



SOUTHERN ALBERTA PIONEERS

AND THEIR DESCENDANTS NEWSLETTER

Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants • 3625 - 4th Street S.W. • Calgary, Alberta T2S 1Y3 • Phone 243-3580

Vol. 37 • No. 2

Website: www.pioneersalberta.org

Email: southernalbertapioneers@shaw.ca

January 2005

President's Message

October is the time of year when the autumn leaves are raked up, the flower beds are cleaned and the lawns are cut and readied for the next growing season. The Southern Alberta Pioneers takes this seasonal opportunity to elect a new Board of Directors and a new President to carry on the tradition of the Pioneers in Southern Alberta. I am honored to be the person you have delegated to do this work, especially in this, Alberta's 100th anniversary year.

It is my hope that many exciting new activities and surprising functions will occur.

Our executive are presently looking to this year's Calgary Stampede activities. Dave Wake, Lionel Singleton and Bud Vine have asked for your pictures of early Alberta (The North West Territories) and many documents have been received. Remember, if you send a document, make sure that you have your name and address on it. Bud Vine will photograph the document and return it to you. If you would like a copy of the newly photographed document, please insert a note requesting a copy. There is a photograph of the President in the Turner Valley community of Royalties at the early age of 5 years, 1938. I am sure you will never recognize him. "We have anticipated a flood of items coming in, so we have hired extra staff to accommodate the deluge." All these items will be displayed at the Round-Up Centre during the Stampede.

The present membership of the Southern Alberta Pioneers is 655 members. Since Calgary and Southern Alberta was the focal point of pioneer activities,

can we challenge ourselves in this special year, Alberta's 100th anniversary, to recruit all of those eligible relatives, your Sister, Brother, Cousin, Aunt, Uncle, Niece, Nephew, in-laws? With this outstanding effort, we would make this organization very healthy, and increase our membership. Mr. Gordon Leslie had all of his nine new family members at this year's Christmas Dinner.

We are thinking about renting sun tents for the month of July so that the Barbeque and the Men's Pancake Breakfast will have some kind of protection from the elements. So be sure to mark these events on your "to do lists", B.B.Q., Saturday, July 9th and Breakfast Saturday, July 16th.

The Round-Up was well attended again this year and we all had a great time, with thanks to the efforts of Sharon Thielen who has been organizing this event for the last five years. Sharon has resigned as chair of the Round-Up and we are looking for a new chairperson to carry on the tradition. Thanks again Sharon for a job well done, and much appreciated.

I would like your input on the involvement of all the Pioneer organizations in Southern Alberta (south of the township 40) for the next Round-Up. These would include places with pioneer organizations such as Red Deer, High River, Claresholm, Fort MacLeod, Pincher Creek, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Edmonton

We will also be looking for a very special speaker for this auspicious event.

The Christmas Dinner was another



11th Annual WINE TASTING NIGHT

Saturday,
February 19, 2005
7:30 p.m.

Convenors:

Neil Brown & Lance Cooke

*Featuring a selection of Fine Wines
from France, Greece & Chile &
Delicious Hors d'Oeuvres!*

*Tickets are only \$20.00 per person
(includes all wines)*

*Available from Pat Rodriguez
@ 279-6435*

Limited to 60 people



Continued on Page 2

President's Message

Continued from Page 1

special evening and Moyra and Joe Ferguson, Pat Rodriguez, Glynis Grigg, Elizabeth Thompson and Bob Brewster organized a lovely festive evening. Thanks to Murray Lipsey and the students of the Lord Shaughnessy High School Commercial Cooking Classes for the traditional turkey dinner. Thank you to Anne McTavish and Jean Chugg for the caroling session, and to Rev. Bill Sayers for the remembrance at Christmas time and grace before dinner.

