Willamette Valley Genealogical Society Meeting

On March 23, 2020, Gov. Kate Brown ordered all Oregonians to stay in their homes as of Monday, March 23 in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19. The executive order forbids all Oregonians from leaving their homes unless absolutely necessary.

We are living through tough times. Obviously our genealogy society meetings are not a necessity! **So our Board Meeting on May 7th and General Meeting on May 9th are cancelled.** We hope that we will be able to meet in June but as you all know, the situation is uncertain.

Since we are not able to have a live program, we have arranged to have a video for members on our website in May. We are now a member of New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) and this video was originally a NEHGS webinar. We hope that you find it useful.

**Researching Women in Archives** Presented by: Judy Lucey, Archivist

“Women make up 50% of your ancestry, yet their lives, experiences, and even complete names are all too often forgotten by written history. When they survive, diaries, letters, account books, family bibles, samplers, organization records, and more can reveal more about a woman’s daily life than any government document. Archivist Judy Lucey will discuss how these unique records and manuscripts can be used to piece together a family story and how digging in the archives can hit genealogical gold.”

For members to access this presentation, go to our website, [http://wvgsor.org/](http://wvgsor.org/) Log in on the Member Page using your password. The link to the video will be there. It will only be on our website until June 1, 2020.

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**Upcoming Programs for 2020 (tentative)**

June—Carol Zolkoske “St Boniiface Community Archives & Museum in Sublimity”

July—Zoe Morrison “Preserving Family Photos”

August—Pam Vestal “What the heck does that say?” The Challenge of Reading Difficult Handwriting
MEMBERSHIP REPORT  By Suzan Rempel

Membership as of April 24, 2020 was 1 society, 23 Life Members, 43 single memberships, and 10 family memberships (20 individuals) for a total of 87 members.

Newsletter
We send newsletters to our members and exchange societies by email from our Yahoo email account (willvgs@yahoo.com).

If any member would prefer a hard copy, please let me know. Or if we don’t have your e-mail and you’re willing to get your newsletter by e-mail, let me know your e-mail address. The same is true for our exchange societies and complimentary newsletters.

We also are emailing the Beaver Briefs to members. If you want a hard copy, the cost is still an additional $7.00 for postage. Beaver Briefs can be accessed by members on our website under Member Page with a password. If you need your password, contact Liz Tice.

Fred Meyer Community Rewards
Willamette Valley Genealogical Society has signed up with Fred Meyer Community Rewards as a non-profit. If you shop at Fred Meyer and use your Rewards Card, it also helps us.

- Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Willamette Valley Genealogical Society. You can do this on our website under Help.
- Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping WVGS earn a donation!
- You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today. Thank you
- WVGS’s Fred Meyer Community Rewards number is IW083.

Next Genealogy Workshop
The next genealogy workshop is scheduled for Saturday, June 20, 2020. This will be a Beginner’s Workshop, focusing on the first steps—fill out family group sheets and pedigree charts and finding vital records. Cost will be $10, 10 am to 1 pm at the Senior Center 50+.

Meeting Dates for 2020
January 11  July 11
February 8  August 8
March 14  September 12
April 11  October 10
May 9  November 14
June 13  December 12

WVGS Officers for 2020
Elected Officers
President: Elizabeth Tice
1st Vice-President (Program): Doug Crosby
2nd Vice-President (Membership): Suzan Rempel
Recording Secretary: Sally Broadwater
Corresponding Secretary: Tony Hoff
Treasurer: Barbara Foster

Appointed Positions
Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Tice
Beaver Brief Editors: Dennis Hill & Craig Smith
Librarians: Deanne Smith
Volunteer Coordinator: Craig Smith
Publicity: George Cropsey
Webmaster: Dennis Hill
Periodicals: Jerry Rodgers

WVGS and Salem Public Library
Both of Salem Public Library’s current physical branches, Salem Public Library at Broadway and the West Salem Branch Library, will be closed to the public until further notice, in accordance with the Governor’s policies designed to slow the spread of COVID-19. We’ll keep you posted: We will continue to consult with county health departments, the Oregon Health Authority, and the Centers for Disease Control for guidance about when and how we can safely re-open.

