



## Volunteer Corner

*Preserving history with  
someone who has lived it!*

*See p. 4*

## Family History

*Retracing the steps of one  
Deschutes County family*

*See p. 2*



# The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—March 2021



2021 **National Surveyors Week**

March 21–27, 2021 • Visit [nsps.us.com](http://nsps.us.com)

Global Surveyors Day: March 23



## A Brief Retrospective of Land Surveying in Deschutes County *by Mike Berry*

On March 21-27, surveyors around the nation will celebrate National Surveyors Week, a week set aside by the profession to promote public recognition of surveying and honor the role surveyors play in the nation's economy. Both the national land surveyors' society, The National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), and the Oregon society, The Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO), are actively involved in this celebration. The purpose of these groups is to advance the protection of public welfare relative to surveying and mapping issues, encourage high standards of ethical and professional behavior and promote public faith and confidence in the profession. Additionally these groups support new practical methods of surveying, promote good business practice, monitor national and state laws and regulations, encourage improved higher education curricula and provide continuing education for surveyors.

In today's world land surveyors' work is crucial to responsible land development, infrastructure, property management and the stability of property boundaries and land ownership. Surveyors determine property boundaries and features, identify easements and encroachments, and map and monument newly created land divisions. Surveyors are involved in the planning and execution of most forms of construction such as roads, homes, dams, canals, skyscrapers and utilities. They work with and advise planners, architects, developers, attorneys, realtors, title companies, home builders, heavy construction companies, Federal, State, County and City government, law enforcement, the military, utilities and home owners.

The technique, art and science of surveying dates back to the beginning of recorded history. Individual plots of rich farmland along the Nile River had to have their boundaries re-established by surveyors after the annual floods brought in rich sediments that "cleaned the slate" of previous occupation. The surveyors were called "rope stretchers" because distances were measured with long, incremented ropes. Civilizations across the globe building pyramids, roads and water delivery systems, such as canals and aqueducts, needed surveyors to plan, layout and construct these structures. In medieval Europe a custom of "Beating the Bounds" was conducted, where citizens would view and maintain the boundaries (bounds) of a village or parish. A group of prominent citizens would walk the boundaries of the locale for the purpose of maintaining the communal memory of the precise location of these boundaries and the monuments (fences, streams, boundary stones, etc.) that marked them. Young boys were included in the ceremony to ensure the memory lasted as long as possible.

Closer to home, in the late 1860s the U.S. General Land Office (G.L.O.) began surveying the federal land in Central Oregon for disposal to private citizens through the Homestead Act. These surveyors mapped out "townships", blocks of land 36 square miles in

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# Researching the Phelps Family

by Kelly Cannon-Miller

Talking about diversity in the history of Deschutes County means talking about why you don't see many black and brown faces. Deschutes County has a strong immigrant history of Scandinavian, Irish, Slavic, and other families making a life here, either in the logging industry or on ranches and farms. The Irish and Eastern European Slavic families escaped discrimination back east by coming west. However, like all of Oregon, the state's exclusion laws prevented many Black families from seeking the same opportunities here. Those who did are harder to track down. During the COVID uptick in research requests, we received one from a woman who said she was a granddaughter of "the only Black family in Bend." Did we know about them? She wondered specifically how they were able to own land, given the state's history. Luckily, we did know about the Phelps family, but uncovered much more for her.

Like many homesteaders around Deschutes County, Clarence Phelps filed to purchase 80 acres of land through the Tumalo Irrigation Project on April 25, 1917. His wife Ophelia, daughter Rozelia, his brother, Ernest, and his mother-in-law Mary Gardner all moved to Tumalo from Kansas, where they sold their farm to relocate west. Compiling information from the newspapers, local directories, and the records of the Tumalo Irrigation District, we learned Clarence and his brother Ernest farmed in Tumalo for 9 years where they grew potatoes and grain. Mary worked as a cook in a Shevlin-Hixon logging camp. In addition to his farm, Clarence worked seasonally in the Pine Tree Mill, doing road construction work, and often helped neighbors with construction projects. Ernest was a veteran of World War I; if he ever married, we do not yet have a record of it. Ernest left Tumalo on occasion to attend classes at Oregon Agricultural College, today's Oregon State University.