It is a happy day – the Vice President, Peggy Barr, has accepted the challenge to transcribe the histories and exciting descriptions that I heard about the pioneers and loved ones who were honored with Memorial Trees planted on our property. Forty-eight trees were planted and soon 48 exciting stories are to be told about these pioneers. So get your pens in gear because Peggy and I will be around to interview you and collect your memories, the activities, and adventures

of those brave Pioneers.

Congratulations to the following members on their recent achievements:

To one of our Past Presidents, and new M.L.A. Neil Brown, on his victory in the Calgary Nose Hill riding.

To Molly Douglas, elected a Councillor and chosen Reeve of the Newell County.

To Shirley (Douglass) Evans, elected Councillor of the Newel County.

To Roy Clark, re-elected to a second term as Councillor Wheatland County.

All of the Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendants wish you a successful term in office.

We can still look forward to Neil Brown's wine tasting event February 19, 2005.

This newsletter will be published after Christmas so on behalf of the Board of Directors and my wife Eleanor we wish you a belated Merry Christmas and a warm and peaceful New Year.

– Billy Murphy

Membership Report

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID THIS YEAR'S DUES YOU WILL FIND A COLORED NOTICE WITH YOUR NEWSLETTER.

The Newsletter can be read at www.pioneersalberta.org. If you would prefer not to receive a paper copy in the mail and read the newsletter online, please e-mail sap.membership@shaw.ca, and let me know your wishes.

In Memoriam:

Tom Wilson, Louise Monkman, Eleanor Hodgson, Myrtle Shaw, Albert Rugsven, Barbara Cowling and Ted Lee.

Welcome New Gold Card Members:

Howard Moore, Irene Copithorne, Eleanor Oltean, Helen Marshall, Mary Guichon, Nathan O'Hare and Eric Atkinson.

Welcome New Members:

Charlene Lyndon, descendant of Capt. Charles Lyndon, Lyndon, Alberta 1881.

Gary Trimble, descendant of Andrew Hill Trimble, Calgary 1889.

Jane Ferguson, Gregg Ferguson, Stephanie McSween & Nancy Thompson, all descendants of James Stuart Mackie, Calgary 1886.

Russell Rice, descendant of John McCain Bratton, Ft. Macleod 1889.

Ken Haggarty, descendant of Michael Meehan, Calgary 1885.

Hank Pallister, descendant of Guy Pallister, High River 1888.

Jo-Anne Klem, descendant of William Brown, Queenstown 1889.

Welcome New Associate Members:

Iyla Brewster & Larry Yopyk.

We have lost contact with Mrs. Jessie Heath. If you know where she is, please contact me at 271-5483 or at sap.membership@shaw.ca.

Thanks again for keeping me informed of Address/Phone changes.

– Maureen Peckham
Membership Secretary

Memorial Building Fund

The following have donated to our Memorial Building Fund since my last report in September 2004:

Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Rintoul (in memory of Evelyn Vera Burke)

Mr. S.M. Elder

Ms. Charlene Lyndon

Mrs. I.E.H. Calow

Mr. Joseph G. Hinde

Mr. David J. Ballard

Mrs. Helena Douglass

Rev. William A. Sayers

Contributions to the Fund are income tax deductible. Cheques should be made payable to The Southern Alberta Pioneers' Memorial Building Fund. At December 15, 2004, the Fund stood at \$174,204.

In addition to donations from individuals and bequests from estates, The Southern Alberta Pioneers' Association contributes \$50 to the Fund in memory of each deceased member.

– John L. Hutchings

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The Portrait on the Wall

Story of the Urch Family Reunion on October 10, 2004
at the Southern Alberta Pioneers Memorial Building – Calgary

A young man standing near the wall of the Memorial Building gazed at a small portrait photograph of Richard Urch, his great-grandfather, an Alberta pioneer. He had heard stories of him from his mother, but now felt more connected to this man who had arrived in what is now Alberta in 1884 by way of Fort Benton. Richard Urch, along with his ranching partner, William Long, had floated logs down the Old Man River to build the Fort Kipp Stopping House for the stagecoach stop and ferry crossing between Lethbridge and Fort Macleod before the CPR went through. In the early days travelers could get a drink at the bar, meals in the dining room and overnight accommodation at the Stopping House.

