



The Meadowlark

Quarterly Newsletter



Crook County Historical Society
246 North Main Street
Prineville, Oregon 97754

May 27, 2022
E-mail mekia.ogborn@co.crook.or.us
www.crookcountyhistorycenter.org

DIRECTORS CORNER

Greetings. These are exciting times at the museum!

First, the exhibits center: I am pleased to announce that Kirby Nagelhout, a longtime general contractor with strong local ties to the Prineville community, has been selected by the County to build the new exhibits center. As of this writing, leaders from both the County and the historical society are having bi-weekly meetings to monitor a construction plan. We anticipate that the Hans building will be torn down very soon and the groundbreaking for the exhibits center will also be happening in the near future. We're on our way!

"Wild Wednesday," our weekly program of theater and music (with rotating performances of re-enactors and musicians), officially took hold in April with an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response from the community. In honor of our 50th anniversary, April's performance included a gig from Rich Doyle portraying the ghost of museum founder A.R. Bowman. (That was a scream!) A special shout out to the library for partnering with us and doing an amazing job promoting the program...so, please come and join us any Wednesday at 12:15 – we're even making popcorn again!

On the bittersweet side: our longtime historian, Steve Lent, officially retired early last month. Steve plans to have lots of fun in retirement such as hosting museum tours, doing presentations and lectures, consulting on the museum's education programs, and volunteering to work some Sundays during the summer...oh, and he might travel some, too. All kidding aside, we're very thankful that Steve will continue to play an active role for the museum in the foreseeable future.

Finally, I just want to let everyone know that it is now time to vote again for the museum tax levy which will be on the ballot in November. Thankfully, the levy has passed for 25 years straight...and we hope to keep this glorious record intact. Details to follow.

As always, we thank you for your continuous support and wish everyone a wonderful summer!



President's Message

Happy Spring everyone!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Crook County Historical Society, I want to thank the membership for their unwavering support of the Historical Society. We believe our mission to preserve the past for future generations is an important aspect of honoring the culture of Crook County. With the preservation of history, we gain knowledge, understanding, and education. We are able to appreciate where our community began which inspires us to preserve the culture for future generations.

The Crook County Historical Society offers an opportunity to celebrate our community history, and you, our members, are an integral part of that process. Please help us spread the word about the phenomenal benefits of being a member. Like, comment, and share information from our social media accounts – we appreciate interacting with you on social media. Visit the museum this summer and bring your neighbors, family, and friends...it's free! Volunteer your time at the museum to help us preserve our history. Attend the events and field trips available to all members – I know there are some great opportunities happening this summer.

Only through your generous and continuing support can we preserve our local history. We look forward to seeing you at the museum, interacting with you on social media, and serving you for many years to come!

Suzie

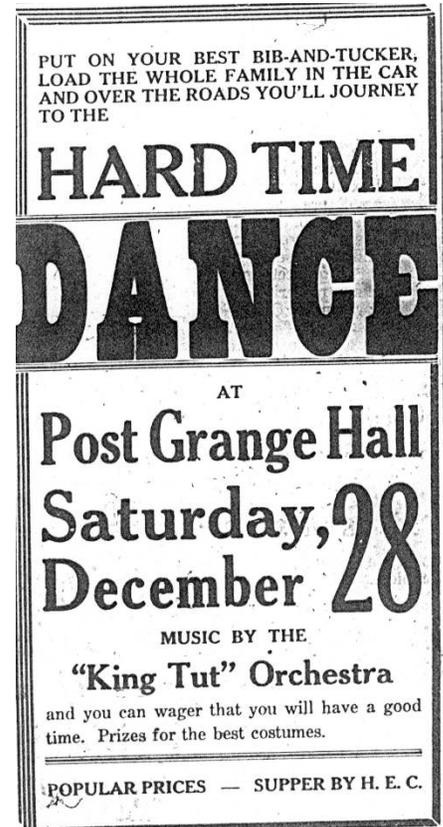
Suzie Kristensen
CCHS President



Photo by Fred Houston, Jr.

