

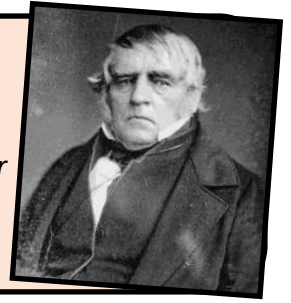


History Pub: Search and Rescue

Glenn Voelz shares a history of Search and Rescue in Central Oregon See page 4

Deschutes County's first tourist

It's the 200th anniversary of Peter Skene Ogden's trek through Central Oregon See page 2



The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—NOVEMBER 2025

DESCHUTES HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Chili Feed Fundraiser 42ND ANNUAL



NOV. 7 & 8
11 AM - 3 PM

GOOD FOOD,
GREAT CAUSE

129 NW IDAHO AVE
DESCHUTESHISTORY.ORG

Time for Millie's Chili November 7 & 8

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We are excited to welcome everyone back to the museum's traditional fall fundraiser started by Millie Chopp and continued for decades by Susie Penhollow. Join us as we carry on the tradition while supporting the Deschutes Historical Museum with food, music, and valuable raffle items.

Supported by local businesses and member donations, this year's raffle includes lift tickets from Mt. Bachelor ski area, a feeding station from Wild Birds Unlimited, grilling supplies from Oregon Feed and Irrigation, a half-day adventure with Wanderlust Tours, a variety of books from the Deschutes Public Libraries and Dudleys, baskets from The Old Mill District, Newport Market, Trader Joe's, and Savory Spice, plus Wine for a Year, a Date Night package, and more!

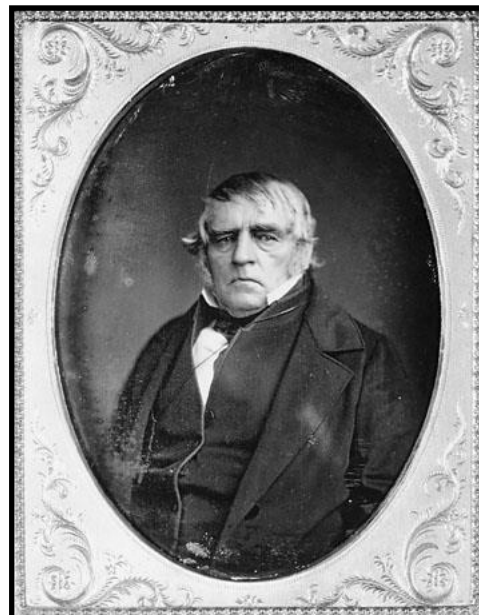
Raffle tickets are
\$1 each
6 for \$5
25 for \$20



You can only buy tickets at the Chili Feed and Raffle, November 7 & 8 from 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., but winners need not be present at drawing. Proceeds support DCHS programs throughout the year.

Peter Skene Ogden's Exploration of Central Oregon

By Mike Berry



Hudson Bay Company trapper Peter Skene Ogden led the first exploration into Central Oregon 200 years ago this December. Ogden, a Canadian, led six fur trapping expeditions between 1824 and 1830 into what are now parts of Oregon, Washington, Nevada, California, Utah, Idaho and Wyoming. The Peter Skene Ogden State Scenic Viewpoint near the Rex T. Barber Veterans Memorial Bridge is named in his honor.

Background - The majority of these areas were within the "joint occupancy" territory between the United States and the United Kingdom created by the Treaty of 1818. This convention gave both countries joint control of the "Oregon Country" for 10 years, the US and the UK were granted use of the land and free navigation through it. Although the two countries' relations were improving after the war of 1812, the race was on to control and populate this vast territory. The unspoken part of the agreement was that neither country wanted Spain or Russia to have valid claims to the area. The east boundary of the territory was the Continental Divide, the south boundary was the north line of Spanish controlled Mexico at 42 degrees north latitude (present Oregon/California state line) and the north boundary was 49 degrees north latitude (present USA/Canada boundary).

