

## President's Letter

*From Joy'e Willman*



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

As the new President of Sons and Daughters of the Oregon Pioneers, I just want to say that I am really looking forward to this new adventure. I want to create more ways for folks to get involved and things that will bring new descendants into our group. We are here because our ancestors didn't give up. They set out to improve their family's lives and through brutal landscape, weather, illness, and blazing treacherous trails, they brought us to the Oregon territory. We get to enjoy this Pacific Wonderland because of their desire to never give up. It is all your stories that we should hold dear.



I will write later about my ancestors Joab Powell and his wife Anna.



But for now I just want to say that if you have any places that you think we should go visit or any events coming up please feel free to let me know or anyone on our roster so we can get it on future lists. Also, if you have family who no longer live in Oregon, they can still be members. Please let them know. I look forward to meeting you all at some point. Feel free to text or phone me at 503 309 6605.

Joy'e Willman  
President of SDOP

## Upcoming SDOP Meetings and Events

### September 20, 2025

Meeting and lunch location: - TBD

Tour: Fort Vancouver in Washington



This lithograph shows Fort Vancouver and Vancouver Barracks as it appeared in 1854.

NPS Photo

### November 15, 2025

Meeting location: TBD

### January 3, 2026

Meeting Location: TBD

**February 14, 2026** - Annual Oregon's Birthday Banquet Celebration and Annual Meeting

Location: TBD

***Oregon's motto, "She Flies With Her Own Wings" (Alis Volat Propriis in Latin), reflects the state's historical spirit of independence and self-reliance.***

### April 18, 2026

Meeting location and tour: TBD

### June 20, 2026

Meeting location and maybe tour: TBD

**July 11, 2026** - Annual SDOP picnic and Board Meeting

Location: Champoege State park

## Board Members & Volunteers

### Officers

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SDOP News is published six times a year (Jul, Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, and May) by Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers. Send inquires and submissions to Mark Goddard, Editor - [mark@oregontrailgenealogy.com](mailto:mark@oregontrailgenealogy.com). Submissions for the September 2025 issue should be sent by *Aug 30, 2025*. Photos and articles are welcome from all members!



*The road that leads to us...*

### **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

### **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

## New Members

### 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](http://SDOPwww.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards). You can search for SDOP by name or by our non-profit number 86878.
- Then, every time you shop and use your RewardsCard, you are helping SDOP earn a donation!
- 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)

|                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>#2037 Karl G. Holmes Madden</b>   | Sr. Life    |
| William W. Haines*                   | 1851 IL     |
| Mary Pierce Blaine                   | 1852 KY     |
| <b>#2022 Debra McGoldrick Leslie</b> | Sr.         |
| Charles Richard McKay*               | 1841 CA     |
| Letitia Bird                         | 1841 CA     |
| Isabella McKay                       | 1841 CA     |
| John Privety Brooks                  | 1843 MA     |
| Maria Isabella Brooks                | 1858 OT     |
| <b>#2040 Douglas Conner Denning</b>  | Adult       |
| Jobe Cushman Denning*                | 1853 OH     |
| Stephen Burres Denning               | 1853 OH     |
| Sarah Donaldson                      | 1853 OH     |
| <b>#2041 Cindy Marie Belleque</b>    | Sr.         |
| Pierre Belleque*                     | 1818 QC     |
| Genevieve St. Martin                 | unk. OT     |
| Cyprien Belleque                     | 1848 OT     |
| (see story on page 5)                |             |
| <b>#2043 Shelby Rose Long</b>        | Adult       |
| Benjamin Delaunay*                   | 1852 MO?    |
| Thomas Benjamin Delaunay             | 1851 QU     |
| Odile Thomure                        | 1851 MO     |
| <b>#2047 Kristin Marie Earl</b>      | Adult       |
| Margaret Gibson Earl*                | 1845 OH     |
| William Earl                         | 1845 Canada |
| Robert Gilman Earl                   | -- OT       |
| <b>#2045 Elizabeth Ann Bivin</b>     | Sr.         |
| William French Eastham*              | 1848 VA     |
| Delila Ann Cleaver                   | 1848 IL     |
| <b>#2050 Bonnie L. Holden</b>        | Sr.         |
| Alice Emmaline Tucker*               | 1853 IN     |
| Joseph Severe Tucker                 | 1853 OH     |
| Annie Marilda McAllister             | 1853 IN     |
| <b>#2046 Michael W. Panhorst</b>     | Friend      |
| <b>#2017 Michele Partch Painter</b>  | Adult       |
| John B. Hall*                        | 1852 OH     |
| Elizabeth Anderson                   | 1852 VA     |
| Amos Zimmerman Hall                  | 1852 OH     |
| Nancy Lee Parrish                    | 1852 IA     |

