



SOUTHERN ALBERTA PIONEERS

AND THEIR DESCENDANTS NEWSLETTER



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

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Website: www.pioneersalberta.org

E mail: sap.office@pioneersalberta.org

May 2022



Shawn Hendry
President, Southern Alberta
Pioneers & their Descendants
2021-2022

Spring is here, the trees are blooming and the worst of the pandemic is hopefully in the rear-view mirror.

Upcoming Events

As we transition seasons, we are excited for a number of our upcoming events during Stampede! We have the **Stampede BBQ**, **Pioneers Tea** and **Stampede Breakfast** that we hope to celebrate with you.

We are unfortunately not participating in the Stampede Parade this year due to timing issues with the pandemic but we hope to return to the Parade in 2023.

President's Message

We are also hosting a **Southern Alberta Historical Societies** gathering in June. Thirteen various Historical Societies will convene at the Memorial Building with the intention to increase collaboration amongst our groups. Special thanks to Gene Blakley and Lynn Hoosier who have been instrumental in getting this off the ground.

A reminder to all that the **Historical group** does meet on Monday mornings at 10 am at the Memorial building, which is open to the public. Feel free to stop by on a Monday. Please reach out to Alan Lynas if you need any more information.

AGLC and the SAPD Bylaws

On the business side, we have been advised by the AGLC (Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis) that our bylaws do not meet the updated requirements for Charitable Groups to meet licensing eligibility requirements. As with many things in the world, the requirements have changed, and even though historically we met the requirements, our bylaws no longer do.

We are currently in discussions with the AGLC, and while we will continue under the current bylaws

and retain our licensing, we will be required to again update the bylaws at our **Annual General Meeting** (AGM) in **October 2022** should we wish to retain this significant source of funding. We will provide more details as we go through the process.

Eager to See You in July

I look forward to seeing each of you at our first event, the **Stampede BBQ**, where we can kick back in our boots and celebrate our history. Further details on how to get tickets for this event are provided in this newsletter.

Book Nov. 5 on your Calendar!

After a 2-year hiatus, SAPD is finally able to celebrate its

Annual Round Up & 100 Anniversary Celebration

at the
Crystal Ballroom, Palliser Hotel

November 5, 2022

Cocktails, Dinner, Live Band,
Dance, Silent Auction

Ticket price and contact person will be announced in the summer eNewsletter and the September 2022 Newsletter.

THIS NEWSLETTER CAN BE READ AT and PRINTED FROM www.pioneersalberta.org/newsletter/

Membership Report

by Sharon Hoiland
Membership Secretary

Welcome to New Members, Looking for Missed Members, Goodbye to Old Friends

New Descendant Members

- Sharlynn Summers – Descendant of Charles and Emma Schack, High River 1889
- Scott Summers – Descendant of Charles and Emma Schack, High River 1889
- Stacey Frislev – Descendant of Charles and Emma Schack, High River 1889
- Doris McDowell – Descendant of John Currie, Davisburg 1886

New Friend Members

- Jacqueline (Jackie) Kleiner
- Chris Krieger

New Gold Card Members

- John Finch
- Gale Dean
- Harold (Ro) Riley
- Dorothy Matheson
- Lorraine Jette
- Frances Henrickson
- John Sibbald
- Carolyn Scott
- Shirley Simmering

In Memorial

- Charlotte Mae Moir
- Bill Murphy
- Richard Jull
- Sandy Dean
- Frances McTaggart

Help us find Gold Card Members

We have lost touch with some of our Gold Card Members. If you can put us in touch with any of the following members or their families please email membership@pioneersalberta.org.

- Jack (John W) Ross - born 1923
- (Evelyn) Joan North - born 1923
- Allen (Robert) Collins - born 1924
- Donald Medhurst - born 1924 - Associate member

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS as of April 30, 2022

Descendant – 264 members with **133** still owing dues for 2022

Descendant Gold Card – 129 members
Associate - 33 members with **19** still owing dues for 2022

Associate Gold Card – 32 members

Friend – 4 members

Honorary – 6 members

Total: 468

60 members in arrears and inactivated

Please notify me, Sharon Hoiland, of any deaths in your family, changes to your mailing or email addresses or to phone numbers.

