

## Next Meeting

Next scheduled  
general meeting,  
Saturday, October 25  
12:30 - 2:00 PM

**Featured speaker:**  
Helen Divjak  
Manager of Public  
Programs, Museum of  
History & Industry (MOHAI)

Family History  
Speaker: TBA

Board of Officers  
will meet 10:30 am

Pioneer Hall  
1642 43rd Ave East  
Seattle (Madison Park)

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## Feature presentation at our October 25 meeting: Remembering the Fair: Preserving and Sharing Your Personal A-Y-P Stories

In 1909, Seattle hosted its first world's fair, the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. Held on the University of Washington campus, the event drew almost 4 million visitors and put the young city on the map. At the October 25 meeting of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, beginning at 12:30 p.m., Helen Divjak, Public Programs Manager for the Museum of History & Industry, talks about the fair's significance to Seattle and how you can preserve and share your own A-Y-P stories and collections. Learn how to interpret artifacts in your own home that may be connected to the fair, and then take a brief tutorial in how these items should be cared for to better preserve them for generations to come.



Courtesy of MOHAI

Helen Divjak is the Manager of Public Programs for the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI), where her duties include creating and coordinating the museum's lectures, classes, conferences, and historic tours. After working with regional museums in the Twin Cities, the National Archives in Washington DC, and the Public Records Office of the United Kingdom, Divjak came to Seattle to complete her Master's Degree in History and Certificate in Museum Studies at the University of Washington. She currently sits on the board of the Association of King County Heritage Organizations (AKCHO), and is an active member of the Fremont Historical Society.



1642 43rd Avenue East  
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206-325-0888 Telephone  
www.wapioneers.org

**Pioneer Hall Hours**

From October through March  
Open Houses are held  
on the second and fourth  
Sunday of each month.  
between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.

**Board of Officers**

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| President          | Jeff Christensen   |
| 1st vice president | Junius Rochester   |
| 2nd vice president | Marilyn McLaughlan |
| 3rd vice president | Helen Langer Smith |
| Secretary          | Betsy Losh         |
| Treasurer          | Gary Zimmerman     |
| Historian          | Gary Zimmerman     |

**Trustees**

Louise Jones-Brown, Leonard Gayton,  
Carla Cumins Hendrickson, Loren Rankin  
(term to June 2009)

David Brazier, Mary Louise Hammond,  
Steven Rochester, Catherine Spedden  
(term to June 2010)

Kathy Durgan Dettmar, Peggy Parietti,  
Lawrence Puffert, Joe Wert  
(term to June 2011)

**Pioneer Presences**

Jeff Christensen, Editor

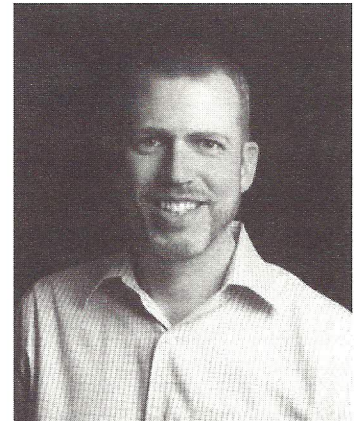
*Contributors this issue:*  
Catherine Spedden

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*"Change"*  
**President's Message**

I'm privileged to be writing this message at the start of my second term as your president. Not surprising, my first term was what I can only refer to as one long learning curve. Prior to taking office - even after having overseen several committees and serving on the Pioneer's board - I underestimated how much time and energy it took to 'steer the ship', as it were. Luckily, I was surrounded all along the way by fellow board members: a great deal of wisdom and a wealth of experience to drawn from - and I think we had a productive year.



Now, as I think ahead to the next nine months, I do so with the same level of conviction, but also with a little more savvy and with the appreciation of the fact that the greatest impact I may ever make on this organization - whatever that turns out to be - will likely take place during the remaining months of my term. I also do so with a greater sense of patience and a renewed appreciation for the fact that a key component of my role is helping our organization move forward, through change.

