

Luerzer, Feodor von, b. 2-12-1851 in Saalfelden, Salzburg Province, Austria, d. 8-19-1913 in Spokane, Washington. Feodor von Luerzer came from an aristocratic background and was originally trained for a military career. Finishing officer's school around 1872 he entered a period of service in the Austrian army. He appears to have served on the Russian side in the Russo- Turkish War of 1877-1778, as he reported to have been wounded in action against the Turks. At one point he was commissioned to paint an official war album for the Austrian government. When he won a large sum of money in a lottery he became an art student, first in Vienna and later in Munich. Arriving in the U.S. in 1886 he at first went to Cleveland but reached Milwaukee by 1887 and found occasional work at the panorama studio.²⁰ He apparently arrived in Milwaukee too late to work for the American Panorama Company and was probably one of the artists who helped Lohr and Heine paint their Crucifixion panorama in 1887. Soon afterwards he moved on to Duluth, where he painted landscapes and logging scenes. From 1904 to 1905 he was in California, where he painted Redwood forests, landscapes in Calaveras County, and coastal scenes at Monterey and Santa Cruz. He then returned to Deluth, but in 1909 went to Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, where he built a summer house on land owned by his wife's two brothers. For the next four years he spent his summers at Coeur D' Alene, but spent his winters in Spokane, Washington, which is about thirty miles distant. Thirteen of his known paintings are Idaho landscapes and five others were painted at Lake Chelan in central Washington State. Although mainly a landscape painter, he sometimes painted portraits, including one of himself.²¹
