

President's Letter



*From Dina Saunders,
SDOP President*

Dear Members,

Jersey born and Oregon raised! Today, I live with my husband on the Washington side of the beautiful

Columbia River Gorge. It's a place that once seemed half a world away when I was growing up and attending grade school in Aloha, Oregon, but I am grateful to now call it home.

As we prepare for retirement, my husband decided that farm life would be part of our next chapter. These days, you'll often find me tending to our chickens, caring for our orchard and enjoying the quieter pace of country living.

My passion for genealogy led me to an exciting discovery a few years ago: my family tree is filled with remarkable ancestors. I have since joined several heritage and lineage organizations to honor that legacy. Among my ancestors are Revolutionary War Patriots, survivors of the Salem Witch Trials, and Oregon Pioneers whose stories helped shape American history.

Like many Oregon fourth-grade students, I learned about my pioneers who traveled the Oregon Trail and the Native peoples

who had long called Oregon Territory home. At the time, I had no idea that eight of my own ancestors were among those courageous pioneers. Jacob Spores, Nancy Spores, William Griffith. Elisha Griffith, Mary Findley, Jenette Ritchie Findley, William Veach and Milton Veach all settled in various parts of the Lane and Linn Counties, leaving a lasting mark on Oregon's history.

One ancestor whose story is especially meaningful to me is Jacob Spores. A veteran of the War of 1812 who served at the Battle of Sackett's Harbor, New York, Jacob Spores traveled west and arrived in Oregon in 1847. He co-founded the town of Coburg and operated a ferry that crossed the McKenzie River. Today, travelers heading south on Interstate 5 toward Eugene may have crossed the Spores Bridge, named in honor of his contributions to the region.

Researching and preserving my family's history has become more than a hobby—it's a way to connect with the past, with the people whose courage, perseverance, and determination helped build the communities we know today. I enjoy sharing their stories with others and honoring the generations who came before me, ensuring that their legacies continue to inspire future generations.

Dina Saunders - President

Upcoming SDOP Meetings and Events

Board Meeting -

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we cancelled our September meeting at *The Reed Opera House*. Our new meeting location is TBD.

Please call the number below for updates.
503-964-4598



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.

SDOP Dues

SDOP's dues letters have been sent out to all members who pay their dues annually.

To view the various membership levels and to pay electronically, please visit the SDOP website:

<https://oregonsdop.org/dues-payment/>

Alternatively, you can pay your dues with a check sent to:
P.O. Box 6685, Portland, Oregon 97228.

Remember, *dues must be paid by end of September 2026 or you could be dropped from the SDOP Roster and would NO longer receive the SDOP Newsletter.*

If you have additional questions and/or concerns, I can be reached at:
chris.meinicke@outlook.com or by calling
503-645-3124

Board Members & Volunteers

Officers

President: Dina Saunders Stevenson, WA
503-964-4598
dinam13@hotmail.com
Secretary: Reggie Burke Gresham, OR
Treasurer: Shauna Noon Portland, OR
(541) 206-4558
shauna@oregonsdop.org
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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.

Submissions for the November 2026 issue should be sent by *Oct. 25, 2026*. 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 to reward 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 23-7455151

New Member Fees

(Submit with application):

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
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New Members

#2098 Stafford Jerome Winters		Friend
#2100 Marc Douglas Bond		Sr. Life
Isaac Wm. Bond*	1853	VA
Hetty McClure	1853	IN
Joseph Wolfe Bond	b. 1855	OT
#2101 Herbert Leslie Phillips		Sr.
John Riley Phillips*	1852	TN
Julia Ann Taylor	1852	KY
John Calvin Phillips	1852	MO
#2090 Michael John Schenaker		Sr. Life
Joseph Ira Hogg Church*	1846	VT
Mary Mariah Beede	1846	VT
Azro Beede Church	1846	VT
#2107 Coreen Ruth McClellan-Arioto		Sr.
Martha E. Miller*	1850	IA
George Miller Sr.	1850	TN
Mary Ann Stockton	1850	IN
#2106 Ken Alvin Roberts		Sr.
Alvin Brown Roberts*	1853	OH
Martha Elizabeth Baxter	1852	IL
Elizabeth Tompkins	1852	KY

* Indicates Pioneer on certificate

LIFE CONVERSION:

#2022 Debra McGoldrick Leslie		Sr. Life
Charles Richard McKay*	1841	CAN
#1462 Bradford Needham		Sr. Life
Alfred Whealdon*	1853	OH

DECEASED:

#06 Shirley R. Huffman Klug

Introducing Our Board Members

Zoe Godsey –



A lifetime Oregonian, born in Portland and currently living in Hillsboro, I am proud of my connections to Oregon history. I graduated from Hillsboro High School, then went on to get degrees at both Southern Oregon University and

Pacific University. My husband, Eric, and I have two amazing children that are completing their own college degrees. I enjoy teaching elementary school as well as exploring and traveling.