Peaceful Transition

Retired museum historian Steve Lent passing along information to museum staff member Mekia Ogborn. Mekia will now be the primary focal point for information. Steve will be volunteering at museum on Wednesdays to answer historical inquiries and to discuss local history.



1934 Advertisement

Memorials Since February 18, 2022

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 Doug Breese
 Nancy Davis
 Dave and Jan Anderson
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 Central Oregon American Realtors
 George & Kristi Redd
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Susan Shelk Fischer

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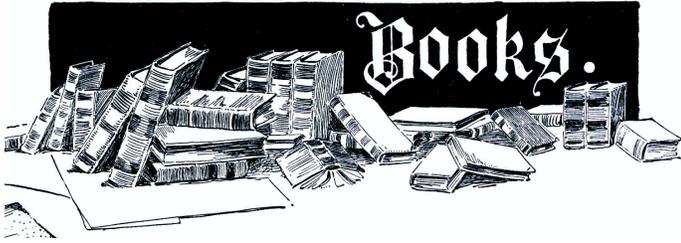
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Deb Shaw	Nicole Warren
Bruce Gannon	Barbara Van Osten
Holly Ptomey	Patrick Howard
Alec Stewart	US Bank
Dean Hanes	Ryan & Cindy Sale
Sasha Lawless	
Brian Tryon	
Tracia Larimer	

Lower Desert Historical Tour

Saturday June 11, 2022

The Spring tour will be visiting the Lower Desert and includes Old Culver, Culver, Lake Billy Chinook, Grandview, Balanced Rocks, Grandview Cemetery, Geneva and Old Camp Polk. Steve Lent will be the tour guide and a guide book will be available. We will meet at Pioneer Park Museum at 8:00 AM. There will be some rough roads and it is recommended that passenger cars not be used and good tires are on vehicles. It will be a day long event so bring your lunch and refreshments. The tour will end at Camp Polk about 5 PM so you may want to plan a dinner in Sisters. Tour will be limited to 15 vehicles and a 10 passenger van will be provided on a first come basis. Please call museum to sign up for tour. Phone 541-447-3715



NEW BOOKS AT THE MUSEUM

Members Receive a 10% Discount

Oregon Rocks! A Guide to 60 Amazing Geologic Sites

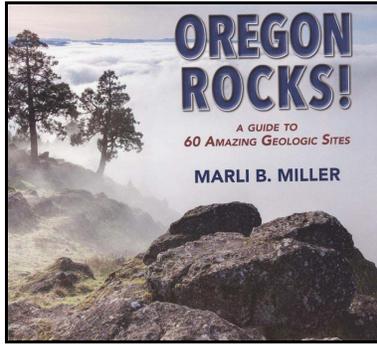
by Marli B. Miller

\$20.00

Paper

154 Pages

This is a beautifully illustrated book about astonishing rocks and land-forms in Oregon. It has been compiled by University of Oregon geology professor Marli Miller. The well-chosen destinations span the state's geologic history. Miller has also authored the very popular



Roadside Geology of Oregon. Highly recommended for those that like to find unique sites in Oregon. Several Central Oregon sites are included. There are also maps and color photos that make you want to head out on a road trip.

Historic Drives Through Scenic Jefferson County, Oregon

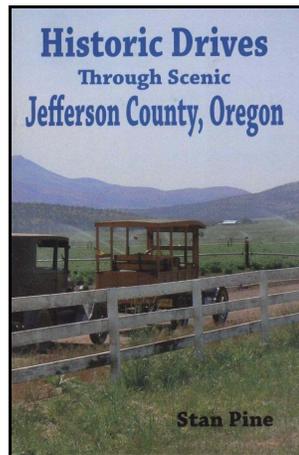
by Stan Pine

\$15.00

Paper

313 Pages

This book contains twenty scenic and historical drives through Jefferson County over both paved and adventurous back roads. It is illustrated with numerous black and white photos and some base maps for finding scenic treasures of the county. Pine has also authored the popular *Hiking Historical Jefferson County, Oregon*. If you are looking for a guide to visiting historic and scenic sites that are rarely visited this is a book for you. This is the newsletter editor's pick of the quarter.