#### Deceased:

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| <b>#1479 Phyllis Naish</b> | Life    |
| Richard Williams           | 1841 NC |

\*Indicates Pioneer on certificate

Members- if you need help with updating your profile or know someone who needs help with an application, I am here to help.

Contact me at [debbie@oregonsdop.org](mailto:debbie@oregonsdop.org).



## One of the Earliest Pioneers



Pierre Belleque (1797-1849) was a fur trapper and early settler in Oregon Country. Born in Quebec Province, Canada, he was employed by the British Northwest Fur Company in 1818 in "New Caledonia". In 1821 his employment changed when NWC merged with Hudson Bay Co. From that time, he was an HBC fur trapper. By 1830 when fur trading ended, Belleque settled with his wife Genevieve St. Martin and family at the "Old Henry House" trading post, a.k.a. "Willamette Fur Post" near Champoege to farm at French Prairie. In 1843 Belleque was a participant in local debates to decide how to form a government. On May 2, 1843, Belleque voted in favor of forming a provisional government. Later a monument was raised at Champoege to commemorate the signing of the provision. Unfortunately, Pierre Belleque and four other French-Canadians' names are missing from the monument; these among other errors having been recognized over the years. In 1845 Belleque went south to the California gold fields. In 1848 during his return trip, Belleque became fatally ill aboard ship. He was buried at sea off the mouth of the Columbia River.

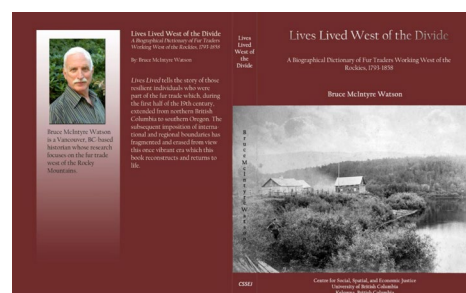
(Synopsis of his life by Debbie Pederson)

~Cindy Marie Belleque, who recently became a member of the SDOP is the GGGG granddaughter of Pierre Belleque. Welcome Cindy!!

For additional information on the earliest frontiersmen see **Emigrants to Oregon Prior To 1839** compiled by Stephenie Flora at <http://www.oregonpioneers.com/1838.htm> A comprehensive list of many of the frontiersmen who opened the Oregon Territory.

And:

[Lives Lived West Of The Divide; A Biographical Dictionary Of Fur Traders Working West Of The Rockies, 1793 1858 : Bruce McIntyre Watson. : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)



Ginny Mapes post on **Founder's Day at Champoege Park** at <https://www.facebook.com/100048797576082/posts/1092302757642263/>



Or **Pierre Belleque, one of French Prairie's "Big Four"** By Connie Lenzen at <https://spmhs.com/articles/Belleque%20Pierre.pdf>

## SDOP History and Ribbons of the Oregon Pioneer Association

The Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers has a very long history, starting back on October 18, 1873 when a meeting was called to form an organization called the Oregon Pioneer Association by adopting a constitution and electing an Executive board. F.X. Mathieu was elected President and J.W. Grim as Vice President. Other officers were: W.H. Rees, Secretary and Eli C. Cooley, treasurer.

It was agreed the annual meeting of the Oregon Pioneer Association would be around June 15 each year, the anniversary date of the treaty settling the controverted question as to whether the whole or any part of the Territory of Oregon should become subject to the crown of Great Britain or an undisputed Territory of the United States. All the pioneer reunions (members of the Oregon Pioneer Association) took place around June 15<sup>th</sup> of year. The Sons and Daughters of the Oregon Pioneers always had their annual meeting on the Saturday closest to June 15<sup>th</sup> also until recent years.

