

President's Letter

From Joy'e Willman

In the last newsletter I said I would tell you more about my ancestors who traveled on the Oregon Trail in 1852.

I will stay true to my word and tell you about Joab Powell and his wife Anna Beeler.

Joab's father, Joseph, was raised a Quaker, and interestingly, fought in the American Revolution and was known as the Fighting Quaker. Joseph lived in York Pennsylvania, married his 3rd wife Hannah Jewson and moved to Missouri. He died in 1835, and Hannah passed in 1845, leaving seven children.



Joab & Anna (Beeler) Powell

Their son Joab was influential in Oregon History as a circuit riding Baptist preacher. Joab and Anna were married in 1817, and he was in his 50's when they joined the wagon train to Oregon in 1852.

Once in Oregon they settled in Scio and built the first Providence Church, which later burned and then replaced with the church that still stands. Joab preached there for 5 years. In the front of the church is a stone that lists the names of Elder Joab Powell and others of the church at that time. Beside the church is a cemetery and Joab, along with several relatives, are buried there.

The church is now called Providence Vineyard Christian Church, and we have had the Powell Family Reunion there for many years.

Joab was a simple man and although he couldn't read, he would listen as Anna read the bible most nights and he would memorize the passages. He traveled from area to area preaching the good word in homes, barns, schools, tents, logging camps, or under the trees.



When the Oregon Legislature had their first regular post statehood meeting, they asked Joab to come to the Salem Capital and do the first invocation. Some say that the statue on the grounds of the Capital is indeed Joab but alas that is not true. But it's still a representation of all the Circuit Riding preachers who worked night and day in good weather and bad to bring the good word of the Lord to the people.

Joab and Anna's son Peter is my 2nd great grandfather and I'm proud of my pioneer heritage, of the role my family played in Oregon's early history. I'm proud also to be a part of the Sons and Daughter of Oregon Pioneers as your President, as well as having two of my granddaughters being selected as Miss Pioneer Oregon.

I would love to hear more pioneering stories from our members and encourage you to contact our Editor if you have stories to share.

Joy'e Willman
President of SDOP

Upcoming SDOP Meetings and Events

September 20, 2025

10 AM – Historic Spruce Mill Walking Tour
1001 E. 5th Street, Vancouver, WA 98661
11:30 AM - Board Lunch Meeting at Ft. Vancouver
Regional Library Columbia Room
901 C Street, Vancouver, WA 98660
Lunch catered by Farrar's Bistro
Please RSVP to joyce@oregonsdop.org
\$20 per person suggested donation



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

NPS Photo

November 15, 2025

Meeting location: Clackamas Town Center Community Room (take Food Court elevator to lower level, turn right exiting elevator, Community Room is first door on the left)

January 3, 2026

Meeting Location: Portland

February 14, 2026

Annual Oregon's Birthday Banquet Celebration and
Annual Meeting Location: TBD

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

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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 inquiries and submissions to Mark Goddard, Editor - mark@oregontrailgenealogy.com.

Submissions for the November 2025 issue should be sent by *Oct 31, 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

Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers

Board Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2025

Champoeg State Heritage Area, St. Paul, Oregon

Attendance Record (alphabetical by last name)

Voting Directors Present: Reggie Burke, Joyce del Rosario, Mel Fuller, Debbie Petersen, Dina Saunders, Dave Thompson, Joy'e Willman, Chris Meinicke.

Absent: Priscilla Belin, Sherry Fuller, Richard Mason.

Regular Members in attendance: Sophie Curley, Kristin Earl, Tom Marquette. Quorum established. The regular board meeting was called to order at 12:20 pm in the Pioneer Pavilion at Champoeg Heritage Area, St. Paul, Oregon.

Committee Reports

Nominating: SDOP is seeking volunteers who would like to serve in the following roles for FY 2026-2027: Treasure, Parliamentarian. Please contact joyce@oregonsdop.org to further explore these fun volunteer roles.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

MPO: Miss Pioneer Oregon 2025 Mackenzie Farnsworth will receive her \$500 check and speak to the audience at the picnic.

Special Presentations:

For her 27 years of generosity, SDOP recognizes Betty Johnson

For his many years of volunteer service, SDOP recognizes Tom Marquette

For her curiosity and interest, SDOP gifts Alice with a wagon and canoe.

TECHNOLOGY

Cloud: Mel Fuller reported on training opportunities for the tech committee

MEMBERSHIP

Parades: Tom Marquette reported on the Parade Season. Sophie Curley described her experience helping with the Rose Parade and visit to the home of Tom Marquette to help with the mule team and parade preparation.

Proposed Meeting Dates: The group agree to meet on Sept. 20, Nov. 15, Jan. 3, Feb 14, Apr 18, Jun. 20, Jul 11 for FY 2025-2026

Merchandise: Commemorative Scarf Design progress report from Dina Saunders. Motion to approve \$1500 expenditure for first round of production approved unanimously.