“We are incredibly grateful for your continued support and patience as we work to follow best practices to slow the spread of COVID-19,” said City Librarian Sarah Strahl. "The decision to close the buildings has been difficult and will have an impact on people who benefit from our services. We also understand that by closing we can be part of an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. We look forward to serving you again in person once the COVID-19 risk has subsided.”
**WVGS Members’ Research Interests**

In 2018, WVGS members decided to continue asking members about their genealogical interests on our membership form. That information for 2020 members is now in a database. Five questions are asked at the bottom of the form (see page 7 of this newsletter). Not everyone filled that section out. However for everyone who did, the information has been entered into a database. It will be posted on our website on Member Page. For security, there are no phone numbers or emails listed. There will be a contact question which goes to our administrator, member Dave Bruey. He will make the contact with the member that you want to contact.

When the society started more that 50 years ago, local interest groups were very important. Now we do much of our research online. But there may be some in our society who could help you with a language, or a surname or a place. The hope for this was that you might contact a member who could help you, so please take advantage of this database.

Go to our website, www.wvgsor.org, log in to the Member Page and you will be able to check out what our members need help with, what surnames they’re researching and what they are willing to help with.

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**Beaver Briefs**

The Spring Issue, Volume 52, No. 2, of Beaver Briefs is ready! Co-Editors Craig Smith and Dennis Hill have worked together to produce an updated publication. We will send a pdf version to members and exchange societies. Members can also access the quarterly on our webpage under “Member Page”. The version on our web page has color pictures. Members who have paid $7.00 to cover postage for 4 issues for 2020 will receive a copy by USPS mail (sorry—no color).

If you need your password for the “Member Page” please contact us at willvgs@yahoo.com.

**Table of Contents**

**SPECIAL ARTICLES:**
- In Memory of Sue Bell: Beaver Briefs Editor Emeritus
- Silver Creek Falls
- The Triskitt Gang and Sailor’s Diggings

**CONTINUING SERIES:**
- Rachel Ann Brooks (Part 5)
- Genealogy Tool Box: List of State Censuses (Part 6 of 6)
- Excerpts from the Oregon Statesman (Part 5)

**REGULAR FEATURES:**
- Letter from the Editor
- Surname Index

Beaver Briefs Vol. 52, No. 2 will be sent by email or US mail on May 1, 2020.

Number 3 Summer Publish Date: August 1st
June 1st Deadline for article submission editor

**Libraries**

**Salem Public Library:**

For those of you who do not have access to Ancestry.com at home and live in the Salem area, Salem Public Library has remote access to Ancestry from home while they are closed. All you need is a local library card. Here is the link: https://ccrls.org/ancestry-remote-access/

WVGS materials are in storage due to the construction for earthquake and safety upgrades.

**From Rebecca at Salem Public Library:**

Multnomah County is letting people from other parts of Oregon sign up for a card online during the library closures. So, if you did not make it up to a Multnomah Branch, you can go online to get a card. I think you would use this form to get a card - https://multcolib.org/get-a-library-card

You can also send a message to Multnomah County through this site - https://multcolib.org/we-can-help-anything

Here is the list of all the online tools you can access with their card - https://multcolib.org/research-tools
SteveMorse.org One Step Webpages


Dr. Stephen P. Morse is a famous computer inventor, professor, author and researcher. He invented the great-grandfather of the Pentium chips that power today's desktop computers. Steve Morse's site provides an interface to search databases with one step instead of the multiple steps required at the database's home site. Try it for vital records, immigration records, censuses, and more. He does not create databases, but rather has found better ways to mine existing databases.

His site has grown over time and it now addresses the following topics:

- Immigration
- Census (US, NY, Britain, Canada)
- Soundex Codes
- Vital Records (B-M-D, Naturalization)
- Calendars and Maps
- Transliterating in Foreign Alphabets
- Holocaust
- Genetic Genealogy

To get started, click “About this Website and How to Use It”. You’ll see some great examples of how and why you should use the various One-Step search tools.

The magic of his website is that it allows you to perform a sophisticated database search, using numerous pieces of information, combined into one simple step.

The site’s Ellis Island passenger list search option are some of its most used, offering more search capabilities than the free Ellis Island Website.

Little-known aids on the website included several calendar conversions tools. You can also find language translation aids for Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian, Greek, Arabic, Japanese, Chinese and Old German.

Several of Morse’s search tools pull data from Ancestry.com. To use these tools you’ll need either an Ancestry.com subscription or us Ancestry Library Edition at a library.