Planning, implementing and then weathering the effects of change are all part of keeping an organization like ours vital - but let's face it: for many people, change can be hard. In many ways, I consider myself fortunate that change was an ever-constant presence in my life while growing up. Born into a military family, I was constantly exposed to "The New": new people, new places and new experiences lay around every corner during my most formative years. None of this, however, meant turning my back on what "was" or where I came from. Knowing that The New was inevitable, but parents worked even harder to make sure that the familiar was close at hand. Through stories and pictures and the very things around me, I was given some consistency to mix in with all the change. It's where I gained an appreciation for my ancestors and my roots at such an early age. While I may have been living in Boston or San Diego, my family was from Enumclaw and San Juan Island and whenever the summers came, those are the people and places that I returned to.

So the Pioneer Association goes through its own changes. Some of them - like finally getting new blinds throughout the Hall - are welcome, if small. Others, like the recent changing of the guard as Gary Zimmerman steps down as our Treasurer after 12 years, definitely feel significant.

The reality is that, in order to move our organization forward over the next nine months, I'm likely to propose to you all a little change - but I'll be doing it in an effort to make sure we will always maintain the familiar and what "was", and so that the stories and pictures and things around us will always have a home.

Jeff Christensen  
*President, 2008-09*

## MOHAI sponsors "Discovering A-Y-P: A Community Research Project"

In 1909, Seattle hosted its first world's fair, the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. In 2009, the centennial celebration of the A-Y-P Exposition will take place throughout Seattle. MOHAI will be involved in several related events and programs, with the first, "Discovering A-Y-P: A Community Research Project, beginning in the fall of 2008.

An exciting community history project built upon MOHAI's demonstrated strengths in teaching Nearby History skills, Discovering A-Y-P will teach citizens how to research historical evidence connected with Seattle's first world's fair, and help participants share their research with the community. Topics may range from how the fair affected Seattle's early urbanization and transportation systems to how it influenced the women's suffrage movement. Individuals may wish to uncover the story surrounding an A-Y-P keepsake or delve into shocking accounts from behind the scenes at the fair. Join MOHAI experts at one of the two-hour workshops offered at various public libraries throughout Seattle and King County beginning in the fall of 2008.

Participation in Discovering A-Y-P is free and open to all but registration is requested and will begin in late September. To register, please visit: <http://www.ayp100.org>. For more information, including the date and location of the event nearest you, contact Helen Divjak via e-mail at [helen.divjak@seattlehistory.org](mailto:helen.divjak@seattlehistory.org) or via telephone at (206)324-1126, ext. 30, or Lorraine McConaghy at [lorraine.mcconaghy@seattlehistory.org](mailto:lorraine.mcconaghy@seattlehistory.org) (206) 324-1126, ext. 23.

### **Coming in 2009 at MOHAI, A-Y-P Centennial**

Pacific Northwest Historians' Guild Annual Conference,  
Saturday, March 7

"Photographing the Fair: The A-Y-P-E Photos of Frank H. Nowell  
and Others", opens Saturday, March 7

"Souvenirs and Stories: A Salute to 1909" A day of activities  
for collectors, history buffs and the curious, Saturday, March 14

Arts and Crafts Movement in the Pacific Northwest  
Saturday, May 30 - Sunday, October 4

Discovering A-Y-P Conference, Saturday, October 3

Walking tours of A-Y-P campus, lectures, research  
presentation, summer history tours and more. For more information  
about other events and celebrations taking place around the city,  
visit <http://www.ayp100.org> and <http://www.aype.org>.

## New Officers elected at June Annual Meeting

During the business portion of the June 21 Annual Meeting, the membership elected its Board of Officers & Trustees for the 2008-09 business year.

Re-elected to continue their terms were: Jeff Christensen (President); Junius Rochester (1st Vice-President); Marilyn McLauchlan (2nd Vice-President); Helen Langer Smith (3rd Vice-President); Betsy Losh (Secretary) and Gary Zimmerman (Historian). Gary Zimmerman was also re-elected as Treasurer, due to the fact that a search for his replacement was not yet complete at the time (see article on Page 3, for more).

Candidates elected as Trustees with a 3-year term to 2011, include: Kathy Durgan Dettmar; Peggy Parietti; Larry Puffert and Joe Wert.