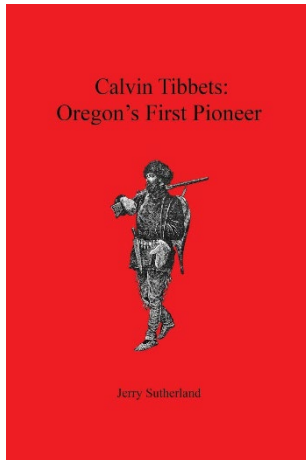
The Oregon Pioneer Association thrived throughout the decades of the 1870s and 1880s, sometimes with 1500 pioneers in attendance like on June 16, 1874, in Aurora. As the pioneers began dying off, membership requirements changed to include sons and daughters of the original pioneers, eventually giving way due to the attrition of its members to a new organization known as the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers, established in 1901. The Oregon Pioneer Association officially disbanded in 1952.

The Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers issued Ribbons at each annual meeting to the attendees. The ribbons below start with the issue date of 1901 (the official first meeting of SDOP) and end with the issue date of 1919. If anyone has ribbons after 1919, please let Chris Meinicke know.



Submitted by Chris Meinicke, Past President of SDOP  
Ribbon Collection from: Carolyn Anderson, Smyrna, Georgia (USA)



**FEATURED BOOK****Calvin Tibbets: Oregon's First Pioneer  
By Jerry Sutherland**

When Calvin Tibbets ventured to Oregon Country in 1832 it was looking more British than American. That's because Hudson's Bay Company, the Crown's proxy, had virtual control of the area and some of their French-Canadian employees had retired to farms along the Willamette River. The only Americans there before Tibbets were explorers, fur trappers, scientists, and sailors. His goal was different: to settle Oregon with Americans and make it part of the United States. Tibbets got along with his Canadian neighbors and native tribes long enough to assist fellow American settlers when they arrived: first missionaries, then retiring mountain men, and finally wagon train pioneers who crossed the Oregon Trail in such great numbers that the British finally gave up their claims to Oregon in 1846. Unfortunately, Tibbets died soon after achieving his goal, and all that he had done to achieve it soon faded into the shadows of Oregon history. In making the case for Calvin Tibbets being considered Oregon's first pioneer, this book shines a bright light back on him. New details gleaned from original sources are integrated with previously published, but scattered, accounts of Tibbets' many adventures. Readers will likely learn things they didn't know about John McLoughlin, Jason Lee, Ewing Young, Bethenia Owens-Adair, Elbridge Trask, Joe Meek, Solomon and Celiast Smith, and others who played important roles in early Oregon.

(Available at <https://oregontrailgenealogy.com/product/calvin-tibbets-oregons-first-pioneer/>)

***Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers*****BOARD OF DIRECTORS****MEETING MINUTES**

April 12, 2025

**Attendees:** Joyce del Rosario, Dave Thompson, Reggie Burke, Joy'e Willman, Chris Meinicke, Priscilla Belin, Debbie Pedersen. Quorum established. Meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. at Clackamas Town Center community meeting room, Clackamas, Oregon.

Minutes prepared by Dave Thompson from the Board Meeting held on January 11, 2025 approved unanimously.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

None taken.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS****FINANCE:**

**Audit:** Treasurer Shauna Noon not present; her report was emailed to the board in advance and will be discussed at June meeting.

**Membership Dues:** Registrar Debbie Pedersen reported four (4) new applications processed: one (1) Life membership for Miss Pioneer Oregon and three (3) Senior Life Memberships.

**Budget: Donation Revenue**

Motion to assign \$500 donation from banquet as follows: \$250 to College Scholarship Program and \$250 to General Fund, approved unanimously.

Motion to assign \$230 revenue from silent auction items (blanket and wine basket) to the College Scholarship Program approved unanimously.

Motion to assign \$214 revenue from silent auction treat bags to the Junior Awards Program approved unanimously.

A \$1000.00 donation was received.

