

# SOUTHERN ALBERTA PIONEERS

## AND THEIR DESCENDANTS NEWSLETTER



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

Vol. 57 No. 2

Website: [www.pioneersalberta.org](http://www.pioneersalberta.org)

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

Jan. 2025

## President's Message

I am honoured to serve as your President for 2025 and pleased to acknowledge that the SAPD is fortunate to be served by a very competent Board of Directors, Officers, and Committee Chairs.

The Memorial Building and grounds are in good shape for hosting membership opportunities and we look forward to a great year of social events. I encourage you to participate as much as possible. Please watch for the "Member Orientation" that I will host in the Spring. All members that may have missed this event in previous years are encouraged to attend as well as to welcome the new members who have joined us more recently. This would also be a great opportunity to invite people who might have an interest in joining us as a "Friend Member!" This new membership category in our Society has proven to be very fruitful.

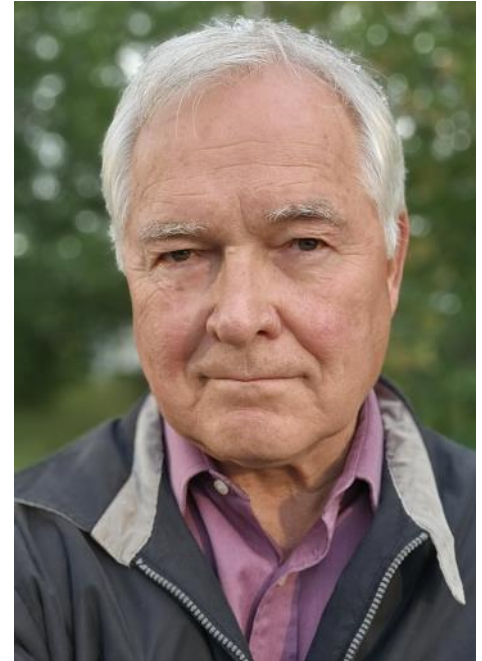
In June we will be celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Memorial Building. The City of Calgary dedicated the building on June 8, 1955, unveiling a field stone cairn

with affixed brass plaque that reads, "Presented to Southern Alberta's Old Timers by the City of Calgary in the Province's 'Golden Anniversary Year' 1955."

The Memorial Building is open to the public on Monday mornings from 10:00 am to noon. The Historical Committee meets at this time to research and assemble member family histories. The "Black Binders" housed in the vault in the basement are available to all members and the public for review and updates. Please join us if only for a morning of socializing and reminiscing.

Finally, I pledge to uphold the SAPD mandate.

"Our mandate is to collect and preserve information in connection with the early settlement of Alberta and the subsequent history of the Alberta Pioneers; to encourage and develop within the community a recognition of the importance and achievements of the early pioneers; to promote the study of



*Russell Moore*  
**President 2025**  
**Southern Alberta Pioneers and**  
**their Descendants**

the history of the Province and to verify and publish information as to its past and present condition and resources; to keep alive the memory of their life exploits and perils; and to advance the knowledge of the history of Alberta."

I wish you a healthy, prosperous new year...  
and happy trails!

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

# From the 2024 Annual General Meeting

Following the October 19, 2024, Annual General Meeting, the Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendants kicked off the 2024-2025 term with the following Officers and Directors.

## OFFICERS

- President: Russell Moore .....403-618-6277  
[president@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:president@pioneersalberta.org)
- Vice President: Nancy Thompson: .....403-703-0766  
[vicepresident@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:vicepresident@pioneersalberta.org)
- Treasurer: Brian Rogers .....403-863-0048  
[treasurer@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:treasurer@pioneersalberta.org)
- Secretary: Carol Duborg .....587-578-5576  
[secretary@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:secretary@pioneersalberta.org)
- Membership Sec.: Sharon Hoiland ....403-607-6884  
[membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org)
- Past President: Dexter Nelson: .....403-934-7739  
[past-president@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:past-president@pioneersalberta.org)

## DIRECTORS

### 1-Year Term

- Angie Boyes ..... 403-700-4416  
[a\\_boyes@telus.net](mailto:a_boyes@telus.net) (Note: a "underscore" boyes@telus.net)
- John Hutchings ..... 403-613-9798  
[sap.office@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:sap.office@pioneersalberta.org)
- Marcel Hebert ..... 403-229-1981  
[hebertm@shaw.ca](mailto:hebertm@shaw.ca)
- Michael Kobluk ..... 403-542-1921  
[mkobluk@shaw.ca](mailto:mkobluk@shaw.ca)