I can be reached at membership@pioneersalberta.org.

2022 Membership Fees

Thank-you to all that have paid your 2022 Membership Dues!! Your membership fees help to keep SAPD operating.

Notices went out via email the first week of May to those still owing membership fees for 2022.

A friendly reminder for those that have yet to pay your 2022 Membership Dues please send a cheque or e-transfer for \$40.

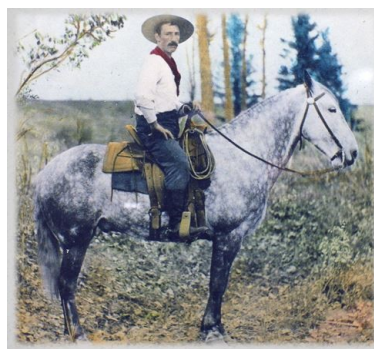
Send cheques to:

SAPD 3625 - 4 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2S 1Y3, Attn: Membership.

Send e-transfers to

membership@pioneersalberta.org and a separate email with the security answer and address and phone updates. Thank-you!

Send questions to membership@pioneersalberta.org.



[John Godlonton](#) (ancestor of Bud Vine and Val McKinney) arrived in Alberta in spring of 1886, settling in Springbank close to his 3 brothers. The surname **"Godlonton"** is very unique and held by few people, so the family suspect that most Godlontons can be traced back to a common ancestor.

Glen Godlonton 403.829.9500

For a list of

- Recent sale prices
- Low down payment properties
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CIR REALTY

SAPD Social Events

It is a time of excitement for the Southern Alberta Pioneers as we look forward to re-engaging with each of you at SAPD's social events for the Summer of 2022.

Stampede Grounds Display

July 8: 5 -11 PM

July 9-17:11 AM - 11 PM

Contact: Alan Lynas

historian@pioneersalberta.org

Volunteers urgently needed

Pioneers Tea

Important: Note change in

Venue: Memorial Building

(instead of Rotary House, Stampede Grounds) and

Date: Monday, July 11, 2022

(instead of Tuesday).

Tea Time: 2 - 4 PM

Sandwich making: 9:30 AM

Contact: Pamela Hilton

403-630-4050

Stampede Breakfast

Memorial Building

Sat., July 16, 2022 | 9 - Noon

Contact: Steve Foote/Jeff Hill

sap.office@pioneersalberta.org

Coming Events

Western Showcase | Doors Open Calgary | AGM

Annual Roundup 2022 and 100th Anniversary Celebration | Christmas Decorating & Christmas Dinner

Stampede BBQ Volunteer Request

Volunteer opportunities are available for this year's Stampede BBQ. Staging this family event would not be possible without the assistance of our members. Here's a chance to snag your preferred spot on the volunteer roster!

Positions available include:

- Morning set-up crew (minimum 6-8)
- Afternoon set-up crew (minimum 4)
- Beverage ticket sellers (4 total on 2 shifts)
- Bartenders (4 total on 2 shifts)

Annual Stampede BBQ

Memorial Building | Saturday, July 9, 2022

Conveners: Rhonda & John Hutchings

Cocktails: 5 PM | Dinner: 6:30 PM

Traditional BBQ Beef with all the Fixings

Door Prizes | Cash Bar

TICKETS

Adults: \$40 | Children: 6-12: \$20 | Under 6: Free

Tickets: Not refundable | Must be bought in advance.

Deadline to purchase tickets is **July 5, 2022**

Pick up tickets at the BBQ; they will not be mailed out.

Two Ways to Purchase your Ticket

1) **e-transfer** to events@pioneersalberta.org;
indicate payment is for the BBQ.

