



## Remembering Susie Penhollow

*A pioneer of democracy in  
Deschutes County*

*See p. 5*

## Research Pays

*Winners of the Leon  
Devereaux Pioneer  
Scholarship  
announced*

*See p. 4*



# The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—JUNE 2024



## The Oregon Archaeology Roadshow: The Archaeology of Food Saturday, June 1 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

*Free and Family-Friendly!*

We're closing our National Historic Preservation Month celebrations with activities and exhibits for all ages. Over 15 government and private organizations, tribal members, colleges, historical societies, and non-profit archaeological groups will share information about how archaeologists and historians are studying the ways people of Oregon have historically cultivated, collected, prepared, and shared food! Bring your found object for a discussion with our experts (*no appraisals given*). Some of our exhibitors include:

- 🦋 First Foods with The Klamath Tribes
- 🦋 Native Plants with The Tribes of Warm Springs
- 🦋 Geo Vision of Warm Springs
- 🦋 Stone Tools with Klamath member Perry Chocktoot
- 🦋 Atlatl Throwing with US Fish and Wildlife
- 🦋 COCC's Archaeology Students
- 🦋 Deschutes National Forest
- 🦋 Oregon Archaeological Society
- 🦋 Oregon Fish and Wildlife
- 🦋 DCHS and U of O Museum
- 🦋 Central Oregon Geoscience
- 🦋 Three Sisters Historical Society



# John A. Brown, Central Oregon's First Black Homesteader

By Brad Lemmon

John Arthur Brown was born in the English part of Canada, likely in the 1830s. His father was Black, his mother was French-Irish, and he was raised Catholic. John's parents were both born in Georgia. It is unknown whether John's father was free or a slave.

John lived in Polk County, Oregon, but it is unknown when he arrived. There he knew the Tillman Glaze family and may have been encouraged to move to the east side of the Cascade Mountains by the Glazes after they moved to Prineville around 1878. When John first moved to Wasco County (which eventually spawned Crook, Jefferson, and Deschutes Counties), he was a farmer, possibly renting land or working for someone else.

On December 5, 1881, John filed a homestead claim on 160 acres in Wasco County, Oregon. This claim was made in The Dalles, Oregon, the county seat. The homestead's exact location is the center quarter of TS10S R13E Section 7, Willamette Meridian. The property, now called John Brown Canyon, straddles present-day Campbell Creek and is near the top of a grade from Agency Plains down to the Deschutes River near Warm Springs. The land became part of Crook County in 1882 and is currently part of Jefferson County. It was known locally as "N\*\*\*\*\* Brown Canyon" through the 1940s.

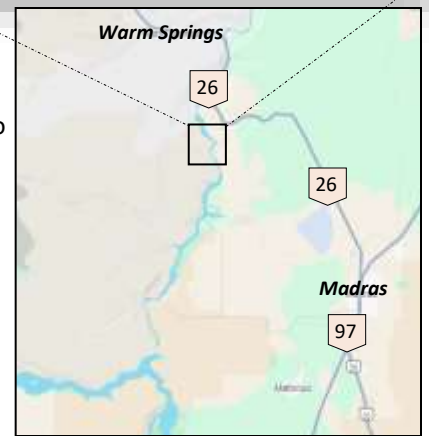
There was a 17' x 30' box house with three doors and one window on the property that had previously been built by Joseph Wilson. John cultivated about 20 acres of hay and vegetables along with 147 fruit trees. He owned a plow, harrow, wagon, and a span of horses.

John A. Brown was married on August 15, 1886 to Mary Tallemantez with Sidney Doriss and H. Hayward as witnesses. On February 16, 1888, John and Mary had a baby girl named Nellie. No other details of Mary Tallemantez's life are known.

On April 5, 1888, John A. Brown made a Timber Claim on the

Agency Plains, a few miles from his homestead claim. The exact location was the southwest quarter of TS10S R13E, Section 21. It is not known whether John planted any trees to make progress toward owning his timber claim land. John relinquished this land on February 10, 1902, and it was claimed as a homestead by John Wagenblast the next day.

In December 1888, John A. Brown gave Homestead Proof testimony to Crook County judge John Sumner. To acquire land for free, Homestead Proofs needed to occur from five to seven years after the claim was made, so John's time had nearly expired. John stated he voted in the Hay Creek District and that he paid taxes, but no records of these two things have been found. Due to a large Federal processing backlog, a patent wasn't granted until July 19, 1890. The land was entered into the Crook County Deed book as belonging to John on April 6, 1891. But, prior to the patent and deed becoming official, John sold the property on January 21, 1889, for \$500 to Ann Glaze, the wife of his friend Tillman. Ann and Tillman Glaze sold the property to W. G. Pickett on February 23, 1889 for \$1300. It is likely that John separated from his wife around this time.