### 2-Year Term

- Heather Van Hereweghe ..... 403-809-9017  
[vanhere@telus.net](mailto:vanhere@telus.net)
- Kyle Graham ..... 403-589-5164  
[kyle.david.graham@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.david.graham@gmail.com)
- Patrick Taylor ..... 403-616-2031  
[patrick.taylor2345@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.taylor2345@gmail.com)
- Stephanie West ..... 403-819-2920  
[stephmcs333@gmail.com](mailto:stephmcs333@gmail.com)

We also welcomed  
to our ranks  
Pioneer Lady,  
Maureen Hill,  
and Pioneer Gent,  
John Douglass



## Membership Committee updates

In 2024 the Membership Committee:

- Manually managed new membership applications, membership renewals, membership changes to Gold Card status, member deaths and inactivation of members with unpaid dues passed a year, to keep our membership records current.
- Sent birthday cards to all Gold Card members over 80 years of age
- Sent 125 Christmas Cards with Christmas Lunch invitations included to all Gold Card members
- Started evaluation of 3 membership management applications: Neon One, Wild Apricot, Communal

In 2025 the membership committee will focus on:

- Implementing manual membership management
- Staying connected to our Gold Card members through the birthday card and christmas card programs
- Choosing and implementing a membership management application, watch for more news about this in upcoming newsletters!
- Reviewing, updating and writing the Membership Secretary and Membership Committee Policies and Procedures for presentation to the board for approval

Continued on page 3

# Membership Report

by Sharon Hoiland  
Membership Secretary

**M**embership update since the last newsletter

## Welcome to New Members

### Descendant

- Nancy Contrada - Descendant of William Birney, Calgary 1890
- Myrna Martisko - Descendant of William Birney, Calgary 1890
- Erin Colwell - Descendant of Lachlan & Sarah McKinnon, 1886
- Darcy Morgan - Descendant of William Berry, Chipman Creek, 1884
- Gerry Longpre - Descendant of Peter Prince Calgary, 1886 AND Peter Eide, Calgary 1886 AND Joseph Longpre, Laggan 1887

### Associate

- Ron Nelson
- Georgia Jacques

### Friend

- Mary Myers
- Wanda Rose
- Sharon Sykes
- Roberta Ryckman
- Carol MacKinnon-Westrop

## Welcome Back to Returning Members

### Descendant

- Judge Norman A.F. Mackie - Descendant of James Stuart & Grace Mackie, 1886

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Continued from page 2

If you are interested in joining the membership committee or have ideas or time to volunteer, please contact Sharon at [membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org)

The current membership committee is made up of Sharon Hoiland (chair and Membership Secretary), Joan Christianson (Telephone Tree), Lynne Marquess (Cards and Remembering), Megan Ballard (administration), Maureen Peckham (guidance and wisdom).

- Ken Wilson - Descendant of John Bulmer, Lethbridge, 1881

## New Gold Card members

- Ron Shelley

## In Memorial

- Brian Harris
- Patricia Cox
- Ann Marie McDougall

Please notify any member of the Membership Committee of member deaths, changes to mailing or email addresses or to phone numbers. We can be reached at [membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org).

## Membership numbers at December 31, 2024

Descendant – 250 members with 40 in arrears  
Descendant Gold Card – 113 members  
Associate - 35 with 4 in arrears  
Associate Gold Card – 28 members  
Friend – 24 members with 6 in arrears  
Honorary – 5 members

**Total: 455**

**2025 MEMBERSHIP FEES due as of  
JANUARY 1, 2025**

**Membership fee is \$40**

Send **cheques** to: SAPD 3625 - 4 St. SW,  
Calgary, Alberta T2S 1Y3, Attn: Membership.

Send **e-transfers** to  
[membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org).  
E-transfers to this email address are  
auto-deposited.

Please write the names of members for whom  
the fees are being paid either on your cheque  
or in the message space in the e-transfer.

Thank-you to all that have already paid your  
2025 Membership Dues!!

# 28<sup>th</sup> International Wine Tasting

Saturday, February 22, 2025 — starts at 7 PM at the SAPD Memorial Building

## Featuring Wine and tasty bites from Chile, Italy & US (Washington State)

This event is hosted by your board and is a great opportunity to sample wonderful appetizers with wine pairings, and to socialize with your new board, old acquaintances, as well as new friends.

### TICKETS: \$45 per person

Ticket can be purchased by:

1. E-transfer to [membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org). In the message box, write "Attention: Nancy Thompson, Wine Event."
2. Cheque payable to SAPD.
  - Mail or Drop cheque to SAPD Memorial Building, 3625 - 4 St. SW, Calgary, AB T2S 1Y3
  - Mark on the envelope: "Attention: Nancy Thompson, Wine Event."