Trustees with terms to 2009 and 2010 were elected to serve out their terms. One vacant slot - a term to complete in June 2010 - was filled by member Mary Louise Hammond.

The membership also confirmed the appointment of Marilyn McLauchlan to serve as chair of the Association's Nominating Committee.

*From Independence, Missouri, to Evergreen County, Washington Territory*

## **1854 Wagon Train: Mary Perry's Story**

*An excerpt of one Pioneer's historic journey west...*

My father, Judge Walter Gibbon Perry, was a Justice-of-the-Peace in Garden Grove, Decatur County, Iowa. In April 1854 he sold his farm and, with his wife and four children - Henry Tudor (14 years), Isaac (11 years), Mary Anne (9 years) and Louisa (4 years) - began a journey west. My father did not live to realize his dream: he was killed by Indians near Fort Boise.

At Independence, Missouri, we joined a large wagon train under the command of Captain J.P. Coates. Ours were the last four wagons in the train, belonging to: Mr. Kirkland and family, including son-in-law Mr. Cox; my uncle, George Lake, and his wife and two sons; my father and our family; C.C. Thompson, age 20 and Empson Cantrell, age 19.

One hot day, all on my own, I decided to get some water from the Platte River. I was playing along the shore, when my father (who had followed me), pulled my long braids and, as a reminder, said: "Never leave the train alone, again. You must stay close to the wagons - we were afraid for you. Think of the Indians, the rattlesnakes, animals, hunters, renegades - all crossing the plains."

In June we reached Fort Laramie, where I celebrated my ninth birthday.

In August, we came to where the Indians had burned the grass in order to starve the emigrant's stock. Captain Coates, facing this situation, divided the train into several sections, the Ward Train being just ahead of ours. We were last in the section. All were told to stop at Jeffrie's Cutt-Off, but the Wards went on, beyond. Our last camping place where we were all to meet alive was designed in the guidebook as "White Horse Creek."

Every morning the scouts would ride ahead to search for stray cattle and horses. Mr. Alex Yantis, the scout leader (who later settled in Tenino, Thurston County), and Edward Neely (later of King County), with five other scouts, went on.

After an hour's travel out of a canyon, seemingly friendly Indians in great numbers, stopped our train. The first group were on foot, followed by mounted Indians with guns in deer hide holsters. Mr. Kirkland's daughter was riding on horseback, ahead of the train. Her horse taking fright and becoming unmanageable, she dismounted and made her way on foot to the train, unharmed. After capturing the horse, the Indians came squarely in front of the train and held out their arms to stop it. They shoot hands and talked. Suddenly, while trading with some of our party, the Indians opened fire, killing my uncle, Mr. Lake and my father's teamster, Empson Cantrell. Father, though mortally wounded, did not die for several days: suffering agonies from the jolting wagon. Mr. Kirkland called his sons to get their guns and they returned the Indians' fire. The Indians retreated out of range and parlayed among themselves. At last they agreed to let us pass if we would give them our horses. The wagons went on with the ox-teams as lead. We left father's grist-mill beside the road.

Next day, two Spaniards passed us and stated that our men had shot two of the Indians. We never entertained a doubt but that the men who led the Indians in the attack were white men - as their manner, dress and talk, all indicated it. They were white men with painted hands and faces - the Indians were not painted.

After the Indians left, we buried Mr. Lake and Empson Cantrell in a grave beside the road, heaping stones over it - but we dared not stop for long. The returning scouts told how they had come upon the Ward train after the Indians had killed the men and were preparing to destroy the women and children. They were burned in the brush with their featherbeds.

Father died before we reached the place of the Ward Massacre. We buried him by the side of the road and head stones upon his grave, also (many animals roamed the prairies).

Mr. Yantis planned for the scouts to approach from several directions to make the Indians think they were in great number. The Indians believed all this until one good marksman shot an arrow that pierced a scout's cap and he started running - just as one scout was killed. The Indians, seeing this, returned. The scouts were so outnumbered that they were forced to leave with the piteous cries of the victims ringing in their ears, imploring them to save them.

