



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. 55 No. 2

Website: www.pioneersalberta.org

E mail: sap.office@pioneersalberta.org

Jan., 2023

President's Message

Hello everyone,

Time has flown by since our successful AGM where I was elected your President for the next 12 months. The other executive members elected to the board are:

- Vice President: Bev Prieur
- Treasurer: Brian Rogers
- Secretary: Carla Begalke
- Membership Secretary: Sharon Hoiland
- Past President: Shawn Hendry

My thanks to Carla for stepping up into the Secretary role at our December board meeting.

We had an amazing **Round Up** evening on Saturday, November 5th at the Palliser Hotel. It was so great to be back in person to celebrate with the over 200 people attending the event. A huge Thank You goes out to Shawn and Nicole Hendry and their entire family. They showed up in numbers to support each other, the Round Up and the Pioneers.

The Organizing Committee also needs to be recognized for the many important details they completed.

An amazing effort that sets a very high standard, so thanks again. (See the Round-Up article on page 4.)

On Sunday, November 20th we did **Christmas Decorating** at the Hall. This went very well with a good group of Volunteers working to get the job done. Gabrielle was in charge and did a fantastic job putting the finishing touches on all the decorations. She even supplemented our decorations with some of her own. It looked outstanding, so thank you Gabrielle and all who came to help set things up.

On December 3rd we held our first **Christmas Luncheon** at the Hall. It was changed from an evening event to a daytime event to make it easier for drivers and, thus, safer to attend. I would say it was a very successful event and highly enjoyable for all. Thank you to everyone who attended and especially to the organizers. (See article on page 6.)

Our next events are a **Casino** on February 10th & 11th and the



David Mackie
President Southern Alberta
Pioneers' and Their Descendants
2022-2023

International Food & Wine Event on Saturday February 25th. Get more information for the Casino and the Wine Event on page 8.

As your new President, I really appreciate everyone's help and support as we move forward through the year ahead.

I hope you had a very joyful and festive Holiday Season with your Families and Friends.

All the Best.

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

2023 REMINDER:
MEMBERSHIP FEES
are due NOW

SAPD 2022 Annual General Meeting

Thirty-five SAPD voting members and several Friend and Associate members attended the AGM at the Memorial Building on October 15, 2022. Besides voting in the new Board of Directors for SAPD, we conducted business that included reviewing, voting for and accepting the proposed changes to the SAPD Bylaws. (See the proposed changes in the September 2022 issue of the SAPD Newsletter, which can be accessed [online](#). The Bylaws can also be accessed [online](#).)

Following elections, here are the names of our 2022-2023 Board of Directors.

SAPD Board of Directors – 2022-2023

- President: David Mackie
- Vice President: Bev Prieur
- Treasurer: Brian Rogers
- Secretary: Carla Begalke *
- Membership Secretary: Sharon Hoiland
- Past President: Shawn Hendry

1-Year Term Directors

- Russell Moore
- Paul Gray
- Michael Kobluk
- Dan Shaw

2-Year Term Directors

- Lana Jones
- Dylan Viste
- Dan Fipke
- Vacant

Note: *Carla Begalke's initial position with the board was as a 2-Year Term Director. A few short weeks later, she accepted the move from Director to Secretary. Thank you Carla.

At the AGM, we extended great appreciation to

- Lynn Hoosier, former Past President and Secretary, for her dedicated support of Shawn Hendry and the 2021-22 Board of Directors.
- Former Committee Chairs and volunteers for their devotion to SAPD members, and for continuing to advise committees using their long history and experience with SAPD. So many members have given of their time and energy over the years; we could fill this entire page with all of their names.
- Committee Chairs and volunteers who are choosing to continue serving in the positions they've held.
- Members who are stepping up to fill positions within the committees.

**A complete list of
Board Members and Committee Members**
with contact information is on page 12

Volunteer Opportunities!

