



Who Was “Dutch John”?

Discover the history behind this iconic site See p. 2

Help Wanted!

Volunteer positions are available, come join our team! See p. 4



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter— JANUARY 2023

Get Excited about

2023

New Year, New Exhibits

There are always more projects than time, common sense, or money around the Deschutes Historical Museum and the hardest task is deciding how to prioritize each project around the others. Inside this issue, you'll find a list of projects and places where we could use new volunteers as we head into an exciting year of exhibit changes and fun programs. Here is the short list of our biggest events in 2023:



Klunkers and Stumpjumps: Mountain Biking History of Central Oregon

In the late 1970s, the logging roads and game trails of Awbrey Butte provided a playground of experimentation for early mountain bike pioneers who helped develop and spread the sport throughout Oregon. Exhibit opens **March 17**

A Novel Idea Celebration: 20 Years of Community Reading

Deschutes County is home to one of the state's largest and most successful community reading programs, A Novel Idea. Join us as we look back on twenty years of novels and authors in partnership with the Deschutes Public Library. Exhibit opens **April 1**.



Archaeology Roadshow: The Archaeology of Transportation

May 27, Archaeology Roadshow returns to the lawn of the Deschutes Historical Museum. Featuring archaeologists working in the field from universities, agencies, and tribal governments around the west, learn about how archaeology helps us understand human history.

Antique Fair

The Antique Fair returns on **August 12**. Find your treasure as we host vendors from around the region at this fun one-day affair.



In addition to these projects, we'll host two free days on Juneteenth and 4th of July, Worthy History Pub continues, September brings The Little Woody and Festival of Cars, October is for Haunt Walks, and November for the Chili Feed. See page 8 for a list of 2023 events, and mark your calendars to join us for another busy year!

Lost and Found: "Dutch John" Feldewerd

Namesake of Dutchman Flat

By Mike Berry

Many of the early pioneers who settled in what is now Deschutes County left indelible marks on the land and in the communities they helped establish. Their names still echo through time and their stories, struggles and triumphs are duly recorded in history books and newspaper accounts. They are memorialized in the names of roads, parks, buildings, neighborhoods and businesses. To the contrary, some of the pioneers' lives and stories faded away almost immediately upon their departure from the area. Or upon their death. Or... disappearance.

One of the earliest residents of Central Oregon who falls into the latter category is John Feldewerd. Feldewerd was originally from Prussia (modern-day Germany) and like many German immigrants to the U.S. he acquired the nickname of "Dutch", a corruption of "*Deutsch*," the German-language word for "German".

John Feldewerd's Early Years: "Dutch John" Feldewerd was an interesting and important character in the nascent days of Central Oregon. He was born and christened Johann Feldewert on March 31, 1831 in Verl, Westphalia, Prussia, the fifth child of Wilhelm and Anna Catharina (Stropkriemann) Feldewert. He had four sisters and two older brothers.

On June 16, 1847, 16 year old Johann Feldewert married Elisabeth Palenkamper in Verl. The next month their first daughter, Elisabeth, was born. In June 1852 their second daughter, Anna Catharina, was also born in Verl.

Records show that in 1852 both John and his brother Nicolas arrived in Oregon. There are no further mentions in John's historical timeline of his wife or daughters. It can be presumed that they remained in Prussia while he lit out for the

territories.

Once in the U.S., John spells his last name "Feldewerd" whereas brother Nick uses "Feldevert", as opposed to the Prussian "Feldewert" of their parents. Thereafter, American clerks, newspapers and census takers used a wide variety of spellings through the ensuing year, making Dutch John's life a joy to research.

According to muster rolls from the Rogue River War, in March 1856 John and Nick enlisted in the Oregon Mounted Volunteers in Lane County, Oregon. They served for 3 months during the battles against the "Rogue River Indians," a conglomeration of many tribal groups in the Rogue River Valley. After hostilities end, Nick makes Lane County his home and John begins to wander, eventually traveling to Northern California.

In 1860 John buys 160 acres from the government in Del Norte County, California, just south of Crescent City. In the 1860 and 1870 censuses he is listed as a farmer living by himself.

For the 17 years following the 1870 census the public record is mute as to John's whereabouts and dealings. Then, on July 16, 1887, the Eugene City Guard newspaper ran the following story:

Another Shooting Affray

About sundown Thursday evening John Felderwerd's Place, on Big Meadows, about fifty miles from Prineville, was the scene of a shooting affray, resulting in the wounding of Mr. Felderwerd and Lafe Scroggins.