*Cont'd next page*

Eight year-old Neuty Ward, stunned by a blow, was left on the ground for dead and was rescued by Mr. Yantis and Mr. Neely, as they left. An older boy, William (aged 15), was shot in the lung with a stray arrow while hiding in the brush - the point of the arrow protruding in back. He made his way, after several days living on wild herbs and berries, to Fort Boise, where the arrow was extracted by cutting from the back and pulling it through. When William recovered, he joined the Volunteers and was known as a fearless fighter.

Empson Cantrell, who was shot in our train, had parted with a sister and two brothers at the California road and I do not know that they ever learned of his sad fate.

About two hours after burying Father, we came upon the dreadful sight of the massacred Ward train. Neuty and William has been the only survivors. We thought the Ward train must have been attacked the same day we were. The tool wagon being up front with the big train, the men made wooden shovels and buried the mutilated bodies of our murdered companions. One branch of the Yantis family and many other emigrants left the train in Oregon.

John and Ezra Meeker came west in 1853, the year before we came in 1854. Mr. Meeker, their father, was in our train on his way to Puyallup to join his sons. The Whitsels, of Orting, were also in our train - all going to Puget Sound. How we rejoiced to see Mount Rainier.

We followed the meandering Natchez River. Our wagons crossed the re-crossed the river sixty-two times in one day. When we reached the rugged Natchez Pass over the Cascade mountains, we snubbed the wagons - an ox was killed and the hide cut into ropes to snub to the trees to let the wagons down the steep hillside.

The last of October, we arrived at Bushalier Lake (now Spanaway). We moved into the Bushalier cabin, which was built of logs and had no door or windows and was only half roofed over. This was our first rest after six long months of weary travel. We paused here for three weeks, during which time it rained constantly. We then moved onto the claim my mother took on the south side of American Lake. Here was our permanent home in quite a comfortable log cabin. During all the hardship we had plenty of milk, having brought our cows with us.

Soon after this, my brother Isaac and I were compelled to herd sheep for the Hudson Bay Company, to obtain provisions to sustain life - these being, principally, salt salmon, potatoes and an occasional pan of flour. During the wars of 1855 and 1856 we were thus engaged. Our shield from harm was the statement: "We are King George Tillicums", when questioned by the Indians who would pat us on the head and tell us we were "Hias close Tillicums" (meaning very good little friends").

Seeing Indians so often, Isaac and I soon learned to speak the Chinook jargon. When the Indians went on the Warpath, the settlers would rush to the fort, for refuge. Many times I rode with the Pony Express rider, Bill Tidd. We spent about two months in Fort Nisqually; on other occasions, we went to Fort Steilacoom. Andrew Jackson Frost (my husband to be) and his father, Gilbert Harold Frost, were stationed at Fort Hennes, near Chehalis, when they fought in the wars of 1854 and 1856.

The agents of the Hudson Bay Company were very kind in some instances, but it was to their advantage to delay settlement as long as possible, their mission being trade and traffic with the Indians. The Indians told us that the "King George men" told them that if they killed off the "Bostons" who were here in the West, no more would come to take their land away from them. The "old settlers" knew that those Hudson Bay employees who had Indian wives lived on their farms, unmolested, during the war, so long as they furnished the Indians with supplies and ammunition and kept them informed about soldiers and volunteers. When Governor Stevens proclaimed Martial Law throughout the territory and these informers were arrested and imprisoned in Olympia, the war soon ended.

My mother did not feel ill will towards the Indians, regardless of her terrible experiences: she traded with them milk and butter for clams and oysters.

Elizabeth Mason Lake and Harriet Mason Perry had each filed a 160-acre land claim. One day, Gilbert Harold Frost, a widower, rode horseback from Chehalis to American Lake. He had crossed the plains with his family in 1844. His wife died and was buried at a place called Ash Hollow - leaving him with five children: Elijah (age 13); Andrew (age 11); Polly, Elizabeth and the baby, Liza Jane, just three weeks old. Gilbert Harold Frost knocked on Elizabeth Lake's door and when she answered, he said: "I am looking for a wife." She said: "I am willing." They were married in Steilacoom by Reverend Byles. At the wedding of Aunt Elizabeth Lake to Gilbert Frost I met my future husband Andrew Jackson Frost (Gilbert's son).