Turning away from the display, the young man once again took in the activity of the room. It was filled with Urch family relatives from across the country – from grandchildren to one great, great, great grandchild of Richard and Elizabeth (Long) Urch. There were the Erdmans, MacLeans, Proctors, Bodgeners, Rennies and Danielsons, getting caught up or meeting for the first time. Among them the young children zoomed around the room, oblivious to the family tree tacked on styrofoam boards, to the introduction of everyone present, to the photograph albums, and to the adult talk. And

this same young man realized that for these youngsters, there too will come a time when family history will have a greater significance, and viewing a portrait of Richard Urch will renew their connection to, and awareness of their Alberta heritage.

– Written and submitted by:
David and Judy Rennie (nee Urch)
Eleanor Danielson (nee Urch)

The following is a reprint of an article from the Calgary Herald of June 26, 1925:

“Memorial Vault Fund in Calgary: A \$10,000 endowment fund is being raised quietly by the Southern Alberta Pioneers and Old Timers Association. When the last member of the association has passed away, the capital sum will be used by the native sons to erect a memorial vault in the centre of the city in which photographs, records and the documents of the old-timers will be deposited. In the meantime, the fund will be invested in securities and the interest will be used for benefit work among the needy members.”

Do any of our members have any knowledge of the Memorial Vault Fund? The earliest financial statements that we have are dated December 31, 1926. These statements refer to a “Benevolent Fund”. Perhaps this has to do with the “Memorial Vault Fund”? Another unsolved mystery?

– John Hutchings

Members’ Memorial Services

Members’ Rental Discount Privilege
Members holding office or actively working on a committee.

1. Members will provide proof of membership by providing a valid membership card.
2. Membership lists are kept on the shelf, above the computer.
3. Members cannot sponsor an event for a Business or a Commercial or Fraternal Organization, or a Friend.
4. Members may host a private event for family and guests. Extra charges may be triggered, see item #8.
5. The person filling out and signing the Rental License Agreement must be the member in good standing.
6. The member is entitled to all the privileges including the use of the dishes, cutlery, and all service equipment etc.
7. If a person is inquiring and wants to know if they qualify as a member, refer them to the Membership Committee chairperson.
8. The rental fee is \$200.00 plus the refundable \$300.00 damage deposit, if the building is left in good condition. The rental fee to a member holding an office or actively working on a committee is \$50.00. If requested, contract cleaning charge is \$50.00. If closing is after 9:00 PM, Corps of Commissionaires will close – charge is \$50.00. The member may know a member with key privileges to open and close. This member must agree to be identified with their signature on the Rental License Agreement. He or She will be the person responsible for the Building and its Security for the entire function, (opening and closing and arming the alarm system).
9. FOR A FAMILY MEMORIAL SERVICE
There are no charges to the member in good standing and all privileges and services are included. (Cleaning and Security).
10. The date of the Memorial Service or the Member Rental, cannot conflict with the present booking schedule.

Member of Southern Alberta
Pioneers Association



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Round-Up 2004

Two hundred and forty-eight guests were in attendance for the 84th Annual Round-up in the Crystal Ballroom of the Palliser Hotel November 6th, and a wonderful evening was had by all. The catering staff of the hotel served an outstanding four-course meal with the ceremony reminiscent of the days of our forbears. Forty prizes were distributed throughout the evening, much to the delight of the winners. Our special entertainment for the evening was Ben Crane, internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter, entertainer and cartoon artist. The Crystal Ballroom was resplendent with Christmas decorations. Palliser blue linens highlighted with crystal votives and pink silk rose centerpieces created a beautiful atmosphere. The president of the Edmonton Association and her spouse were in attendance, as well as the president of the High River Association and his spouse. Music for dancing was provided by a four-piece band, "Sentimental Journey",

and many of those in attendance enjoyed dancing the evening away until closing.