These lands were, of course, populated by scores of diverse tribes for the previous 9,000 years or so, but they weren't invited to the treaty signing table. Permanent settlements were few and far between and no government existed. It was the wildest time of the wild west; no government officials, law enforcement or courts to answer to. Britain's Hudson Bay Company (HBC) set about exploring the area and, in order to make it less desirable to American settlement, came up with a plan to trap as many beaver as possible to create a "fur desert." This would hopefully quell exploration and settlement by American trappers.

At the spearpoint of this tactic was chief trader Peter Skene Ogden. His parents had lived in New Jersey but, being Loyalists, fled to Britain in 1783 at the end of the Revolutionary War. They then moved to Quebec, Canada in

1788 and later to Montreal, where Ogden's father served as a judge for the Crown. Peter was born in 1790 and his parents groomed him to become a lawyer. Much to their dismay, he felt his calling was the fur trade and in 1810, 20-year-old Peter went to work for the North West Company (NWC). His meteoric climb up the corporate ladder at NWC was fueled by his intelligence, loyalty, and brutality towards competitors such as the HBC. A fellow NWC trapper characterized him as "Humorous, honest, eccentric, law-defying... a terror to the Indians." In 1818 in Saskatchewan he murdered an Indian trapper named "Buffalo" who was trading with HBC. The NWC whisked him west to Spokane to avoid arrest and prosecution.

That year he married Julia Rivet, a Métis/Nez Perce woman. In their 36 years of marriage they raised a family of eight children. In 1821 the NWC and the HBC merged into a super-sized Hudson Bay Company and by all appearances Ogden was going to be out the door. After 11 years of his belligerent harassment and physical violence meted out on HBC employees, he was roundly despised by the new management, who considered him dangerous and deplorable. He sailed to London, pleaded his case to the HBC and was retained as an employee. He then straightened up, flew right, and became one of their key leaders.

At his duty station in the northwest, he was assigned to lead six fur trapping expeditions. During his second in 1825-1826 and third in 1826-1827, he traveled through Central Oregon.

- 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
info@deschuteshistory.org

Museum Staff:

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



2025 DCHS Board of Directors:

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

Board Members:

Paul Claeysens, Tony DeBone,
Greg Fulton, Eric King,
Brad Lemmon, Julie Lowy,
Liz Rink, Glenn Voelz



Complete minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors are on file with the Museum office.
Tax ID# 51-0186079

Continued from page 2— Peter Skene Ogden

Note that the majority of towns mentioned in the following accounts did not exist when Ogden traveled through these areas. Many of the rivers and lakes had not been named or were known by other names that have been superseded today. The modern names are used to help the reader visualize the routes.

1825 – 1826 Expedition - On November 21, 1825, Ogden and a contingent of trappers traveled west on horseback from Fort Nez Perce (Walla Walla) to the Columbia River and then west along the south side of the Columbia.

On December 6 they reached the mouth of the Deschutes River and began their trek south into the interior. After four days of travel they arrived near the mouth of Shitike Creek at Warm Springs and rendezvoused with another Hudson Bay party led by Finan McDonald, Thomas McKay and Joseph Gervais. This small party had been dispatched in August by Hudson Bay's chief factor Dr. John McLoughlin to travel from the Willamette Valley across the mid-Cascades and down to Klamath Lake to trap and then to proceed back north to meet up with Ogden's group.

The combined party, numbering around 50 people, traveled south to the Crooked River and then east along it and on into the John Day country. (This route along the Crooked River is vague in the Ogden 1825-1826 journals but likely is similar to the more detailed 1826-1827 route along the Crooked River description that follows.) They crossed the Blue Mountains via Dixie Summit and then trapped down the Burnt River to the Snake River. They followed the Snake River southerly and easterly to a point past American Falls in SE Idaho where in May of 1826, they reversed course, backtracking along their route with occasional side trips to trap various drainages of the Snake.

Back near the confluence of the Crooked River and the Deschutes, they went west over the Cascades to the Willamette River and then north to Fort Vancouver.

