

**LEGACY**

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a utilitarian purpose, for Langford noted that his father used water from the lake to irrigate his farm.

It is not known how the lake was created, Wadner said. The man responsible for what today remains a bit of an aquatic mystery arrived in Union in 1876 as a Civil War veteran with battle scars. He was a member of Company B of the 11th New York Cavalry and fought in the battle of Fairfax County Courthouse in Virginia, where he was seriously wounded.

“He was hit by a .52 caliber mini ball. He spent five months in a hospital recovering from it,” Wadner said.

Goodbrod later rejoined Company B, which was based in Louisiana and Tennessee, at the end of the Civil War.

**Protecting Lincoln**

Company B was initially based in Washington, D.C., where it fought in area battles and provided protection for President Abraham Lincoln. The Army unit was responsible for escorting Lincoln and his family to and from the Soldiers’ Home each summer. The Soldiers’ Home was a cottage on a hill about 3 miles from Washington, D.C., then known as Washington City. The Lincolns spent their summer nights at the cottage because it was cooler there.

Wadner said it is not known if Goodbrod ever helped escort the Lincolns but the chances that he did are not out of the question.

“It is just as likely that he did as he didn’t,” Wadner said. “In my mind it was 50-50.”

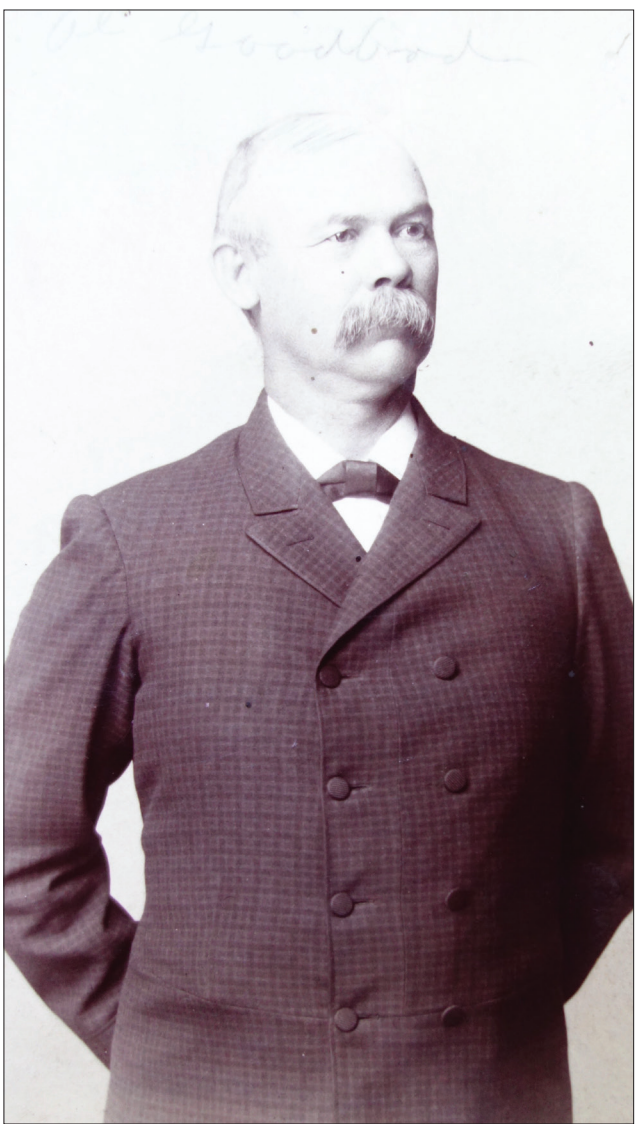
Goodbrod could have spoken with Lincoln if he did accompany his family on rides to and from Soldiers’ Home.

“Lincoln was known to sit and visit with soldiers,” Wadner said.

The Union County Museum volunteer said that even if Goodbrod never escorted Lincoln, he would have talked with fellow soldiers who met with the president.

“It is still part of the story,” Wadner said.

He noted that he found a published account during his research in which a Company B soldier told of a long talk he had with Lincoln.



Union County Museum/Contributed Photo  
**A.J. Goodbrod poses for a photo in the late 1800s. Goodbrod was active in the Union community after moving there in 1876. A Civil War veteran, he was a hotel owner and farmer in Union, and he built a nearly forgotten 2.5-acre lake on his property that included a dance hall and boats to rent.**

**Active in Union community**

The end of the Civil War did not mark the end of Goodbrod’s military career. He reenlisted in the Army in 1866 and was sent to California and Oregon to fight in Indian wars. Goodbrod later left the Army, and he came to Union in 1876. He purchased Union’s old Centennial Hotel about a decade later and began operating it around 1887.

Wadner said registers from the hotel indicate that people from as far away as Mexico and Germany stayed there. He noted that some of the hotel’s visitors may have been individuals interested in investing in the flourishing gold mines of Baker County.

Goodbrod sold the Centennial Hotel around 1891 and got busy creating his lake and working as a fruit farmer.

“He was hardworking and industrious,” Wadner said.

Goodbrod, who died at age 70 in 1914, was always a big part of the Union community during the 38 years he lived there.



