

## President's Letter

From Chris Meinicke



Greetings to all descendants of the Oregon Territory Pioneer Families and the Friends of SDOP.

This is my last President's Letter to you as President of SDOP from the term starting in July 2024 and ending in June 2025. It has been a pleasure serving as your president again. For new members, I was President in the years 2013-2014 and in 2021-2022. I strongly believe in the importance of this organization, for keeping the spirit, memories and stories of our pioneer families alive for future generations. Especially in today's world, when there is so little focus on history of Oregon and/or of the history of the United States.

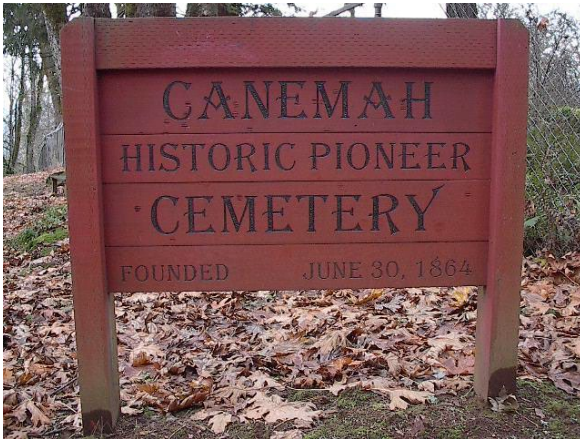
At the June 14, 2025 meeting I'll be presenting the SDOP gavel to Joy'e Willman as the new president of SDOP. The June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting location is at the Butteville Store at 10 AM. Tour after the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting is at the Newell Pioneer Village. The tour includes touring Dr. Newell's House, the Butteville

School, Butteville Jail and the Pioneer Memorial Mother's Cabin. Dr. Newell was one of the signers of Oregon's Provisional Government. **You don't want to miss this tour and meeting!**

I am sure Joy'e and her President-Elect, Joyce del Rosario along with the rest of the executive board and Board Members have great plans for the coming year. The actual planning meeting takes place prior to our Annual Picnic on July 12, 2025 at the pavilion in Champoege State Park. The meeting is open to all members. The meeting starts promptly at 10:00 am. **Please, bring your suggestions for Historical location meetings/tour sites and be prepared to determine the dates for our 2025-2026 meetings.**

We try to get all the meeting dates and locations for the coming year firmed up at this meeting so they can be published in the July Newsletter. The Memorial Day weekend might be when many of you visit the graves of your pioneer ancestors. One cemetery worth visiting is Canemah Cemetery in the old town of Canemah. I think it is the oldest plotted cemetery in Oregon. The Cemetery was started in the early 1830s and is only open today for burial to relatives of early pioneers. I've been visiting this cemetery for years and recently visited this cemetery again when checking out the Camas fields on Canemah Bluff. Canemah means "canim or Canoe" in the Chinook language. Canemah was a major canoe landing by the bluff and was a sacred place for Native Americans. It is located a short distance up river from Willamette Falls. There are many old graves like the one shown here. I've already been notified

by one member of SDOP that he has pioneer relatives buried at Canemah. The cemetery is within the Canemah Bluff Nature Park today.



I look forward to seeing many SDOP members at the upcoming meetings. I encourage all of you to celebrate your pioneer ancestor, to share your stories at SDOP meetings and to become an active member of Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers. We are always looking for new Board Members.

Christine (Chris) Meinicke, President of SDOP

Christine (Chris) Meinicke  
President of SDOP

## ***Upcoming SDOP Meetings and Events***

### **June 14, 2025: Board Meeting and Historical Tour**

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Butteville Store for meeting and Lunch.

Historical Tour: 1 PM (After the meeting and lunch at the Butteville Store)

Location: Newell Pioneer Village on the corner of Champoeg State Park

The tour includes Dr. Newell's House, Butteville School, Butteville Jail and the Pioneer Memorial Mother's cabin



### **July 12, 2025: Board Meeting and Annual Picnic**

Location: Champoeg State Park in the Pavilion Built by SDOP members

Time: 10:00 am Board Meeting (first meeting with new President Joy'e Willman)  
Please plan on attending this important meeting!!