Ogden's journey over the Cascades is intriguing. It was thoroughly investigated in 1971 by Bend local C.E. "Slim" Hein, a forester and engineer who had just retired after a 40-year career with the US Forest Service in Central Oregon. Upon reading various accounts of the expedition, he determined the following using Ogden's distances, bearings, and landmarks coupled with his own innate knowledge of the area:

The Ogden brigade left the Crooked River at Prineville and crossed the Deschutes River at Lower Bridge, camping on Wychus Creek on July 6. On July 7 they made for a "high nole" (sic), which would be Black Butte, and their horses grazed on lush grass along Indian Ford Creek. Further west they camped at "three Small Lakes" that night which would be Scout, Suttle and Blue Lakes. On July 8 they had "a most fatiguing days journey both for man as well as horse" over six to eight feet of snow across the crest of the Cascades and camped in the vicinity of Lost Lake. Traversing the ridges on the north

side of the North Santiam River they reached the future site of Champoeg on July 16. From there they made the 56-mile trip to Fort Vancouver by canoe.

1826 – 1827 Expedition - After a two-month rest, Ogden was directed to continue exploring the Oregon Country interior. On September 12, they took boats up the Columbia from Fort Vancouver to the Falls of the Columbia (The Dalles). The expedition began with 30 company men, six freemen (freelance trappers), Ogden's wife Julia and five kids, and likely the Indian wives and children of many of the trappers. Their remuda numbered around 100 horses.

On September 19 the journey began with the company traveling 2 miles east along the Columbia River where Ogden wrote we "...bade it adieu. God grant that we reach it again in safety." According to another examination by C.E. Hein of this particular expedition, they then steered south paralleling the present route of highway 197 to Tygh Valley. On September 22 they crossed to the east side of the Deschutes River at present day Sherars Bridge where 20 families of Indians were camped. A slender wooden fishing structure bridged the chasm and some of the outfit, taking it for a bridge, tried to cross it rather than ford the river. Five horses were lost when they broke through the flimsy structure.

They traveled upstream along the Deschutes to Maupin and then headed southeasterly up Bakeoven Creek and on to the vicinity of Shaniko. Range fires were ravaging the area and they had to resort to using a compass to travel by due to the dense smoke. They went south to Antelope and then southwesterly along Antelope Creek to Willowdale. From here they followed Hay Creek southerly towards Grizzly Butte, skirted the east flank of Gray Butte through Lone Pine Flat and then (Welcome to Deschutes County!) hit the Crooked River at O'Neil.

On September 29 at O'Neil they were joined by Jean Baptiste Gervais and eight other trappers. This group brought additional horses and mules over the Santiam Pass from the Willamette Valley. The next day the expedition headed east along the Crooked River to Prineville and, leaving the river, continued easterly across Combs Flat and dropped back down to the Crooked River near Post.

On the night of October 4, near Paulina, Indians crossed the Crooked River and started a fire 30 feet from the trappers' camp. A line of willows slowed the wind-whipped blaze and the companies' camp was not destroyed. Ogden wrote that by the morning the Indians had decamped.

From the Paulina area the crew traveled east and on October 10 reached the Silvies River. Game was scarce and the "Snake Indians" (Northern Paiute tribe) were persistent and successful in stealing beaver traps from the rivers and horses from their camps. Near Seneca on October 14 two of the trappers got into a scuffle with three Snake Indians over stolen horses. In the melee that followed one of the Indians was killed and the two trappers were severely injured.

On November 1 their Indian guides led them to Malheur and

- Continued on page 5



History Pub: Oregon Search and Rescue Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Presented by Glenn Voelz

Doors open at 6:00 p.m., Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Oregon's long tradition of volunteer search and rescue dates to the territorial days, when good Samaritans and mountain men came to aid those in need. On the coast, surfmen of the U.S. Life-Saving Service protected mariners traversing the "Graveyard of the Pacific." In the early twentieth century, outdoor clubs like the Mazamas, the Skyliners, and the Obsidians served as informal search and rescue units, keeping Oregonians safe in the mountains, rivers, and wilderness areas. After World War II, Oregon's volunteer teams began to professionalize and became some of the most effective units in the country. Join author Glenn Voelz as he recounts the history of Oregon Search and Rescue.



Glenn Voelz served as an intelligence officer for 25 years in the Army, holding senior leadership positions at the Pentagon, the White House Situation Room, and NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. He was an assistant professor of history at West Point and has authored several books on Oregon history, including *Mount Bachelor: A History*, *Oregon Search & Rescue: Answering the Call*, and *The Oregon Skyline Trail*. He serves as a board member of the Deschutes County Historical Society and the Deschutes Historical Museum.