The reports coming from the scene... are somewhat conflicting, but as near as we are able to learn from the accounts told by different parties, they had some hot words about horses being turned into Felderwerd's place, when he went to his house, got a rifle, and the shooting began, reports varying as to who fired the first shot. Scroggins was shot in the right knee, fracturing the bone, and Felderwerd was hit in the right thigh. Warrants have been issued... for the arrest of both men, though we hear neither of the wounded men will be able to be brought to town, owing to the severe nature of their wounds. Dr. H.P. Belknap was summoned...

Mr. Scroggins is well known throughout the state... for years

- Continued on page 3



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
Michelle Patrick, Visitor Services



2023 DCHS Board of Directors:

Adrian Bennett, President
Jane Williamson, Vice President
Dan Ellingson, Secretary/Treasurer

Board Members:

Mike Berry, Mark Capell, Paul Claeysens,
Tony DeBone, Beau Eastes, Terry Foley,
Greg Fulton, Karen Green, Loren Irving,
Heidi Kennedy, and Susie Penhollow, Liz Rink.



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



www.deschuteshistory.org
info@deschuteshistory.org

Continued from P. 2— Dutch John Feldewerd

he has been engaged in raising fine horses. Mr. Felderwerd has lived on the Deschutes for a number of years and is well known in this country. --- Ochoco Review

"Big Meadows" was an early name for the miles of meadow lands along the Deschutes and Little Deschutes Rivers in the Sunriver area. The spreads that Feldewerd and Scoggin (both last names being misspelled in the article) homesteaded were near the intersection of present-day Vandever Road and South Century Drive and in 1892 became part of the historic Vandever Ranch.

After everyone was dusted off and stitched up, Dutch John took W.G. and T.G. Scoggin to court. Dutch John prevailed and on October 25, 1888 the jury awarded him \$230 along with \$177.66 in court costs in compensation for the Scoggins taking 25 tons of wild hay from his property.

The Scoggin boys relocated to the Willamette Valley and Dutch John headed down river about 18 miles to homestead a 160 acre tract of land (the SW ¼ of Section 13, T18S, R11E, W.M.). His land straddled the Deschutes River about 4 miles south of the future site of Bend. The acreage he started homesteading in the early 1890s became known as "The Dutch John Place".

There were about 20 people in the Bend area at the time Dutch John started working his new land. On a 1900 map of Central Oregon drawn by surveyor L. D. Wiest, Dutch John's cabin was on the east side of the river. He built a rough bridge across the river. He had been herding sheep since the 1880s and the bridge allowed him to take his flocks across to the west side of the Deschutes River and then trail them into the high Cascades, roughly along the route of Century Drive.



Sheep grazing at Sparks Lake meadow, circa 1900

According to a 1958 article in the Bend Bulletin, Feldewerd grazed sheep at Crane Prairie, Sparks Lake and Dutchman Flat near Mt. Bachelor. He also built crude cabins at these locations for his herders. The Vandever family and early Bend pioneer Steve Steidl stated in interviews that Dutchman Flat was named after Dutch John Feldewerd and the decaying sheepherder's cabin that existed in the early half of the 1900s. Newspapers started referring to it as Dutchman's Flat in the

1920s.

In addition to building a new home on the Deschutes, a bridge across the river, and a network of sheepherder cabins in the Cascades, Feldewerd was the first person to divert water from the Deschutes River to irrigate his crops via the "Dutch John Ditch" he dug at his homestead.



View looking downstream of Dutch John Bridge, 1910

Leading up to the turn of the 20th century Dutch John appeared to have hit his homesteader's stride. Then he seemingly fell off the face of the earth.

Practically every account that mentions him ends with the statement "He disappeared sometime around 1900." In a 1953 interview with Kessler Cannon of KBND radio, Steve Steidl, son of John and Julia Steidl, said when asked about Dutch John, "He disappeared about the time we came here (1902) but we didn't have anything to do with it!"