The One-Step website contains a compendium of street-name changes and house-number changes for over 200 U.S. cities.
Family History Activities for Kids

- Research has found that children who know their family stories have a higher self-esteem, stronger self-control, lower anxiety, fewer behavioral problems, and function better in a family. The study pointed out that it's not just knowing family history that's important. It's the process of talking with adults and learning the family narrative that leads to these positive outcomes.
- Are your grandkids looking for something to do while being isolated due to COVID-19?
- Below are several free, easy-to-do suggestions for activities that will keep kids entertained and get them thinking about their family history. These exercises are designed to teach critical skills while encouraging kids to explore their personal connection to the past. Studies show that young people who know facts about their heritage have a stronger sense of self, which can help them perform better in school and life.
- You can also
  - Create a calendar with birthdays of special ancestors.
  - Learn about the traditions and foods eaten by your ancestors.
  - Research and ancestor and then have a story swap.
MONTANA State, territorial, and colonial censuses
Montana took a few censuses in the years between the federal censuses. State census records may have columns that were different or more unusual than those found on federal censuses. The responses and years of coverage may give additional information on the family.

Family History Library:

Microfilm images at Family History Library:
Indian census rolls, Rocky Boy, 1919-1939
Indian census rolls, Flathead, 1886-1939
Indian census rolls, Ft. Shaw School, 1910
Indian census rolls, Ft. Belknap, 1885-1939
Census rolls, 1909-1948
Ancestry.com
1897-1898 Census of the Blackfeet, Montana

For more information see:

Find Your German Roots
From Familytree Magazine
From May/June 2020 Familytree Magazine here are some sites for German ancestry research:
* Archion:  www.archion.de ($)
  Protestant church records online
* Matricula:  data.matricula-online.eu
  Church registers (mostly books of birth, marriage and death) from various European countries (currently Austria, Germany, Poland and Serbia).
* FamilySearch:  www.familysearch.org
  Enormous collections of abstracted vital records and substitutes as well as image-only documents for browsing.
* Ancestry.com:  www.ancestry.com ($)
  American church records for ethnic German Congregations as well as passenger lists. The same collection of vital records as Familysearch but a different search engine.
* MyHeritage:  www.myheritage.com ($)
  Large number of trees with intercontinental Connections. Some indexes to records from

The state of Hesse, as well as the Familysearch collection.

* Meyers Gazetteer:  www.meyersgaz.org
  Entries for villages and parishes. A Historical Map and a modern-day Google map of the Area.
* Kartenmeister:  www.kartenmeister.com
  Another online gazetteer allows you to enter A German or Polish village name and Returns information on the village. Messages by interested searchers.
* CompGen:  www.compgen.de
  Millions of names in public family trees, Village gazetteer, link to German’s leading Library of digitized historical documents, And more.
* Grimms’ Wörterbuch:  dwb.uni-trier.de
  The German Dictionary by Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm is the most extensive lexicographical depiction of the German language. It describes the vocabulary used in written New High German from the middle of the 15th century until today.
The Willamette Valley Genealogical Society was organized in December 1968, to create and foster the study of family history, to aid in the publication of local history, and to aid in the establishment of materials in local genealogical library collections. It is an Oregon Non-Profit corporation, and was determined by IRS to be a 501 (c) (3) organization. Your donations may be federal tax-deductible.

WVGS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  Please ✓ if this is a ☐ NEW or ☐ RENEWAL membership

Name __________________________________________________________

Address___________________________________________________________________

City _____________________________ State ________________ Zip _________________

Phone ______________________ email: _________________________________________

May WVGS include the following in our Members Only membership roster? (please check each box if OK).

☐ YOUR ADDRESS  ☐ YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER ☐ YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

$ ____________ Annual Dues for the calendar year are $25 for an individual member or $30 for a family membership. Membership includes the WVGS monthly newsletter and electronic copies of 4 issues of the quarterly bulletin Beaver Briefs.

$ ____________ Additional cost for members only for postage for 4 issues of hard copies of Beaver Briefs in the mail is $7.

$ ____________ A one-time payment for Life Membership is $250 if under age 70 or $200 if age 70 or over. See website for information on Life Membership or pick up a form from an officer.

$ ____________ Hard copies (4 issues) of Beaver Briefs only, received by mail, is $20 for non-members only.

$ ____________ Other (please identify) __________________________________________

$ ____________ TOTAL ENCLOSED Please make check payable to WVGS.

This information will be used to connect members through our website. Contact will be made through a third party. Your contact information will not be posted on the Members Page of our website.

I am looking for help or need help with:

I can offer help with:

My 5 main surnames are:

Languages (other than English) that I can read are:

SIGNATURE ___________________________ Date ____________________
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May 2020 Newsletter
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Salem OR 97306-2083
P.O. Box 2083
Willamette Valley Genealogical Society