**Anna (Beeler) Powell
1799-1882**

My ancestors, Anna and the Rev. Joab Powell, raised 14 children together. They came to Oregon in 1852. Although he could barely read and write, Joab was a powerful preacher and had a keen mind which enabled him to memorize most of the bible and hymns he sang. He was a powerful man, weighing nearly 300 pounds, and had a strong voice. He preached to all who would listen and was famous for riding the circuit throughout Linn County. Joab was one of the originators of the Providence Baptist Church, located midway between Scio and Lacombe. The first church was built during 1856-57, and a second building was completed in 1898. Services are still held in this church, and a monument to Joab and nineteen charter members of the congregation is

visible at the entrance to the church and cemetery grounds.



Providence Pioneer Church
Richardson Gap Rd. near Scio, Linn Co.

I feel connected to Anna as I teach those of many different capabilities each day. That, along with my love of learning, led me to SDOP.

Featured Museum



Fort Rock Valley
Homestead Village Museum

The Fort Rock Valley Historical Society, founded in 1984 with eight charter members, conceived the Homestead Village, which opened in 1988 with two buildings, the Webster cabin and Dr. Thom's office. In the ensuing years, more land was acquired from the BLM, and more buildings were brought in from surrounding homestead sites. Many of the buildings were considered hazardous to open range cattle and were scheduled to be put to the torch.

Since that time, several more homes, a church and school have been moved to the

village as well as pieces of vintage equipment. As this is an ongoing project, more structures and historical pieces will be added in the future.



Without the dedication and perseverance of the Fort Rock Historical Society's members and volunteers, there would be very little evidence of the life and times of this chapter in Oregon history.



Fort Rock is located approximately 64 miles southeast of Bend Oregon, just off Highway 31, and worth the drive. The Museum offers a self-guided tour. Step back in time to the early 1900s Homestead Era. The Museum is interesting for adults and children alike. They have a wonderful gift shop full of local history books and souvenirs to add to your adventure.



<https://fortrockoregon.com/>
541-576-2251

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 SDOP at www.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.

Next Board Meeting:

November 14, 2026 10 AM - 12:30 PM

Beaverton City Library Rm A
12375 SW 5th St
Beaverton, OR 97005

Why 1859?



A recent post on our FB page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SDOPEmail> raised an interesting question: *"Some of my family came to Oregon on the Oregon Trail, but it doesn't count for your group, because it was after 1859? Yet, your page about Ancestors that came on the Oregon Trail quotes that 400,000 people traveled the Oregon Trail between 1836 and 1869. If you want less of those people lost to history, as you professed was your interest, you should open membership to people who traveled the Oregon Trail from 1836 to 1869."*

He is by all means correct when saying that the western movement continued past 1859. There is no consistent historical pattern to how different organizations determine a "cut-off" for membership.

SDOP. The original organization in Oregon was the Oregon Pioneer Association, formed in 1873, and as the old-timers passed away their sons and daughters took up the reins to form SDOP in 1901. They set what is now the historical precedence of asking that new members have pioneers that arrived prior to Statehood.

The *Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers* set the date for admission as 1868 although it did not become a state until 1889. The 1868 date is significant because that is the year that most of the

Indian conflicts were ended with the Fort Laramie Treaty, and with attaining territorial status four years prior. Pioneers continued flooding into Montana after 1868.

Idaho once had a *Sons and Daughters of Idaho Pioneers* which disbanded decades ago. There is no comparable organization today and the State Historical Society and similar organizations are the places to connect with pioneers.

Washington's version is the *Daughters' of the Pioneers of Washington*. They require new members to be female descendants of pioneers who arrived prior to 1870, prior to 1853 if their pioneers first landed in Oregon, and prior to 1863 if their pioneers first landed in Idaho or Montana.

Many historians generally view the end of the overland trail era as around 1866 when the railroads arrived and there were multiple ways to travel, multiple trails/roads to follow, and where travel was more independent than the organized wagon trains of the past.

Hence my comment that "There is no consistent historical pattern to how different organizations determine a "cut-off" for membership." We cannot guess all the reasons our ancestors may have had for determining cut-off dates for membership, but in their honor, SDOP carries on with that tradition.