There were a couple of notorious disappearances in Central Oregon around 1900 that remain unsolved to this day. For those of us who have contemplated the fate of Dutch John, the recurring hypothesis is that he was a victim of the low-handed dealings of a group of cattlemen during the Sheepshooter's War in Central Oregon. Briefly, a group of cattlemen aimed to drive sheepmen off the open ranges. Groups of masked men would descend on herds of sheep, restrain the shepherds, and commence to kill the entire herd by clubbing, shooting or poisoning. In a few instances they murdered some of their adversaries. In 1889 Crook County livestock inspector George Nutting disappeared without a trace while inspecting sheep herds near the town of Antelope. More famously, Crook County sheepman Shorty Davis disappeared mysteriously in the summer of 1900. These cases remain unsolved to this day.

Did the same fate befall Dutch John? The record for the last 120 years has been that he vanished sometime around the turn of the century. He grazed large herds of sheep, so... was Dutch John murdered and "disappeared" by cattlemen?

The answer is "No." Thanks to local historian John Frye, we now know the rest of the story.

"Dutch" John Feldewerd died on

- Continued on page 6

VOLUNTEER CORNER: *Help Wanted!*

At the Deschutes Historical Museum (DHM) you never know what will unfold throughout the day. The delightfully unexpected always occurs. It might be a unique property deed from before 1900, an out-of-town visitor who also happens to be related to Alexander Drake, or the discovery of pressed flowers in a one-hundred-year-old letter. As an integral part of the operations at the museum, our volunteers experience these moments firsthand. This is what makes being here fun and exciting.

In 2022 DHM volunteers gave over 5000 hours of their time. From meeting and greeting visitors, scanning photos, entering data about heirlooms, cleaning cases, cataloging yearbooks, guiding groups through the museum, or working an event, the work of a historical society happens because of volunteers. The museum could not do what it does without these wonderful and dedicated people. As we head into a new year the work continues, with both ongoing tasks and special projects. Here are some very specific positions we are eager to fill!

Front Desk/Reception: If you like talking to people, happy to work with technology (both old-school and next generation) and don't mind a bit of chaos, reception might just be for you. Here you will interact with staff, volunteers, and visitors throughout the day. The front desk is the first place our patrons are introduced to the history of Deschutes County and has become a hub of the rest of the museum's activities; admissions, information, and customer service. The desk is operational between 10:00 am and 4:30 pm, Tuesdays thru Saturday. Shifts are a minimum of 2-hours and the position requires a weekly scheduled commitment.



Are you more of a behind-the-scenes person? Like to focus on a single task or project, and prefer a more flexible schedule? Welcome to the third floor, where the care and keeping of the county's history takes place in the converted auditorium and old classrooms.

Bend Bulletin Project: We recently completed the process of sorting, numbering, and organizing an archive of over sixty boxes of photo negatives from the Bend Bulletin. These negatives contain countless fascinating images that are invaluable in understanding the history of Deschutes County. The next phase of this project involves scanning and cataloging the images so that they are searchable and available to the public. We need volunteers we can train to use our new negative scanning system and help us move forward with this very important project.



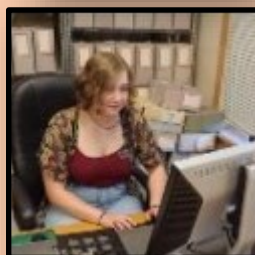
Artifact Cataloging/Data Entry: We regularly receive donated artifacts and need detail-oriented people who are passionate about local history to learn our catalog system and keep us caught up with cataloging!

Database cleanup/inventory: Enjoy poking through boxes of artifacts and scrolling through historic photographs? We need volunteers to help us check entries in our online database (fact checking, spell checking, making sure all entries have titles, checking and revising artifact descriptions) as well as volunteers to conduct inventories to ensure that all artifacts are accounted for and where they should be (that's the "poking through boxes" part).



Oral History transcription: The museum has many oral histories, but we need help with transcription so that visitors and researchers can access the amazing information they contain. The sky is the limit for the right volunteer, as there are many more oral histories to collect from locals that have not yet been recorded.

If you are interested in playing an important part in preserving Deschutes County History, we would love to hear from you! Contact Vanessa Ivey, Museum Manager, vanessa@deschuteshistory.org



Thanks to the generosity of our members and community, we have soared past our goal for End of Year giving. Once again we are overwhelmed by the support for our mission to preserve, promote and celebrate our local history. On behalf of the staff, volunteers, and board of directors of the Deschutes County Historical Society, Thank You!

