



WILLAMETTE VALLEY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER

*Volume XLII, Number 6*

*Salem, Oregon*

*June 2020*

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WVGS Web Site <http://www.wvgsor.org>

## WVGS ACTIVITIES—SALEM MEETINGS

### 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. Marion County is in Phase 1 of re-opening, but gatherings are still limited.

We are living through tough times of limited contact. **So our Board Meeting on June 11th and General Meeting on June 13th are cancelled.** We hope that we will be able to meet in July but as you all know, the situation is still uncertain.

It will be sometime before Willamette Valley Genealogical Society will be able to offer our services at Salem Public Library; volunteers helping patrons, in person, research their family history. Therefore, Willamette Valley Genealogical Society is offering either one hour of free research or one newspaper article/obituary per household. This is for residents of Marion and Polk Counties. It would be effective from now until August 1st, 2020, and possibly later. The results would only be sent by email. If more than one hour of research or more than one news article/obituary is desired, then the research fee policy would apply. Go to the 'Research' page at [www.wvgsor.org](http://www.wvgsor.org) for more information on our research policy.

Our very competent volunteers do research on family connections all over the county and world, not just in Oregon. And don't forget that the Ancestry.com Library Edition is available for free to Salem Public Library patrons while the library is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Send your research request to the Society at [willvgs@yahoo.com](mailto:willvgs@yahoo.com) or use the link on the 'Research' page. Please include "Marion/Polk County Resident" in the subject of your request. We are still here for our library patrons, and our volunteers are looking forward to helping you with your genealogical research!

### Upcoming Programs for 2020 (tentative)

July-Zoe Morrison "Preserving Family Photos"

August—Pam Vestal "What the heck does that say?" The Challenge of Reading Difficult Handwriting



## WVGS Information

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT By Suzan Rempel

Membership as of May 31, 2020 was 1 society, 22 Life Members, 43 single memberships, and 10 family memberships (20 individuals) for a total of 86 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.

### 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 reopen.

"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."

### 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**.

### 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

### Next Genealogy Workshop

**The next genealogy workshop scheduled for June 20, 2020 has been postponed until Fall. 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+.**

### 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*



## In Memoriam & Messages from Officers

### Life Member Donald Houk

Member Don Houk was a member that few of us ever met. He lived in Tokyo, Japan while working for K Line America. He adopted a family there. Don moved back to the US last year but passed away January 18, 2020.

Don very much enjoyed genealogy and knew his family's history in Oregon very well. His maternal grandparents, were early Oregon pioneers who operated one of the first sawmills in Central Oregon. When Don's father Jacob Houk married Don's mother Bessie Compton, longtime Oregon Pioneer families united. Don's 3rd great-grandfather, Richard Miller, signed the Oregon Territory's Provisional Constitution.

Don communicated with our society at least once a year. He donated very generously to WVGS every year. He seemed to be a kind and generous person and will be missed by his family. His obituary was published in the *New York Times* on February 13, 2020. The full obituary can be reached through [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)

I have been lucky during this pandemic—I don't know of any family or friends that have had COVID-19. But that doesn't mean I don't worry! As I am sure you all do.

As for WVGS, our society has been around for more than 50 years, but it definitely is worrying me whether we can survive this. Our members hung in there 50 years ago and made the Society work. We luckily landed at Oregon State Library for 27 years. And since 2015 we have happily been associated with Salem Public Library. But our books are in storage and our public outreach—free help and monthly programs have had to be cancelled for the 4th time.

I hope that you will stay with us. We are still working for the society. Webmaster Dennis Hill continues to update our website. We hope to see local members in July.

**Liz Tice, President**

I've been sitting at home the past several weeks sorting my genealogy papers and researching my family, while I'd rather be at the library assisting patrons with their family research. I miss the patrons and their reactions of joy and surprise when I uncover new information regarding their ancestors. It's more enjoyable to help others than just research my own family. So please take advantage of the free research service we are offering and give me a new challenge. Stay safe and healthy.

**Tony Hoff, Corresponding Secretary and WVGS library volunteer**

Have you been working on your genealogy? Me neither. I've been working on quilts instead. Read all my books from the library. Reread some of my own that weren't

that good the 1st time. Are you staying away from all the tempting goodies when you get bored? Me neither. My doctor will be giving me heck!!

WVGS-wise I've been checking the mail, depositing the checks, reporting to Liz and whoever else, and sending Liz monthly financial reports. Don't forget to shop at Fred Meyer so we get those reward dollars. I needed stamps to mail things and got a book at Freddie's; it counts. I like killing two birds with one stone, or making things add up for the good and it keeps me out of Post Office lines. See you soon, I hope.

**Your faithful Treasurer, Barbara Foster**

As volunteer coordinators, it has been a moving target as to when the library may open. We have already had two tentative dates to return and, as of now, there is no date. On May 10, Craig and I sent an email to all volunteers that Liz had received an email from Christopher saying that the library may not be able to return to in building services for awhile, and when they do, services will be radically different, so, we have no idea when we will be back in the building volunteering. We know that all of the volunteers miss volunteering but realize that when we do return, we want to know that it is safe to do so since all of the volunteers and many of our patrons are in the "at risk" age. Many of the volunteers have been working on their own genealogy during this time or working on projects around the house, reading, or watching movies. We hope to be back helping patrons soon but, until then, we hope that every stays safe and stays healthy.