Field Trips: Suggestions were taken from the members present. September 20, 2025 will be at Ft. Vancouver, WA.

Annual Picnic: Displays at the Picnic include a box of ribbons gifted to SDOP during Chris Meinicke's term and the traveling photo exhibit from OHS, The Pursuit of Happiness.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm. Minutes prepared by Joyce del Rosario, Secretary, Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers on July 25, 2025.



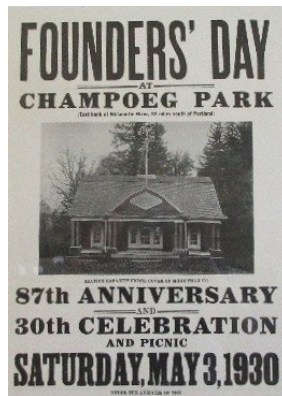
Meeting of the Oregon Pioneer Association in front of the Portland Armory, 1898.

As a successor to the old Oregon Pioneer Association, Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers was founded and incorporated on June 13, 1901.

Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers are the living descendants of the pioneers, mountain men, missionaries, and adventurers who arrived and settled in the Oregon Country. The association is for the social, literary, and mutual benefit of members and to perpetuate the memories of the pioneers.

We encourage our members to submit their own pioneer stories for publication!

The Significance of Founders' Day at Champoe State Park



By Chris Meinicke, Past President

I was given a poster from the 1930 Founders' Day event in Champoe which triggers me to write this short article. Founders' Day has been celebrated on the 1st Saturday of May since 1901 to honor the 52 men who voted on May 2, 1843, for the first Provisional Government west of the Mississippi River and "to be and belong to the American Territory".

The Oregon Historical Society, founded in 1898, created a list of historical events they believed should always be celebrated by Oregonians. On the list was the vote at Champoe for a provisional government.



In 1901, on a fraction of an acre where it was suspected the vote was taken, a granite monument was erected and dedicated. The monument listed the 52 individuals who voted yes. It was often referred to as the Plymouth Rock of the Pacific Coast.

It was originally called Provisional Government Park but most people referred to the area as Champoe. The name "Champoe" comes from the Kalapuyan word [č'hámpuik], referring to the edible root [púičuk], or yampa. It was an important staple crop of Native Americans in Western North America. The nutlike roots of the plant are crunchy and mildly sweet and resemble water chestnuts in texture and flavor.



By 1918 the small park comprised of 12 fenced areas that included the Pioneer Memorial building. The open porch was added in 1922.

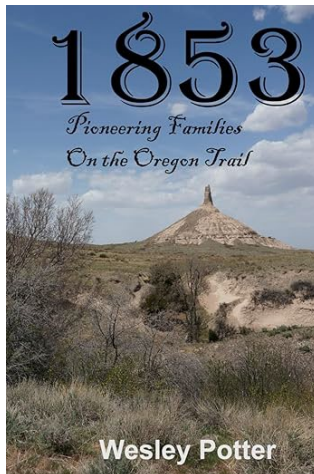
The building is still in use today. Covered picnic tables have been added, I believe, by members of the Sons and Daughters of the Oregon Pioneers. When I first joined SDOP, Founders' Day was still an important event to celebrate. SDOP was often asked to participate by giving speeches or setting up a display along with other historical organizations who often set up encampments. A bell was rung for each of the 52 signers and descendants of the 52.

One year, men dressed like mountain men arrived at the Founders' Day event via their canoes. Over the years Founders' Day has lost some of its importance. It seems the current generation isn't too interested in the history of Oregon. And today the park is better known for its recreation facilities, especially the large camping and picnic areas.

SDOP's mission is to keep the spirit, memories and stories of our pioneer families alive for future generations. That is why it is critical for SDOP members to share their stories in the newsletter, to attend the Banquet in February that celebrates Oregon's birthday and the Picnic in July that we have in the Pavilion right by the historic monument.

Poster from Mike Byrnes – Board member of the Aurora Colony Historical Society.

FEATURED BOOKS



1853 – Pioneering Families On the Oregon Trail
By Wesley Potter

Over 2000 Miles
Over 400,000 Heading West
Over 25,000 to Oregon in 1853

“1853” is a study of the Pioneers who made the trek to Oregon. It addresses ages, places of birth, marriage, and death.

With information on over 5000 Pioneers, we take a statistical and personal look at who these families were.

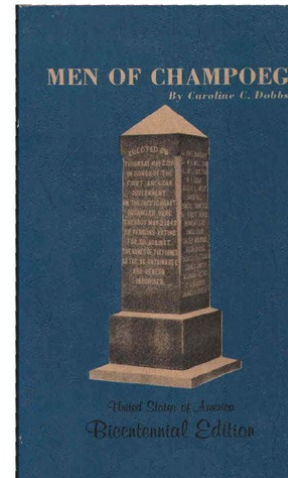
Little did they know at the time they would be part of the largest, unforced, human migration in history.