2) **Cheque** made payable to
Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants

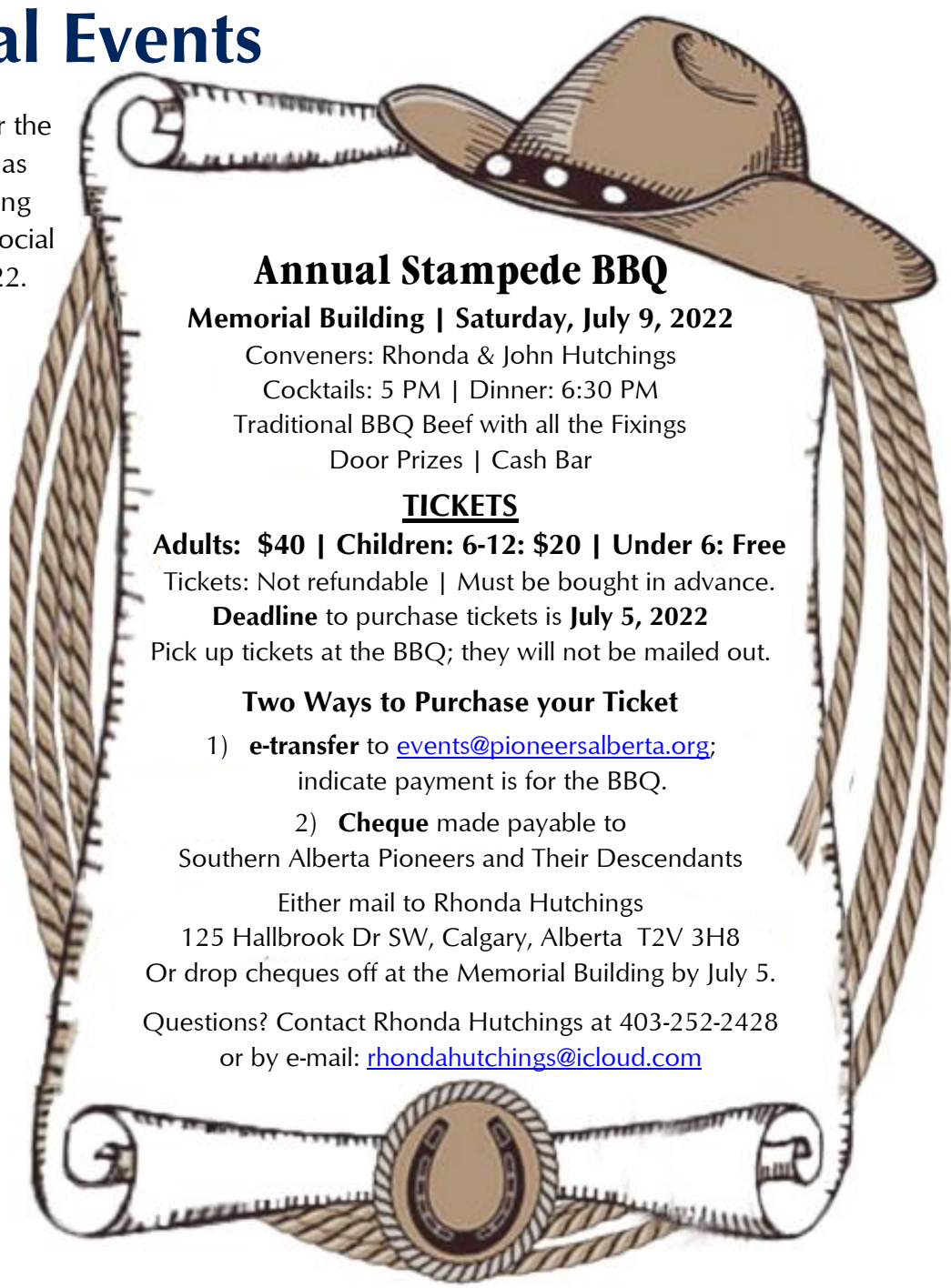
Either mail to Rhonda Hutchings

125 Hallbrook Dr SW, Calgary, Alberta T2V 3H8

Or drop cheques off at the Memorial Building by July 5.

Questions? Contact Rhonda Hutchings at 403-252-2428

or by e-mail: rhondahutchings@icloud.com



Memories of a Young Boy Growing Up in West End

We moved to Calgary in 1952 after my father ("Flash" Lynas) retired from the RCMP. At that time, he was stationed in Goose Bay, Labrador and I am sure that the decision to move to Calgary was from my mother who was born and raised in Calgary. My mother (Mary Learmont) was the daughter of Selby (William James Selby) and Ruth Walker (Shine) and grew up in the house that still stands at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. I am sure that the rationale to choose Calgary was supported by the death of her father in 1952 and her mother living alone on the estate.