Rozelia enrolled in Pinehurst School, where both her parents lent support. Newspaper columns report Clarence doing odd construction jobs at the school. Ophelia becomes active in the

local school district, serving on the board of directors for the school and elected clerk. Eventually the Pinehurst students merged into Tumalo School, where Rozelia attended until the 9<sup>th</sup> grade (1922). She graduated with honors from Redmond Union High School in 1924.

Newspaper clippings from the society columns show the Phelps to be an energetic and community minded family. They received many visitors, including additional family visiting from the Willamette Valley. Reports of Rozelia spending the weekend at other family's houses are what we call a 'sleep-over' with school friends today. An excellent reminder that information we today share on social media used to land in the society columns of small town newspapers. A particular favorite entry tells us the family left with several neighbors to go pick huckleberries in Jefferson County on one particular Tuesday in 1918. We also know that Ophelia stayed with and nursed a neighbor family suffering from the flu in 1922.

Bessie Snyder was the guest of Miss Rozelia Phelps Sunday. Mrs. G. M. Couch, Mrs. C. Pederson and Mrs. A. J. Harter motored to Bend Monday in Mrs. Couch's car. Mrs. Garner, who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Clarence Phelps, left Monday to accept a position as cook in one of the Shevlin-Hixon construction camps.

*Bend Bulletin, July 16, 1918*

Farming in Tumalo was not a silver-lined cloud and in 1926 the family sells and moves into Bend to a house at 355 E. Quimby Avenue. Rozelia meets her husband Stanton Duke and marries

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**Deschutes  
Historical Museum**

129 NW Idaho Avenue  
Bend, OR 97703  
Open Tuesdays-Saturdays  
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
541.389.1813

## Museum Staff:

Kelly Cannon-Miller, Executive Director  
Vanessa Ivey, Museum Manager  
Rebekah Averette, Collections Manager  
Tracy Alexander, Membership Officer



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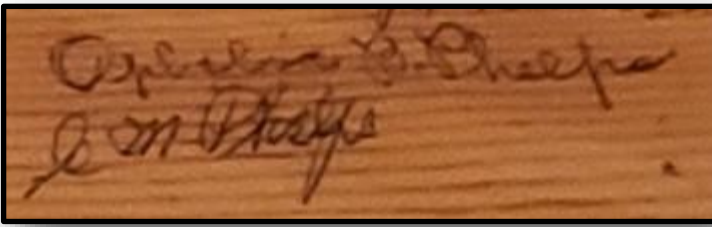
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Complete minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors are on file with the Museum office.

[www.deschuteshistory.org](http://www.deschuteshistory.org)  
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Ophelia and Clarence's signatures on the Deschutes Pioneers Association Board

in 1931, moving to Portland following a honeymoon in Victoria, British Columbia. Clarence continues to work in road construction over the years. Ophelia becomes active in the Deschutes County Democratic party, serving as a state delegate in 1964. They are members of the Golden Age Club and members of the Deschutes Pioneer Association. A DPA annual picnic plaque from 1964 bears their signatures. As a member of the Golden Age Club, Ophelia often sang in vocal performances. They lived out their lives in Bend and Ernest, Clarence, and Ophelia are buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

For years, DCHS staff heard more than once about 'the only Black family in Bend' but never had a name to follow. They were not truly the only people of color in the community, but because they were active participants in Bend's social and political life, they seem to stand out as such. Unlike other minorities in the local paper early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, not once is their race used as a descriptor for any member of the Phelps family. DCHS staff found them only after uncovering their name in national publication, *The Official Negro Directory and Classified Buyers Guide, 1942-43*, in the New York Library Digital Archives. The US Census is the only other source to list their race. The 1920 census lists the entire family as mulatto. The 1910 census from Kansas lists Ophelia's mother, Mary, as white. Sadly, even though they were members of the Deschutes Pioneers Association, an organization responsible for the first collections of historic photographs and artifacts for Deschutes County, nothing from the Phelps family is found in the collection. We find Rozelia in Redmond High School annuals. Clarence and Ophelia's photograph appeared in *The Bend Bulletin* once for their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Their signatures on the Pioneers Association plaque are our only other connection.