Blood of the Prophets: Massacre at Mountain Meadows

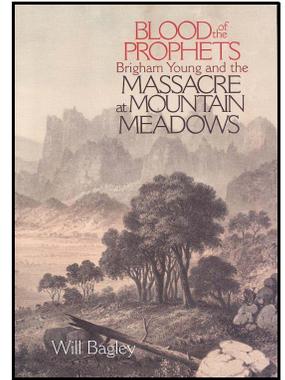
by Will Bagley

\$24.95

Paper

493 Pages

The massacre at Mountain Meadows on Sept. 11, 1857 was one of the most violent attacks on a wagon train in the history of the Oregon and California Trails. Drawing from a wealth of primary sources Bagley explains how the murders occurred, reveals the involvement of territorial governor Brigham Young, and explores the subsequent suppression and distortion of events related to the massacre. Bagley is an award winning author and he traces the events that led to the murder of some 120 men, women, and children and the aftermath of the tragic event.



Guide to Wild Foods and Useful Plants

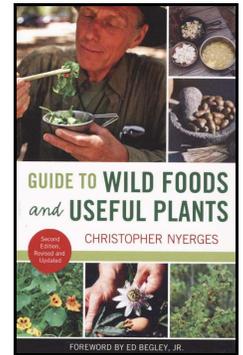
by Christopher Nyerges

\$24.95

Paper

337 Pages

This is an authoritative guide to foraging for edible, useful, and medicinal plants from an expert on horticulture, survival skills, and self-reliance. It teaches how to recognize edible plants and where to find them, their medicinal and nutritional properties, and their growing cycles. It makes identifying food plants fun. It has color photos of plants and key plant identifiers. It also includes folklore about plants and simple recipes for preparing meals.



Presidents Who Shaped the American West

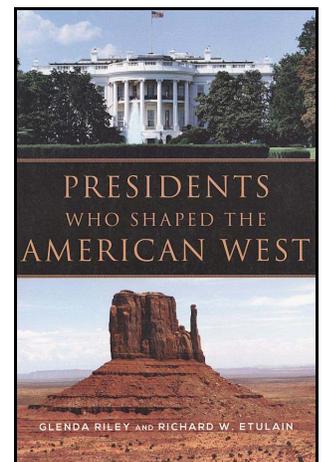
by Richard W. Etulain & Glenda Riley

\$24.95

Paper

264 Pages

The national government's presence in the American West dates to before Lewis and Clark, and since 1789 a number of U.S. presidents have had a penetrating and long-lasting impact on the region. Noted historians Riley and Etulain present startling analysis of chief executives and their policies, illuminating the long reach of presidential power. The book establishes the crucial and formative nature of the relationship between the White House and the West and considers the overarching actions and policies that affected both the nation and the region during the president's administration.



Diary of John F. Noble

1864 Drake Expedition

1st Oregon Cavalry

May 10 to May 20, 1864

Note: This is an excerpt from the journal of John F. Noble who was with the First Oregon Cavalry under command of Capt. John Drake that came through Central Oregon in May 1864. The excerpt covers the expedition up to the time of the engagement with Native American leader Paulina at present Rabbit Valley northwest of the present town of Paulina. His entries are mostly short and often with spelling errors and abbreviations and at times hard to follow. It is a classic first hand account of the battle that resulted in the death of Lt. Stephen Watson among others. Historian Steve Lent is editing the entire journal that will be available at the Bowman Museum in the future.

On Willow Creek a beautiful valley and good land & plenty of timber at the head of it. The stream small and filled with Trout. Thousands of them taken by us all—will not rise to the fly—not very good. I think they are salmon trout. “Sam” the Indian killed a very large “Buck” sent us a fine hind quarter. Snow on a level with us and only 2 miles off—very high & cold.

