



# SOUTHERN ALBERTA PIONEERS

## AND THEIR DESCENDANTS NEWSLETTER



Southern Alberta Pioneers Memorial Building J1 3625 4th Street SW Calgary Alberta T2S 1Y3 J1 Phone 403-243-3580

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**Shawn Hendry**  
**President**  
**2021-2022**

## President's Message

our building, we have relied on these funds to continue our operations.

That said, the path forward beyond the Covid-19 pandemic appears to be even more unpredictable. Talk about "getting back to normal" is commonplace, but the reality is there will be changes in how we operate in many ways.

In December, Calgary Neighbourhoods provided the annual update, "Status of Community Associations and Social Recreation Organizations on City-owned Land," of which the purpose is to provide a snapshot of the overall organizational sustainability for those with a City Lease. Since 2015, we have been assessed at an elevated financial risk and are continuing to look at ways to increase our revenues as well as manage our costs as much as possible.

We are exploring ideas to increase rentals through improved promotion of our building as well as other opportunities, such as fundraisers. We do rely heavily on our members for membership fees and donations and we thank all those that keep their membership up to date and have provided donations to our proud organization. We can provide a tax receipt for donations to the SAPF (i.e., Foundation). 🙌

We have looked at our event schedule and, given the current situation with the variant, we have determined as a Board that we will unfortunately be cancelling all planned engagements through May 15, 2022. This results in the

cancellation of the Wine Tasting Event, the Gold Card Tea, and the Centennial Gala, which was to be held in April to celebrate our 100-year anniversary. We will make future determinations on events following May 15 as we follow the outcomes of the recent surge in cases. We look now to celebrate our Centennial Gala at our annual Round-up in November.

In my first couple of months, there are so many people to thank for their assistance. Thank you to the entire Board for your commitment. Thank you to the Committee heads and their members, and the other volunteers. The hours that are put in are greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Gabrielle, our rental agent, and to Ileana, our bookkeeper who, after many years, has moved East and passed the torch to Susanne Martin. Welcome Susanne! Finally, a sincere thank you to my family for their support.  
*THANK YOU EVERYONE!*

Congratulations to our Pioneer Lady Pamela Hilton and our Pioneer Gentleman Alan Love who will be such great ambassadors for SAPD.

I look forward to hopefully a return to some normalcy in 2022 and being able to host in person meetings and events, where we can gather and reconnect. Regards to all to stay healthy and take care of yourselves and one another.

**T**hank you for your confidence to elect me as President of the Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendants (SAPD). It is a great honour to continue the legacy of our organization, and to remember those who have contributed to defining Southern Alberta.

As 2021 recedes into the past, I look forward to it being in the rear-view mirror. The past year with the pandemic for our organization has continued to be challenging to say the least. We were starting to look forward to 2022 with renewed vigour and passion, and hoped to re-engage with our members in social events; however, the recent increase with the Omicron variant have taken us backwards yet again.

The pandemic has forced us to think differently, do business differently and interact differently. Despite the pandemic, I am proud of all our accomplishments during these times given the many challenges we have faced. We are very thankful to the City for the opportunity to apply for Covid-19 relief funds, which have allowed us to stay afloat in these difficult times. Without being able to externally rent

# The Annual General Meeting

by Valerie McKinney  
Newsletter Editor

The Annual General Meeting of the Southern Alberta Pioneers was held on a warm, sunny day at the Memorial Building and was followed by a relaxed gathering on the balcony.

This October 16, 2021 event was attended by about 26 members and began with reports from members of the 2020-21 Board of Directors and Committee members, followed by elections. The members voted in the Board of Directors for 2021-22 and voted to approve changes to the SAPD bylaws. You can go online to find a draft of the [SAPD bylaws](#) and the complete list of changes.

