



# SDOP NEWS

Newsletter of the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers

January 2016

Volume 45

Issue 3

**Hello Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers,**  
My Best Wishes to you and your family for a great 2016,  
Happy New Year!

Each year end as a family we go through our expenses and incomes to determine if our family's financial goals are being met. We do this to make sure we do not out last our money as both my wife and I are retired. Similarly SDOP looks at our incomes and expenses each year and make a plan to assure we are achieving our goals or in this case what our founders called our mission. That is to educate citizens about the achievements of our Oregon Territory Pioneer ancestors and to memorialize those sacrifices and accomplishments.

One of our favorite tools to implement this mission is our SDOP Newsletter. It is a favorite benefit of membership to receive the newsletter by email or by US Mail. Our challenge as the custodians of the resources of SDOP is to spend those funds both wisely and effectively. To achieve our mission of reaching as many people as possible.

Currently our cost to reproduce and mail the newsletter is ninety five cents per issue or nearly \$5.00 per year to mail it via the US Mail. This aggregates to more than \$2000 per year. As an alternative the newsletter is delivered to members by email at no charge to SDOP. Members who take their newsletter by email also receive additional benefits including announcements that provide information and notices that are not timely to be included in the printed newsletters. The emailed newsletter is also in color rather than the grey scale which the newsletter is printed.

Our goal is have as many members take their newsletter by email as possible. Currently now only about one third of members take their newsletter by email. The opportunity to redirect funds to activities that help historical causes is large here in this expense item. To be sure, and let there be no confusion, if a member does not have access to an email service we are very happy to have that member continue to receive their newsletter by USPS. SDOP leadership is committed to have funds available for that purpose. But if you have email access and can change

to receiving your newsletter by that method the SDOP Board is asking you to make the change. The only question for you is do you want to pay the post office or use that money to support our Heritage Causes or the Post Office. If you have interest in updating your SDOP Newsletter delivery method please email me at [mel\\_fuller@att.net](mailto:mel_fuller@att.net).

Thank you for your support of Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers,

*Mel Fuller, President*

## **Descendant of Founder Chronicles Fish Canning, Logging**

*Reprinted with permission from The Daily Astorian of Astoria, Oregon, by Patrick Webb*

*Published: December 13, 2015*

WESTPORT - Jim Aalberg is happy to report his mission is accomplished. The Portland man has self-published an illustrated history of Westport, a company town which prospered for a dozen decades sawing giant logs and canning salmon.

Aalberg is a senior executive for the Kroger Co., which owns the Fred Meyer stores. His work, "Westport Oregon: Home of the Big Sticks and Gold Medal Salmon," is the product of "two solid years" of writing and obtaining photo permissions, plus "staggering" hours delving into archives during the past 30 years. His wife, Jan, and son, Bryan, helped.

"I'm a history buff," he said. "I enjoy research and especially historical research. It's like treasure hunting." The topic isn't random. Aalberg, 66, is the great-great-great-grandson of Westport's founder, John West.

### **Spawned from Cumtux articles**

The 212-page book was spawned from articles he researched for Cumtux, the quarterly magazine of the Clatsop County Historical Society, of which he is a longtime member. He discovered at least three surviving descendants of Westport Lumber Co. pioneers were keen to have their stories told.

·Don Taylor, whose father, Jack, ran the planer mill and whose mother, Jean, created an extensive photo collection of village life and company activities;

*cont. page 3*

## November Board Meeting

Old Aurora Colony Museum

by Dawn Alexander

*Committee Reports:*

**Membership Registrar Report** - Mel passed out an updated membership statistics report. Nancy suggested that board members split list of members to call and see if they have email addresses....will get the active membership file from Merle so we can digitize those and return back to him. Mel will identify and produce a list without email addresses but has a phone number to divvy up. Mel will send out email broken up for board members to call and obtain email and phone numbers. Money outstanding from past dues is down. The policy is to drop members after 6 months if their dues have not been paid. It was discussed to follow through on this policy.

*Information Technology Committee Reports*

**Website Committee Report**-Cleve Parker

Paypal progress- Cleve is still working on this... working on members only section

**Banquet Discussion:** Mel has reserved The Monarch Hotel. Committee to help decide on MC, decorations, speaker, entertainment, printing, and flowers, agreed that Chris, Mel, Diane and Dave will meet next Friday, Nov. 20th at 12:00 at the Monarch.