- ⇒ 2-Year Term Director
 - ⇒ Chair of the Fundraising Committee
 - ⇒ Assistant to Bev Prieur (Vice President) on the Social Committee
 - ⇒ Librarian to work with the Historical Committee
- To fill any of these positions contact David Mackie at president@pioneersalberta.org

Do you have a small hobby farm or a larger commercial operation with livestock, produce and more?

Better Farm Insurance starts with Garry Aynbinder's Farm Insurance Program

To review your current insurance & get a free quote, contact garry.aynbinder@brokerlink.ca; Mobile: 403 701 5635

With access to multiple farm markets, I can find you the best price for worry free comprehensive coverage.

I also specialize in commercial insurance for all types of businesses.

Discounts for mature & mortgage-free clients.



LOCAL KNOWLEDGE. 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Buffalo Head Lapel Pins

Gold and Blue
with SAP Logo
\$15.00 each



Contact the office at

sap.office@pioneersalberta.org

Membership Report

by Sharon Hoiland
Membership Secretary

Membership Committee initiatives started in 2022:

- Sending birthday cards to Gold Card members, started in May
- Sending Christmas cards to Gold Card members, ~130 sent
- Locating members without mailing address, phone number or email address

Throughout 2023, the Membership Committee will continue the initiatives started last year as well as focus on

- Recruiting members beginning with members that have recently become inactive
- Piloting a new membership management program to determine if it meets our needs

To see a list of the current Membership Committee members, flip to page 12. If you are interested in joining the committee, have ideas or have time to volunteer, please contact Sharon at

membership@pioneersalberta.org

Our thanks to Maureen Peckham for continuing to give us her guidance and wisdom.

Membership update since the last newsletter:

Welcome to New Members!

Descendant

- Amanda McWhan - Descendant of Caroline Chaplin (PALING) HOPE, Dewinton 1889
- Sharianne Caffet - Descendant of Caroline Chaplin (PALING) HOPE, Dewinton 1889
- Chris Ballard - Descendant of Joseph MOSS, Pine Creek 1879 and Elizabeth SHORTT, Calgary 1886
- Matthew Marquess - Descendant of Samuel William & Helen SHAW, Fish Creek 1883
- Jacqueline Devasahayam - Descendant of Samuel William & Helen SHAW, Fish Creek 1883
- Alia Devasahayam - Descendant of Samuel William & Helen SHAW, Fish Creek 1883
- Angela Boyes - Descendant of James Francis MCKEVITT, Midnapore 1884
- Marcus Legg - Descendant of Edward & Ellen BURKE, Davisburg 1889

Associate

- Martin Jones

Welcome Back to Returning Members

Descendant

- Alan McWhan - Descendant of Joseph HOPE, Red Deer Lake 1886
- Jim Hendry - Descendant of Samuel William & Helen SHAW, Fish Creek 1883; R. C. Thomas, 1881
- Jill Hendry - Descendant of Samuel William & Helen SHAW, Fish Creek 1883; R. C. Thomas, 1881
- Scott Hendry - Descendant of Samuel William & Helen SHAW, Fish Creek 1883; R. C. Thomas, 1881
- Chad Hendry - Descendant of Samuel William & Helen SHAW, Fish Creek 1883; R. C. Thomas, 1881

New Gold Card members

- Karen Nelson
- Donald Gardner

In Memoriam

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Jean Chugg | We'd like to belatedly mark |
| • Pat Rodrigues | the following members who |
| • Jim "Bud" Eagleson | passed away prior to 2022, |
| • Stanley "Mac" Elder | and were not previously |
| • Wilda Allen | noted: |
| • Mary Tebo | • Joseph Gordon Grier |
| • Judith Lindsey | • Barbara McHugh |

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

2023 Membership Fees Are Due

2023 Membership fee is \$40. Send cheques to: SAPD 3625 - 4 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2S 1Y3, Attn: Membership.

Send e-transfers to membership@pioneersalberta.org and send a separate email with the security answer along with any address, phone and/or email updates.