People who are aware of their own pioneer history often, and naturally, want to belong, for that connection to like-minded people provides the path for preserving history, sharing stories, and passing on that history to the next generation. While the particulars of your family's journey on the Oregon Trail may not fit with the

requirements of SDOP membership, I know there are many avenues for researching and sharing your family history. Those families are not, as he suggested, "lost to history." As a researcher, writer, and historian of pioneers I encounter countless families with arrival times after 1859 whose stories and history are well documented and shared through books and across the internet.

And finally, for those who find themselves unable to prove ancestors prior to 1859, SDOP offers the membership option of joining as a Friend of SDOP with all the benefits of membership except for voting and holding office. You can download the Friends Application here:

<https://oregonsdop.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Friends-of-SDOP-app.pdf>

A short history of "*What is the Oregon Country*" can be found on our website at https://oregonsdop.org/the_oregon_country/

Mark Goddard, SDOP Editor



Champoeg, 1843

Special Collections and Archives Research Center
Oregon State University

Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers

◆ Miss Pioneer Oregon ◆

Applications are now being accepted for Miss Pioneer Oregon. Here is an opportunity for young women with Oregon pioneer ancestry to be selected as an official representative of Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers. The successful candidate is rewarded with the honor of being selected and monetary benefits.

Requirements:

1. Open to any single woman, age 16-21, who is eligible for membership in SDOP as a direct descendant of an Oregon pioneer. The pioneer ancestor must have arrived and settled in the Oregon Territory before statehood, Feb 14, 1859.
2. If selected, she is required to attend the SDOP Annual Statehood Banquet in February and give a five-minute speech on Oregon history or her pioneer heritage. She is also required to attend the SDOP Picnic in July.
3. Unless unavoidable conflicts exist, she is expected to attend the Founders' Day celebration at Champoege State Park in May. She may also volunteer to take part in festivals, celebrations, fairs, and parades sponsored by other organizations.
4. She is required to appear at all official functions in pioneer costume with the special "Miss Pioneer Oregon" sash furnished by SDOP.
5. She is required to have a studio portrait made for programs and publicity purposes. Two 8x10s will be paid for by SDOP (up to \$100) with one copy being given to Miss Pioneer Oregon. The newsletter/banquet portrait needs to be sent to SDOPAWards@gmail.com for inclusion in the program.

Selection Criteria:

Applicants will be judged by the selection committee based on 1} poise, 2} appreciation of Oregon pioneer heritage, and 3} willingness to represent SDOP at official functions during the year to the next banquet.

Benefits:

Miss Pioneer Oregon will receive a cash reward of \$1,000, paid in two payments, a Life Membership in SDOP with the hopes of participating in the organization in the future as a board member or officer, and the privilege of officially representing SDOP for one year.

To Apply:

Fill out the application on your computer and save it as a PDF. Write a brief statement (Word or .txt) entitled "Why I Would Like to be Miss Pioneer Oregon." Email both of those and a recent picture (JPG or PNG 300 dpi or better) to sdopawards@gmail.com.

Must be received by December 15

◆ Miss Pioneer Oregon Application◆

Name: _____ Age: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent's name(s): _____ Parent's e-mail: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Name of your pioneer ancestor: _____ Year arrived in OR Territory: _____

Your interests and hobbies: _____

Skills and talents: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____ Essay attached ☐

Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers

• Junior Awards Program •

Rules:

1. Applicant must be a Junior Member and in good standing with SDOP.
2. All entries must be postmarked December 15 or delivered to the Chairperson by the same date.
3. Once an applicant wins in a category, they are ineligible to win again in that age group.
4. The judge's ruling will be final.
5. Winners will be presented at the Annual Banquet in February but need not be present to win.
6. Must be entirely the work of applicant. A picture of applicant must accompany entry.
7. Any judge who has a family member applicant must abstain from voting in that category.
8. There will only be one winner in each category.
9. Work must be neat and legible--neatness counts.
10. Winner will receive an award of cash money in the following categories:

Categories and awards:

Grades 1-4 \$50 cash Art project depicting a scene from the migration to Oregon.

Grades 5-8 \$100 cash Essay of at least 200 words telling something you have learned about the migration to Oregon that you would like to share with us.

Grades 9-12 \$200 cash Essay of at least 500 words telling what being an Oregon pioneer descendant means to you.

Please send submissions to: sdopawards@gmail.com

Please submit drawings and photos as .jpg (300 dpi or better), or .pdf, and submit essays as Word files or .txt

Any questions? Please contact sdopawards@gmail.com

Deadline for submission is December 15

Application for SDOP Junior Awards

Name: _____ Age: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent's name(s): _____ Parent's e-mail: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Name of your pioneer ancestor: _____ Year arrived in OR Territory: _____

Your interests and hobbies: _____

Skills and talents: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____ Art or Essay attached ☐

Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers
• College Scholarship Program •

The Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers offer scholarships to its members to help them achieve their goal of earning their first bachelor's degree. Please complete all parts of the application form and send it, along with a sealed official transcript from your most recent high school, college, or university, to the address listed below. If you are a previous SDOP Scholarship recipient, please also include a sealed official transcript from all colleges or universities you attended while receiving the scholarship.