## Highlights of Changes

1. Moved the Definitions to the beginning of the document for easier access.
2. Amended Membership categories and eligibility. A complete description of eligibility, rights and responsibilities are in Section 3 of the bylaws.
  - a. A new Friend membership category is open to anyone 18+ years who supports the Society's goal of collecting and preserving the memories of Southern Alberta's early pioneers.
  - b. Membership categories now include:



Dan Shaw, Jeff Hill & John Hutchings in front of the refinished front doors.

- i. **Descendant Member:** formerly Regular Member; direct descendants of Southern Alberta Pioneers; the only category that has full voting privileges
- ii. **Associate Member:** the spouses or partners of Descendants
- iii. **Friend Member:** adults who support the objects of the Society
- iv. **Honorary Member:** persons who have provided extraordinary service to the Society
- v. **Gold Card Member:** a Descendant or Associate Member who has reached the age of 80 years
- vi. The infrequently used category of Life Member has been eliminated



Fore-ground: Kathleen Rogers & Mike Kobluk.

3. Changed the length of time that any Member can be in arrears of paying their yearly Membership Fees from 24 months to 12 months, after which time the Member will be suspended, with due notice.
4. Amended bylaws concerning the Board of Directors:
  - a. Friend Members may be nominated to sit on the Board. The total number of Associate and Friend Members who can

- serve at one time is three.
- b. Made the bylaws gender neutral by moving two board requirements to the Policies and Procedures. The requisites: the two top executive positions to alternate between a woman and a man; and the board to have an equal number of women and men.
- c. The President may serve two terms in the role if a successor cannot be established.



Jeff Hill & Pamela Hilton.

5. Added a definition that allows meetings of the Society to be conducted in person, electronically, or a combination of the two. This provides easier access by people who are unable to attend due to circumstances such as medical seclusion or the distance they live from Calgary.



Foreground: Lynn Hoosier & Brian Rogers.

# 2021-2022 Board of Directors, Committees and Pioneer Reps

## OFFICERS

### President

Shawn Hendry ..... 403-464-1737

### Vice President: *Vacant*

### Past President

Lynn Hoosier ..... 403-680-3113

### Treasurer

Brian Rogers ..... 403-242-1850

### Secretary

Lynn Hoosier ..... 403-680-3113

### Membership Secretary

Sharon Hoiland ..... 403-282-8082

## DIRECTORS

### One-Year Term

Dan Shaw ..... 403-861-3000

Carl Ringdahl ..... 403-246-6180

Megan Ballard ..... 403-862-1756

Val McKinney ..... 403-512-1585

### Two-Year Term

Bev Prieur ..... 403-287-0020

Russell Moore ..... 403-618-6277

Paul Gray ..... 403-338-1770

Michael Kobluk ..... 403-542-1921

## COMMITTEES

### Building Committee Chair

John Hutchings ..... 403-252-2428

### PR & Communication Committee Chair

Kelsey Hipkin ..... 403-700-8698

#### IT

John Rauchert ..... 403-283-6067

#### Newsletter Editor

Val McKinney ..... 403-512-1585

### Fundraising Chair: *Vacant*

#### Casino

Gene Blakley ..... 403-931-2264

### Historical Committee

#### Historian

Alan Lynas ..... 403-228-7815

#### Library

Kelsey Hipkin ..... 403-700-8698

#### Historical Display

Carolyn Preston ..... 403-240-0603

#### Stamperade Parade: *Vacant*

### Membership Committee Chair

Sharon Hoiland ..... 403-282-8082

#### Telephone

Joan Christianson ..... 403-641-2242

#### Cards & Remembering

Lynne Marquess

### Social Committee: *Vacant*

## PIONEER LADY

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## PIONEER GENT

Alan Love ..... 403-797-4540

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# Membership Report

by Sharon Hoiland  
Membership Secretary

THIS NEWSLETTER CAN BE READ AT and PRINTED FROM [www.pioneersalberta.org/newsletter/](http://www.pioneersalberta.org/newsletter/)

## CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

### A Big Thank You To ...

- Maureen Peckham, who has stepped down from the Membership Secretary position after 22 years! Thank you, Maureen, for all those years of tracking members who are new, who have attained their Gold Card status, and who have passed away; and for collecting membership dues and "pecking" at those who still need to pay, and for doing so many more things that helped to maintain our membership.
- Peggy Barr, who has recently stepped down from the Cards and Remembering Role after more years than I know. Thank you for all your work, Peggy! You helped to connect the board in its many incarnations with the lives of our members.