Thank-you to all that have already paid your 2023 Membership Dues!!

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Descendant – 279 members with **52** in arrears at Dec. 31/22
Descendant Gold Card – 115 members
Associate – 33 members with **7** in arrears at Dec. 31/22
Associate Gold Card – 30 members
Friend – 9 members with **0** in arrears at Dec. 31/22
Honorary – 5 members **Total: 471**

100th Annual Round-Up

By Shawn Hendry
Past President & Round-Up Co-convenor

The 100th Annual Round-Up was a tremendous success! We sold 208 tickets for the event, with 200 plus attending despite the weather and everyone that attended indicated that they had a fabulous time. The theme of "Return to the Roaring 20s", which invited guests to come as they may have at our 1st annual Round-Up, was a huge success.



So many people came dressed in period attire as well as those who came as they were, provided a

look back to 100 years ago.



The evening started with a reception in the foyer where everyone had a chance to mingle, enjoy a beverage and view the silent auction items which were set up in the Oval room with a photo booth from Oh Snap Photo Camper. The free pictures to those who wanted them also seemed to be a big hit with the theme.



Following the reception, we convened in the Crystal Ballroom where we had 25 tables for the crowd.



The head table was piped in by Steph West and made its way through the Crystal Ballroom to their table.



The head table consisted of Immediate Past President, Shawn Hendry and Nicole Hendry; Past President and Pioneer Lady Pamela Hilton and Del Huber; Past President, Lynn Hoosier and Patricia Melville; the 2023 Pioneer Gent as well as Past President Roy Clark and his wife Karen.

It was an honor for me to be the MC as your past President and along with my wife Nicole, convenors for the event. I started the evening with providing some of the history of SAPD to many of those in attendance that may be just learning about us.

We then had Lynn Marquess come up and read the names of the members that have moved on to higher service. Unfortunately, from not having the event since 2019, we had lost many members that we honored and were looking upon us as we celebrated the Round-Up.

My mother, Cheryl Lyn Hendry, then played *Oh Canada*

followed by leading us through Grace. We then proceeded to, in a first for most of us, raise our glass and make a toast to King Charles III of England.

Dinner was then served by the Palliser Hotel staff. I thought, and many concurred, that it was a fantastic meal with Prime Rib as the highlight. The Palliser staff were fantastic in their service and everyone seemed happy!

After dinner, we had a number of presentations including to the 2022 Pioneer Lady, Pamela Hilton, and Pioneer Gent, Alan Love (accepted by Roy Clark); 2020 and 2021 Pioneer Lady, Joan Christianson, and Pioneer Gent, Dave Wake; plus an award to the Palliser Hotel for our 100-year partnership.



I am not aware of many organizations that have had a partnership for over 100 years, but we recognize their contributions to us and thank you to the Palliser to be a key partner of our association.



We then heard from our 2022-2023 President, David Mackie, who provided his insights on his term.



David's message was followed by the presentation of Past Presidents' pins to John Hutchings, Lynn Hoosier, and myself.

I was then honored by my Woodall family – Aunts Pamela Hilton, Sue Miller and Lana Jones; and my Mother – in receiving the gift of my

great, great grandfather's past president's pin. Most people know that I am not usually short for words, but I was, and it was such an honor!



We proceeded to then do a number of door prizes before we had the Larry Vanetta band provide our evening with wonderful entertainment!
Great times dancing!

The Silent Auction closed at around 10 and also seemed to be a huge success.

Special thank you to the Palliser Hotel and the donators of our Silent Auction items as well as our Corporate donations for the event. In the end, the silent auction and corporate donations enabled us to make over \$6000 total for SAPD and SAPF with the event.

Such a wonderful evening and
I look forward to seeing all at the next
Round-Up in 2023!!