Arrival time for the picnic: 11:30 am to 12:00 pm



## Board Members & Volunteers

### Officers

President: Chris Fronk Meinicke Portland, OR  
(503) 645-3124  
[chris.meinicke@outlook.com](mailto:chris.meinicke@outlook.com)

President-elect: Joy'e Willman Portland, OR  
(503) 309-6605  
[joyeSDOP@gmail.com](mailto:joyeSDOP@gmail.com)

Secretary: Joyce del Rosario Portland, OR  
(971) 330-1104  
[joyce@oregonsdop.org](mailto:joyce@oregonsdop.org)

Treasurer: Shauna Noon Portland, OR  
(541) 206-4558  
[Shauna@oregonsdop.org](mailto:Shauna@oregonsdop.org)

Registrar: Debbie Pedersen Portland, OR  
(503) 758-9824  
[debbie@oregonsdop.org](mailto:debbie@oregonsdop.org)

### Immediate Past President

Jeanne Preston - Prineville, OR

### Board Members

Reggie Burke Gresham [reggieburke@msn.com](mailto:reggieburke@msn.com)  
Priscilla Belin Astoria [belinpriscilla@gmail.com](mailto:belinpriscilla@gmail.com)  
Dave Thompson Aloha [dave\\_tek@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_tek@yahoo.com)  
Janet Wilson Beaverton [jlwilsonsdop@gmail.com](mailto:jlwilsonsdop@gmail.com)  
Richard Mason McMinnville [slomason@gmail.com](mailto:slomason@gmail.com)  
Mel Fuller Lake Oswego  
[mel.fuller@oregonsdop.org](mailto:mel.fuller@oregonsdop.org)  
Sherry Fuller Lebanon [shercan2828@yahoo.com](mailto:shercan2828@yahoo.com)  
Dawn Alexander Redmond [dmalex289@msn.com](mailto:dmalex289@msn.com)

### Board Member, Correspondence Secretary:

Joyce del Rosario [joyce@oregonsdop.org](mailto:joyce@oregonsdop.org)

### Historian:

Janet Wilson [jlwilsonsdop@gmail.com](mailto:jlwilsonsdop@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Design

Dave Thompson [dave\\_tek@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_tek@yahoo.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Mark Goddard [mark@oregontrailgenealogy.com](mailto:mark@oregontrailgenealogy.com)

### Webmaster:

Joyce del Rosario [joyce@oregonsdop.org](mailto:joyce@oregonsdop.org)

### Facebook:

Wesley Potter [alohadustoff@gmail.com](mailto:alohadustoff@gmail.com)

*SDOP General Voice Mail: ..... (541) 581-0378*

SDOP News is published six times a year (Jul, Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, and May) by Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers. Send inquiries and submissions to Mark Goddard, Editor - [mark@oregontrailgenealogy.com](mailto:mark@oregontrailgenealogy.com). Submissions for the July 2025 issue should be sent by *July 1, 2025*. Photos and articles are welcome from all members!

## Donations to SDOP

SDOP thanks those who donate to support our programs and operations such as the SDOP newsletter and the scholarship fund. One goal of SDOP is rewarding the younger generation, especially those who have an interest in Oregon History. It would be nice if SDOP received additional donations for the scholarship fund and the Junior Awards Programs.

Thank you for financially supporting our efforts to promote an interest in Oregon history with diverse audiences.

Donations made through the website are processed through a secure provider by using your credit or debit card, and no PayPal account is needed. We appreciate each and every donation and will be diligent handling all.

Checks or Money Orders can be made out to **SDOP**.

The mailing address is:

### SDOP

**P.O. Box 6685**

**Portland, OR 97228-6685**

Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers operates as a 501(c)(3) entity. Donations are tax-deductible.

SDOP EIN# is 23-745515





*The road that leads to us...*

### **New Member Fees:**

Junior [birth — 18]: .....\$12.00  
 Adult [18-60] / Senior [60+] .....\$30.00  
 Includes pioneer certificate and pin

Friend of SDOP .....\$30.00

### **Life Member/Friend Fees:**

Birth - 60.....\$300.00  
 60+ .....\$150.00  
 Includes pioneer certificate and pin

### **Annual Dues** (after first year):

*Annual dues are due in June.*

Junior [birth - 18]: ..... \$8.00  
 Adult Member/Friend [18 - 60]: .....\$20.00  
 Senior Member/Friend [60+]: .....\$15.00

### **Adjustments**

Printed Newsletter fee: ..... +\$10.00



**Pioneer Women's Cabin**

### **By the Scholarship Committee**

We would love to see our College Scholarship and Jr. awards program grow. If you would like to donate to these programs, visit the Donations and Dues link on our website.