We resided with my grandmother until we moved to a house at 1107 5th Avenue SW around Christmas of 1953. I resided at that house during all of my school years having attended McDougall School (grades 1 to 6), Connaught (7 to 9), Central for grade 10 and, after Central was closed, Western Canada HS for grades 11 and 12.

Let me reminisce about the early years (my elementary school years) living in the west end of Calgary.

At that time the Louise Bridge was the most westerly bridge crossing the Bow River. The 14th Street Bridge (Mewata Bridge) was completed in 1954. The Jubilee Auditorium was under construction and Calgary's first shopping centre, the North Hill Shopping Centre, was not to open until 1956.

The Mewata area was anchored by the armories, Mewata Stadium and Mount Royal College. Fifth Ave was a residential area with boulevards on both sides of the street. Our house faced north across the Bow to face Sunnyside. My walk to school was down a tree lined avenue with the only commercial establishment being a Chinese grocery store on the corner of 5th Ave and 8th Street. That store was important to a young boy as penny candies were a critical food source. It was also where a pea shooter and balsa wood airplanes could be bought for pennies. The airplanes still exist but I challenge anyone to find a pea shooter this day and age.

Ninth Ave was mostly industrial with a lumber yard and car dealerships as it was backed by the railroad; however, 6th, 7th and 8th were mostly residential. There was a Chinese store (Wing's) across from the armories. On 6th there was the Bow Marsh store and across the street, Ravvins. These locations were important to a young boy as Wing's was where we could take empty pop bottles for refunds, the Bow Marsh also had penny candy, and Ravvins was a furniture store that had a huge supply of large cardboard boxes. We'd haul these to our back yard and tape 4 or 5 boxes together to make tunnels, caves and castles. It also had televisions facing the street where we could watch television through big windows.

Mewata Stadium and Mount Royal College were also integral assets to the boys in the area. The Calgary Stampeders played at Mewata and with 2 bread wrappers we could get end-zone seats. On Sundays Junior football was a draw as Sunday was silver collection day since no charge could be made for entertainment. We could get in for a nickel.

Mount Royal College was REALLY important as the Stampeders used the college residence to house the players trying out for the team. As kids we could walk a block and talk and get autographs from players as they lounged on the steps after a hard practice. I still have memories of playing catch with Joe Kapp (and I have his picture, unfortunately not with Joe and me).

I had a boomerang at the time and enjoyed throwing it through the goalposts on the practice field and watching it loop around to fall at my feet. A number of the players gave it a shot and not too many were able to match my abilities. This was a huge ego booster for a boy who was shy and short for his age.

There was a fairly large field north of the armories at that time as the Centennial Planetarium was not build until 1967. The field was where we played football in the summer and where we skated in the winter. The city put up a hockey rink in the winter and another rink for skaters next to the hockey rink. I was never a hockey player as I had a problem with my foot and later an operation. My skating was marginal, so I rarely got on the hockey rink but I did play some hockey with the gang on the skating rink.

There was no community association so everything was unorganized. We would just make arrangements to meet at a certain time and then play or just show up and see who was there. Rules were minimum; basically, just don't hurt anyone and all ages played on the same team.

Hockey was not my game but football was big in the neighbourhood. Everyone played: even on occasion a girl or two as we only played touch football. Actually, I don't remember many girls in the neighbourhood but there were a lot of boys. The real good players who wanted to play on a team had to go to the Sunalta district as they had a community and organized play.

Sports were important to the boys as we would often go down to Buffalo ball park to watch baseball. It was also where the little league had some tryouts. We also went to Victoria Park to use their field for practice. I only made it there once as I never made the team. Back in those days there was no pampering. The coach announced who made the team and the rest of us went home. Tough luck. No baseball for you this year.