The current membership committee is made up of Sharon Hoiland (Chair and Membership Secretary), Joan Christianson (Telephone Tree), Lynne Marquess (Cards and Remembering), and Maureen Peckham, who continues to give us guidance and wisdom.

This year the Membership Committee will be focusing on membership recruitment in co-ordination with other committees. All of you who are interested in joining the Committee, have ideas or have time to volunteer, please contact Sharon at [membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org).

## WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

### Descendant Members

- Colin Wake, Descendant of Morris & Agnes Stewart, Canmore 1883, Davisburg, 1885
- Lane Begalke, Descendant of Morris & Agnes Stewart, Canmore 1883, Davisburg, 1885
- David Wedderburn, Descendant of Albert Edward Banister, Davisburg, 1884

### Friend Members

- Marcel Hebert
- Doug Coats
- Elizabeth Rodier

### Congratulations GOLD CARD Members

- Sandy McMeekin
- Connie Cherniak
- John Leeds

### IN MEMORIAM

- Douglas Hutchings
- William Brogden
- Thelma McNeill
- Audrey Rice
- Kerri Fipke
- Libby Nichols

### MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

- Descendant – 319 members with 254 who owe dues for 2022
- Descendant Gold Card – 131 members
- Associate - 36 members with 27 who owe dues for 2022
- Associate Gold Card – 32 members
- Friend – 3 members
- Honorary – 6 members

**Total: 527**

Please notify me, Sharon Hoiland, of any deaths in your family, changes to mailing or email addresses or to phone numbers. I can be reached at [membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org).

## 2022 Membership Fees Due NOW

Members age 18 to 79: \$40/year. Gold Card Members age 80+: Free

Mail your cheque to SAPD at 3625 - 4 Street SW, Calgary, AB T2S 1Y3: Attention: Membership

OR e-transfer your payment to [membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org)

**Thank you for your support and we hope to be able to see you in person soon!**

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## Buffalo Head Lapel Pins

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[sap.office@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:sap.office@pioneersalberta.org)





# Joseph Fisher & Elizabeth Fisher (Stagg)

## 1842 – 1914

## 1878 - 1947

By Gene Blakley



Joseph was born in 1842 at Knells Farm, Carlisle, Cumberland, England and emigrated to Hornby, Ontario where he had a farm, "Willowbank." Here he raised Belted Galloway cattle. He was joined by his brother Henry and sisters Jane and Mary. A dealer in cattle, Joseph and Henry brought the first carload of cattle to Calgary by rail in 1883. Disposing of these, they returned to Ontario but came west with more stock in 1884 with a view to settlement.

### The Fisher Ranch and Dug Out

Riding southwest from Calgary into the still unsettled foothill country they came upon the green valley watered by the creek that still bears their surname name. They decided that, before they filed on homesteads, they should test the ability of stock to survive the winters. At the edge of the hill, some distance from the creek, they prepared a shelter by digging several feet into the ground. Its walls were lined with rocks, still intact over a hundred years later. Steps led down to it and the roof was of poles covered with sod. With bunks along the walls, a stove for cooking and heating, and a table and benches, it made a comfortable dwelling, roomy enough to accommodate as many as seven men. Early settlers often exhibited great ingenuity in establishing their first shelters. For years afterward the dug out was used as a shop. The rock-lined, hand-dug well still produces water.

The warm Chinook winds set at rest their anxieties about the cold winters; their animals were thriving and, after three years, they decided to stay permanently. In May 1887, Joseph Fisher travelled to Calgary and filed on the land that they were living on: NE 6-21-3W5. By "proving up" on his homestead, within a short time he was given the NW6-21-3-W5, and this became the Pre-Emption. Their brother-in-law, George Bell, and Henry also homesteaded land adjacent to Joseph's. The new buildings were constructed of logs from the nearby hills and were far enough above Fisher Creek to be safe from flooding.