Attn: Scholarship Committee PO Box 6685 Portland, Oregon 97228-6685

Please read the SDOP Scholarship Policy before you begin filling out the application form. If you are awarded a scholarship, you will be required to provide a valid social security number for use in crediting the scholarship funds to your college or university account. A photograph of you may be requested and will be used for publicity purposes.

Applicant's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

Most Recent School: _____ Years Attended: _____

What college or university do you plan to attend? _____

Have you applied to this institution? Yes: _____ No: _____ If no, by what date will you apply? _____

Have you been accepted, or are you currently attending this institution? Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, please attach your acceptance letter or proof of enrollment.

Please answer the following five questions on a separate document (Word file or .txt). Please retype the question and then add your response. Your responses to these questions will be evaluated by the Scholarship Committee primarily for content, so organization, spelling, and grammar are important.

1. What are your educational goals?
2. What do you plan to do with your degree?
3. How do you plan to contribute to a positive future for Oregon or your home state?
4. How has your family history, as the descendent of a pioneer, made difference in your life and how do you plan to keep your personal history alive?
5. What other factors would you like the Scholarship Committee to consider? (Academic achievement, SAT/ACT scores, letters of recommendation [no more than 2], volunteer work, work experience, the overcoming of a hardship, etc.) Please attach supporting documentation if it exists.

Please read and sign, indicating your acceptance of the following statement:

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions set forth in the SDOP Scholarship Policy: if selected as the recipient of an SDOP Scholarship, I will use the funds only in accordance with the SDOP Scholarship Policy. I certify that I have not completed the requirements to receive a bachelor's degree at any college or university. If any part of the scholarship will not be used in accordance with the SDOP Scholarship Policy I will notify SDOP as soon as I become aware of the fact. I understand that, at its sole discretion, SDOP will work with me to see that those funds are returned to SDOP. If I am awarded a scholarship, I agree to have my name and photograph used by the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers for publicity purposes.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers**•College Scholarship Program •****Rules:**

1. Applicant must be a Member and in good standing with SDOP.
2. Entries are comprised of three parts: 1} the info card below, 2} transcript, and 3} application questions (above)
3. All entries must be received by December 15 or delivered to the Chairperson by the same date.
4. Judge's ruling will be final.
5. Winners will be presented at the Annual Banquet in February but need not be present to win.
6. Must be entirely the work of applicant. A picture of applicant must accompany entry.
7. Any judge who has a family member applicant must abstain from voting in that category.

Criteria and awards:

Up to \$1,000 will be awarded to qualified applicants for their tuition, books, and mandatory fees, as they pursue their first bachelor's degree.

To apply, members must complete the info card below and official SDOP Scholarship application form from the website and send it, along with a sealed official transcript from their most recent high school, college, or university, to the SDOP Scholarship Committee.

Please send submissions to:

sdopawards@gmail.com Please submit essays as Word files or .txt, photos as .jpg (300dpi or better)

Any questions? Please contact sdopawards@gmail.com.

Deadline for submission is December 15**• SDOP College Scholarship Info Card •**

Please attach this to your application above, or on our website www.OregonSDOP.com

Name: _____ Age: _____ Telephone #: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____ Parent's name(s): _____

School: _____ Year: _____

Name of your pioneer ancestor: _____ Year arrived in OR Territory: _____

Major: _____ Skills and talents: _____

Signature: _____

Sealed official school transcript included ☐

Application questions attached ☐

Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers does not discriminate on race, religion, or creed



SDOP News

Oregon Pioneers'
Newsletter

Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers

P.O. Box 6685

Portland, OR 97228-6685

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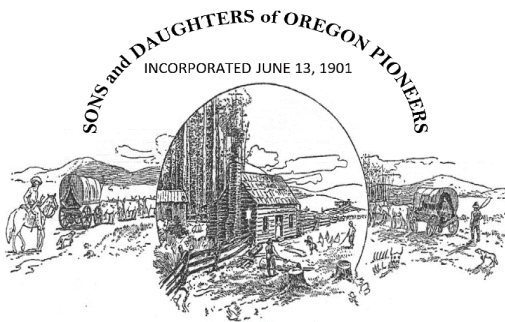
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