OUTDOOR PLANTS HOUSEPLANTS HOME & PATIO FURNITURE
GARDEN DECOR GROW SUPPLY BIRD FEED SOILS & BARK POTS TOOLS

Family owned
and operated for
over 23 years!

ANYTHING GROWS

COCHRANE'S LARGEST
GARDEN CENTER
OPEN YEAR ROUND
403-932-9922
209 River Ave, Cochrane, AB, T4C 2C1
www.anythinggrowsalberta.com

Christmas Party Luncheon

By Bev Prieur and Rhonda Hutchings
Convenors

After a three-year hiatus due to COVID, it was time to celebrate the season again! We decided to have a day-time function rather than the traditional evening dinner, reason being that it would be safer for out-of-town guests to attend. It was a sunny day with highs of around 0°C.

With 72 attendants including two children, and zero “no-shows,” we were all able to dine upstairs using nine round tables and three rectangular tables. A bit crowded so, next time, we could lessen congestion by using fewer round tables and more rectangular tables. The bar was located downstairs.

Guests were greeted by our Pioneer Gent and Lady, Roy Clark and Kathleen Rogers.

The room was very festive with lovely decorations and table settings, each of which had a bowl of assorted chocolates.

The party started at 12:30PM and lunch was served banquet style at 1:30PM. Bev Prieur emceed the proceedings plus provided grace.

To ensure the highest sanitary standards and least waste, Alpine Catering served each diner a delicious traditional Christmas dinner with all the fixings. The meal was concluded with an abundant selection of pies, plus coffee and tea.



Once lunch was over, we had draws for door prizes. Grateful thanks to these donors:

- Rhonda Hutchings –a bottle of Pioneer wine
- Al Lynas –a book set, *The National Dream* and *The Last Spike*
- Kristen McKay –two Camp Four candles (which she hand made)
- John Hutchings –a box of chocolates



Following this, we commenced singing traditional Christmas Carols.



Regrettably, our regular pianist, Cherilyn Hendry, could not attend so we recruited Anne Pozzi, a retired music teacher, to tickle the ivories; she was tremendous. A bottle of wine (donated by Rhonda Hutchings) and chocolates were presented to her by John Hutchings in appreciation for providing her time and talents.

Food Bank donations were \$100.00, thanks to those who contributed.

SAPD’s functions cannot be possible without our zealous volunteers.

- Dan Shaw – moving furniture, setting up and taking down tables and chairs
- John Hutchings and Tim Prieur –bartending
- Kathy Clark –checking people in and selling drink tickets
- Robin Arthurs –helping in the setup and take down
- Kathleen Rogers –setting up the reception table



- Gabrielle Leah – helping to set up and decorate the room.



Blown off the Train

Submitted by Marcel Hebert*
SAPD Historical Committee

In 1886, a Canadian Pacific Railway train loaded with settlers from Unionville, Ontario was speeding its way westward between Medicine Hat and Calgary, when a nine-year-old boy had an accident that easily could have been fatal.

A very strong wind was blowing that fateful day and, as the boy passed from one car to another, he was blown off the platform into a ditch beside the tracks.

The children had been constantly moving back and forth between the cars, so his parents didn't realize he was missing until the train was 30 miles away. This was one lucky boy because he landed in shallow ditch water and managed to come away with only a few minor cuts and bruises.

Just as the last coach passed by, he quickly picked himself up and started running down the track, yelling for help. His calls were snatched off by the wind as the train disappeared down the tracks.



He walked along the tracks and shortly spied a lonely pioneer's sod shack in the distance, so struck out across the prairie in that direction. The wind howled and dust stung his eyes. He finally reached the shack and knocked on the door to ask for help. A short Métis man stood in the darkened doorway.

The boy may have stumbled upon the home of Jerry Potts – an uncanny scout and legendary plainsman who worked 22

years for the North-West Mounted Police – and the perfect person to help him. One small problem – Potts was a man of few words! After giving the boy a drink of water and some food, he'd only say "go west," point him in the direction and send him on his way.