Rozelia Phelps' Senior portrait, Redmond Union High School, 1924

We shared with their granddaughter all we had found about their lives here. We learned we are not the only ones without any photographs of them. She had only one image of Rozelia to share with us, so Rozelia's school photographs were a welcome surprise for her. There is no written answer to why they were allowed to own land in spite of the exclusion laws except to say the laws were not regularly enforced. There is no evidence that the Phelpses received any challenge to their homestead; there is loads of evidence that they fit right into their new home, making

friends, helping their neighbors, and helping build Deschutes County. In spite of that, we do know that racism was something the Phelps faced. Consider the case of 'white trade only' signs in 1925.

In 2019, staff uncovered a story in the *Central Oregon Press* that in 1925 the 'colored citizens of Bend' hired attorney and state senator Jay Upton to protest signs appearing around downtown that excluded colored patrons. His clients are unnamed. The years 1920-25 saw the rise and fall of the Ku Klux Klan in Bend, a time when attention turned to race and immigration in the city and tensions flared. Living in Tumalo, the Phelps family may not have witnessed personally the two times the Klan burned crosses on top of Pilot Butte, but they most certainly would have been aware. The KKK found no solid footing in Bend, a town filled with many Catholic immigrants from Ireland and Eastern Europe—two groups the KKK also disliked. The local Klan chapter collapsed in spring of 1925. That August, Mr. Upton argued to city leaders that 'white trade only' that had appeared in recent years around downtown were unnecessary and 'humiliating'.

Mr. Upton's resolution is printed word for word and in that testimony we find a clue that the Phelps' might be Upton's unnamed clients. Upton referenced African American military service to the United States in foreign wars as more than enough reason to expect to be treated without humiliation at home. Is this Ernest's service in the war, something well noted in local papers? Upton himself was a veteran of the Spanish American War and no doubt felt a common bond. Upton pins the unwelcome signs, ironically, on new immigrants to the area who are 'unfamiliar with our customs.' In the end, the city councilors agreed and passed a motion to have the signs removed. Whether or not the Phelps were his clients, the certainly took part in this push back against the KKK's attempts to enforce segregation in Bend.

DCHS is committed to uncovering all our shared stories—including the ones that have hidden ugliness nestled in between the stories of huckleberry picking, choir performances, and family celebrations. Being able to share that research with family descendants is priceless.



Clarence and Ophelia's Golden Anniversary announcement, *The Bend Bulletin* November 1, 1956



# Volunteer Corner

Gordon

Dahlin

By Sue Fountain

**Gordon Dahlin** began volunteering in the Collections Department of the Deschutes Historical Museum in 2008. He has the important job of being the first one to handle items that have been accepted as a donation. He sorts and organizes written work before assigning it an accession number. With physical items he often has to clean and repair them before the items are placed in safe keeping for later exhibits. Though he admits sometimes it is a bit tedious, he loves the fact that he can relive history as he works his way through various news items and records.

Before coming to the DHM, he volunteered for nearly 20 years at the High Desert Museum where he had a more interactive position. He gave talks about the sawmill that is set up there, and later he designed and presented talks about porcupines and otters. Eventually it became a better fit for him to switch his time and skills to the museum in town.

We are grateful that Gordon brought his expertise and personal history to the DHM. His family moved to Bend when Gordon was 6 years old, and he attended Kenwood Grade School for first grade. He also attended Reid School and remembers the auditorium on the third floor. That is where his work area is now,

and he smiled when he pointed out that he was working on the stage of that very auditorium. Gordon graduated from Bend High School in 1952 and went on to college at OSU where he earned a science degree. Following his graduation, he moved to the Bay area where he worked for P.G. & E. until he retired in 1993. Once he retired he decided to move back to Bend.