Recognized as Honourary Female Associate for 2004 was Karen Clark.

Recognized as Honourary Male Associate for 2004 was Allan Petrie.

Pioneer Lady and Pioneer Gentleman for 2005 are Gwen Hanna and Jay Joffe.

I am deeply grateful to Fern Dorsch for assisting in the selling of tickets, distribution of prizes and table assignation. Thanks also to Gwen Hanna for helping Fern at the table in the lobby, and Margaret Buckley for seeing to the purchase of the presentation gifts. Thanks to Kenneth McTavish, brother-in-law to George Cranston, for piping in the head table and to George for once again arranging this. Thank you as well to Anne McTavish for singing the national anthem. Michelle Tyrell, Assistant Director of Catering Services at the Palliser once again attended to every request which we made with the utmost

attention to detail and the staff provided their usual outstanding service. I cannot begin to express my gratitude to my husband Herm and daughter Kelli for jumping into the breech and assisting when I was somewhat disabled by health problems. Special thanks as well to all of those who donated prizes for this event. Your generosity does not go unnoticed. Prizes and the donators are listed below.

Plans for Round-Up 2005, which will be held November 5th, are already in the works so circle your calendar and plan to attend. Remember, in order to preserve tradition we need participation. We will do our best to make this a very special event!

– Sharon Thielen, Convenor

****The Early Bird Draw for the Room for this evening which is donated yearly by the Palliser Hotel was won by Joseph Ferguson.**

PRIZES AND CONTRIBUTORS – DOOR PRIZE DRAW

(Following are the donors and prizes)

Palliser Hotel	Bed and Breakfast Package	Ernie & Audrey Rice	Handmade Oak Sofa Table
Alberta Boot	Cowboy Boots (value \$265.00)	Crowfoot Ford	Travel Bag
Calgary Stampede	Fleece Vest (value \$95.00)	Crowfoot Ford	Travel Bag
Calgary Stampede	Fleece Vest (value \$95.00)	Crowfoot Ford	Travel Bag
Karen McGinnis	Acupuncture Certificate (2 treatments & 1 consultation) (value \$100.00)	Golden Acre Garden Centre	3 Patio Tables
Riley & McCormick	\$25.00 Gift Certificate	Calgary Flames	Sweatshirt
Riley & McCormick	\$25.00 Gift Certificate	Southern Alberta Pioneers	Cookbook
Riley & McCormick	\$25.00 Gift Certificate	Southern Alberta Pioneers	Cookbook
Eleanor Oltean	Signed Plate created from an original painting by Eleanor Oltean	Gwen & Art Hanna	Gift Tea Basket
Eleanor Oltean	Book of Poetry (signed) – she will personalize if you wish	Marilyn & Dennis Mooney	Japanese Tea Set
Eleanor Oltean	Book of Poetry (signed) – she will personalize if you wish	Sharon & Herm Thielen	Perfume Gift Basket
Eleanor Oltean	Prints and Handi-notes	Sharon & Herm Thielen	Electric Mug Warmer
Eleanor Oltean	Prints and Handi-notes	Spolumbo's Sausage & Deli	Gift Pack
Eleanor Oltean	Prints and Handi-notes	Spolumbo's Sausage & Deli	Lunch for Two
Eleanor Oltean	Prints and Handi-notes	Spolumbo's Sausage & Deli	Lunch for Two
Johnson & Johnson	Product Basket	Spolumbo's Sausage & Deli	Lunch for Two
Buster & Alice Schwieger	Fencepost Art Vase	Rolf Copithorne	Bird feeder
		Il Giardino Ristorante	\$10.00 Gift Certificate
		Il Giardino Ristorante	\$10.00 Gift Certificate
		Il Giardino Ristorante	\$10.00 Gift Certificate
		Il Giardino Ristorante	\$15.00 Gift Certificate
		Il Giardino Ristorante	\$15.00 Gift Certificate
		Il Giardino Ristorante	\$15.00 Gift Certificate

Building Committee Report

The request for memorial trees exceeded our supply so we have decided to install a limited number of memorial park benches around our lawn. These may be purchased by family, individuals, or groups at our cost this would include an engraved plaque. Please let us know if you are interested.