Mewata District of Calgary in the 1950s

by Alan Lynas
SAPD Member

Most sports were through the school. McDougall had a softball team. We played against James Short, Victoria and Haultain. Back in those days there was no bus to take you from school to school, we just walked. All we had for uniforms was a white t-shirt that someone wrote McDougal, diagonally across the front. Most of us had a baseball glove but many of the players, especially from Victoria, did not have gloves so we shared gloves with the other team. No parents ever came to see the games. We walked there, played the game and walked back to school.

The only time we were ever on a bus was when we went to a concert at the Jubilee Auditorium. It was an effort to bring a little culture into the school system and it was a very exciting day. The place was packed and we listened to music and were introduced to the various parts of the orchestra: strings, brass, percussion.

There were no ski days, no school trips except to the Jubilee and, to my memory, no snow days where school was cancelled. There might have been but I can't remember any.

We were very mobile as we lived on bicycles and we went everywhere. There were mainly standard bikes with the odd 3 speed at that time and I never saw a 10 speed until a kid from California rode one to school one day. We rode to West Hillhurst to swim at the pool or to the Dairy Queen on Kensington.

There was also a restaurant like McDonalds on Kensington just off of 14th. The name was Kavanaughs and they had hamburgers for 19 cents. We often rode to Prince's Island to swim in a lagoon. Prince's Island in those days was a bit of a no man's land as it was still unimproved. I managed to get beaten up once and had my glasses broken, when I was not with a few friends. It was also known as a hobo jungle so we were warned to be careful. It was a known fact that there was a gang in the area who had caves under the Bow River and would capture you and do terrible things to you. I have no idea why this was a fact among the kids in the neighbourhood, but perhaps it was an early attempt to warn you to stay in a group in case of predators. The gang were called the Depaties (never saw it spelled) and I never walked alone down an alley without finding a good sized rock to defend myself if attacked. I am sure that such a gang never existed but it certainly had its effect on us.

We had a pretty good life at 1107 5th Ave. We had some home deliveries. We had the milk man who came and left milk. In the winter we had to bring it in pretty quick or it would freeze as it was a bottle with a cardboard stopper and an aluminum cap.

Alan Lynas is an SAP member through his Great Grandfather Col. James Walker.

James Walker came west as an officer with the NWMP in 1874, was commander of Battleford prior to the North West Rebellion, became manager of the Cochrane Ranche and settled in Calgary in 1882, homesteading on what is now the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary.

He was a civic leader in Calgary and, in 1975, was named Calgary's Citizen of the Century.

Of particular interest to our organization, he was the first President of the Southern Alberta Pioneers Association.

Learn more about Col. James Walker at http://pioneersalberta.org/colonel_walker.html



Col. James Walker
1846-1936
Photo courtesy of
Glenbow Museum

When the milk froze, the cap would be pushed off as the frozen milk broke free from the bottle. Some of the more modern houses had a small box that opened from inside and out and the milk was put in this box to keep it from freezing. In November and December, the cap was saved as it could be easily converted to a Christmas decoration for the tree.

We were also visited by a Chinese green grocer who drove a truck and would bring us fresh vegetables every couple of weeks. He was a very friendly man who spoke very little English and, every year, brought a Christmas present for my mother. It was usually some slippers or perhaps a scarf.

We also had an ice man who brought ice for those who still had an ice box. He was always welcome in the summer as he came by horse and cart and always had a few ice chips for us kids. We also had an ice cream truck that would come down 5th Ave. with bells and be surrounded by children. I tended to ignore him as I was a Popsicle man, especially the root beer flavour. For some reason, root beer flavour was often hard to find and you had to dig through the whole supply in an effort to find one. Often the search was for naught. Back in those days, a Popsicle was 5 cents and you could save the coupons for some prizes.

There were a lot of kids in the neighbourhood in those days. At Halloween the street was just packed with costumed kids (no parents escorting them) as we went door to door.

Bull Trains — A Vital Supply Line

by David Ballard
SAPD Member

My grandfather, Joseph Higginbotham Saxon Moss, was born in 1852 in Bedford, England; came to Canada with his parents in the 1860s; and grew up in Alymer, Quebec.

After his first wife's death in 1878, Joseph left Alymer for the West, joining up with a survey party leaving Winnipeg by Red River cart to survey the 5th Meridian in what was then the western part of the Northwest Territories - now Alberta.