Copies of Voelz's book "Oregon Search & Rescue: Answering the Call" will be available for purchase.

Reservations required, \$5 per person: www.mcmenamins.com/events/

Escaping the Museum Has never Been More Fun!

This October, the Deschutes Historical Museum introduced something completely new to their fan base, an escape room! This escape room is based on local history and a real-life mystery that has never been solved.

"Escape the Museum: The Curse of the Curate's Collection" combines teamwork to decipher a mystery, while participants are immersed in local history, a win-win for both the museum and the participants. Within 24 hours of publishing the event, tickets for all thirty time slots were sold out.

Teams consisting of two to six people competed against the clock to solve the whereabouts of Rev. Mitchell's eclectic collection. "Everyone is loving this," exclaimed Vanessa Ivey, museum manager. "We have had wonderful feedback. They really like the vibe and enjoy the history and low-tech challenges."

The event ran over three weekends, October 10-25, operating thirty sessions. The final Friday's storm added some extra excitement to the program, as the museum experienced two power outages. Aided by the evening light through the large school-house windows and flashlights, one team played on, solving the mystery just as the power returned, allowing the big reveal on the DVD player.

For those desiring to channel their inner Indiana Jones, Escape the Museum will return. "We are so excited this new program has been a success. We are definitely adding more dates next year," promises Ivey.



Above: Staff from the Bend Chamber of Commerce tested the new program, and they escaped!

Below: Lisa Lee, volunteer security guard.



Continued from page 3— Peter Skene Ogden

Harney Lakes. Ogden noted that the Harney Lake Basin was dotted with Indian encampments. *“We cannot go 10 yds. without finding them... No Indian nation so numerous as these in all North America.”* He observed that this would be a great area for missionaries to ply their trade. The trapping was poor in the area and on November 4 they struck camp and headed west across the desert. The weather had turned cold and snowy. A sense of malaise prevailed. The desert was devoid of water and wildlife and the brigade suffered. On November 12, in the vicinity of Brothers, two herds of antelope were spotted but evaded the hunters. Ogden bemoaned that *“Within the last 10 days we have only had 6 meals. It was now 2 mos. since we set out and we have only 500 beaver.”*

On November 12 it is believed that advance scout Thomas McKay climbed Pine Mountain in hopes of determining the distance to the *“Rivière des Chutes”* (Deschutes River). The next day the trappers struggled through the lava maze known as The Pot Holes east of China Hat Butte and on November 15 they climbed the eastern flank of Newberry Crater, descended into the caldera and camped at East Lake in a foot of snow. Nearly starved, they were encouraged by the presence of bear tracks, but no bears were bagged. These mountain lakes weren’t stocked with fish until 1912, so catching fish to stave off their hunger was not an option. The next day they traveled past Paulina Lake and had to brush a trail through thick hemlock and pine down Paulina Creek.

They soon arrived at the Little Deschutes River, where game was plentiful and hunters restocked their larder with fresh meat (Ogden complained about the marksmanship of his hunters, noting that they wasted one-half pound of ammunition to kill one deer). They then struck a course southerly to Klamath Lake. For the next four months they explored and trapped the drainages of the Applegate and Rogue Rivers in the Cascades and Siskiyou in southern Oregon and ventured into northern California where Ogden noted the existence of a large snowcapped mountain, Mount Shasta.

The party returned north via Goose Lake near Lakeview and then on to the confluence of the Snake and Malheur Rivers. Here on July 18, 1827, Ogden took his leave of the main party with four other trappers and headed north to Fort Nez Perce (Walla Walla) roughly along the route that would later become the Oregon Trail, close to present day Interstate 84. Their haul to this point had been 2,500 beaver pelts. The main body of the expedition was left under the command of Thomas McKay. It is believed that this party backtracked along the route of the Harney Basin, Crooked River and Deschutes River to Fort Vancouver.

The expedition’s take of beaver pelts was not as successful as Ogden had hoped. Many areas had been trapped out in the years prior. The suffering from harsh winter weather, constant starvation, rough terrain and harassment by the native peoples led Ogden to quip that a few years of this life would make a man of 30 seem to be 60.