- 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

[www.deschuteshistory.org](http://www.deschuteshistory.org)  
[info@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:info@deschuteshistory.org)

### Museum Staff:

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



### 2024 DCHS Board of Directors:

Jane Williamson, President  
Karen Green, Vice President  
Heidi Kennedy, Secretary/Treasurer  
Adrian Bennett, Past President

### Board Members:

Mike Berry, Paul Claeysens,  
Tony DeBone, Greg Fulton,  
Erik King, Liz Rink



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

### Continued from P. 2— John A. Brown

John A. Brown probably started spending time in the Browns Creek area (present-day Deschutes County) in 1889. This is near Crane Prairie, where sheep and cattle were grazed in the summertime. Roads probably existed from this area along the Deschutes River and also from this area to the present-day Sunriver where around a dozen homesteaders had staked claims by this time. John built cabins and trapped around Browns Creek. In the summer of 1896, John got scurvy and Sunriver homesteaders brought him food and medicine. John was ill again in 1898, and was helped back to the Farewell Bend area to recover. It is likely that he stopped living at Browns Creek then.

It is very likely that Browns Mountain and Browns Creek were named after John A. Brown. An 1883 land survey map shows the mountain and creek as unnamed. A 1915 National Forest Service map shows Browns Mountain and Browns Creek. A 1914 land claim for the area around Browns Creek says that “There are two old cabins located on this tract, ...the other was constructed by a colored trapper by the name of Brown, who has been dead for some years...”.

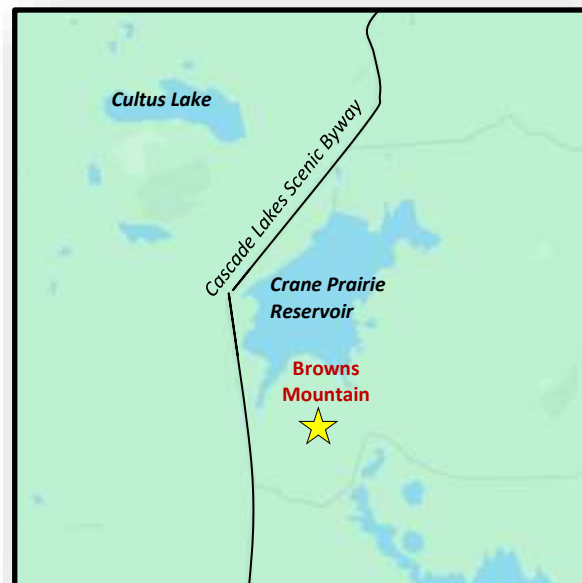
After 1898, John A. Brown probably divided his time between Prineville and along the Deschutes River from Farewell Bend to the Klamath County line. It appears he was counted twice in the 1900 Federal census. It is likely he gave his own information to census taker J. W. Hopkins on June 14 in Prineville (Black, age 64, single, born in English Canada, parents born in Georgia, day laborer). His information may have been supplied to census taker David Barnett between June 23-25 in the Dillon Falls area by his employer Hiram Palmer (servant, Black, age 64, divorced, born in Canada, trapper).

John A. Brown’s daughter Nellie Brown was counted in the 1900 Federal census while residing at St. Mary’s Home in Beaverton, Oregon (ward, Black, born February 1886 in Oregon, at school). Nellie was actually born in February of 1888, but similar errors are often found in census records.

John A. Brown registered to vote in 1900 and 1902 in Prineville while giving his ages as 68 and 70. In May 1902, John was paid \$6 to clean the courthouse. Early in September 1903, John died of erysipelas in a cabin on the P. B. Poindexter farm in Prineville, Oregon, where he had been employed for a year. He was buried in an unmarked grave in the pauper’s section of the Juniper Haven Cemetery in Prineville, Oregon.

Jefferson County historians Jarold Ramsey and Beth Crow led the effort to have the area around John’s 1881-1889 homestead officially named John Brown Canyon. In 2007, Crook County genealogy and historical societies placed a John A. Brown gravestone in Juniper Haven Cemetery. This summer the Forest Service will put an interpretive sign near Browns Mountain.

*Sevilla Rhoads, Zachary Stocks, Jarold Ramsey, Caleb Hennekey, and Martha Henderson did research for this article over the past year. This group built on work done by Beth Crow, Frances Juris, Steve Lent, and Les Joslin in previous decades.*



## Pine Ridge Elementary TAG Program Uses Deschutes Historical Museum Resources

By Brad Lemmon

During this 2023-24 school year, three small groups of Pine Ridge Elementary School Talented and Gifted (TAG) students made 3-hour museum visits to do research for 8-week projects. Using primary resources, the fourth and fifth graders investigated Wall Street between Franklin and Greenwood Avenues. Each student chose an address (818, 835, 953, 954, and 957), a year (1936, 1942, 1950, 1951, 1962, 1976, 1985, and 1989), or a building (Bean, Benson, O’Donnell, and Smith).