As the boy continued his pilgrimage westward, a section gang working on the track came into view. They gave him a lift back to the station house on their handcar then flagged down a west bound express train.

A telegram was sent ahead, and he continued to Calgary where his anxious parents waited.

While looking for a comfortable seat on the train, he noticed a kindly, well-dressed gentleman and they began to talk.



The gentleman, one Mr. James Lougheed, told the boy he had a son named Clarence, who was close to his age.



"We live in a nice house in Calgary, called Beaulieu." They discussed adventures to be had, like swimming and rafting on the Elbow and Bow River or going to see the mountains and hot pools in Banff.

The time passed quickly and, before he knew it, the train was pulling into the Calgary station. His mother and father were standing on the station platform, so happy to have their son back.



Could this be a true story or simply a yarn about a young boy coming west? Maybe he grew up to be no other than the legendary cowboy John Ware!

This story is a yarn based on Addie Ella Bertha McCullough's true adventure as reported in the 1890 Calgary Herald. You never know what real adventures

and connections happened among our pioneers.

*Marcel Hebert is a Hebert descendent of immigrants who arrived in New France (Canada) in 1647.

Glen Godlonton 403.829.9500

For a list of

- Recent sale prices
- Low down payment properties
- All in your neighbourhood,

Please call me



www.Godlonton.com Glen@Godlonton.com

Experience Makes the Difference.

CIR REALTY

**Proud member of the
Southern Alberta Pioneers**

- Native Calgarian
- Free in-home appraisal
- No pressure assistance, whether you are buying or selling a home



2023

Casino



DATES & TIMES: Fri. & Sat. February 10-11, 2023 | 11 AM to 3:30 AM

LOCATION: 218 - 18 Ave. SE Calgary

The casino is at the corner of 17th Ave S and Macleod Trail just a block from Victoria Park train station.

Monies raised support SAPD's Historical Committee budget.

COME VOLUNTEER WITH US: Members are needed and welcome to volunteer for this fun night.

Contact **Gene Blakley** at fshrcrk@xplornet.com or at 403-931-2264 (let ring 7x to leave message)

26th International Food and Wine Tasting

Saturday, February 25, 2023 starts at 7 PM

SAPD Memorial Building

Featuring Food and Wine from Italy, France and Spain

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

TICKETS: \$45.00 per person

Ticket purchases can be done by:

1. E-transfer to events@pioneersalberta.org In the message box, write "Attention: Bev Prieur, Wine Event" (Contact a convenor for the password)
2. Send a cheque to SAPD by either
 - Mail to: SAPD Memorial Building, 3625 - 4 St. SW, Calgary, AB T2S 1Y3
 - Or drop cheques or cash off at the Memorial Building by February 20
 - Mark on the envelope: "Attention: Bev Prieur, Wine Event"

Tickets are non refundable, *does not include a full meal, and can be picked up at the door.

Main Contact Person: Bev and Tim Prieur: bjprieur@outlook.com

Conveners: Brian and Kathleen Rogers: treasurer@pioneersalberta.org
Jeff and Maureen Hill: moehillg5@gmail.com



HURRY!

This event is popular and the venue accommodates only 70 people.

Chinook for Christmas

By Jean Blakley
Submitted by Gene Blakley

Just prior to Christmas c1925, a raging snowstorm was followed by bitterly cold weather. The main road from Calgary to Millarville, which was through the Sarcee Reserve and up over the Weasel Head Hill, was completely blocked.

It was Christmas Eve. My brother John, sister Kathleen, and I had come into Calgary the previous week to do some Christmas shopping and visit friends. Our problem now was how to get back to our Millarville home in time for Christmas Day.

Luckily for us, our married sister, Maybelle, and her husband had come into town by team and sleigh to do their shopping and to visit friends in South Calgary. Braving the cold – 40 degrees below zero F – we took the streetcar to South Calgary to meet them. Their sleigh box was filled with hay, but sans the warm outdoor clothing of today, we would run behind the sleigh to get warm. The trip took several hours and it was nearly dark when we parted from Maybelle and Stan at the Lower Meadow Ranch gate.