Lorlee and Thomas Ackerman	John and Venita Dick	Karen Leagjeld	Richard Ross
Janet and John Alexander	Evan and Chelsea Dickens	Jan and Bill Lewis	Marcia and Jim Schonlau
Bette Andrew	Ed Donohue	Derek and Jane Loeb	Barbara Sheeley
Anonymous	Karen and Duke Duncan	Gayle Lowe	Jon and Sue Sholes
Darlene Aspedon	Sue Fountain	Charles and Elouise Mattox	Paula Simila
Nesse Susan Gverette	Nunzie Gould and Jim Guild	Eve McFarland	Darlene Stenkamp
Ed and Jo Ann Barnum	Grayson Graham	Ed and Judy McKinney	Mel Stout
Sally Batchelder	Karen Green	Nancy Merrick	Scott Stuemke
Bend Landmarks Commission	Patrick and Aimee Griffiths	Dotson and Wilma Merritt	Thomas and Phyllis Temple
Adrian Bennett	Stephen Hacker	Linda and Philip Meurer	Robert Thomas
Jean and Bob Bennett	Dennis Hanson	Kathryn Miller	Robert Timmer
Mary Biehn	Ross and Judy Hart	Paul Moon	Kathleen Tovey
Gordon and Joyce Boon	Linda Heuser	Deborah Morrill	William and Frances Tweed
Charles and Bonnie Boyd	Margaret Holman	Lois Morris	Steve and Jill Vandever-Ziegman
Janine and Bill Cannon	William and Shari Howard	Dave and Aleta Nissen	Jerry Underwood
Gail and Muriel Carbiener	Andrea Hunnell-DuPree	Carol and Dennis O'Shea	James and Lois Walker
Phil Chang	Steve Hussey	Donna Owens	Kim and Sally Ward
Tom Collier	Les and Pat Joslin	Susie and Mike Penhollow	Sally J Wilson
Lloyd Corliss	Julia Kennedy	Tom and Ann Pfingsten	Ralph and Evelyn Yaw
Gordon Dahlin	Shirley Kilpatrick	Jean Pozzi	Alexandra Zell
Alyce Dawes	Mary Klein	Cheryl Puddy	Deborah Zitella
Mary Sue Deeks	William and Marianne Lang	Tom Riley	
Jim and Dory Delp	Larry and Theresa Langley	Marcia Rose	



Farewell to a Good Girl: Michael

Last month, the museum lost one of our most beloved “volunteers” to old age. Staff and volunteers are all mourning the loss of Michael, the beautiful German Shepherd. You may have seen this gentle lady accompanying volunteer John Kent when he worked at the museum. Michael loved hamburgers, chasing “chippy’s”, going on adventures in the woods, greeting visitors to the museum, and most of all, sticking close to John. Michael was very much loved and will very much be missed!



Memorials

Pete Coleman

Kathleen Krall

Tributes

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter

Marsha Stout

Alyce Dawes

Margaret Marshall

Mel Stout

Sally Wilson

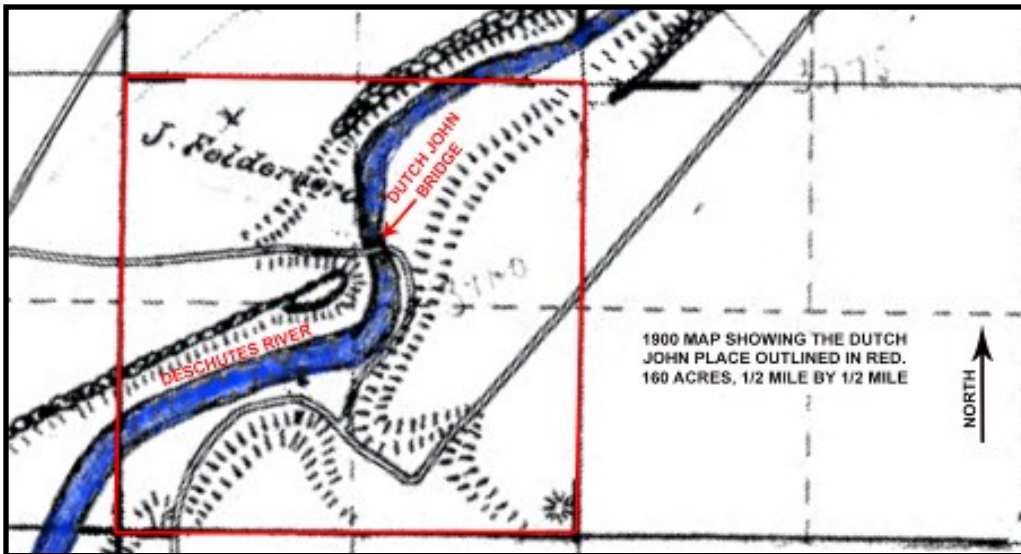
Continued from P. 3— Dutch John Feldewerd

April 28, 1900 in Prineville and is buried in an unmarked grave at the Juniper Haven Cemetery in Prineville, Oregon.