Before the project started, Rebekah used the museum’s PastPerfect collections database to add a few hundred Wall Street photos to the museum’s website so the students could access the photos on their iPads during school. While at the museum, the students worked with Vanessa, Rebekah, the vice-principal, myself, and parents to find photos, objects, newspaper articles, phone book entries, maps, historical files, and family files. They explored the museum’s third floor resources, including accessing Sandborn maps and the *Bend Bulletins*, and a look in the vault to see how archival materials are kept. They used other resources while at school, including familysearch.org, Google Maps/Earth, city and county land records, and historic maps.

In general, the students liked finding old objects more than written documents like newspaper articles. Part of the adventure was finding the right room, shelf, box, and item. One student particularly liked an Allen’s Cafe menu because of the items listed with their prices.

Students kept paper research notebooks as work progressed. Some students were surprised to learn that existing shops were once restaurants, or that people used to live where they worked. After the investigations were completed, each student made either a timeline for their building/address or a map for their year.

The clear take-away is that the process of historic research can be challenging, especially when streets or buildings change name or address. However, the story that emerges is often exciting!



# DCHS NEWS



WELCOME TO THE HOMESTEADER THE BONDING MAIL LETTER FOR THE DESCHUTES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## The Deschutes County Historical Society has a new website!

As of the beginning of May, the DCHS website has expanded resources for doing online research, access to information about local tribal groups, and the ability to sign up online for walking tours.



One of the most important features of our new site is the access widget from AccessiBee making our website more useable for readers with a variety of needs, including visual impairments, ADHD, Seizure Safety, and more. There is even a magnifying glass feature to enlarge text. Look for the Accessible Icon at the

bottom left corner of the screen to open the widget to see the range of options available.



Give it a try!

[www.deschuteshistory.org](http://www.deschuteshistory.org)



## The Third Annual Antique Fair August 10 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Come one, come all! It's a fun day of gathering, shopping, and listening to the melodious sounds of Loren Irving and Jay Bowerman. Come early to buy delicious bakery items to enjoy while you stroll from vendor to vendor.

If one of your projects this summer is to clean out your attic, basement, or garage, consider donating items to our Friends of the Museum booth. All proceeds from this booth benefit DCHS programming. We hope to have all donations no later than August 8. We will even pick items up from your home! Contact Jane Williamson to arrange a donation: [jwilliamson1375@gmail.com](mailto:jwilliamson1375@gmail.com) or 541-390-4351.

## The 2024 Leon Devereaux Pioneer Scholarship Winners are Evonna West and Luke Davis

The purpose of the LDP Scholarship is to carry out the DCHS mission to preserve, promote and celebrate our shared local history by encouraging high school seniors in Central Oregon to foster an interest in the community's history through qualitative and quantitative research. Of the five entries received, the 2024 winning entries used quantitative research and evaluation of archives and sources presented in a form that inspires others to learn and take action to shape the future:

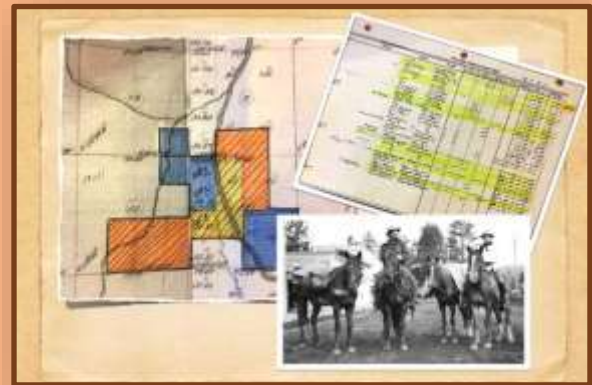
**Evonna West** is a Senior at Ridgeview High School in Redmond. She wrote an essay called "Arthur Tuck: Central Oregon's Original Track Star." She will be attending Oregon State University in the fall.



**Luke Davis** is a Senior at Bend Senior High School. He wrote an essay called "The Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company." He will be attending Oregon State University in the fall.



Please join us in congratulating these two graduates, and we thank them for their research!



## Volunteer Training: Researching in a Nutshell Wednesday June 12, 1-2:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum Research Library

Everyday the museum staff receives all sorts of inquiries about property, local family members, objects found, and so much more. Some of the questions are straightforward, others take time to figure out, and still others remain a mystery. Where does one start when tasked with such a query? What resources are at hand? Join Vanessa Ivey, Museum Manager, as she shares her tips and tricks to finding the answers.

Interested in being a DHM volunteer? Stop by the museum or download the [volunteer form online](#).