**NOMINATING:** No report.

**EVENTS:**

**Volunteer Coordinator:** No report.

**Miss Pioneer Oregon, Awards and Scholarships:** No report.

**Annual Banquet:** Joy'e Willman reported that 2025 banquet attendance was in line with expectations



and the event broke even. Motion made to gift a centerpiece to a member who inquired was approved unanimously.

**Annual Picnic:** 2025 Annual picnic is Saturday, July 12, 2025. Ranger David Figgin is the primary point of contact assisting with facility use. Pioneer Memorial Pavillion reservation fee is \$250.00 plus \$1.00 for each person after the first 50 people. Cost for an overnight stay by Tom Marquette, his wagon and mules will be an additional \$100.00. The Park will invoice SDOP upon receipt of our Special Use Permit.

**Field Trips: Newell Pioneer Museum:** The June 14, 2025, board meeting will be held at the Historic Butteville Store at 10:00 a.m. followed by a visit to Newell Pioneer Museum in St. Paul, Oregon that afternoon. All members are invited to attend. SDOP has budgeted \$100 to cover admission costs.

**Field Trips: Rose Festival:** The Grand Floral Parade is June 8, 2025, in Portland, Oregon. Michael Irving and Sophie Curly are the primary points of contact. The parade budget is approximately \$7,000. Tom Marquette will be driving Miss Pioneer Oregon 2025 and her family. Chris will send Joyce the floral vendor contract information.

**GOVERNANCE:** No report.

#### **TECHNOLOGY:**

**Database:** Joyce del Rosario reported the Caspio software subscription was renewed in the last quarter; subscription lasts three years.

**Cloud:** No report.

**Website/Webmaster:** No report.

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:**

**Speakers Bureau:** No report.

**Merchandising:** Reggie Burke presented a check from the profits of the SDOP Trading Post Jan 31 - April 12 totaling \$68.30.

**Newsletter:** Dave Thompson reminded contributors that articles are due May 1, 2025.

**Social Media:** Janet Wilson not present, no report.

**Representatives to other organizations:**

**Champoeg State Heritage Area:** SDOP Members and the public are invited to attend the Founder's Day event on May 3, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Pioneer Pavillion.

**Genealogical Forum of Oregon:** Dave Thompson reported that the Genealogical Forum of Oregon is recruiting for a special Interest Group on Oregon Pioneers starting in the Fall of 2025.

**Oregon Historical Society:** Joyce del Rosario is judging for Oregon History Day at Willamette University in April 19, 2025.

**Daughters of the American Revolution:** Dina Saunders organized a centennial celebration for the Joan of Arc Statue at Coe Circle in Portland's Laurelhurst neighborhood for Friday, May 30, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

**America 250/Oregon 250:** Dina Saunders and Joyce del Rosario are signed up to receive updates.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**EVENTS:** The board will survey members to help select meeting dates and locations for the upcoming fiscal year set to restart on July 1, 2025. Discussion of moving the date of the annual meeting can be included in the survey.

Board meeting adjourned at approximately 12:14 p.m.

Prepared April 30, 2025, by Joyce del Rosario, Secretary.

*These minutes are organized to conform with the Policy and Procedures and committee structure adopted by the Board of Directors on July 18, 2015.*



## Photo Gallery

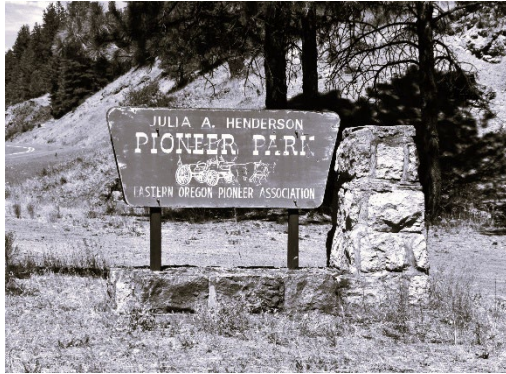
### The 2025 Rose Festival



**Miss Pioneer Oregon at Champoege State Park**  
**Makenzie Farnsworth**



## Pioneer Picnic returns to Julia A. Henderson Park



In an article on Pg. 6 of this newsletter, past-President Chris Meinicke writes about early pioneers who gathered to form the Oregon Pioneer Association in 1873 to celebrate the accomplishments of those who endured the Oregon Trail and settled the Oregon Territory.