Later years – Between 1827 and 1830 Ogden led three more trapping expeditions in the American west. In 1841 he was appointed Chief Factor of the HBC Columbia District. The 1846 Oregon Treaty fixed the USA/Canada border at the 49th parallel (excepting therefrom the portion of Vancouver Island south of the parallel).

Ironically, Ogden, who had worked the majority of his life to bring the Pacific Northwest under the Union Jack, continued to direct HBC operations from Fort Vancouver, now a territory of the USA. In 1847 he redeemed himself in the eyes of Americans by negotiating the release of 54 Americans held captive by the Cayuse tribe after members of the tribes murdered Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and 11 others at their mission near Walla Walla. Ogden was savvy to the Cayuse culture and belittled the Cayuse elders for allowing their young men to besmirch their noble tribe. Ogden arranged a ransom of HBC blankets, rifles, ammunition, tobacco and clothing for the surviving hostages.

In the summer of 1854 Ogden moved to Oregon City, where he died in September of that year at the age of 64. He is buried in Oregon City. Julia, who died in 1886 at the age of 98, is buried in Lac la Hache, British Columbia.

Ogden was tough as nails, intelligent, and keen to the ways of the harsh and unforgiving frontier. Even though he traipsed through thousands of square miles of mountain ranges and deserts, exploring lands that are now national treasures preserved as wilderness areas and national parks, he wasn’t one to wax poetic. His journals mainly serve as ledgers of pelts taken, locations of drainages and landforms with trapping potential, and accounts of dwindling supplies, weeks of starvation, harsh weather, horses slaughtered for food, injuries, deaths, thefts by marauding tribes and encounters with dreaded American trappers who, he feared, outgunned the Brits and might become combative at the drop of a hat. He often spoke disparagingly of the Indians he traded with, yet his wife was from the Nez Perce tribe— their children mixed-race. To the contrary, his peers considered him an engaging raconteur and practical joker. Many famous trappers and mountain men traveled under his command for years. To me, Ogden was an enigma, but notable mountain men put their livelihoods and lives in his hands repeatedly under the direst of conditions. These men obviously respected and admired Ogden.

Memorials

Bob Woodward

**Terry Foley and Joyce
Northcraft**

Tributes

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter

Preserving The History of Veterans: Volunteers and Interviewers Needed



By Aaron Rasheed and Linda Heuser

Central Oregon Community College (COCC), and Journalistika Media (JM) are joining forces on the Veterans History Project, a meaningful initiative by the Library of Congress dedicated to collecting and preserving the powerful oral histories of U.S. military veterans.

Established by Congress in 2000, this project aims to ensure that future generations grasp the profound experiences of veterans from diverse eras.

Local volunteer journalists and COCC students from The Broadside student newspaper are currently conducting interviews with veterans. COCC and JM invite veterans who are willing to share their stories, as well as passionate volunteers interested in training as interviewers and note-takers, to be part of this inspiring journey to preserve history.

For questions, to schedule an interview, or to volunteer as an interviewer, please contact COCC's Veterans Program at vetservices@cocc.edu or call 541-383-7215. You can also reach aaron@journalistika.org or call 541-728-4034.

To learn more about the Veterans History Project, visit: loc.gov/vets
 You can also visit: Journalistikamedia.com

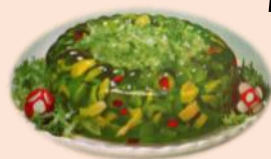


Photo Credit: Shawn Miller; Library of Congress

Mark Your Calendars

NOVEMBER

- 7 & 8 ANNUAL CHILI FEED AND RAFFLE**
11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum
- 11 THE 24th ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PARADE**
11:00 a.m. Downtown Bend
- 18 HISTORY PUB: OREGON SEARCH AND RESCUE**
Presented by Glenn Voelz
McMenamins Old St. Francis School; 700 NW Bond St., Bend
Father Luke's Room, 7:00 p.m., doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Reservations required, \$5 per person



SAVE THE DATE!
December 13 Holiday Gelatin Salad Show!