This was the start of a thriving horse ranch. But Joseph was a man of many enterprises. He invested in more land, raised cattle, irrigated hay lands, built a sawmill, and opened a coal mine. In 1900, the lower ranch N half-21-3-W5, called "The Meadow," was purchased from the CPR at a cost of fifty cents per acre. As this was easily irrigated, it became their source of hay. A few sections of land about five miles east of Black Diamond were added and an irrigation canal was dug from the South Sheep River. This is still evident today. Other land was held in lease, which provided a thousand acres of pasture for his horse herd.

His cattle – Highland, Durham, and Belted Galloway – were branded with the reverse F.

Joseph was first and foremost a horseman. In a few years, there were many fine horses bearing the first Fisher brand "pop on the jaw," a small dime sized mark on the left jaw. Later, when buying a band of 450 mares from John Norris, he also purchased the brand JN on the left shoulder. The Fisher horses were well known for their speed, beauty, and endurance. Roaming as far as Fort McLeod, the herd provided a regular supply of stock for the Mounted Police and the Calgary Fire Department. These horses numbered about fourteen hundred by the time of Joseph's death in 1914. He also raised jumping and polo horses. Joseph travelled to the East Coast, the West Coast and to England with carloads of horses for sale, bringing back better stallions. One of his jumping horses broke a North American height record.

Joseph married Elizabeth Stagg at Calgary in 1898. She knew Joseph in Ontario, where she had come as a child with her Scottish parents. Elizabeth journeyed across Canada with her brother, Will, to join Joseph in Millarville. On that train were men on their way to the Yukon and the gold rush. This was a rugged country at the time and she learned to live with rough cowboys, just-settled natives and isolation. She became instrumental in setting up social events and, after the Ranches Hall was built on the upper ranch, her pump organ was transported across Fisher Creek to provide music at these events.



Maurice Ingeveld on a Fisher horse at the 1912 Calgary Exhibition.

They had eight children, five boys and three girls: Mary Isobel 1899-1968, Robert 1900- 1963, Joseph Jr. 1902-1992, John 1905-1966, Kathleen 1907- 1980, Jean 1909-1998, Harry 1912- 1977, and William 1919- 2002.

*Continued on next page*

Mrs. Fisher operated the ranch after her husband's death. She and her children would spend the winters in Calgary and the summers on the ranch or at their home in Victoria. The attractive log buildings located on the ranch were constructed in 1933. The original ranch house was located on the south side of the creek not far from the dug out, but only the dug out's rock walls are still standing.

The Rancher's Hall, originally on this site, has been moved to Heritage Park in Calgary. Another ranch that was located on the South Sheep Creek had a set of buildings that were originally for the hired men but later became home for Elizabeth and son Robert. The main log house even showed bullet holes in some of the walls as the early cowboys carried revolvers and sometimes horseplay was involved. Many a young rodeo cowboy was introduced to bronc riding on Sundays at the Meadow. Impromptu rodeos were staged using JN horses.

The original Fisher lands were divided up over the years to

the children and some of the original lands near Black Diamond and Millarville were sold to facilitate Elizabeth and her children in her later years. Being left with eight children, the oldest being fifteen years old at the time of Joseph's death, the financial situation required the selling of lands and stock.

Joseph Jr. eventually took over the home quarter and expanded the ranch with his wife Jane Fisher, to include their sons Peter and Jody. The Pre-Emption was ranched by Jean and Tim Blakley. Son, Gene, and sister, Mary, continue living there. Alan and Joan Tosh continued ranching and expanded on the land left for Kathleen.

Joseph Fisher's cow brand, the reverse F, was located on the left rib. The horse brand, JN, was located on the left shoulder. Both brands are still registered in Peter Fisher's name. The original show horse brand, the "pop" on the left jaw and inside foreleg, is registered in Gene Blakley's name.