Returning to Bend was a return to his childhood roots. As Gordon recalls it, growing up in Bend was the best of times. When his family moved here in 1940, his father was working for Union Oil Co. and he also took on the ownership of a grocery store on Hill Street. His mother was a teacher and was hired at Kenwood School where Gordon started out. Later his father bought the Century Drive Grocery Store. These were the days when kids took off to play with friends in the morning, and came home by dinner time. Sometimes Gordon and his friends hunted for rabbits and squirrels on Awbrey Butte (this was before it was covered with homes). Other times the boys rode their bikes all over town and even out to Tumalo State Park to go swimming.

Swimming was a big part of summer fun, and kids even swam in Mirror Pond, going in from where the Veterans' Park is now located. At one time they even built a little diving board there. The municipal pool had not been built yet, so the river was their main swimming hole option. The old Kirtsis Pool near Pioneer Park was closed by then. In the winter they even skated on Mirror Pond if the ice was thick enough.

Watching the men build the floats and the big arch for the annual Water Pageant was a fun activity for local kids. They hung around as much as the workers allowed. Since swimming in the cold river was no problem for Gordon and his friends they volunteered to help out with the Water Pageant. Some of them went into the water to help push and pull the floats downstream. One year there was a float depicting Jonah and the Whale. Gordon was one of the boys who offered to fly out of the mouth of the whale during the pageant. After the whale expelled him, he would swim around to the back of the whale and be ready to go again.

In 1949, Gordon's sister, Charleen was a Water Pageant Princess. She was interviewed and appears in the "Let There Be Light" video that relates the history of the pageant. In the video you can see the Jonah and the Whale float, and maybe that's Gordon ready to appear. Aside from his sister, Charleen, Gordon has a daughter and four grandchildren who live in Redding, California.

It is a gift to the museum that we have a volunteer like Gordon. He comes in twice a week, and he is also a great source of Bend history.



*Senior Portrait, Bend  
Senior High School 1952*

## Continued from P. 1— A Brief History of Land Surveying

area, that were further divided into one square mile “sections” of land (a section contains 640 acres). Homesteaders were then granted portions of these sections, usually 160 acres.

Once settlement began in the early 1900s, local surveyors began laying out townsites, roads and canals in Deschutes County. Some notable land surveyors in the early development of Deschutes County include the following:

Levi David (L.D.) Wiest (1859-1934). In 1900 A.M. Drake hired L. D. Wiest, an experienced irrigation system engineer, who began surveying the canals for Drake’s Pilot Butte Development Company. These canals are now under the ownership of the Central Oregon Irrigation District. In 1904 Wiest surveyed the townsite of Bend, encompassing the downtown core of the city. He also worked for Arnold Irrigation District and did work on other proposed irrigation districts and a proposed railroad between Bend and Sisters that, well, got derailed.

Robert B. Gould (1883-1940). In 1910 Gould came to Bend to survey the Townsite of La Pine. He stayed for the rest of his life and surveyed dozens of the older subdivisions in Bend. Gould served as the City of Bend Engineer, Deschutes County Engineer, and the Deschutes County Surveyor and also worked for the state highway department as an Engineer/Surveyor laying out and surveying hundreds of miles of County and State roads in Central Oregon. His work was impeccable and today’s surveyors are still amazed at how accurate his work was.



*Robert Gould and his son  
Jarvis 1918*



*Aubrey Perry, age 18  
From the collection  
of Kathy Perry Kludt*

Aubrey Eugene Perry (1895-1985). Perry’s family moved to Redmond in 1906. In 1912 he began his career as a surveyor. He worked for Central Irrigation District and also had a private engineering/surveying firm. He served as Deschutes County Surveyor twice, from 1959 to 1970 and again from 1972 to 1976 for a total of 15 years. He was renowned for having total recall regarding any section corner he’d ever visited. He was a highly respected surveyor among his peers and still has a good reputation in Central Oregon.

These three surveyors literally designed and laid out the framework of Deschutes County.