Tuesday May 10th Camp No. 12
Cottonwood Creek

Left at 5 A.M. morning cold. Distance to camp on Cottonwood creek (*Present McKay Creek*) about 12 miles. About 2 miles struck good camp—running water, from a spring. Here we had a soft marshy place—difficult for wagons—but very short distance. We then commenced ascending the mountain deviding ridge of Blue Mountains—running through to Canyon city. The ascent gradual—somewhat soft in places & sliding for wagons. The descent rather steep and somewhat abrupt at first—road requiring some working to let the teams pass—upset one wagon—no damage. After getting down the valley spread out—and was very pretty. The balance of the road good but miry in places 8 miles brought us to Major Steens old camp. The grass dried up & not good. It grows worse daily as we advance up the old camp (of the Major) a stream comes in from the left & swells into quite a large creek—here we crossed the creek & 3 miles brought us to camp. Recrossed the creek and camped. The road very dusty & dry very windy. Caught but few salmon trout—fine & hard. Poor grass—wood plenty.

Cayuse “Geo” arrived about 4 P.M. with the express from the Dalles—all delighted to see him. I recd several letters from Mrs. Noble—also 1 from Jno G. Campbell—Pr gum & 1 Fall- both adeptable—from Mr. Grewell—Box of Camphor Ice fr Mrs. N & bundle of papers. Mr. Logan sent out old books by (Mr.. Richard Baker of Salem) Geo left Dalles on the 8th Sunday at noon—came by way of Warm springs Reservation. Reached camp at 9 A.M.

Wednesday 11th camp No. 13
Tuch-chee

Left at 5 ½ road good—4 miles brought up to the crossing of Tchee Crossing to bad—followed up several hundred yds— and by a little work found & made a good crossing. Followed up the river 1 mile & camp on the bottom—road very winding & rough, the last 2 miles cut up so much by swales & sagebrush (Steen’s Comd

camped just above us on his trip) Distance today 6 miles.

The river very steep banks & stream swift & cold. Trout would not rise—caught but 3 small ones. Plenty of suckers caught. Grass very poor. Traveled nearly due east today—reached camp at 8 1/4 A.M. Tuch-chee or Willowed creek (“Atchora” so called—Bonnycastle) (*Today’s Ochocho Creek*) should be brier creek. Crooked River & this creek come together just below camp.

Thursday 12th Camp No. 14

On Crooked River

Left at 5 1/4 A.M. and took up the canyon—the road very stoney & rough—and much washed out in many places & had to be worked. About 7 miles brought us to a couple of springs—on the right of the road—here the grass very good and a fine camp (Can’t say there is water at all seasons). About 6 miles further brought us to a small stream sufficient for camp purposes—but not a good camp. We then struck “Crooked river” in about one mile and followed up to the crossing one mile further.

Here we have to make the crossing—the banks very steep. The grass not very poor. No trout caught but suckers & white fish—reached camp—the comd at 11 ½ A.M. Train wagon at 5 P.M. had a hard trip & broke one wagon. Distance 15 ½ miles. Much alkali in this water. Officer of day tonight. Several attempts of the horses to start—generally quiet. The country rugged & very rough—travel to all points of the compass—day very warm.

Friday May 13 Camp No. 15

Distance 6 miles

Comd left at 5 1/4 A.M. Wagons got from other side of river 6 1/4 A.M. Pack train left at 7 3/4 A.M. Found on Co “G” horse. Made 4 crossings of Crooked River. The banks miry & steep—each had to be worked and brushed, the road very sidling. There must have been a very high freshet in 1860—as the washing are very great—the grass poor all along. Two mules mired packs & mules saved. Camped on Cd (*Crooked*) river a creek comes down & empties in the river here. Lt Watson made a scout up this creek—some 6 miles—say signs (Indian) 2 months old—describes it as very pretty valley—fine grass & country—red fish with flat backs in this creek. Some few small trout taken. Commenced raining in the evening—with thunder & lightning- stopped about 11 O.C. P.M. About 9).C. P.M. the horses stampeded—Capt Small took a party & followed—also 2 men of “D” Co. Some 52 head of horses and 1 mile. The guard did not know they had gotten out of the herd.

The cause of the stampede one of the guard’s horses pulled up his picket and rand through the herd. Guard did not report to the officer of the day (Lt Sm M. Hand) until the comdg (*commanding*) off (Capt Drake) went to the herd & notified him. The night cold—windy & stormy with rain.