The spring of 1853 saw Capt. Perman D. Henderson leading a 63-wagon caravan across the trail from Buchanan County, MO to Benton Co, OR. With him was not only his own family but others of the extended Henderson family, including Ira Albert Henderson, aged 20 at the time they crossed the Trail.

1853 was a busy year on the Oregon Trail, and not far behind Capt. Henderson was Capt. William Baird, elected captain of a section of train containing 36 wagons. His own family traveled with him, including his 13-year-old daughter Julia Ann Baird. The family settled in Linn Co, Oregon.



**Julia Ann (Baird) Henderson  
1840-1928**

Five years later, the Henderson and Baird families were acquainted, and Ira Albert wed Julia Ann. By the late 1890's they were living in Fossil, Oregon and it was Julia who donated the land which carries her name to this day.

Like the people who formed the Oregon Pioneer Association, and due to the isolation that many settlers experienced in the John Day Basin, there was a desire to have gatherings and to reconnect with friends. Picnics, holidays, and overnight dances would bring families together from a wide area.

According to historic records, in 1899, the year that Wheeler County was established, several residents gathered at a Fourth of July celebration at Kelsay's Grove outside of Fossil. There, they founded the Wheeler County Pioneer Association. Patriotic speeches and entertainment by the Fossil Brass Band were hallmarks of the day. A large feast was also made available at the Donaldson Hotel. In 1901, the annual event was held in what is now the ghost town of Richmond and the following year in Mitchell.



**Richmond Church  
(photo courtesy of Eastern Oregon Pioneer Association)**

The organization changed its name to the Eastern Oregon Pioneers Association and in 1903 the group selected forty acres at a centrally located site on Service Creek. From that time on, the traditional picnic was held at what is now known as Julia A. Henderson

Park. At the first Pioneer Picnic, Julia Henderson was crowned Queen, and it became tradition to crown a queen each year. In recent years, entire families have been given the honor. For pioneers that made the heroic journey west, the annual picnic is a way to reconnect with friends and loved ones. In the early days of the picnic, many families would bring their wagons and stay for several days.



**Turn-of-the-Century Campers at the Park**  
Courtesy Fossil Museum

One hundred and twenty-five years after its inception, descendants of pioneers and the communities that pioneers helped to found will once again gather at Julia A. Henderson Park for the Pioneer Picnic on Saturday, July 26 at 10:30 AM.

Julia A. Henderson Park is located between Fossil and Service Creek near Fossil, Oregon, in Wheeler County. It is at the intersection of Oregon Route 19 and Straw Fork Road, on the right when traveling north on Oregon Route 19.

Anyone with early pioneering ancestors in this portion of Oregon, as well as those with a love of our early history, are invited to attend this all-day event.

The association will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, beans, lemonade and paper plates and cups. The association asks those that come to bring a side dish, salad or desert. There will be ice trays for holding the salads or cold deserts.



**The old gate to the Julia A. Henderson Park, demolished when the highway was redone. (photo courtesy of Linda Donnelly)**

(Adapted from an article written by Stephen Allen of the Times-Journal in Condon, Oregon - [The Times-Journal](#) (541) 384-2421)



# SDOP News

Oregon Pioneers'  
Newsletter

**Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers**

**P.O. Box 6685**

**Portland, OR 97228-6685**

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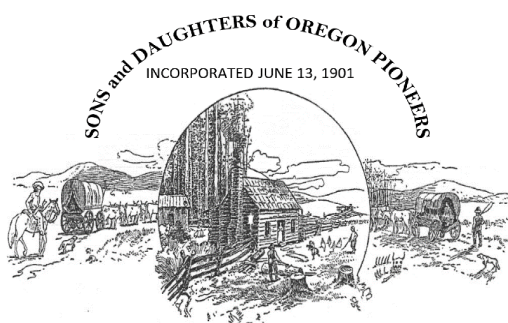
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If you missed the Annual Picnic here are a few of the new items now for sale. Check out all the SDOP products at the Trading Post.

## SDOP Trading Post

Orders can be placed via:

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

Click "Trading Post" in the blue header

Many more items available on the site