He became good friends with another survey party member named Charles Magrath, who went on to become the Mayor of Lethbridge, a member of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, and later a Member of Parliament.

After a season of surveying, Joseph worked for the I.G. Baker Company, freighting goods with a bull team between Fort Benton, Fort Macleod and Fort Calgary.

In case you don't know, Fort Benton is located in Montana at the furthest point west that a steamboat could navigate the Missouri River, making it the trade center for this region of the American and Canadian West from the 1850s to 1887. The I.G. Baker Company was established as a mercantile and grocery company, first in a log cabin on the banks of the river at Fort Benton in 1866, quickly growing to be Montana's largest mercantile enterprise.

The I.G. Baker Company had been selected by the North West Mounted Police to provide supplies to the force and to build the forts, and quickly established stores at Fort Macleod and Fort Calgary, as well as Lethbridge and Fort Walsh.

In the days before the railway, goods were hard to come by, and for a time, Fort Benton's I.G. Baker

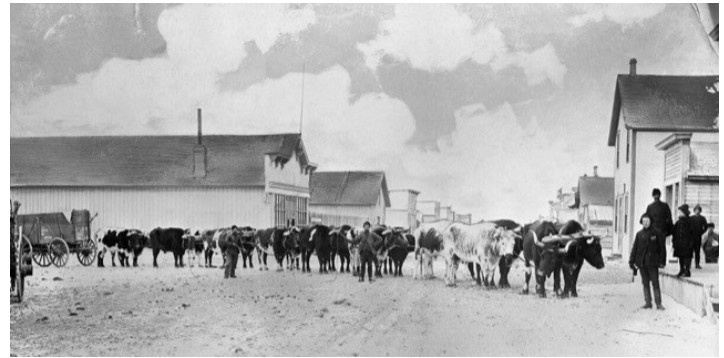
Company had a monopoly on almost everything.

Moving tons of goods from Fort Benton to Fort Macleod and Fort Calgary was no easy feat. There are numerous rivers and streams flowing out to the prairies from the mountains, moving in a generally easterly direction. The route travelled from Fort Benton was more-or-less due north, which meant that all these rivers and creeks must be crossed in the journey. The goods were moved by using teams of oxen, pulling several wagons hitched together slowly across the plains.

Although the animals drawing the wagons were ordinary oxen, the drivers called them bulls, and the transports were known as bull trains.

"Custom decreed hooking three wagons together and hitching eight pairs of the animals, tandem fashion, to each three-wagon unit.

There was a 'bull whacker' on horseback, who was responsible for keeping each three wagon unit moving. He had to understand the way of oxen; otherwise the essential qualifications were a strong voice and some skill in wielding a 16-foot leather whip as he rode along the plodding cattle".



Glenbow Archives NA-670-11

There were others such as the trail boss and the support team consisting of cook(s) and outriders.

Groups of 5 to 10 teams would often travel together. It was reported that "a traveller passing such a cavalcade might count over a 100 oxen and 24 loaded wagons ... commonly, there were six or eight of the units making up a train".

From Fort Benton, the teams had to climb out of the Missouri River valley, which usually involved a full day of travel. They could make better time on the prairies, although the numerous river and creek crossings had to be negotiated. When crossing into and out of large river valleys, such as the Old Man, Bow, and Highwood, the teams would be doubled up, with an additional team added to the back of the wagon to brake going into the valley, and to the front of the wagon to help pull it back out.

Methodical care had to be taken with the wagons and livestock, as there was no such thing as freight insurance, and any items lost or damaged were direct losses to the I.G. Baker Company. You can imagine that careless crews would quickly find their services terminated by the Company.

The trek was long and slow, with an average distance travelled each day of 12 miles, or 20 km. In some family correspondence, Joseph describes freighting supplies from Fort Benton to Fort Calgary in 47 days, though another source reports bull trains taking only 8 days from Fort Macleod to Fort Calgary. So much of the speed of the journey would depend on the size of the load, the weather, and the condition of the terrain and creek and river crossings. With all these factors, it was probably never the same trip twice!