Since our last Newsletter we have completed the new storage shed and the enclosure for the garbage dumpster. New doors were installed on the front and back of the building; these will have to be painted next spring when the weather is warmer.

The final two memorial trees were planted and sold, bringing the total to 46.

Two handicap parking signs have been installed on the parking lot near the front door. The balance of the window protection bars have been installed, making every window in the building now protected from vandals.

New low voltage Christmas lights were installed all around the exterior of the roof; these are on a timer set to turn on at 5:00pm and off at 1:00am.

– Bob Brewster, Chairman

Bridge

It has been discussed by the Board of Directors that our Bridge night be changed starting the third Thursday in January 2005 to a games evening. Due to our low numbers for Bridge we will offer a more relaxed evening offering Crib, Rummy and other games as well as Bridge.

Snacks throughout the evening will be offered instead of dessert.

Time 7:00pm at the cost of \$2.00.

We need to know how many are interested in attending so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

For further information please call Fern Dorsch at 278-2793.



Newly Elected

Molly Douglass, wife of Director John Douglass, was acclaimed as a councillor for the County of Newell in the recent Municipal elections and was subsequently elected Reeve for the County of Newell at their first organizational meeting.

Also, Sheila Evans, sister of John Hutchings, was elected to the Council.

"Alberta"

Poem found in Newspaper dated September 1953.

In token of the love which thou hast shown for this wide land of freedom, I have named a province vast, and for its beauty famed, by thy dear name to be hereafter know, Alberta shall it be.

Her Fountains thrown from Alps
unto three oceans,
To all men shall vaunt her
loveliness e'en now,
And when each little hamlet to a
city grown
And numberless as blades of prairie
grass,
Or the thick leaves in distant forest
bower,
Great people hear the giant currents
pass.

Still shall the waters bringing health
and power
Speak the loved name – the land of
silver Springs
Worthy the daughter of our English
Kings.

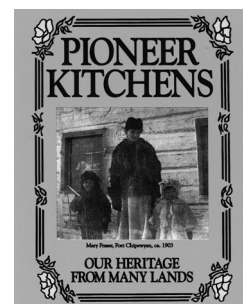
The Marquis of Lorne, Governor General of Canada from 1878 to 1883, dedicated the above poem to his wife, Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, fourth daughter of Queen Victoria. The Marquis rode from Winnipeg into Calgary, then a fort, at the head of detachment of Mounted Police and was so entranced with the beauty of the country that he requested that this part of the then Northwest Territories should be known as "Alberta". Later in 1905 an act of the Parliament of Canada proclaimed it the Province of Alberta.

Cookbook Makes a Great Gift

Looking for an inexpensive, good quality gift for a bridal shower, birthday or anniversary? Our cookbook, *Our Heritage From Many Lands*, is ideal. The ethnic recipes are a little different and not found in other cookbooks.

The use of herbs and spices is becoming more popular so the section on their history and uses is a great addition to the book.

Call Fern at 278-2793.