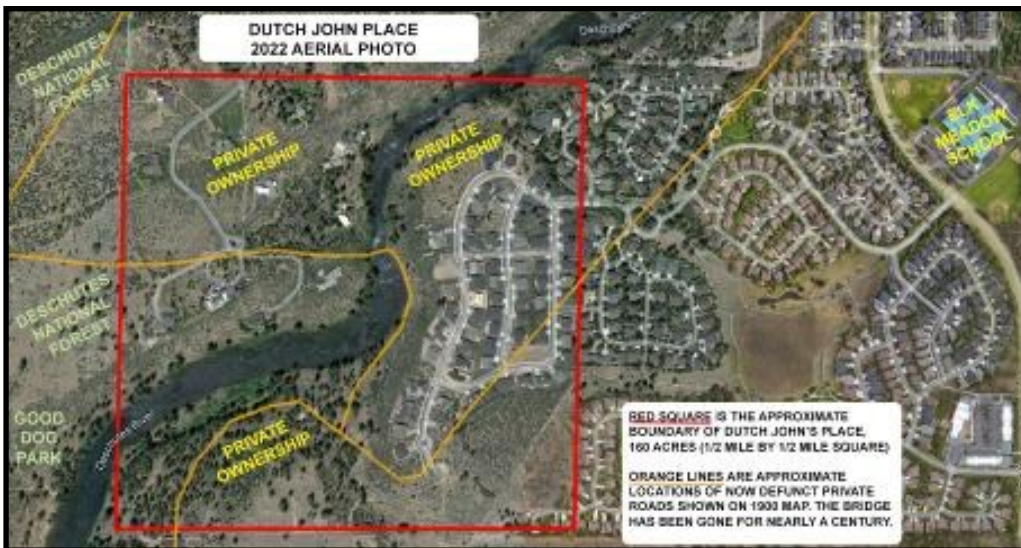
John Frye has been researching Dutch John's history for decades, and early last year he had the notion to search for him again on the findagrave.com website. Using some creative searching, he found a "John B. Feldewerth" (Born circa 1832, died April 28, 1900) in the Prineville cemetery. Was this Dutch John? Subsequent research at Crook County's Bowman Historical Museum uncovered the funeral home record of decedent's burial, which then led to research at the Deschutes County Circuit Court to find a copy of the 1900 probate record. This record confirmed that the grave of John B. Feldewerth is indeed the grave of John Feldewerd, AKA Dutch John.

John Feldewerd died at the home of C. L. and Naomi Salomon in Prineville of heart failure. Three days before he died, he executed a last will and testament, in which he bequeathed all of his estate to Naomi Salomon.

C. L. Salomon and his wife Naomi were married in Prineville in 1881, and in 1887 they bought the Prineville Wagon and Blacksmith shop - which also served as a general store, selling dry goods, groceries, clothes, ammo, and about everything else that homesteaders and ranchers would need. C. L. was born in 1844 in Germany and Naomi was born in New Brunswick, Canada in 1856.



Portion of 1900 map by L. D. Weist



2022 aerial photo with 1900 details superimposed

In 1905 Naomi moved the Salomon family to Salem, Oregon. That same year she sold a piece of property east of Bend that she had inherited from Dutch John. In March 1917 Naomi sold the portion of the Dutch John Place west of the Deschutes River to the Shevlin Hixon Company and the portion east of the river to the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company. She died in Salem in 1938, aged 82.

C. L. was an active member of the Sons of Hermann, a mutual aid society for German immigrants. John Frye speculates that Dutch John and the Salomons became close since Dutch John most likely procured supplies from their store. Bend was not existent during Dutch John's life so all supplies had to be bought in Prineville. There was also the connection to Germany. Both men spent their early years there and in each other's company they could speak in their native tongue and share Germanic customs and traditions.