You can help earn donations just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card! Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to nonprofits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give.



Here's how the program works:

- Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to SDOPwww.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for SDOP by name or by our non-profit number 86878.
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- You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
- If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.
- For more information, please visit

[www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards)

## New Members

<b>#2026 McKenzie Farnsworth (MPO)</b>	Life	
Joab Powell*	1852	TN
<b>#2028 Suzanne M. Deeds</b>	Adult	
Reece Clark*	1852	MO
Benjamin Clark	1852	MO
Tabitha Sanders	1852	MO
<b>#2030 Edwin Herbert Nelson</b>	Sr. Life	
Jarius Abijah Bonney II*	1846	CT
Jane Elkins	1846	NY
Sarah Ann Bonney	1849	IL
Abraham Townsend Minier	1849	NY
<b>#2034 Jane Eleanor Benner</b>	Sr. Life	
Jarius Abijah Bonney II*	1846	CT
Jane Elkins	1846	NY
Sarah Ann Bonney	1849	IL
Abraham Townsend Minier	1849	NY
<b>#2035 Linda Lee Allen Garrett</b>	Sr. Life	
James Washington Bunch*	1852	TN
Nancy Jane Fox	1852	KY

\*Indicates Pioneer on certificate



**Lucretia Amelia Powell (Buchanan)**  
1831-1916

## Shout out to a special SDOP Member

I would like to Recognize Betty Johnson as an outstanding SDOP member for 27 years. She has been a strong supporter of SDOP with her contributions over the years and most recently with a substantial contribution. She truly appreciates receiving the SDOP newsletter by regular mail since she doesn't have a computer. Her first donations were to support the printing and mailing of the SDOP newsletter. I doubt if she has ever attended one of our meetings, our banquet or our annual picnic. Betty joined SDOP in 1998 at the age of 68 as a Life Member.

Betty has lived all her adult life on 5 acres in Shelton, Washington. She and her husband acquired the 5 acres when they married in 1951.

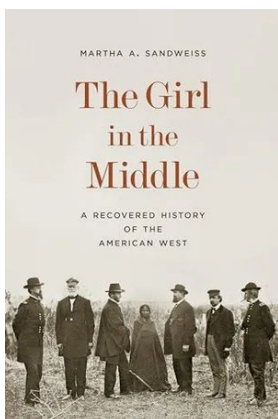
Her pioneer ancestor is James Buchanan of Indiana, who arrived in the Oregon Territory 1851. James Buchanan married Lucretia Amelia Powell on August 25, 1952. They settled on the Land Claim DLC 1223, in Linn County in 1853. Betty's direct pioneer ancestor is James and Lucretia's sixth child, William Ulyssis Grant Buchanan.

I am sure Betty would love to hear from SDOP members who are related to her pioneer ancestors, especially if you have stories you can share with her. Her address is: 770 S.E. Mill Creek Road, Shelton, Washington 98584-6814.

Thanks, Betty Johnson, for your ongoing support of SDOP.

***See Page 7 for a note from our President and letter from Betty to SDOP***

## FEATURED BOOK



In 1868 the celebrated Civil War photographer Alexander Gardner traveled to Fort Laramie to document the federal government's treaty negotiations with the Lakota and other tribes of the northern plains. Gardner, known for his iconic portrait of Abraham Lincoln and his visceral pictures of the Confederate dead at Antietam, posed six federal peace commissioners with a young Native girl wrapped in a blanket. The hand-labeled prints carefully name each of the men, but the girl is never identified. As *The Girl in the Middle* goes in search of her, it draws readers into the entangled lives of the photographer and his subjects.