**Membership Committee/ Publicist** -Amy Martin: shared several ideas for gaining more members and getting SDOP name out there.

1. Amazon Smile and Fred Meyer have programs where a percentage of your purchase goes towards a charity.
2. Brochure- Amy would like help designing.
3. Black Oregon Pioneers, encourage them to have an article in their newsletter, and vice versa. Maybe same idea for other organizations?
4. College scholarships- Aggregaters, would need to submit information to them. If participate in Oregon then your org. cannot select the recipient.... Allow us to be put in front of more people, our name would come up more. We could use Washington aggregaters, as they do not have the stipulation that they would select our recipient.
5. Meet-up app: when you participate you are given suggestions of other groups you could possibly be interested in, could encourage 'younger' demographic. Event organizer decides what the group will meet and do. Nancy mentioned that we have talked about meeting on the off months of the board meetings. This would be a great vehicle to get that going. Amy will get us started.

Downloading the Meet-Up App is required. She will also create some information for the newsletter about all of this.

**Cookbook Development Committee-** Janet Wilson: Request for recipes has been sent out.

Drew and Marsha Ackerlund's family cookbook has been found!

*Public Relations:*

**Speakers Bureau**-Mel Fuller has an appointment with Union Manor retirement home and the Pittock Mansion lecture series.

**Merchandising**-Drew Ackerlund: would like a standing ad in the newsletter to mention the Trading Post.

\* Aurora Colony Traveling Exhibit request for support by Chris Meinicke. Patrick and Kathleen gave a presentation requesting funds to support the exhibit of eight panels with information and pictures. It can be taken apart and moved to various places around the State. Plans are to take the exhibit to the Oregon State Capitol, Champoeg, Wilsonville, Willamette Mills and various French Prairie neighbors. It will travel for 11 months and then be housed in the Aurora community. The Board voted to contribute.

*New Business:*

\* Historical/Heritage opportunity-Mel mentioned the article in newsletter about the Cemetery Tales in Hood River consisting of vignettes about historical people in the area with actors. Suggestion for us to possibly do the same as a group? Ten members who would share their story about the trail for about 90 minutes. Can be an individual or pair. Need 2 people to produce and direct- possibly trying to join in with a community theater?? Mel will check into a group to help/volunteer. Start with the stories first? Janet mentioned Theater in the Grove in Forest Grove. Amy will talk to Jaimie at Magenta Theater in Vancouver to get some ideas for direction.

\* Annual Meeting-Cleve brought up the idea moving the annual meeting to the banquet. Add a business meeting to the day. Reasons are there will be more members in attendance and a large number of people are there ahead of the banquet. It would require a bylaws change. Could keep the fiscal year the same. Cleve and Nancy will word the bylaws to make this change and send out to the board for a vote. A notice will be put into the newsletter announcing a

special meeting before the banquet at 10:30 so a vote can be made on the change.

\* Mel asked Marsha to chair the archivist committee. Nancy, and Pricilla Bellin will be committee members. Committee will set up the protocols for organizing/preserving. Will need to get archival containers. The committee will meet and present a proposal at the next meeting.

*Daily Astorian Article continued from page 1*

•Gloria Fahlgren Turner, whose father was Archie Fahlgren, who supervised the loading docks and was the appointed town marshal;

•Francis V. Anderson, whose father was Andy Anderson, head butcher at the company's meat market.

"They started pushing me," said Aalberg, joking that they considered him "the chosen one" to write their history. "They pretty much railroaded me into it."

He wasn't really a reluctant researcher. He had the family connection with West, a lifelong fascination with ships, which play a crucial part of Westport's story, plus strong support from the historical society.

The historical society's chief archivist, Liisa Penner, who wrote the foreword, met Aalberg digging through file boxes in the basement of the Clatsop County Courthouse some 25 years ago.

### **Tidy his family archives**

Aalberg is happy his research has helped tidy his family archives. More importantly, he has preserved the trio's memories. "The thing that really motivated me was these people who wanted me to tell their story," he said. "Everyone had a positive attitude about the company, the church, the strong work ethic, the flower shows and all those things. It just amazed me. I wanted to tell their stories."