*Spotlight on Washington  
historical groups...*

## **Kitsap County Historical Museum**

*Each issue, we highlight one of  
the many fine historical  
museums or groups in our state.*

**Address:** 280 Fourth Street,  
Bremerton, WA 98337

**Phone:** (360) 479-6226

**Hours:** Open Tuesday  
through Saturday from 10:00  
a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and until 8  
p.m. the First Friday of the  
month for the Bremerton  
Arts Walk.

**Museum exhibits:** Kitsap  
County Historical Society  
Museum presents the history  
of Kitsap County through  
unique and changing exhib-  
its. The museum also has a  
full calendar of events so  
check ahead to find out  
what's going on. The  
museum's archives are open  
by appointment and are used  
for **research** by authors,  
students, government  
personnel, local citizens and  
tribal groups. The Historical  
Society is very proud of its  
museum, its commitment to  
education, and its service to  
the community. Almost  
monthly, it sponsors **events**  
and educational programs  
open to the public on a  
variety of interesting topics.  
It also schedules visits by  
school and scout groups.

**Museum Admission:** Call  
museum

## **Meeting minutes highlights from September 20**

*Attendees: David Brazier, Jeff Christensen, Kathy Durgan  
Dettmar, Carol Hawkins, Carla Cumins Hendrickson, Leonard Gayton,  
Louise Jones-Brown, Peggy Parietti, Loren Rankin, Helen Smith,  
Catherine Spedden, Joe Wert.*

The meeting was called to order by President, Jeff Christensen at 10:35 am. The meeting began with self-introductions by the Board and was followed by a review of the proposed agenda and call for new items.

Jeff Christensen gave a report on the current status of the Treasurer's role, now that Gary Zimmerman has stepped down (and is abroad for several months). Jeff confirmed with all Board members present that they had received a recent mail motion to add Saundra Selle as a signatory on the Pioneer Association's Bank of America checking accounts AND had responded in the affirmative. Saundra will act as Serving Treasurer at least until Gary returns – at which point she will either: a) choose to continue in the role herself; b) arrange for a family member (believed to be either a son or nephew) step into the role, after joining the organization or c) let the Board know that they should begin a search for another Treasurer. There is a still outstanding paperwork with the bank to make Saundra's appointment official, but Jeff expects that to be resolved the week of 9/25.

Jeff also made a Membership Committee report, including notifying the Board that new process changes were in the works wherein membership dues would be first handled by the Membership Committee, who will then update the roster and put together a record of deposit to be made, subsequently, by the Association Treasurer.

It was announced that Betsy Losh plans to relinquish her role as Secretary. Jeff requested nominations from the Board and was given the name of Kate Wahls (cousin of Louise Jones-Brown) as well as her contact info. Jeff will reach out to see if she has an interest in the position, then report back to the Board.

A proposed meeting schedule was presented to the Board – a motion to adopt the schedule was made by Carla Cumins Hendrickson and seconded by Carol Hawkins. The dates and times for 2008-09 meetings of the Board and Membership are:

Sat 6/20/09 – 10:00 am Annual Meeting  
Sat 10/25/08 – 10:30 am Board/12:30 pm General  
Sat 1/17/09 – 10:30 am Board/12:30 pm General  
Sat 4/04/09 – 10:30 am Board/12:30 pm General  
Sat 5/16/09 – 10:30 am Board (nominations)

A discussion of the organization's committees was led by President Jeff Christensen. It began with Jeff reviewing a list of proposed committees – including the addition of a single-year "Library Committee" to help establish the newly dedicated Wright Reading Room as an accessible and viable reading/reference space. Once the Board validated the committees

## Association dedicates Shirley Wright Reading Room, forms special committee for 2008-09

At the Annual Meeting on June 21, the Pioneer Association dedicated the library space on the main floor of Pioneer Hall as "The Shirley Wright Reading Room", in honor of Association Past President Shirley Wright. The dedication, which was attended by Shirley's daughter, Kathy Schumer and several of her children and grandchildren, marked the next phase in the Association's commitment to providing a useful and accessible reference library and working space for guests and members. This year, the Association's Board of Officers has established a new Library Committee, with a goal of further establishing collections, as well as helping to define the policies and improvements necessary to maintaining this resource.