### Hurry!

This event is popular. The venue will only accommodate 70 people!

Please ensure payments are received by SAPD by February 17, 2025. Whichever type of payment used, please also list the names of the attendees. Tickets are non refundable and can be picked up at the door on event day. Event does not include full meal.

**Convenors:** Nancy Thompson, [n.thompson@shaw.ca](mailto:n.thompson@shaw.ca)  
 Steph West, [stephmcs333@gmail.com](mailto:stephmcs333@gmail.com)  
 Lana Jones, [lejones@telus.net](mailto:lejones@telus.net)

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## Other Dates for Your Social Calendar

Here are coming events up to May 2025 as listed on the [SAPD Website](#). Most events will be held at the SAPD Memorial Building. Watch for additional details in upcoming newsletters and/or E-News. We reserve the right to change dates, times, venues, or contact names or to cancel events if needed. We'd LOVE to have you volunteer for us; just contact us at [volunteer@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:volunteer@pioneersalberta.org).

DATE	DAY	EVENT	TIME	CONVENOR	CONTACT #
Mar 19	Wednesday	Speaker Series	7 PM	Alan Lynas	250-551-1450
TBD		Historic Rendezvous	9 AM - 4 PM	Gene Blakley	403-931-2264 fshrcrk@xplornet.com
April 27	Saturday	Building & Yard Spring Cleanup	10 AM - 2 PM	John Hutchings	403-613-9798
May 2	Friday	Jane's Walk	6 PM	Alan Lynas	250-551-1450
May 4	Sunday	Gold Card Tea	2 - 4 PM	Karen Clark	403-641-2106

# 2025 Speaker Series

January 22  
7 - 8:30 pm

**Cheryl Cohen**  
Calgary's Early Jewish Community

February 19  
7 - 8:30 pm

**Deb Lee**  
Calgary General Hospital History

Memorial Building

This free event is  
open to all

Limited seating

Reserve a spot by clicking  
on the SAPD Logo



The Speaker Series is facilitated by the Historical Committee. Space for these events is limited so please register through the embedded EventBrite link quickly so you don't miss the opportunity to learn about and connect with others interested in local history.

## 2024 Christmas Luncheon Report

by Lynne Marquess, Convenor

There were 94 tickets purchased but only 93 people attended. John Hutchings took care of keeping track of the tickets purchased and organized the seating arrangement.

John Douglass, Pioneer Gent, and his wife Molly greeted all the attendees as they entered the building and assisted them with hanging up coats, and boot removal when necessary. The Pioneer Lady, Maureen Hill, was ill and not able to attend.

A very nice Turkey dinner was supplied by Alpine Catering, and they do a wonderful job of setting up and supplying all the cutlery, plates, napkins, etc. at each table. Alpine was also very accommodating for some dietary restrictions and had gluten free / dairy free gravy, potatoes and buns available. Cheryl Lyn Hendry said grace before the

meal was served.

Each table had a festive Christmas themed disposable plastic tablecloth; a festive themed center piece (which were made and donated by Pamela Hilton); and bowls of nuts and other. Lynne Marquess donated the tablecloths, nuts and candy. There were 57 people seated upstairs and 36 people seated downstairs. Buffet food serving stations were available both up and down stairs.

John Hutchings organized and oversaw the running of the bar downstairs with the help of Lana Jones. I believe the bar was a success and generated a little income for the event. According to John, we raised \$155 for the Food Bank, which included a generous donation from Wayne Hohner. After this, Safeway offered to match our donations making the full Food Bank

donation \$310.

After the meal, the upstairs was cleared of tables, set up with chairs and everyone enjoyed a round of Carol singing led by Russell Moore. Russell was accompanied on the piano by Cheryl Lyn Hendry.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who so graciously agreed to assist with this event.

John and Rhonda Hutchings, Brian and Kathleen Rogers, Dan Shaw, Russell Moore, Cheryl Lyn Hendry, Lana Jones, Karen McQueen, Gord McQueen, Mary Meyers, Joan Christianson, and some of John Hutchings's friends. Without the assistance of these people, the event could not have happened or been a success.

I am sorry if I have omitted the name of anyone else who assisted; their assistance was greatly appreciated.

# Pioneer Family of President Russell Moore

Russell is a descendant of pioneers Edward and Ellen Burke and Luke and Eliza (Burke) Draper.