Saturday May 14 Camp No. 15

This place is called “Wah-pass” by the Indians, meaning the Separation of Waters—as the little creek that comes in here separates in several branches (called by Capt Porter Loar-us) Several parties were starting out in

pursuit of the horses, Capt Small sent 6 horses & 1 mule. I was sent out with 6 men and one Indian. At the 4th crossing 2 ½ miles back from camp I struck the trail where the main band left the road & struck up a very steep, long rocky gulch—in places almost perpendicular. I and the Indians struck up this place, we were compelled to pull each up & then haul up our horses, I had thought at times I would loose my horse also, the Indian’s. It would have been thought impossible for horses to have made the ascent—I was determined not to lose the trail—on reaching the top—found the trail plain. I sent my party around to meet me. It took us one hour to make the ascent of the hill—we followed on up 3 miles and then struck the back-track and followed it to camp—found thus (Barney & Damascus) found them some 3 miles further on grazing they brought in 41 horses. Still left Capt Drake’s 2 horses—1 of “D” Co & 3 of Co “B”—all hands much broken down. The country so bad to travel over, I never travelled over a worse country. Capt Porter caught 25 fine mountain trout, but small. Tie up horses tonight.

Sunday 15th Camp No. 15

Several parties started out this morning—I took 1 Ind & 12 men of my compy at 7 O.C. A.M. and took the hills—just at camp—headed all the canyon for about 11 miles. Came to the place where the horses were found—met several of the other parties. I then struck off for the road and then for Tuch-chee crossings. I sent 6 men to hunt the hill & the river—reached the crossing at 4 O.C. P.M. Grazed the horses 1 hour and lunched & left at 5 O.C. P.M. It cmd (*commenced*) raining on us at 2 O.C. & rained all night—obliterated all tracks. Satisfied they have not gone this way—struck fresh tracks about 7 miles. Some party struck the road (Found Lt Watson had got 3 horses at night reaching camp 12 1/3 M raining hard. Saw 5 fine large deer—no time to hunt also plenty of antelope. Did not overtake the pack train from “Eugene” City—have been out since the 17 March last—lost & followed us. Came in on “Willow Creek”—asked for an escort. Quite a number of horses—badly hurt—slightly unwell much fatigued..

Monday May 16th Camp No. 16

Left camp at 5 3/4 O.C. A.M. Distance 6 miles to camp on Crooked river—fine camp—road soft & miry—mostly through the bottoms—much work done before the recent rains—rained most of the morning. Horses made one or two starts—soon after reaching camp—are now compelled to time up at night—bottoms much out. Saw ducks geese & sage hens today. Found a large tree petrified—think it is juniper. Some appearances of gold. Had an inspect this evening—as the officers were about yesterday. Found dead a horse American shod killed by Indians.

Tuesday May 17 Camp No. 17

Left camp at 5 1/4. Distance 7 or 8 miles made 3 crossings of Crooked River—last reaching camp had to ascend & descend a very long & steep hill. Fine camp & good grass. Camped on the forks of “Tuch-chee” & Crooked River. (*This is the confluence of Crooked River and North Fork Crooked River*) Just before reaching camp discovered the tracks of host of Indians & 1 mile & 1 horse shod Capt Small made a scout—but found

nothing. Fired off all the pistols of the Comd. The Indians start out to trail up the signs found—must before getting to camp. Officer of the Day this evening—relieved Lt Watson. Indian messenger arrived in camp about 7 O.C. P.M. and reported they had found a camp of hostile Indians. Lts J.M. McCall and Watson left camp with 30 men (of D & B Cos) NE direction in pursuit. The night fine all were anxious to join the Comd. They left at 10 o'clock P.M. Horse tied up all night (10 Indians, Cayuse Geo & citizen Barker went also with what Indians were out number 21 Total friendly Indians)