### Meeting minutes (cont'd)

for the 2008-09 year, a sign-up sheet was passed so that Board members could sign up to lead or work on a committee. Once particularly large hole in that list was Publicity Chair, for which no one volunteered. As part of the topic, Jeff read through notes from last year's "Committee Brainstorming Activity" to validate that the goals that were laid out by the Board at the time, of which activities it hoped each committee might undertake were still valid (it was deemed that they were). There was an inquiry from the floor about the Pioneer Hall Centennial Committee discussed last year – several board members agreed that last year's proposal related to that committee fell flat, but that it should be revisited this year: Jeff announced that the topic would be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Dave Brazier led a discussion about issue with the Hall's fire alarm system, which is failing. He laid out the options for repairing or replacing the current system, as well the implications around pursuit of a replacement system. After a period of questions and some debate, it was agreed by the Board that we needed to take appropriate steps to assure the safety and well-being of our building and collections. Carla Cumins Hendrickson put forth a motion, which was seconded by Joe Wert, that Dave Brazier be charged with contacting the Seattle Fire Department to begin discussions about what they deem to be appropriate next steps, while Carla would contact our insurance company to obtain their recommendations (based upon Jeff providing the name and/or contact info for said insurer). The Board requested that this item be added to the agenda of the next Board Meeting for discussion.

Next Board and General meeting will be Saturday, October 25.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeff Christensen  
*Acting Secretary*

### *In Memoriam:* **Pioneer Past president Mary Edith Johnson, 1916-2008**

Mary Edith (Edie) Bratton Johnson, 92, Past president of both the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington and the Daughters of the Pioneers, died July 1, 2008, in Shoreline. Edith was born June 5, 1916, in Goldendale. She spent the summers on the family ranch, without indoor plumbing, living in town during the school year. After graduating from Goldendale High School in 1933, Edie went to Ellensburg Normal School (now Central Washington University) to become a teacher.

In 1937, she went to Seattle, to attend business school. Her first jobs were for the Works Progress Administration and National Youth Administration. During World War II she worked for the Navy. She married Herbert Johnson in 1940, in Seattle. In 1978, Edie joined the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington and The Pioneer Association of the State of Washington, and after Herb's death in 1984, she served as president of both organizations at various times, as historian for the Pioneers, and also on the board of the Fiske Genealogical Museum for more than a decade.

**Pioneer Association  
of the State of Washington**  
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## Update on Membership Committee and Treasurer role

*Jeff Christensen*

As was noted elsewhere in this newsletter, we've had some changes in some key roles within our organization and I wanted to give you all an update on where things stand. First, after 12 years of service in the role, Gary Zimmerman has stepped down as our Treasurer. Gary will continue as the Association's Historian, but we have transferred his Treasurer's responsibilities in the following ways: first, member Saundra Selle has stepped in to act as Interim Treasurer until the end of the year, at which time Saundra will determine if she is willing and able to continue in the role or will aid us in seeking a replacement; second, we have begun channeling all membership responsibilities - including the collection and processing membership renewals and dues - fully through our Membership Committee.

As you can imagine (and as some of you have experienced) this change in process, after twelve years, is not an overnight thing and some delays - with the processing of those payments and the addition of new members to our rosters, for instance - cannot be avoided. We are doing everything possible to make the transition as smooth as possible and prevent things like delays in cashing membership checks, but your patience is requested (and greatly appreciated): we hope to have all the kinks ironed out soon.

In the meantime, please assist us by making sure that ALL correspondence with the Association is directed to Pioneer Hall (1642 43rd Ave E, Seattle, WA , 98112) and is **clearly marked** for the intended recipient (all roads no longer automatically lead to Gary). Your assistance will help us respond to your question or payment as quickly as possible.

**Next meeting of the Pioneers: Saturday, October 25, 2008, 12:30 p.m.**