The story begins with West emigrating from his native Scotland to Quebec, marrying in 1832, then joining hordes seeking fortunes in the California Gold Rush. When that didn't pan out, he moved north to Portland then Astoria. Upriver he built a waterwheel-powered sawmill and salmon cannery on a 640-acre donation land claim in the 1850s and named the settlement West Slough and later Westport. The easternmost Clatsop County community, which once marched to the tune of the mill whistle, never became an incorporated city.

"Captain" West became the first postmaster and served as justice of the peace. His son, David, ran the mercantile, which housed the post office, and was the first telegraph operator.

West packed salted fish in barrels which were shipped around Cape Horn to East Coast ports and Great Britain. This progressed into canning, an industry that peaked on the Columbia River in the 1880s. The Scot also canned mutton and beef, finding markets for byproducts, including oil squeezed out of fish during processing. West's breakout moment for his distinctive red label Oregon brand, was earning the gold medal for best canned salmon at the Oregon Agricultural Society Fair in 1874. The name stays alive today on products distributed from a base in Liverpool, England.

### **Thrived on old-growth lumber**

As old-growth lumber was exhausted in the East Coast and Midwest in the 1890s, Westport thrived. The town experienced 120 years of continuous saw-milling operations, surviving multiple changes in mill ownership, rebuilding after catastrophic fires.

"I don't know of any community that has had that role in the Northwest and had such an impact throughout the world," Aalberg said.

The subtitle of the book - "big sticks" - refers to old-growth Douglas fir, notably from the Nehalem watershed. Trees up to 112 feet long were cut by 12-foot ban saws. Timber was carried around the world to Australia, Japan, China and Guam on sailing vessels and then steamships. Transportation from forest to mill was enhanced by the mid-1890s blasting of a 75-foot tunnel through the soapstone hill by Malcomb McFarlane, the only one of its kind in Oregon constructed for the use of bull teams to drag logs. A narrow-gauge rail line was laid in 1907. The collapsed passageway still exists, if you know where to look.

Chinese, Japanese, Greeks, Bulgarians and many Scandinavian immigrants provided mill and cannery labor. The Westport Lumber Co. was founded in 1909 and its "Diamond W" logo created in 1916. As the community grew into what Aalberg calls a "vibrant quintessential Oregon lumber company town," mill owners sought ways to retain skilled personnel. A bowling alley was opened. Company picnics featured races, tug-of-war contests or trips to Seaside. Links with Linfield College were promoted, with students returning for summer mill work.

### **Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen**

Westport's social life centered on the 4L Hall - the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen, a concerted effort to focus loyalty and keep out the International Workers of the World, whose militants disrupted Northwest commerce.

*cont. page 6*

## Tasty Message to All Members.....

In an effort to recognize and honor our ancestors, the board of SDOP would like to invite all of our members to submit old family recipes for publication in our new "Pioneer Cookbook".

This is a chance to see a cookbook come to life where all the best of the pioneer recipes can be found all in one place, one really special book that, hopefully, all of our members will help to create.

We welcome all recipes and if you have a name, date or perhaps a small anecdote to add to the recipes that would make the book all the more memorable, please include that information.

Please send recipes to  
SDOP Cookbook,  
Attn: Janet Wilson  
17659 SW Richmond Way  
Beaverton, OR 97006-360

### Thank You!

Thank you to the SDOP member who gave \$250 to the Scholarship Fund to allow us to honor a runner-up applicant.

Thank you to Betty Johnson for donating \$200 for printing brochures.