At the time Dutch John wrote his will, he was single and obviously estranged from the family he had abandoned 48 years before in Germany. His brother Nick was a prosperous farmer in Eugene, and the year before Dutch John died the two brothers attended a reunion of Rogue River War veterans in Eugene. His friendship with the Salomons must have compelled him to leave his entire estate to them.

On July 24, 1902 C. L. Salomon died from injuries sustained in a runaway horse freighting accident in Cow Canyon, south of Shaniko. He was buried in the Juniper Haven Cemetery in Prineville, 3 spaces away from Dutch John's grave.

In 1905 Naomi moved the Salomon

- Continued on page 7

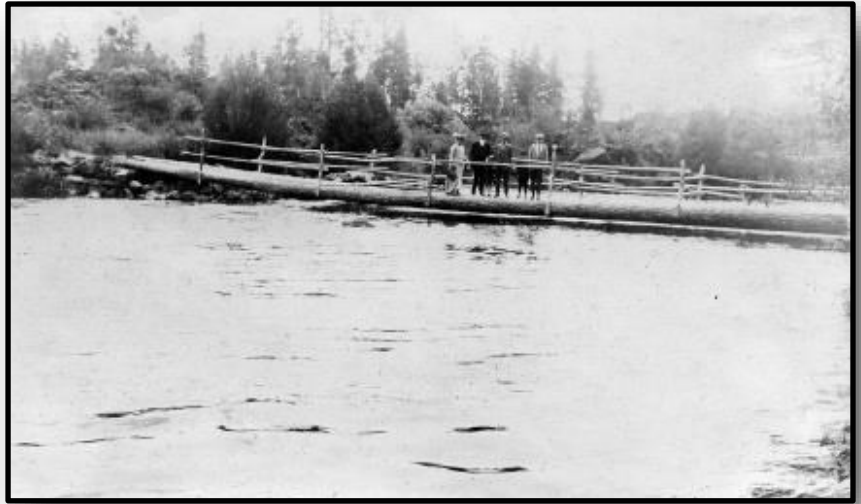
Continued from P. 6— Dutch John Feldewerd

Between the time that Dutch John died in 1900 and 1917 when Naomi sold his homestead, the Dutch John Place and the Dutch John Bridge became a favorite recreational spot for the citizens of the growing town of Bend. Since the absentee owner lived in Prineville and then later in Salem, the vacant property was akin to a rustic park on the outskirts of town. During this time period *The Bend Bulletin* ran numerous stories of people making trips to Dutch John's Place to fish and picnic. In May 1904 Oregon Governor Chamberlain, accompanied by Bend founder A. M. Drake, caught his first trout ever from Dutch John's Bridge. Winter sleigh rides were taken from Bend to Dutch John's, and in 1909 over 175 guests attended a picnic there hosted by the Bend Band. In 1914 a group of "32 Scandinavians" had a party at the spot and the next year over 100 people attended an Odd Fellows picnic at Dutch John's.