Modern day Central Oregon surveyors have risen to positions of statewide leadership and recognition in the profession. Each year the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon awards the prestigious Surveyor of the Year Award to one of its hundreds of members. Central Oregon surveyors who have received this award are: 1977 George Cook, 1996 Richard Bryant; 1997 Joel Smith, 2001 Parneli Perkins; 2011 Scott Freshwaters; 2014 David Williams and 2021 Gary DeJarnatt. Additionally the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors has awarded the County Surveyor of the Year to three local surveyors: 1995 Jeff Kern (Deschutes County); 2006 Gary DeJarnatt (Jefferson County); and 2011 Mike Berry (Deschutes County).

The vast majority of Deschutes County residents will never have



## Three surveyors and another guy

cause to hire a land surveyor. There are several services that only a licensed professional surveyor can provide, including conducting surveys for property titles and real estate financing, determining and monumenting property boundaries, subdividing and partitioning land, surveying property line adjustments and re-setting property corners of record that have been destroyed. If you need to hire a land surveyor for any of these purposes or simply to find your property corners there are a couple of resources available. You can, of course, do a google search for “Land Surveyors” or you can go to the “Find a Surveyor” website hosted by the PLSO. The address is <https://www.plso.org/Find>.

In conclusion, a point of pride, and inside joke, among surveyors is referring to Mt. Rushmore as a sculpture of “Three Surveyors and another guy”. Presidents Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln had all worked as surveyors at some point in their lives. We surveyors don’t begrudge them for changing careers, but we do have to wonder why a person would forego such a challenging and rewarding profession as land surveying for the dark arts of politics.

## Memorials

### *Leon Devereaux*

**Adrian Bennett**

**Jim and Judy Crowell**

**Gayle Lowe**

**Ann Reynolds**

## Tributes

### *Ralph C. Curtis*

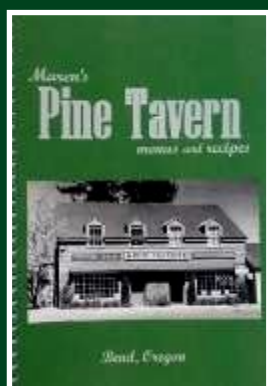
**Jean Rotter**

### *Rozelia Duke*

**Beverly Duke**



**Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with this recipe from the Pine Tavern Cookbook "Maren's Pine Tavern Menus and Recipes"**



On Sale Now on the DCHS Website

## CORNER BEEF WITH CABBAGE

5-6 lbs. lean, corned beef

1 bayleaf

6 peppercorns

1 medium onion

1 medium carrot per serving

1 medium potato per serving

1 cabbage wedge per serving

Place corned beef in a heavy kettle, cover with cold water, and bring to a boil. Drain and rinse in cold water.

Cover with boiling water. Add bayleaf and peppercorns. Simmer over low heat 3 to 4 hours or until meat is tender. Cool slightly. Skim off excess fat.

Quarter onion and potatoes. Cut carrots in 4 inch sections and slice lengthwise. Add to meat and boil 20 minutes. Add cabbage cut in 2 inch wedges. Cook 10 minutes more or until cabbage is just tender but still crisp.

Since cooking corned beef is a lengthy and steamy process, it is practical to prepare a fairly large chunk of meat along with vegetables that are to be used immediately. Leftover corned beef is a highly desirable commodity. It may be used for cold cuts, sandwiches, or as the basic ingredient of other dishes such as; **Baked Corned Beef Hash** (P. 47), **Stuffed Bell Pepper** (P. 43), **Reuben Sandwich** (P. 68).

# History at Home: Women's History Month

As part of our new online offerings, DCHS has launched a channel through Vimeo with members only content. This month we'll be highlighting Women's History Month.

## Women of Sage and Pine

**Streaming available starting Friday, March 12**

Deschutes County has a long legacy of women who have made differences in their communities. Join Museum Manager Vanessa Ivey as she shares a few stories of women who came west to homestead, build careers and find adventure in her presentation "Women of Sage & Pine".

## Women's Suffrage in Deschutes County, 1912

**Streaming available starting Friday, March 19**

Executive Director Kelly Cannon-Miller shows how the community of Bend responded to the Women's Suffrage movement in 1912 and what happened when women got the right to vote.

*Links to view these recorded talks will be emailed to the membership prior to March 12. If you don't receive emails from us and want to take part, you can call the museum at 541.389.1813 to find out more.*