2005 Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons

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Bill Murphy252-6565

Vice-President

Peggy Barr.....246-2843

Past President

Audrey Rice255-4103

Secretary

Sandy Pedlar.....278-1334

Treasurer

John Hutchings.....255-4211

Membership

Maureen Peckham271-5483

Directors: Two-Year Term

David Wake.....288-5545

Shirley M. Siddon.....271-1118

Beryl Sibbald932-5584

Bud Vine.....279-4744

One-Year Term

Moyra Ferguson249-9989

Pat Rodriguez279-6435

John Douglass641-2562

Bob Brewster.....225-2376

COMMITTEES

Bridge

Fern Dorsch.....278-2793

Building

Bob Brewster.....225-2376

Casino

Pat Rodriguez279-6435

Cookbooks

Fern Dorsch.....278-2793

Historical

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Library

Sharon Thielen.....282-1302

Newsletter

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Newsletter Advertising

Beryl Sibbald932-5584

Records Management

Anne Fitzpatrick.....271-3179

Sick & Visiting

Alice Schwieger287-0995

Social

Moyra Ferguson249-9989

Stampede Parade

Margaret Buckley932-5561

Don Edge271-9581

Stampede Display

Lionel Singleton.....247-0765

David Wake.....288-5545

Telephone

Joan Davis251-4915

Padre

Rev. Bill Sayers282-8526

Pioneer Lady

Gwen Hanna279-5621

Pioneer Gent

Jay Joffe228-3330

Memorial Bldg.

Caretakers

Jeff Wright.....246-7061

Sylvia Graham.....217-1708

SAP Office.....243-3580

SAP Fax287-2485

Hall287-2489

EVENTS

Sunday, Jan. 16 – Family Games/Pot Luck, 2:00pm. Convenor: Fern Dorsch, 278-2793.

Saturday, Feb. 19 – Wine Tasting Night, 7:30pm. Convenors: Audrey Rice, 255-4103 & Lance Cooke, 286-2755.

Sunday, Feb. 27 – Family Games/Pot Luck, 2:00pm. Convenors: Laura White, 271-6055 & Pat Rodriguez, 279-6435.

Sunday, Mar. 13*** – Skating Party/Pot Luck, Champion Park (weather permitting, otherwise at SAP), 2:00pm. Convenors: Danny & Fran Copithorne, 271-1972.

Sunday, Apr. 10 – Volunteer Appreciation, 2:00pm. Convenor: Bill Murphy, 252-6565.

Saturday, Apr. 30 – SAP building & yard clean-up, 10:00am. Convenor: Building Committee.

Sunday, May 1 – Gold Card Tea, 2:00-4:00pm. Convenor – Moyra Ferguson, 249-9989.

Saturday, Jul. 9 – Stampede BBQ, 6:00pm. Volunteer needed.

Sunday, Jul. 10 – Memorial Service/Tea, 2:00pm. Convenor: Gwen Hanna, 279-5621.

***Tentative Date

Note: Games/potluck events; potluck dinner starts at 5:00pm.

All events are held at the Memorial Hall, except where otherwise noted.

THE NOTICE BOARD

Historical Committee

Please submit Family Histories to be entered in our archives. We would like to feature a family history for each newsletter publication. Contact Pat Cox, 252-4220.

Deadline

Deadline for newsletter copy and photos to be submitted in writing at monthly Board Meetings or left at SAP office. Newsletter printed January, May and September.

Historical Committee

Resumes regular weekly meetings on Monday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact Jim Mackie, 228-4046.

Sick and Visiting

Please notify Alice Schwieger (287-0995) of any illness or death in your family or if anyone has need of a hospital visit.

Board Meetings

1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (except July). Members welcome.

Card Night

3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (except July, August and December). Everyone is invited, members and friends. \$2.00 per person. Contact Fern Dorsch at 278-2793.

Advertising

To place an ad in this publication, please call Beryl Sibbald, 932-5584. Deadline to place a classified ad – SAP Board meeting prior to publication.

Members are encouraged to support the businesses advertised in our newsletter.

Memorial Building

Bookings phone 243-3580 (office) 287-2489 (hall), fax 287-2485.

Website:

<http://www.pioneersalberta.org>

Email:

southernalbertapioneers@shaw.ca