## SAPD's Little Free Library

By Kelsey Hipkin

A replica of the SAPD cabin now stands outside its namesake, adding to the roughly 50,000 Little Free Libraries in the Calgary area.

Constructed by Jim Stiles out of mostly re-purposed wood products, and mounted and installed by Dan Shaw, shown below, the library is a beautiful homage to the SAPD building.



"I always have projects on the go," Stiles said at a November 22 reveal ceremony for the Little Free Library. "I like wood that has a story behind it."



The ceremony, facilitated by SAPD President Shawn Hendry, shown above, was attended by board and committee members and some SAPD members and guests.

"It looks absolutely fantastic and amazing and, as you can see, the community has already started to enjoy it," said Hendry.

John Hutchings (right), Building Committee Chair, noted that, as soon as the library was erected, members of the community had already begun to fill it.

The library includes an official Little Free Library plaque and will also have the SAPD logo affixed. Little Free Libraries is a nonprofit out of Wisconsin that encourages community building and book access for all.



# The Tale of a Stonecutter

Great-great uncle Indridi Fridriksson (Henry Reinholt)

By Karen Gummo  
Lougheed House Reimagined Summer Series  
Stories in the Garden /Story Circuit  
August 13, 2021

## Icelandic Lullaby; Bi Bi og blaka

I present to you this Icelandic lullaby to carry you away in time to a place very near. The year is 1890. Close your eyes ... erase in your mind all buildings, hard concrete, motorized vehicles ... and think of this spot where we are as a rather barren building site well outside the Calgary town limits.

Now take your mind straight south about three kilometres from here to a spot along the Elbow River. Wide-open prairie spans the horizon. Behind you is a cliff thick with sandstone. There is a great hill that stretches northward on the other side of the river. Nothing on it but bush and grass, and it is "Old Man's" garden decked with colour! Imagine the array of native plants dancing in the breeze.

Listen to hear the birds, the bees, the gurgling river ...

Standing there is a young man – 27 years of age – once called Indridi Fridriksson but now known as Henry Reinholt who not long before had arrived with his beloved wife Bjorg and their two boys, Fridrik and August Theodore.

They had come to the Town of Calgary from Iceland.

With many stops along the way.

Henry was a Carpenter turned Stonecutter, in the employ of local entrepreneur Joseph Butlin.

He fingered his mallet and chisel and turned to look at a great tree that towered beside him, nearly the only tree in sight on this north facing bank of the Elbow River.

This almost treeless landscape reminded him of his homeland.

In Iceland and among all Nordic peoples there was the dream of a great tree that was at the centre of everything.

## Yggdrasil - the World Tree.

All that there is in all the regions of the world lies under the branches of the great Ash Yggdrasil.

The Eagle who was perched in the upper most branches soared out to survey all things.

Could Henry be like Rattatosk the Squirrel who travelled

on foot between all the nine worlds?

He had left home when he was 16 years of age from the bubbling boiling volcanic landscape of his homeland where he lived in poverty. He was still on a quest to find his Valhalla. If he counted how many worlds he and his wife Bjorg had encountered in exploration of North America, it might be 9 worlds or more. Now he found himself working to put the final touches on a great house for Mr. James and Mrs. Isabella Lougheed. It would be a beautiful place. *Beaulieu*, ("beautiful place" in French) Mrs. Lougheed declared she would call it. Henry would help to make it so.

Of course, this kind of dwelling would be something he could only dream of for himself and his family.

He was woken from his reverie when ...

Suddenly there was a great crash and cries of terror from another worker. The crane operator had dropped a big stone very nearly crushing his foot.

Henry looked down to see his own foot now. With the insistence of his clever wife he had considered fashioning a tin covering for his toes, but would that be enough? He would stay clear of the crane operator whenever possible from now on. If he injured his feet, he could not earn his keep or help care for his family.