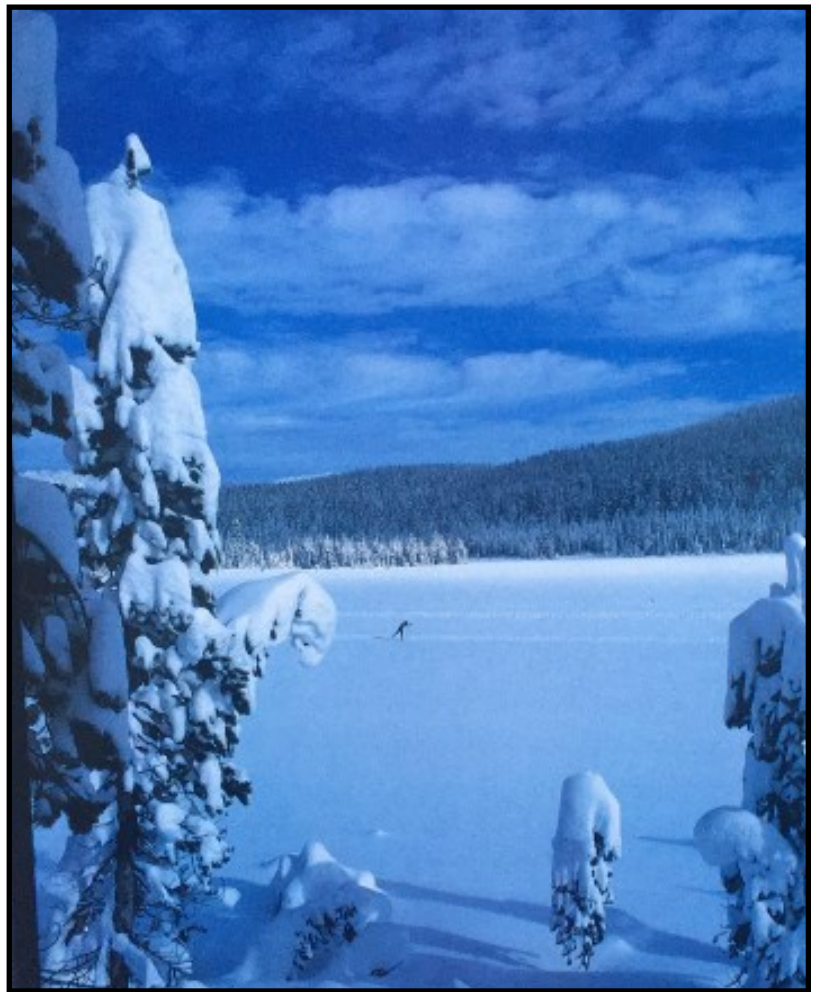
In July 1917, four months after Naomi sold the land to the lumber companies, a fisherman slipped off Dutch John's Bridge and drowned. The previous year two other anglers had drowned a short distance upstream from the bridge. This may have compelled the mills to close off public access to the property since no additional news items about events and excursions to Dutch John's place were published in the paper.

All of Dutch John's place on the Deschutes is still privately owned. There is no public access to the site of the old bridge.

Rest in Peace, John Feldewerd. Let me be the first to publicly say this, 122 years after the fact. You have to wonder how the passing of such a man could have gone unnoticed by a small community of ranchers. Unlike many of his contemporaries, there are no written reminiscences or character studies to flesh out who he was and what he was like. Speculatively, he may have left his homestead for long periods of time on a regular basis. He obviously wasn't a family man, and I have a hunch that he was the independent and cantankerous sort who didn't really interact much with his neighbors - unless he was shooting them in the knee. No matter, it's nice to know that in his final days he was with the Salomons, among friends.



Dutch John Bridge circa 1900



Dutchman Flat, photo courtesy of Bob Woodward



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY AUGUST 12, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Questions? Email info@deschuteshistory.org

WANTED:

**Items for the
Members' Booth at
the 2023 Antique Fair**

2023 is shaping up to be full of fun events, exciting exhibits, and opportunities to explore the history of Deschutes County. Look for details about these events and more in your Homesteader newsletter throughout the year!

February 25	Deschutes County Historical Society Annual Meeting of the Membership
March 17	"Klunkers and Stumpjumpers" exhibit opening
April 1	"A Novel Idea Celebration" exhibit opening
May	Historic Preservation Month
May 27	Archaeology Roadshow
June 19	Juneteenth Free Day
June 25	Volunteer Picnic
July 4	4th of July Free Day
August 12	Antique Fair
September 1-2	The Little Woody
September 16	Festival of Cars
October 13-14	Historical Haunts of Downtown Bend
November 10-11	Annual Chili Feed

2023

Put Some History in Your Future!

Mark Your Calendars

JANUARY

- 31 **WORTHY HISTORY PUB: LYNCHING IN OREGON AND THE LARGER PACIFIC NORTHWEST**
Presented by David Johnson, Professor emeritus of history at Portland State University.

Worthy Brewing, Co. Eastside
495 NE Bellevue Dr. Bend
7:00 p.m. doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Reservations required, [click here to register](#).

www.eventbrite.com



A LYNCHING IN OREGON

MARSHFIELD, Ore., Sept. 18 — Alonzo Tucker, colored, who assaulted Mrs. Dumas near Libby, yesterday, was lynched today by a mob of coal miners.
A body of coal miners heavily armed marched into town last evening. The marshal, who had Tucker in custody, attempted to take him from the jail just as the libby miners arrived, but the move was caught sight of and a rush made for the negro, who managed to give his custodians the slip and jumped under the wharf into the mud flats, ending both officers and the angry mob until today.

