named members who has passed:



James R. Arnold
Betty Earl Smith



A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Did you remember to pay your annual dues?

Dues were due 6/15/14.

If you haven't sent them in yet, please remit your \$15.00 if over 60, \$20.00 if 18 to 60 and \$8.00 if under 18:

Send to : SDOP

P.O. Box 456

La Grande OR 97850-0456

Your membership is important to us and we Thank You!

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- March submissions are due by February 27th. -

FOR SALE

The 2014 SDOP Membership Roster is for sale to the membership only.

You may own one for \$12.00, or \$15.00 includes postage for mailing.

Send check to: SDOP, PO Box 456
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SDOP Merchandise Available by Mail

**SDOP 2013
Membership
Roster**

\$15.00 (includes S&H) This roster lists about 1000 current members and pioneer families (available to members only).

**Reflections
of Oregon
Pioneer
Families**

\$4.50 (includes S&H) This book is a compilation of 130 stories written and submitted by SDOP members.

**SDOP
Cloisonné Pins**

\$5.00 (includes S&H) This is the SDOP membership pin and is in the shape of the state of Oregon in dark blue with a white mountain and gold trim (available to members only).

**SDOP Woodcut Logo
Note Cards**

\$5.00 each set (includes S&H) Each set contains ten parchment note cards with the SDOP logo and matching envelopes.

**Please make checks payable to
*Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers.***

Send with a written request to:

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Save shipping and handling costs! Purchase the merchandise in person at major SDOP functions, such as the Annual Statehood Banquet in February, the Annual Membership Meeting in June, and the Annual Picnic in July. SDOP volunteers will operate an information table at these functions and will sell the books for \$3 each, pins for \$3 each, note cards for \$3 a set, and the roster for \$10.

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