The snowdrifts ahead were unbelievable with the snow seemingly deeper the further west we went. With John breaking trail, we pushed through the Meadow, our lower

ranch, until we reached the road by the Millarville post office. There had not been any traffic on it, not even a saddle horse. By the time we reached the MacKay ranch, I was sure my end was near. Yet I redoubled my efforts and trudged on in John's footsteps, feeling very much like the page following in the footsteps of Good King Wenceslaus.

After a time, I asked John if it was true that one became warm when they were freezing to death, and he thought it was true as he also was becoming very warm. In fact, when my sister also said she was getting warm, we realized what was happening; a Chinook was blowing. That lovely soft breeze from the Pacific that makes this foothill country so different from any other part of Alberta.

Epilogue: This story was written by Gene Blakley's mother, Jean. It shows how distance and weather were faced differently a century ago. Image Maybelle and Stan OK with leaving the younger siblings to break a trail through the snow from the Millarville Racetrack to Fisher Creek and 549 West in minus 40 degrees F. I like the idea of the brother leading his two sisters through the snow on a cold night looking forward to the light in the window where Christmas and family

await. Our hope is that this brings back good memories of Christmas for you. Gene Blakley

(Edited: to find the unedited article, go to [Millarville Historical Society](#))



Chinook [shi-nook]: a warm, dry wind that blows at intervals down the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains.





EST. **GRASS FED BEEF** 1890
BURKE CREEK RANCH
TOP QUALITY ALBERTA BLACK ANGUS

Currently delivering to Calgary & Claresholm
(587) 223-4305
hello@burkecreekranch.com

Rideau Pharmacy

TIM HEATON
B.Sc. Pharm. M.Sc.

1711 - 4th STREET S.W.
CALGARY, ALBERTA T2S 1V8
PHONE: (403) 228-5067 OR (403) 228-7065
FAX: (403) 228-5068





Captain Boynton: Early Calgary's Tragic Hero

(Sir Griffith Henry Boynton, Baronet, 1849-1937)

Contributed by Doug Coats, Edited by SAPD News

Griffith Henry Boynton was born into a wealthy English family on May 31, 1849. His father, Rev. Griffith Boynton, was the Anglican rector of Barmston, East Yorkshire, for nearly 40 years. Boynton Jr was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, which he entered in 1868.

Boynton immigrated to Southern Alberta in June 1883, and squatted a little south of Fish Creek and west of Macleod Trail. He lived "under canvas" while he had a seven-room house built of dressed lumber (rather than logs) likely purchased from James Walker's mill in Calgary. The Calgary Weekly Herald called it a "palatial residence". Fish Creek was renamed Midnapore that year (see [Midnapore History](#)).

It is thought that Boynton was a "remittance man" (i.e., "...the younger son of a titled English family who depended on a remittance of money from home"). Indeed, his financial dealings in Alberta were done in the name of his brother-in-law in England.

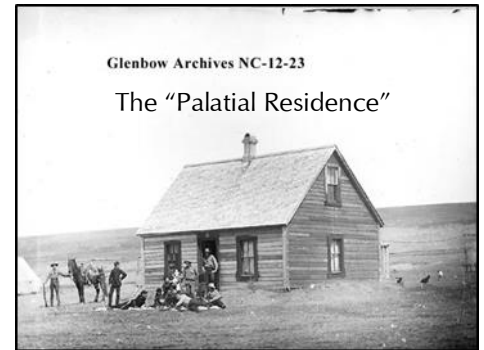
There are no online records to show that "Captain Boynton" did any military service, although local historians suggested he might have been a former naval officer or a retired army officer. Or, his title may have just been a farcical reference to an 1880's celebrity who was called Paul Boyton, Captain of the Atlantic.