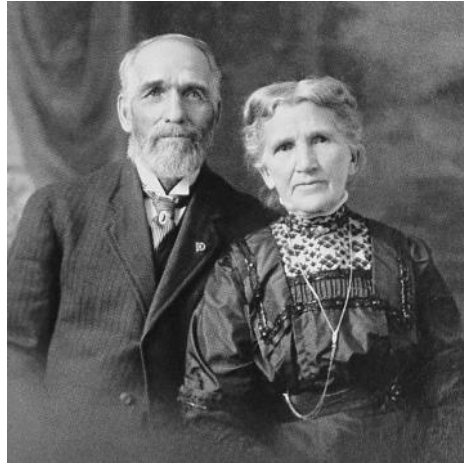
## Burke Family

Edward Burke was born in 1844 at County Carlton, Canada West, and Ellen Murdock was born in 1842 at County Grenville, Canada West. They were married in 1864.

The Burkes were farmers near present-day Prescott, Ontario, on the shore of the St. Lawrence River. The region is not only fertile but beautiful with views of the Thousand Islands and the United States on the far shore. Edward worked as a labourer, farmer, and hotelkeeper. Despite their established lives, the lure of cheap land in Canada's west eventually prompted the Burkes to pull up stakes and move west.

In early 1889, Edward Burke received a grant of land near Davisburg, Alberta (a.k.a, Grierson) from the Canadian Pacific Railway for a homestead; the price was three dollars an acre. Davisburg is northwest of Okotoks, but few people have heard of it. In the autumn of 1889, Edward, Ellen, and five of their children travelled west by train, settling on two sections east of the Highway 2 and 2A interchange, and one section east of the Scott Seaman Sports Rink and two schools. The two sections that Edward farmed were kitty corner to each other spanning current day Hwy 552.

The Burkes soon discovered that their homestead was in the "hail belt" and unsuitable for farming. So, after struggling for several years, they defaulted on the purchased



*Edward & Ellen Burke, 1914,  
50th Anniversary*



*Luke & Eliza Draper, 1931,  
50th Anniversary*

land in the summer of 1894, and left Davisburg to take up a new homestead 130 km away in the Porcupine Hills west of Claresholm. Their original log house still stands today on Burke Creek Ranch. In 1904, Edward and Ellen Burke moved to Calgary and lived in a house at 1216 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE (across 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue from the new Scotia Centre).

## Draper Family

When the Burkes first went west, their eldest child didn't accompany them. Eliza, who was born at Prescott, Grenville, Ontario, in 1864, was just sixteen when she eloped with Luke Draper, crossing the St. Lawrence River, and marrying him in Ogdensburg, New York in 1881. Luke Draper had been born at Athens, Leeds, Ontario, in 1861.

The Drapers moved to Ellendale, Dickie, North Dakota, to farm. But hail and parched land caused the Drapers to move to Southern Alberta in 1890 to join Eliza's family. They rented a farm in the De Winton area, near Davisburg. The miserable farming conditions persuaded the Drapers to eventually leave farming

and move to Calgary. Luke first worked at Cushings Mills where he lost a finger. He was treated at Calgary's first hospital (Calgary General Hospital #1), which was in a house on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW.

Erma Draper, Russell's grandmother, was born in Calgary in 1897. In 1904, her father Luke bought two lots in the 200 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW. He first built a barn at the rear of one lot that the family lived in until he built a permanent home on the front of the second lot. East of the house, on the avenue in front of the barn, he built a store, "L. Draper Groceries," which he operated from 1906 to 1941.

Erma's brother Harold played the trumpet as a member of the Calgary Citizens Band.

Frank Moore, a native of De Wolfe, New Brunswick, played the clarinet in the band and was at the Draper home to practice. He subsequently met Erma and they married in 1919. Frank had purchased a house at 616 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW in 1918. Russell's father Howard was born in 1924 in the Hillhurst house that still stands today.

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## Moore Family

Howard married Winnipeg native, Norma Rose, in 1947. That same year, he purchased a lot at 627 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW, “one street from where he was born.” Over the next couple of years, “paycheck to paycheck” they built their family home. Norma and Howard moved into the house in December of 1950 with no doors, windows, finished flooring or kitchen cabinets.

Following his brother Glenn, and sister Noreen, Russell was born at Calgary General Hospital #3 in 1956. Howard and Norma, now both deceased, resided 65 years in the house that Howard built. The land was just too valuable so, in 2023, the house was demolished for new homes. There are now two one-million-dollar houses that sit on the lot that Howard purchased in 1947 on a half-price sale for ... \$350.00!

Edward and Ellen Burke’s homestead house still stands in Davisburg on one of the two sections that they walked away from in the 1890s. That section has now

been subdivided into approximately 96 multi-million-dollar acreages!