### 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

## Amazon Will Continually Donate a Percentage to SDOP Through Your Purchases

by Amy Martin

Do you shop on Amazon.com? Would you like to see your Amazon purchases result in donations to help support the SDOP mission? Combining the two is so easy that it will make you smile. AmazonSmile, that is. AmazonSmile is an automatic way to support SDOP at no additional cost to you. Once you have set up SDOP as your designated charity, AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .5% of your eligible purchases directly to SDOP. Here is how the program works:

1. You log into your [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) account with the same login information. You have the same shopping experience, but rather than starting at [amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) , you begin at [smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). Your wish list and shopping cart remain the same and in fact, the entire screen will look nearly identical. The difference is that you will be earning donations for SDOP.
2. Once you have logged into your account on [amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) , you will see a screen that is titled "You shop. Amazon gives." The right hand column will be titled "Select a Charity." At the lower right hand corner, you will find a search bar titled "Or pick your own charitable organization." Simply search "Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers." SDOP will come up in the search results and you click the amber "Select" button to the right of our name.
3. An email will be sent to you asking to confirm your charity selection. Confirm your selection.
4. If you have [amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) saved as a bookmark in your internet browser, you may want to save [smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) instead. This will make it easier to earn the donations without having to remember to type in [smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) every time

Every donation, of any amount, is greatly appreciated and is utilized to support to the SDOP mission.

INFORMATION & RESERVATION INSTRUCTIONS  
SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF OREGON PIONEERS ANNUAL STATEHOOD  
CELEBRATION commemorating OREGON'S 157th BIRTHDAY

Presenting MISS PIONEER OREGON 2016

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016

11:30 AM MEET & MINGLE: registration, viewing displays/merchandise and visiting  
Enjoy music by Roughly Hewn

12:00 noon SDOP Special business meeting

12:30 pm Group Picture Taking

1:00 PM PROGRAM with Welcome by Drew Ackerlund, SDOP Immediate Past-President

LOCATION Join us at the **MONARCH HOTEL, 12566 SE 93rd Ave, Clackamas, OR**

**MT HOOD BUFFET INCLUDES:** MIXED GREENS WITH BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE, BLEU  
CHEESE AND CANDIED WALNUTS, FRESH SEASONAL FRUIT TRAY, PETITE FILET OF SALMON WITH LEMON  
BUTTER, LONDON BROIL FINISHED WITH PINOT NOIR DEMI-GLACE  
BABY RED POTATOES FRESH SEASONAL VEGETABLES, ROLLS WITH BUTTER, Birthday Cake and Coffee,  
Tea and Lemonade..

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Kerry Tymchuk Executive Director of the Oregon Historical Society. Headquartered in  
Portland, Oregon, the Oregon Historical Society houses the Oregon History Museum, a world-class research  
library, and it hosts a wide array of educational programs. Kerry was recently named by the Portland Business  
Journal as "The Most Admired Non-Profit Executive in Portland."

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** Aurora Colony Traveling Exhibit

-----cut here-----

Please mail this RESERVATION FORM with your check directly to **Mel Fuller**. We must have your reservation  
and payment by **February 6, 2016** so the final head count can be given to the Monarch Hotel.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please include all names that are attending so we can prepare name tags.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a past SDOP president? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what year? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a past Miss Pioneer Oregon? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what year? \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify the number of reservations you are making

Number of adults \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children (13 & under) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(If you need a special menu, please let us know by February 6, 2016)

Please mail this form and your check directly to:

Make checks payable to:

**Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers**

Mel Fuller  
31 Morningview Circle  
Lake Oswego, OR. 97035  
E-mail: mel\_fuller@att.net  
Mel Fuller: 503-708-6894





Calendar Events

January 13, 2015

Location: The Fuller's House

February 13, 2016

Banquet at 11:30
Location: Monarch Motor Hotel
12566 SE 93rd Ave.
Clackamas, OR

10:30 Special Meeting:
Should we combine the
Annual Meeting with the
February Banquet?
Share opinions and vote.

April 16, 2016

Board Meeting: 10:00-12:30 pm
Location: Willamette Heritage Center
1313 Mill Street
Salem, OR 97301

Tour: 12:30 pm We could start the tour with the pioneer
buildings and if members did not want to tour the woolen
mill they could go on to lunch.

Cost of tour: \$6.00 per person, includes Mission Mill
Museum, Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, Jason Lee House - 1841,
Methodist Parsonage - 1841, John D. Boon House - 1847,
Water Power Exhibits, Mission Mill Views

Lunch after the tour: There is a very nice cafe at the site.
I (Chris Meinicke) have eaten at it several times.