New York Historical Society/Contributed Photo

**This is a recruiting poster for the Company B 11th New York Cavalry in which A.J. Goodbrod served during the Civil War.**

**COVID**

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test kits and masks. Anyone with a positive result can call 211 — an essential service community hotline — seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for guidance and resource information.

Residents can go to the Center for Human Development to get free at-home test kits and special tests needed to travel to some countries. Additionally vaccinations and booster shots are available.

**Uptick in contrast to rest of state**

The Oregon Health Authority said June 15 that cases in Oregon fell 5% over the last two weeks to about 21,000, compared with around 21,100 cases recorded the previous two weeks. Total COVID cases statewide are likely higher, according to Dr. Dean Sidelinger, state epidemiologist.

“While this trend is positive news, OHA assumes these numbers are an undercount of the actual

number of cases because we know many people are using at-home tests and not reporting the results or not getting tested,” Sidelinger said in a statement.

The state’s bi-weekly COVID report also showed that deaths and hospitalizations are down. In the last two weeks, hospitalizations dropped 30%, and 37 people died, four fewer than the previous period.

This downward trend is expected to continue, according to the latest forecast by an Oregon Health & Science University forecaster, Peter Graven. Hospitalizations in the current surge of the variant BA.2 peaked on June 5 with 327 people hospitalized, he said.

Since the pandemic began, Oregon has reported 789,698 confirmed or presumed infections and 7,721 deaths, as of June 16, per Oregon Health Authority data. The June 16 report indicated 303 people in the state were hospitalized with confirmed coronavirus infections.

— Oregon Capital Chronicle reporter  
Lynne Terry contributed to this report.

**TOUR**

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earlier in the week with a trip up the Wallowa Lake Tramway hosted by co-owner Mike Lockhart. That gave him a chance to discuss issues he believes are important for the commission and Wallowa County.

Lockhart is president of the Wallowa Lake Tourism Association.

“I talked a little bit about how tourism has grown exponentially,” he said. “We have a bit of an issue now in that tourism is outpacing our ability to provide the infrastructure to take care of our guests properly.”

Lockhart noted that the lack of infrastructure is not just lodging, but everything: parking, stores, restaurants and other amenities.

“We wouldn’t have (the infrastructure) if it wasn’t for the tourism that supports them during the summer season,” he said. “It’s important to address the local needs of the people so it doesn’t become a burden on them.”

**Events center**

Early on Tuesday, June 14, Mac Freeborn, manager of Wallowa Lake State Park, led the group on a tour of various sites at the lake, including the site of the proposed events center at the marina, the site of a proposed property acquisition, the Upper Wallowa River that is slated for restoration, the Wallowa Falls Campground, the Little Alps day-use area and the Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site.

The first site — the proposed events center — is

slated to be built just east of the current buildings in a couple of years and likely will incorporate some of the current parking lot.

Although it is still early in the planning stage, Freeborn said, a cost of \$3.5 million is estimated for the 3,000-5,000-square-foot building with another \$400,000-\$450,000 for architectural fees.

It will have a 360-degree view with many windows, a small kitchen, restrooms, changing rooms and dividers so it can be turned into several smaller rooms or opened to one large room.

But the cost won’t all come from state coffers, Freeborn said.

“We’d have to do a lot of fundraising,” he said. “That’s where the stakeholders are coming in. They’re going to be key in raising money for this.”

Specifically, Freeborn mentioned Lockhart and Chuck Anderson, who heads the annual Oregon’s Alpenfest.

Alpenfest, which is regularly held in late September and early October, used to be held in the century-old Edelweiss Inn. However, that building has become too dilapidated and would be too costly to restore, Lockhart has said in the past. Instead, he said June 15, he and his partner, Bill Whittemore, have decided to dismantle it and have offered to let the Parks Department use parts for the events center.

Lockhart and Anderson both expressed their hopes for the events center after the meetings.

“We think it would be a good deal for the parks and for everybody,”

Lockhart said.

Anderson said that with no viable venue at the lake, Alpenfest will be held Sept. 29 to Oct. 2 at the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo grounds in Joseph.

“I was there to lobby them to move as fast as they can with their planned events center at the state park because when that’s built, we’re hoping for it to be the new permanent home of Oregon’s Alpenfest,” Anderson said. “One commissioner asked, ‘What are the dates? I want to come.’ I passed on a brochure to the commissioners and I’m hoping to see a few of them.”

Freeborn said the parking lot at the events center likely will have to be redesigned. He also said the beach area is likely to change with the planned refurbishment of Wallowa Lake Dam.

Ground is expected to be broken on the \$21 million project in the fall of 2023, according to Dan Butterfield, president of the Wallowa Lake Irrigation District, which owns the dam.

Freeborn said that once the new dam is completed, the water level of the lake could rise by 2-4 feet, which will flood some of the current beach area.

**Evacuation access**

The commissioners met June 15 in Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise to conduct routine business and hear public comments.

One of the written comments submitted involved improving access to the south end of the lake. Currently, only Highway 82 along the east side of the lake provides access.

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