Wednesday May 18 Camp No. 18

Comd left at 6 1/4 A.M. Rear guard at 7 3/4 A.M. and sent the Indian allies horses by the herder & Pat to Camp (as all were out & watching the Indians (hostile) Distance today 5 miles. When at the mouth of the canyon 2 1.2 miles from camp a messenger reached Capt Drake—from McCall asking for reinforcements—stating Lt Watson & 2 men of B Co. Killed & 1 Indian and a number wounded. Capt Drake & Capt Small with 40 men of G Co went to him. Here the stock captured from the Indians by Lt McC's comd joined us (55 head of horses). I had the rear guard increased to 17 men—as the canon is very deep, steep & rocky. Pack train sent—first Indian horses next, cattle next & then wagons—upset the hospital wagon no serious damage done. All reached camp at 11 A.M. Took all precautions. Sent out Vedetes to the highest points—to signal any approaches to camp (Separation as formerly called by Capt Wallen) about noon “Barney” & “Willcox” of Co. D arrived—Capt Drake wished a wagon sent to him for the killed and wounded. Sergt & 6 men of Co G sent with the wagon—Sent out all the provisions that was cooked in the camp & blankets & overcoats. Lt McCall reached camp about 8 o'clock P.M. with his comd—Capt Small about 11 P.M. with the killed and wounded. The men & horses much broken down & worn out. Lt Stephen Watson, Prvts Kennedy & Pvt Harkinson of Co B killed and one Indian “Allie” (Clim-mass Des-Chutes of) Sn (*Snake*) Raid. Wounded 5 men of Comp B—Stock Whit-elsey—A citizen Richard Barker of Salem—5 horses of Compy B killed—5 or more horses of Compy ? Of Co. B Co Burches horse killed and several of the men scratched but not injured. The fight took place about 16 miles north from here. Capt Small reached McCall about 8 1/2 A.M. (*It was just 3 hours from the time the messenger left McCall until the command reached him*) Capt small made the distance in about 1 1/2 hours.

McCall's comd consisted of 16 men of D Cpm—13 of B—21 Indians—2 citizens—total 2 Comd officers & 62 men. He met the friendly Indians in no. 11 about 2 O.C. A.M. on the morning of the 18th and sent out some as scouts and made an attack upon the camp of Snakes about 3 1/2 O.C. He was to advance by the right—Lt Watson by the center and the Indians allies by the left. Watson pressed them and they commenced to retreat to the bluff & rocks. He charged them and when within a few yds of the bluff he found them strongly fortified behind an almost impregnable barricade which had been made by piling up rocks with a solid ledge immediately in the rear—so that it was impossible to get at them in any way—or to dislodge them. It was at this first on set Lt Watson fell—and his men—his ranking Sergt horse was killed, also Watson horse shot & his men horses killed also the Indian Cim-mas was killed, he is a Des-chutes of the band of “Cim-tes-tus” (*Sim-tus-tus*). Stock-whitley rushed up and was wounded in his arm and was unable to use his gun or bow & arrows. He drew his knife and rushed on and when close to the Snake chief Pe-li-ne and asked him to meet him and take his hand—wishing to make a hand to hand fight and then the

Snakes poured a volley into Stock and he was compelled to return. If the others had not come to “Pe-li-ne” assistance Stock would have killed him with his knife. It was with difficulty that he dragged himself from the ground and then by the assistance of Cemtestus. He lost his rifle and arms—which distressed him much and thinks Indian “Geo” should give him a horse for them—blaming him for their loss.

Stock was shot in 6 different places, once in the back of the neck and came out his mouth & broke off a tooth—the next ball shot was in his left shoulder. He is litterly shot to pieces. He remarked to the Indians our Lt is killed now rush on—here is the young Ind—now killed—a handsome and fine young fellow. All the bodies of the killed fell into the hands of the Snakes—dragged within their fortifications. They were striped and their bodies pierced with arrows and badly mutilated and then thrown over a steep rocky cliff.

Lt Watson was shot through the heart by one shot—his left leg broken—and his head knocked in—it may have been done by the fall—or throwing him over. It was her that citizen Barkers horse was wounded & his attempt to get him off—not being able to drive him off—mounted and was then wounded—shot in the leg above the knee & it was broke. He was taken off the field by Cayuse Geo & some men of Co D.