June 11, 2016

Annual Membership Meeting
Location: TBA

July 16, 2016

Annual Picnic
Location: Champoeg State Park

Daily Astorian Article continued from page 3

Although many traveled in from Clatsop and Columbia
counties, and later the ferry from Washington's Puget
Island, other workers lived in company housing, swelling
Westport's population to a peak of almost 900 (it is 321
today).

The two world wars boosted productivity, with
Westport sending logs to Great Britain for railroad ties
in the first then 3 1/2-ton logs to shipyards in California,
Seattle, Ballard and Everett, Washington, during the second.
In between, the mill provided masts for "Old Ironsides"
when the USS Constitution was refurbished in 1929 (and
twice more in subsequent years).

Big timber waned through the 1960s and Aalberg
carefully charts the end of Westport's boom as the 1970s
dawned.

The book concludes with an index of characters, a
detailed timeline and a meticulous list of ships arriving at
the mill between 1903 and 1937 with their cargo's exotic
destinations.

Proceeds to the historical society

Aalberg does not intend to profit from his creation,
instead assigning the photo collection and the proceeds
from book sales to the Clatsop County Historical Society -
actions which delighted its executive director, McAndrew
Burns.

"I am so excited in so many different ways," Burns
said. "It is a huge donation to us for our records and it's a
wonderful archive of Westport.

"It's the definitive history - anyone researching logging
in the future is going to reference it."

The work emphasizes the society's goal of a countywide
focus, even though it is headquartered in Astoria, he said.
"We have all driven through Westport, but I don't think
any one of us has stopped to think, "There's a ferry, a

restaurant and a gas station,
but what history has been
there?"

Patrick Webb is a North Coast
writer and former managing
editor of The Daily Astorian.
"Westport Oregon: Home of
the Big Sticks and Gold Medal
Salmon," by Jim Aalberg
Clatsop County Historical
Society, illustrated, 212 pages,
\$30

Sons & Daughters of Oregon Pioneers
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I am interested in:

- Membership
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Speakers' Bureau
Serving on the Board

Please send my Newsletter via email at:
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at email: , or
at address:

Please contact me at phone: or email:

Sons & Daughters of Oregon Pioneers is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization. Your contribution is tax
allowed and you will receive a receipt for your tax records.

**Welcome New Members!**

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

**Life Member**

William J. Kombol

**Ancestor**

Absalom Jefferson Hembree – 1843

**Member**

Kathie L. Webb Blair

John & Rebecca Burkhart – 1847

Cynthia D. Allen Jaynes

William A. Moody – 1852

Loretta J. DeLoff Niederhof

Mary Ellen Grimsley – 1847

**In Memoriam...**

Our sympathy is extended to the family of the following named member who has passed:



*Cleda M. Abourezk*



**SDOP Trading Post**

on line at

[www.OregonSDOP.com](http://www.OregonSDOP.com)

Choose the Trading Post tab on the top menu bar

SDOP has some great gift ideas for you and your family!



Prices include shipping!

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E-mail: [jakerootgraphics@gmail.com](mailto:jakerootgraphics@gmail.com)

Designer: Jake Root

or

SDOP NEWS c/o Jake Root

9549 Elizabeth Ct., Thornton, CO 80229

- March submissions are due by February 20th. -  
Photos and articles from all members welcome!

**2015 - 2016  
Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers**

541-581-0378

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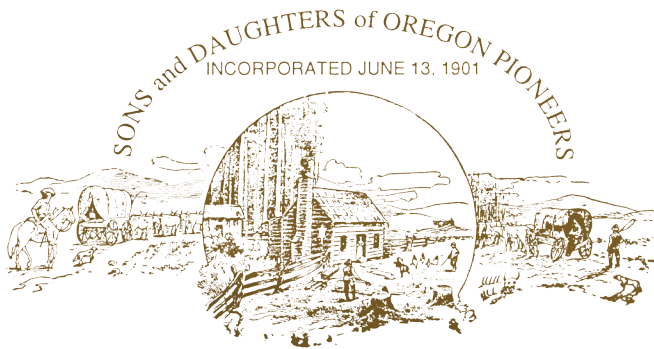
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January 2016

**SDOP NEWS**

### **SDOP Merchandise Available by Mail**

**SDOP 2015 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:

**Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers**  
**P.O. Box 6685**  
**Portland, OR 97228-6685**