On the front deck of the SAPD Memorial Building is a bench that Russell has donated to the SAPD in memory of his parents, Howard and Norma Moore.



Russell with Norma and Howard Moore, 2015

# We Need to Preserve Our History

by Alan Lynas

2025 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Fort Calgary at the junction of the Elbow and the Bow rivers. Grant MacEwan described it this way in Calgary Cavalcade:

“On a bright day late in August, 1875, Inspector A. E. Brisbois and 50 Mounted Police rode across prairie now bearing the district name of Crescent Heights and halted on the high bank of the Bow River, about at the end of today’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, North East. There they surveyed the

expanse of natural beauty laid out on all sides, knowing at once that they were close to destination and an opportunity to relax.”

You can go to the same viewpoint today and look out on a very different site. Back then you would have looked out on bare prairie; a magnificent skyline is the heart of a city of one and half million. A brisk wind probably blew through the prairie grass back then, but today the sound would be from traffic on Centre Street Bridge and from Memorial Drive.

Committee’s plans are still in the early stages, but our main focus this year and our photo displays will be more heavily directed towards Calgary than to the rest of Southern Alberta. Our plans will include inviting more of the general community to a display at the Memorial Building as well as to outreach events.

We have a book in our library, “Calgary Then and Now,” that I find very interesting in that it features pictures of a number of early sites in Calgary and then the modern site at the time of publication in the late 1970s. The most interesting thing is that a new book could be published as many (almost all) of the 1970’s structures have been torn down and replaced. Time marches on for people as well as for buildings and street scenes.

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PHONE: (403) 228-5067 OR (403)  
228-7065



I believe that the founding of the City of Calgary needs to be honoured, remembered and celebrated.  
SAPD’s History

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One of my daughters gave me a very unique present for Christmas. The gift was no surprise as I knew it was coming as I had been the main participant in preparing the gift. It had taken a year to produce. The present was a book about me written by me.

Brittany had enrolled me in a service that asked a question each week and requested that I write a response to the question. At the end of a year, a book would be produced with my story. One did not need to respond to the question recommended. I could replace it with a question of my own or my children could suggest a question. I know that I have pondered why I didn't ask more questions of my parents or my grandparents. This is a way to ask those questions of older members of your family. If only I could spend a day asking about the life of my parents or my grandparents and if only they had done the same for their parents and grandparents. It is often surprising how little we know of our own family. At some time, it will be too late.

When answering questions, I found that a little research comes in handy. One question was, "What did my father do in the war." I did some research and found that at least one of my assumptions was wrong. My father was involved with the invasion of Sicily in July of 1943. I had always assumed that he

had crossed from Africa to Sicily; however, after a little research, I found that the Canadian invasion force had sailed directly from England while the Americans and British crossed from Africa, which had recently passed into Allied hands. At least one ship was lost to submarines during the transit.

My gift book was very welcome. I even chose the title, "My Kids Made Me Write This". Photos were welcome and now they are preserved.

The moral of the story? Ask questions, record and preserve them. Your descendants might get a laugh or at least a good sense of the life that you led. If you have parents or grandparents, encourage them to do the same and the scheduled format of one question a week worked for me. However, I must admit that some weeks ran into 4 or 5 without an entry and then a day or two when I would catch up. The effort was well worth the result. TIME MARCHES ON. SOMETIME IT WILL BE TOO LATE.



## SAPD 102<sup>nd</sup> Round-Up

by Valerie McKinney

The Southern Alberta Pioneers' and their Descendants' 102nd Round-Up was held in the Alberta Ball Room at the Palliser Hotel on November 2, 2024. The theme was "Glitz and Glamour" and guests did not disappoint in their fashion sense and elegance.

As per our tradition, guests were piped into the Ball Room by SAPD Officer, Stephanie West. We were introduced to the head table guests and to the new Board of Directors (see page 2). A Past President Pin was presented to Dexter Nelson.

We also acknowledged the past Pioneer Lady and Gent, and welcomed the 2024/25 Pioneer Lady, Maureen Hill, and Pioneer Gent, John Douglass.

And we paused a moment in

remembrance of members who, sadly, are no longer with us.

Cheryl Lyn Hendry led us in singing O Canada and said grace before we devoured a delicious meal, complete with coffee, drinks, and dessert.

Throughout the evening, guests were welcome to bid on attention-grabbing items at the silent auction.

After guests folded their napkins for the last time, we opened up the dance floor where glitzy couples danced to the music of Jana and Danny of The Little Big Band (shown here with Russell Moore, President).