In March 1884, Boynton built the Calgary Theatre Hall, popularly known as Boynton Hall. On his homestead application, Boynton listed the building's value as \$8,200 and noted that two double storefronts he erected on 2 of his five lots were worth \$2,300.

The Weekly Herald described the Hall as *"a substantial frame building, 94 x 36 feet. The auditorium is 57 x 36 feet, with a gallery over the entrance, and is calculated to seat 500 people. The stage is 37 feet deep, and is fitted up... [to shift] scenery ... from above, with... pulley and balance weights, like a window sash, a great improvement on the old-fashioned rollers."* In praise of Boynton, the Herald wrote, *"To men of enterprise like Capt. Boynton the town owes very much of her progress and such opportunities as the present should be embraced to show our appreciation of their efforts."*



Boynton Hall, centre.
Note the high back
roof over the stage.
Glenbow Archives
NA-1075-14



Glenbow Archives NC-12-23

The "Palatial Residence"

Because Boynton's house wasn't quite level, there is a story that every morning he would leave his piano, the first in the area, in the living room, only to find that by evening it had rolled to the kitchen. He claimed that the slope made the house easy to clean – "I throw a pail of water in the front door and let it run through the house and out the back door."

In time, the Hall became the all-round community centre, hosting school classes, the District Court, Anglican Church services, dances, fireman's balls, concerts, dinners, plays, political meetings, and even the first meeting of the Town Council after Calgary's incorporation.

In July 1884, profits from a concert given in Boynton Hall raised funds to build the [St. Paul's Anglican Church](#), which still stands beside Macleod Trail in Midnapore. Boynton was considered, by some, to be the erratic Manager on the four-person committee.

In May 1884, the public-spirited Boynton was chosen as one of three judges for Calgary's track and field events on the birthday of Queen Victoria. He was also elected first president of the new Alberta Lacrosse Club and is now a member of the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame.



In December 1884, Boynton returned to England, completely missing the panic that gripped Calgary during Louis Riel's Northwest Resistance.

On April 14, 1885, he married Euphemia Violet Guthrie Chalmers at St. Stephen's Kensington in London, with his father the reverend officiating. Violet was a well-to-do Scots lassie who was accustomed to upper-class life. How would she fare on a homestead in Midnapore, District of Alberta, Canada? Upon their arrival in August 1885, a number of friends were at the train station to welcome Boynton home; however, Violet was "in the family way", thus "in confinement" and could not be seen. At the time, Violet was not in a mood to be met considering the sea crossing and the long train trip across Canada while in the early stages of pregnancy.

Also by then, the couple was not on good terms. She repeatedly rejected his advances for marital relations and her loathing got to the point that she seized him by the throat one night screaming "I loathe you!" At another time, she came at him with a razor, threatening to kill him. He had to hold her hands tight till she dropped the weapon.

Nor was Violet happy with Alberta, with Boynton's "palatial home", and with rough-and-tumble Calgary/Midnapore with its false fronts and dirt streets. Within a month of her arrival, the Herald reported that "Mrs. Captain Boynton thinks of returning to England" – without her husband. Boynton was close to fulfilling the Homestead Act's three-year residency requirement, and wanted to qualify for his patent.

In 1886, Boynton left for England, never to return, still waiting for his patent. He hired an auctioneer to sell "That very desirable farm known as the Boynton Ranche, situate on Fish Creek, with an 'A-1' dwelling house, consisting of 7 (seven) rooms, good shingled stable, and other outbuildings, good well on the premises; within one mile of Fish Creek Church. This is admitted to be one of the best farms in the district... Title perfect, TERMS CASH. E.G. Thomas, auctioneer."⁵⁷ The ranch sold for a mere \$950.58.

Captain Boynton was largely forgotten in Calgary. In England, the "Captain" title was dropped. He visited Violet, who was back in Kensington with her mother and their new daughter, Gladys. After a form of reconciliation, the couple had two more children: Griffith Wilfred in 1889 and Constance in 1891. In censuses, Violet continued to be listed as "wife" even though she and the children lived apart from her husband.