Lt McCall was to make approach by the right—he was brought in range of Lt W's men fire—so he was compelled to go around and found it impossible to get to them. He then in (about 1 hour) succeeded in getting the sounded off the field and retired about 1 1/2 miles to a secure place for the wounded and dispatched a messenger to Capt Jno M. Drake for reinforcements about 6 O.C. A.M. (on the 18th) and almost immediately left 40 men of Co G under comd of Capt Small. All overcoats & blankets were left behind. The Indian allies still held their ground (they were under cover) behind rocks for some time. But as they state their ammunition gave out & were rushed on by 5 mounted Snakes who had come to join the camp—pressed them so—that they were compelled to retreat—and did so across the hills to this (our present camp—“Maury” so called after the Col of our Regt) The Indians did not see or meet Capt Drakes comd or say they would not have left. They appeared somewhat dissatisfied and much broken down. Donald McKay (the Interpreter) hollowed to Lt W not to go when he was leading—that the Indians were there and he would be shot (this was heard from some on his men) but they think he misunderstood McKay to say “advance there are the Indians”. It was also marshy immediately in front through which he had to pass and from the appearance of the ground—could not be seen. Also on the edge of the bluff the brush & bushes were just of sufficient height to obscure the sharp stones & rocks which covered the ground over which he had to pass & get to the rear of the Indians. The country around is very stoney & rocky and almost impossible to travel over without harm at any speed other than a slow walk. As Capt Small approached the Indians retreated leaving him in charge of the field. He recovered the bodies of Lt. W, Prvts Kennedy & Harkinson of Co B and the Indian boy. He then burnt all their property, lodges & plunder of which consisted of large number of saddles, clothing, skins, ropes etc & also large quantities of couse & cammas which must be a heavy loss to them as doubtless it was their entire supply and with the loss of their horses they are badly crippled. 2 of the Snakes were seen & know to have been killed—all think there must have been more killed than were found. The Snakes killed & skinned & carried off a horse—one of the Snakes were buried underneath the dead horse to avoid discovery. The Dr (Dumereicher) first dressed

the wounded soldiers & then Barker who he placed under the influence of Cloriform & next old Stock who bore his most manfully. He never murmured from the first—no not one word of complaint. Barker was packed the entire distance by the men on their shoulders & was unable to ride in the wagon. Stock was packed 9 miles until they met the wagon & then a letter was swung in ti for him and he was brought to comparatively comfortably—all around him much coolness all though the fight and that he is a perfect old hero. He requested of me “Should he die—to bury him alongside of Lt Watson—that a more brave man never lived than W and he liked to die with a man that had a heart like the Leitut”.

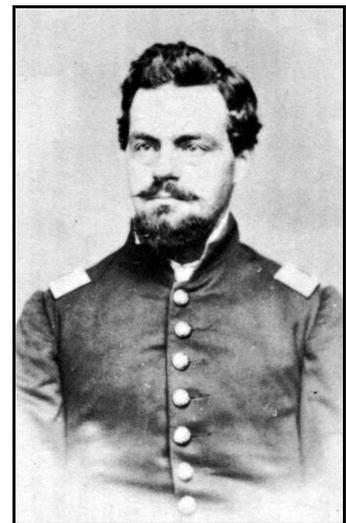
Poor Watson all feel deeply & regret much his loss—he was liked by all who knew him and general favorite in his regiment—from the time of his entering it—in D Co 1 O.C. (*D Company 1st Oregon Cavalry*) as orderly sergt. The whole compy were his strong admirers & as an officer he grew still more dear to all—both officer and men. He was my warm & intimate friend. He was to have been left in charge of this our Depot, but he poor fellow now rests here and perchance may never leave it until the Last Reveille warns him to appear before his God—but such is a soldiers lot

Thursday May 19th Camp No. 18

Camp “Maury” our Depot. Was up all last night as I was not relieved as Officer of the Day—not having enough men for duty—I little thought when I relieved him (*Watson*) as Off of the Day on the 17th inst that I would have to have his grave dug and comd his funeral escort—but such is life.