# Remembering Susie Penhollow

November 5, 1944 - May 13, 2024



The Deschutes County Museum is mourning the passing of Susie Penhollow, longtime Deschutes County clerk, onetime DCHS board president, current member of the Board of Directors, and a lifelong member and friend of the community. To say that she leaves a lasting legacy in Deschutes County is an understatement. Beyond her distinguished career, Susie was known for her sparkling wit, infectious laugh, keen intellect, and enviable work ethic.

Mary Sue Chopp Penhollow grew up in Bend on the bank of the Deschutes River on Harmon Avenue. Her grandparents, George and Anna Rastovich, immigrated from Serbia and established what is now Deschutes County's first official "Century Farm" in 1919; Rastovich Family Farms is still in operation today. Susie attended elementary school at St. Francis School, junior high at Reid School, and graduated from Bend Senior High School in 1962. She began her studies at Oregon State University but after her father passed when she was just 19, Susie returned home to Bend and attended Central Oregon Community College. She often recalled with fondness her childhood growing up in a large and close-knit family.



Photo courtesy of The Bulletin

Susie met her future husband, Mike Penhollow, when a mutual friend, thinking they would be the perfect match, set them up. Susie recalled, with a sparkle in her eye, being dubious at the prospect of meeting a "cowboy from Redmond", but the two hit it off and the rest is history! The pair shared their love of the land and ranch life with their two children and four grandchildren, who grew up riding horses and moving cattle.

Susie began her career in the Deschutes County clerk's office in 1970 as a Deputy Deschutes County Clerk. In 1982 she campaigned and won the position of Deschutes County Clerk and held that position until she retired in 2002. A highlight of her tenure was her integral involvement in the birth of Oregon's pioneering "Vote by Mail" program. She also facilitated the establishment of the extremely useful and popular "Deschutes County Dial", which allows county residents to easily look up and explore local property and tax records.



Susie took her expertise overseas in the 1990s and served as an election observer and facilitator in several Eastern European Countries including Albania, Ukraine, Bosnia, Azerbaijan, and Macedonia. Her first experience was during a time of unrest in Albania, where, for her safety, she was escorted by armed Turkish Army soldiers to and from polling stations, the sound of gunfire all around

her. Susie recalled the novelty of experiencing the beginnings of democracy in Albania, an experience that only deepened her appreciation of being a U.S. citizen.

Susie began volunteering with the Deschutes Historical Museum when her mother, Millie, started the Chili Feed as a fundraiser for the museum. When Millie passed away in 1994, Susie took over as head chef, continuing to lovingly cook the family's cherished chili recipe.

Susie served a term as DCHS Board President and was still an active board member in 2024. A local legend, Susie was named the Grand Marshal for the Bend Christmas Parade in 2017 and just this year was crowned Deschutes County Pioneer Queen with much pomp and circumstance. Susie was truly regal in her sparkling tiara and queenly robes, surrounded by friends and family.

The board and staff are so grateful we were able to help honor Susie's lifetime commitment and work within Deschutes County in such a fitting way! Although we are truly devastated that we will no longer get to see her smiling face at the museum, Susie will live on in spirit through the enduring legacy of her work.

There will be a celebration of life on August 24 at 3:00 p.m. at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds in the South Sister building.

## Memorials

### *Bill Boyd*

Ruth Douglass  
Karen and Duke Duncan  
Suzanne Hatch

### *Susie Penhollow*

James and Judy Crowell  
Ann Maudlin  
Denyse McGriff  
Robert and Penny Patterson

## Tributes

### *Ralph C. Curtis*

Jean Curtis



Thank you  
Volunteers

**VOLUNTEER  
APPRECIATION  
PARTY**

**Sunday, June 23**

**1-3:00 p.m.**

**Deschutes Historical Museum**

We are so grateful for our dedicated and talented family of volunteers. We can't wait to celebrate YOU with an afternoon of food, fun, games and good vibes!

Bring your family and appetite, as the staff will provide the food and games.



**Wednesday, June 19**

*Deschutes Historical Society will be open with free admission from 10:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. in celebration of the Juneteenth holiday.*

**Mark Your Calendars**

**JUNE**

- 1 OREGON ARCHAEOLOGY ROADSHOW**  
11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Deschutes Historical Museum
- HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**  
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 8 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**  
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 12 VOLUNTEER MEETING: RESEARCH IN A NUT SHELL**  
1-2:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 15 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**  
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 19 JUNETEENTH OPEN HOUSE**  
10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 22 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Architectural Tour**  
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 23 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY**  
1-3:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 29 HERITAGE WALKING TOUR: Early Days of Bend**  
10:30 a.m. Deschutes Historical Museum



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**July 4: Fourth of July Open House**

**August 10: Antique Fair**

**August 30-31: The Little Woody Barrel Aged Beer, Cider and Whisky Festival**