Like many of us, Wes’s interest in the Oregon Trail began at a young age. The tales and stories of people walking across western North America caused him to drift off and try to imagine their experiences.

It was years later, after talking to his grandparents about the family history, that he realized a branch of his family had made the trip in 1853. And thus, his long journey of researching family, and digging into historical tomes began.

(Available through Amazon at the following link:
<https://amzn.to/425Pk8S>)

The Founders



The Men of Champoege
By Caroline Dobbs

Of the many meetings that were held to discuss the political status of the region, two in particular are considered especially important in influencing the establishment of a provisional government. The first of these meetings was held at the Oregon Institute, a school for white children in the Willamette Valley, on February 2, 1843, and the second was held at the home of Joseph Gervais on March 6, 1843.

These “wolf meetings” were ostensibly held to discuss how to solve the problem posed by increasing attacks on local livestock by wolves, bears, and cougars. At issue was the establishment of a bounty system in which all residents would contribute to a general fund that would pay bounties for dead predators. An executive committee was formed to both collect and distribute what was essentially the first local tax. It was through the establishment of this committee that the seeds for an organized government were sown. Less than two months later, the majority of the region’s white, male settlers approved the formation of Oregon’s provisional government.

You can download the book for free here:

<https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/concern/default/1z40kz780?locale=en>

The Story of William Barlow's "Avenue of Black Walnut"



Black Walnut Avenue at the Barlow Home

"I came to Oregon in 1845 and supposed we would find similar nut-bearing trees to those found all over the Atlantic and Middle West States. But when I arrived here, I found there was no nut-bearing trees of any kind, except some small hazel nuts, which were of a very different kind from those which grew wild in Indiana.

So I made up my mind that I would send back, the first good opportunity, and have a bushel of black and white walnuts sent out.

In 1858, Mr. John Dement, a good friend of mine, was going back by way of the Isthmus and he said he would send me a bushel by Adams Express. But he remarked that it would cost considerable.

I said "Never mind the cost. I want to get them here by Winter, so I can prepare them for planting the next Spring."

He did just as I told him but had to pay in advance to San Francisco for expressage. But he had plenty of money of his own, beside he had some Indian war claims to collect for me.

These he did not collect till later on. However, he hurried the walnuts on, so I would get them in time for Fall planting. They were forwarded to me at Oregon City and when all the charges came in, I was out just sixty-five dollars. I went down to town, brought the sack up and told my

wife what they cost.

She said, "Well, I declare, I could have got that many walnuts in Missouri for fifty cents."

I said, "Well, we will crack a few of them anyway to see if they are good. If they grow, I will get my money back and several hundred per cent."

She said, "One is enough to tell that and one is enough to lose."

"No," I said, "We will have one apiece."

They were both good and brought old Missouri and Illinois and Indiana right home to us.

So I made a box, put sand and dirt in it, planted the nuts in the box and buried them all in the ground. I kept them moist, all Winter and by Spring, they were all beginning to open. I then prepared the ground in fine shape and planted the nuts in rows.

There were 765 nuts of both kinds, but there were not over 100 butternuts out of that number. About 760 came up and such a growth I never saw before. I kept the ground well watered and well worked and the roots were larger and longer than the tops. A large portion of the roots went down three feet deep. Later in the Fall, I took them all up, set out about 100, gave away a great many to my particular friends and put the balance on the market at \$1.50 each. I allowed a big commission to the nursery man who handled them, and the whole venture left me a net profit of \$500.00. Besides I had my walnut avenues, 400 feet long with a row of walnuts on each side. There is one tree that is over three and one half feet in diameter six feet from the ground, and its branches spread out 80 feet in diameter or 240 feet in circumference."

(As told by William Barlow (son of Samuel K. Barlow), story collected by the staff of the [Folklore Project](#) of the [Federal Writers' Project](#) for the U.S. Works Progress (later Work Projects) Administration (WPA) from 1936-1940.)



SDOP News

Oregon Pioneers'
Newsletter

Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers

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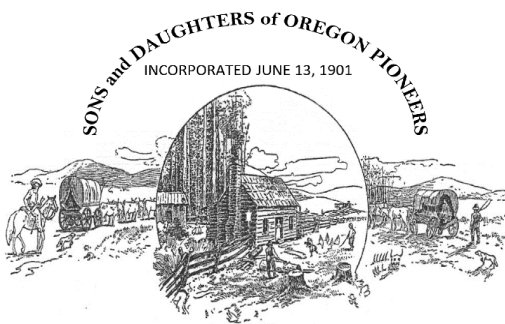
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Permit No. 720



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

Click "Trading Post" in the blue header
Many more items available on the site