The work of a stonecutter was perilous but it was work he could get in a town still reeling from the great fire of 1886. A fire that had wiped out most of the structures. It was decreed that all new buildings should be made of stone or brick. Even though the new Lougheed home would be outside the town of Calgary's limits, the family was keen to take up this trend toward using sandstone.

## Nesti og Nya Sko

His parents always told him: Provisions and new shoes were what you needed when you began a new journey. How many pairs of shoes had it taken for Henry to get to this new promised land?

He thought back about his efforts to help pack up the family chest when they departed Iceland in 1878. His father and mother had long before taught him how to make skin sko – those shoes made of sheepskin. And they had packed up their knife and some extra sheepskin – provisions for new shoes. In his own way he had been keeping track.

He found himself chanting as he tapped against the stone.

*Tap toe lambi sko*

*Tap toe fiski sko*

## Rideau Pharmacy

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*Continued on next page*

Tap toe hreindyr sko  
Tap toe bukalla sko  
Tap toe wherever I go  
Wherever wherever I go!

For Henry and his wife Bjorg, their journey away from Iceland and across North America had been a long one – and again they were searching for a new home.

Lambskin shoes from home and to work on the railroad in Ontario, fish skin shoes from the shores of Lake Winnipeg, deerskin shoes from their encounters with the Ojibway as they suffered together the ravages of smallpox, cowskin shoes from North Dakota.

There is much more to tell of all those adventures...

On a break after the long day of choosing and shaping sandstone and long after tempers and nerves had settled from the great stone drop incident, with wagons loaded, they prepared to coax the horse teams to ford the Elbow River and follow the cart trail back to the building site.

There was something new to think about!

His coworkers were buzzing with excitement. A shoe must be chosen to conceal within the walls of this great new house. It must be a child's shoe, it must be significant, it must bring protection and good luck to this fine Lougheed family who had given them employment.

Tap toe, tap toe .....

What is your guess? Whose shoe is concealed (again) in the south facing wall of the children's room on the third floor?

I like to think it was Henry Reinholt who donated the shoe.

It would have been a good way to leave his mark and to show he was putting his best foot forward. He brought Nesti og Nyja Sko (provisions and new shoes) as a promise of hope for his family and for all that they encountered along the way.

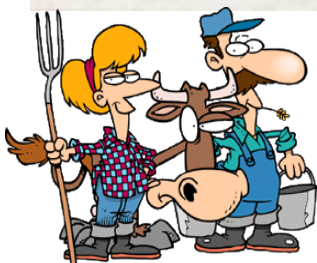
Tap toe lambi sko,  
Tap toe fiski sko  
Tap toe hreindyr sko  
Tap toe bukalla sko  
Tap toe wherever I go.  
Wherever wherever I go!

## BULLETIN BOARD

Click on the links below to browse the [website](#) of the SAPD

- ⇒ [Pioneer Profiles](#) began as stories of over 1600 Southern Alberta pioneers that were published in *Pioneer Families of Southern Alberta*. SAPD would like it be a growing and evolving list of narratives. If you cannot find your family listed here, please send anything from a few lines to a few pages about your pioneer ancestor to [historian@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:historian@pioneersalberta.org).
- ⇒ [SAPD Archives, Publications](#) and [Library](#): To have your Family History entered into our archives, contact Kelsey Hipkin at 403-700-8698.
- ⇒ **Memorial Building reservations**: Call Gabrielle Leah at 403-807-0550, email her at [sap.rentals@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:sap.rentals@pioneersalberta.org), or go online to [www.pioneerbuilding.ca](http://www.pioneerbuilding.ca).
- ⇒ **Cards & Remembering**: Notify the office at [membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org) to report any illnesses or a death in your family.
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The most interesting parts in the SAPD Newsletter are the contributions we get from readers like you. Most members have a story about their pioneer ancestor that would be a great read for others. So please send those ancestor tales to us. We'd also enjoy reading those oft-said quips you remember hearing from your parents or grandparents.