In 1899, Griffith became Sir Griffith Boynton, 12th Baronet of Barmston. In 1902, Sir Griffith was one of only 14 English Baronets invited to King Edward VII's Coronation by Royal Command, due to holding a title granted before 1620. He now divided his time between London and the family estate in Yorkshire.

"Dame Euphemia Violet Guthrie" passed away in September 1930. The now 82-year-old Sir Griffith began courting the widowed Mrs. Witham. He obtained a marriage license and booked the church – and was stood up. Asked if Mrs. Witham knew that he had obtained a marriage license, the reply was "You don't ask silly questions at my time of life, you just get the license." They finally tied the knot in 1932 in London.

Sir Griffith died in 1937 at the age of 88. With his death, the title of Baronet of Barmston passed to his son, Griffith Wilfred Boynton. When Griffith Wilfred Boynton died in 1966, the title died with him.

Epilogue: The SAPD's library/archives include a much longer write-up on Sir Griffith Henry Boynton that includes many citations. If his story piques your interest, contact our [Historian](#).



2022-2023 Board of Directors, Committees and Pioneer Reps



OFFICERS

- President: David Mackie: 403-510-7769
president@pioneersalberta.org
- Vice President: Bev Prieur 403-852-8104
bjprieur@outlook.com
- Treasurer: Brian Rogers 403-863-0048
treasurer@pioneersalberta.org
- Secretary: Carla Begalke 403-294-9464
secretary@pioneersalberta.org
- Membership Sec.: Sharon Hoiland 403-607-6884
membership@pioneersalberta.org
- Past President: Shawn Hendry 403-464-1737
past_president@pioneersalberta.org

DIRECTORS

1-Year Term

- Russell Moore 403-618-6277
russellmooreimages@gmail.com
- Paul Gray 403-338-1770
paulgray@telus.net
- Michael Kobluk 403-542-1921
mkobluk@shaw.ca
- Dan Shaw 403-861-3000
danshaw1959@gmail.com

2-Year Term

- Lana Jones 403-246-4961
lejones@telus.net
- Dylan Viste 403-854-8978
dcviste2202@gmail.com
- Dan Fipke 403-607-7392
dafipke@gmail.com
- **VACANT**

THE 2022-2023 PIONEER GENT & LADY ARE

**ROY CLARKE
KATHLEEN
ROGERS**



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building Committee:

- Chair: John Hutchings 403-252-2428
sap.office@pioneersalberta.org
- Committee Members:
Dan Shaw, Carl Ringdahl, Jeff Hill,
Dylan Viste, Alan Love

Fundraising Committee

- Chair: **VACANT**
- Casino: Gene Blakley 403-931-2264
fshrcrk@xplornet.com

Historical Committee

- Chair/Historian: Alan Lynas 403-228-7815
0121walker@gmail.com
- Librarian: **VACANT**
- Historical Display: Carolyn Preston
- Stampede Parade Advisor: Linda Chudey

Membership Committee

- Chair: Sharon Hoiland 403-607-6884
membership@pioneersalberta.org
- Admin. Assistant: Megan Ballard (Joined Sep. 2022)
- Telephone: Joan Christianson
- Cards & Remembering: Lynn Marquess

PR & Communications Committee

- Chair: Kelsey Hipkin..... 403-700-8698
kmhipkin@gmail.com
- IT: John Rauchert
webmaster@pioneersalberta.org
- Newsletter Editor: Val McKinney
newsletter@pioneersalberta.org

Records Management:

- Lynn Hoosier 403-680-3113
Lynnhoosier18@gmail.com

Social Committee:

- Chair: Bev Prieur 403-852-8104
bjprieur@outlook.com

SAPD Rental Agent:

- Gabrielle Leah 403-243-3580