We had him and his men that were killed prepared & dressed neatly as possible and neatly rolled in their U.S. blankets for we had no lumber to make coffins for them. Lt W was dressed in his blue uniform jacket (shoulder straps on it) & grey pants. I took some of his hair. They were buried about 2 O.C. P.M. A chapter from the Bible read by Capt Drake (no prayer book in camp, Capt Small had left one at the Dalles with some books he could not bring along)

Buried Lt Watson & 2 privates of B Co at 2 P.M. I cond the escort—35 men being all by the side of each other. Lt Watson on the South side in the angle of 3 trunks pine or fir. 634 yds S-E to a tree & from this to another tree S of West 68 yds—from this to the graves W. S-west 66 yds and from first tree to the graves 66 yds.



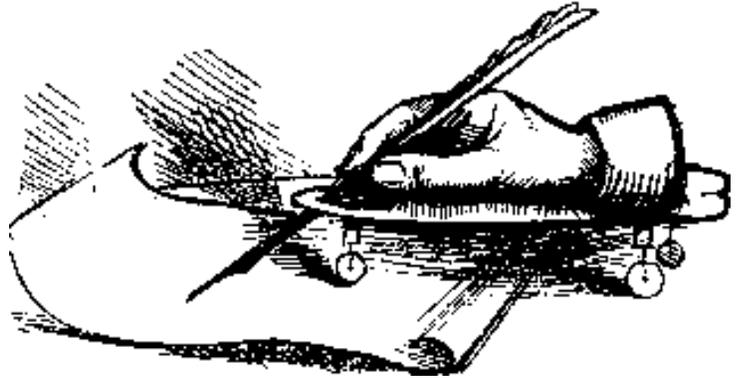
Capt. John Drake

Collections Nook

from the Desk of Sadee Moss

Hello Everyone,

It has been a couple of months since I started my new position here at the museum and I finally am starting to feel like I am settling into the different aspects of this position. The simple way to sum up the Collections Specialist role is that I care for and handle all the artifacts and objects that are at the museum. Now there are a lot of different things that go into “managing” a museum collection. But before the museum can care for a collection, objects need to be donated to the museum. Today I want to share the process of when someone wants to donate their objects to the museum.



The first thing you should consider when wanting to donate objects to the Bowman Museum (or any museum) is, does it meet the goals of the museum? The purpose of any museum’s collection is to fulfill the mission of the museum or historical society. For example, a museum dedicated to dolls or toys is not going to find a donation of equipment from a coal mine helpful to their purpose. The A.R. Bowman Museum is a local history museum, and our mission is to; “gather, preserve and make available museum records and other material relating to the history of Crook County and Central Oregon, and to stimulate an interest in, and knowledge of, local history.”

All items that are offered as a donation to the museum are presented to the Collections Committee for approval which is then presented to the Board for the final say. The Committee is made up of at least one board member and one Historical Society member (with approval from the board) and they meet to discuss what objects would best represent the mission of the museum. The Committee has a lot of factors to consider when things are being donated, some of the criteria that they base decisions on include: if the object is related to crook county; if the object is over 50 years old; and if the museum is capable of storing/ caring for the object. If a Redmond High School yearbook from the 1950’s was proposed for donation, it would meet all of the above criteria but still may be turned down for donation. A few reasons why could be that the museum already has that object in the collection or that it would be better suited to another Museum or historical society (in this case the Deschutes Historical Society would make a much better home for that object). When the Committee meets all these factors are considered before a decision is made that would be in the best interest of the museum and its mission.

When stuff is donated, we don’t just put it on a shelf and forget about it. There is a lot of care that goes into making sure that each item is cared for as best as we can. Part of that care for my job is keeping a good record of objects. Part of those records includes the initial donation paperwork. This helps the museum to keep a better history of objects that can then be shared when an object is put on display or researched. The donations we receive from you are the reason we have such a wonderful museum. One of the Best aspects of my job is getting to help with this donation process. It helps me to better understand the history of our County and to assist you with finding the best home for your cherished belongings.

Sadee Moss