We don't know how many trips Joseph Moss made with the bull trains. He probably worked for 3 to 4 months a year on these trips, with 3 or 4 round trips made a year.

Family lore is that it was on those trips that Joseph found the area that would be his first homestead, where Pine Creek empties into the Bow River. He also may have known the area from his earlier surveying work, since the 5th Meridian runs just a few miles to the west.

Joseph settled on three quarters of Section 5-22-29-W4 and called it the Edge Valley Ranch. He married for the second time in Calgary in 1888 to Elizabeth Shortt, and three of their surviving four children were born at the Edge Valley Ranch. Their ranch house was located almost exactly on the site of the Heritage Point Golf Course clubhouse. You can only wonder what he would think of all the houses all these years later on the land he stewarded.

Indeed, Joseph may have missed the open land and the world brimming with possibilities from his youth. Even by the turn of the 20th Century, he felt that the Pine Creek area was becoming too crowded, and he moved his family east to West Arrowwood Creek, establishing the Long Valley Ranch.

Further tales of Joseph and Elizabeth Moss and the Long Valley Ranch can be found on the SAPD's website under "Pioneer Profiles" *Joseph H.S. Moss*.
<http://pioneersalberta.org/higginbottom.html>.



**We want to
learn about your
ancestors too!**



When did your ancestral family arrive in Southern Alberta? What do you know about them?

To add your ancestral history to SAPD's Library and website, send your history notes to Alan Lynas at historian@pioneersalberta.org.

To share your stories or even small tidbits about your ancestors through the SAPD newsletter, send them to Val McKinney, newsletter@pioneersalberta.org.

Preserving our ancestral histories is the foundation of the Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants!

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sap.office@pioneersalberta.org



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SAPD Links and Contact Persons

- SAPD Website: <http://pioneersalberta.org/>
- SAPD Membership: <http://pioneersalberta.org/membership.html>
 - ♦ Membership Dues: <http://pioneersalberta.org/dues.html>
- Calendar of Events—2022: <http://pioneersalberta.org/calendar.html>
- Pioneer Profiles: <http://pioneersalberta.org/profiles.html>
- SAPD History: <http://pioneersalberta.org/our-history.html>
- SAPD Bylaws: <http://pioneersalberta.org/bylaws.html>
- SAPD Library: <http://pioneersalberta.org/library.html>
 - ♦ Online Catalogue: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/sapd>
- SAPD Initiatives: <http://pioneersalberta.org/initiatives.html>
- Donations, Bequests and Volunteering: <http://pioneersalberta.org/donations.html>
- SAPD Newsletter Archives: <http://pioneersalberta.org/newsletter/index.html>
- Memorial Building History: <http://pioneersalberta.org/memorial-building.html>
- Southern Alberta Timeline: <http://pioneersalberta.org/timeline.html>



Contact Persons

- General Inquiries and Volunteer Opportunities: sap.office@pioneersalberta.org
- Memorial Building Reservations: Gabrielle Leah, sap.rentals@pioneersalberta.org, 403-807-0550, or online www.pioneerbuilding.ca
- Cards and Remembering: Report family illnesses, momentous birthdays, or member deaths to
 - ♦ Lynne Marquess or Sharon Hoiland, membership@pioneersalberta.org
- SAPD would like the Pioneer Profiles to include as many pioneers as possible. If you cannot find your family listed at <http://pioneersalberta.org/profiles/a.html>, please send anything you have from a few lines to a few pages to
 - ♦ Historian Alan Lynas, historian@pioneersalberta.org or
 - ♦ Librarian, Kelsey Hipkin, library@pioneersalberta.org
- Consider sending your genealogical information to our [Historian](#) for SAPD's Member Family Histories
- SAPD Newsletter: Val McKinney, newsletter@pioneersalberta.org
 - ♦ Newsletter Advertising: Beryl Sibbald, 403-932-5584 or advertising@pioneersalberta.org

Board & Committee Vacancies

You too can contribute in a significant way to the continuing operations of SAPD.

To learn about the following Vacancies, contact Shawn Hendry, President, at president@pioneersalberta.org.

- Officers: Vice President
- Fundraising Chair