**Sophia Mousseau Abt. 1860-1936**

For a full story of how the author came to write this remarkable story, see:

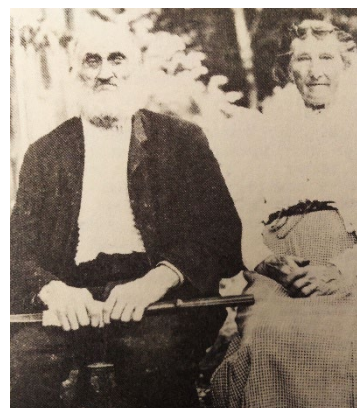
<https://oregontrailgenealogy.com/the-girl-in-the-middle/>

## Queries from Members

Charles Dejanvier is looking for SDOP members who have ancestors related to his ancestors, Jonathan January 1853 and Ebenezer and Susannah (Butler) Blatchly. They came in 1854, via the Oregon Trail. Their daughter Elizabeth married Jonathan on August 22nd, 1858. Jonathan and Elizabeth had eleven children: Wesley Winfield, Cassius M. (Dick), Philena Arminta, Martha Ann (Annie), Susan Ellen, John Ryneer, Sarah A., William Alexander (who later changed his last name to DeJanvier thinking it was the original name from Europe, but it was just Janvier), George Benjamin, Maude Arwilda and Katherine.

With the size of families back in the 1800s, at least in his family, Charles is sure there are pioneer descendants related to him that he is not aware of. He would love to get in contact with anyone related to fill the holes of his family tree and sharing family stories. He would like to share a lot of the family information from the book BLATCHLEY PHYSICIANS AND PIONEERS, DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS BLATCHLEY 1635 -1929.

His contact email is [engchuck21@gmail.com](mailto:engchuck21@gmail.com)



**Jonathan & Elizabeth January  
Oregon Trail 1854**



## Member Letter

The letter below was written and sent to SDOP by Betty Johnson prior to seeing our Shout Out to her in this News-letter (see pg. 5). The letter is worth reading because it indicates how important SDOP has been to her over the years and especially the SDOP's newsletters. I encourage more people to submit their stories and/or appreciation for SDOP to be printed in future newsletters. It warms my heart to know people who are unable to attend SDOP's functions for various reasons still feel connected to SDOP and really appreciate our newsletters.

Chris Meinicke, President of SDOP

7 April 2025

*I just finished reading the latest Issue of the SDOP News and always enjoy it. Two things came to my mind so I thought I would share my story.*

*My mother, Mildred Francis LILLY claimed to have all her ancestors as Oregon Pioneers. As she was sitting in class with the famous J.B. Horner as instructor, he spoke about Oregon Pioneers. Mr Horner then went on to say that that he didn't have to tell Miss Lilly, because all her ancestors were Oregon Pioneers. She was very proud of that and also because J.B. Horner was well known and respected. They even have a museum named after him.*

*My other story is about Miss Oregon Pioneer. My great aunt was Leora McBee (husband Coll V. Musgrave). Aunt Lee, as she was called, spent hours going over photo albums and telling me stories of her pioneer family. She desperately wanted me to be Miss Pioneer Oregon, and she*

*even gave me the form. As a typical teenage response, I put the applications in the drawer and forgot about it or trying to be Miss Pioneer Oregon. Some years later, Aunt Lee was gone, I found the Miss Pioneer Oregon application. I was old enough by then to feel bad that I had not given the application a thought. So, I proceeded to try to fill out the form to prove my Oregon Pioneer history. I quickly realized that I had to pick one family for the application, and I could not put all my Benton County pioneers on one page. I picked one of my mother's pioneer surnames (Lilly) and began my genealogical journey. So, at age 23, I became addicted to genealogy. IN those days we wrote lots and lots of letters and enclosed SASE envelopes. We also made lots of carbon copies because copy machines were just beginning to appear. The Everton Publisher big book was a very important tool. Yes, I could have been Miss Pioneer Oregon, and Aunt Lee, I apologize for ignoring your pleas. I have become too old but at least I have honored all my mother's pioneer ancestors. My one regret is the loss of all those photo albums with pioneer family pictures. The moral of this story is when you are asked or encouraged to apply to become Miss Pioneer, do it!!!*

Betty



**Mildred Frances Lilly (Ransom) 1914-2007**  
(Families researched – Beard, Bock, Hardie, Irwin, Ladd, Kompp, McBee, Miller, Milligan, Ransom)



# SDOP News

Oregon Pioneers'  
Newsletter

**Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers**  
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**Portland, OR 97228-6685**

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You can see all the products at the upcoming  
Annual Picnic, July 12, 2025 at Champoege  
State Park - in the Pavilion.