**Craig Smith, Volunteer Coordinator**  
**Deanne Smith, WVGS Librarian**



## WVGS Messages from the Executive Board

### Hello all,

I expected to be in Salt Lake City this week (May 19-25) at the National Genealogical Society Conference. Covid 19 intervened. The NGS, like our own WVGS, had to change plans. Instead of a 4 day face to face conference, they held an online event, and will be making videos of about 100 different presentations available to registered participants.

So yesterday (May 20th), I spent 8:00AM-4:00PM linked into their program. They reported over 1650 people registered, and at points during the day over 1600 actually online. We heard from Thomas W. Jones, speaking about the value of those unsourced trees. Don't automatically ignore or reject them. Certainly don't automatically accept them. Instead treat them as clues - information to be validated. He made comments about our goals in the selection of documentation - to the effect that generally, if we don't have conflicting information we haven't looked broadly enough; and that our attitude should not be to "prove a point" but to "learn the truth"!

Another speaker was Judy G. Russell whose presentation was "Breaker Boys and Spinner Girls" - child labor in the US. Did you know that the 1910 Census documents about 2,000,000 workers under the age of 16? The majority were agricultural, but many were in industry. Over 80,000 in textile mills alone. She pointed us to resources like the Library of Congress collection which gives photographic documentation (1908) of Minnie, a 12 year old spinner girl earning 50 cents a day for her ten-hour days.

We heard about the holdings, growth and changes at Ancestry.com and another similar report from Family Search. Ancestry now has about 24 Billion records online! The Family Search representative explained a bit more about the why and how of open editing of their tree, and their goal "...to accurately record every person who has ever lived." Their "largest single connected tree" was reported at 544,971,726 people.

My personal favorite among the presentations (and I haven't mentioned all of them) was by Elizabeth Shown Mills - "Turning Witnesses into Evidence". Her entry point was: what do we do when we "run out of sources" and have concluded that "proof doesn't exist"? Should we "build on the quicksand" of supposition? Quit? Or expand what we consider as sources? She then built a fascinating study about a ca.1815 death and burial that developed from attention to the witnesses on deeds.

A takeaway from Blaine Bettinger's DNA presentation involved the "problem" of siblings who share different amounts of matching DNA to another relative. If A,B, and C are siblings who all match X, how can A-X have 85cM in common, B-X 39cM and C-X 0cM? One possibility of course is that A,B, and C are

not really full siblings. But the important thing to remember is that this NATURAL VARIATION is possible!

One final point, emphasized before every speaker, is the fact that these presentations are the intellectual property of the speaker - not to be recorded or reproduced without permission. A good point for all of us to remember whether looking for something to present or enjoying someone else's presentation. Hope to see you in meetings soon!!

**Stay safe, Doug Crosby, 1st Vice President**

As many people know, I keep track of the number of times members access the Member page on our website. I built a spreadsheet covering the last 12 months of Member page access and here's what I found: the total number of times the page was accessed by any member was 244, of which 141 were made by the WVGS Officers, of which 45 were made by me doing post edit testing. So take away the access by me and the other WVGS officers and the average number of members accessing the Member page per month goes from 20 down to 9. Really strange that some of the lowest access numbers have occurred during the Pandemic while everybody has been sitting at home with nothing better to do (might have been a little tongue-in-cheek there). This leads me to believe that there are a number of WVGS members who have internet access and don't know what's on the Member page. I'm going to try and fix that...

Before I explain why you should be taking advantage of the Member page, let me first address the issue of those who tried but have been unable to gain access. First, you must have a current membership in order to gain access; if your membership lapses, your access code gets removed. If your membership is current and you can't access the site, you might check your web browser to insure that it isn't blocking the site. Try adding wvgsor.org to your 'Favorites' or 'Trusted' sites (this setting varies according to the web browser you use - use the web to find out how to set yours). And if you're still unable to access the site please send me an email at [WVGS-Admin@comcast.net](mailto:WVGS-Admin@comcast.net), because I want to know if there is a problem. With those issues covered, let's discuss what's on the Member page.

### Membership Publications

- All the meeting minutes going back to November 2014
- While the home page has Newsletters for the past 12 months, the Member page has newsletters dating back to 2011

(Continued on page 5)



### Web Site Information

- Every edition of the Beaver Briefs published by the WCGS in a searchable format since volume 39 and in color since volume 40. There is also a master Table of Contents and a growing master surname index that currently goes back to volume 37.
- The 1916 Oregon Birth Records
- Tips for maximizing your DNA results
- The current WVGS Constitution

#### Exchange Publications

The WVGS has an arrangement with 13 genealogical societies in Oregon and Washington (along with 2 other states) that allows our members to view their publications. Currently, there are 92 editions of these Exchange Publications on the Member page.

#### The WVGS Member Help Program

Remember the questionnaire on the membership application? We have correlated all the expertise being offered by your fellow members into a program being administered by Dave Bruey. A list of the topics you can request help with (including help with foreign languages), along with the topics other members are looking for help with, is accessible from the Member page. If a topic interests you, click the Member Assistance Request Form to submit a request to Dave. Be sure to check the box at the bottom if you're willing to exchange contact information with the member who will be assisting you, or all communication will go through Dave to ensure the privacy of the parties involved.

#### The WVGS Scholarship Program

You can access the National Institute for Genealogical Studies catalog and submit an application for course scholarship from the Member page. The full details of the program are included with the application form.

All documents published on our website are in Adobe PDF format. Check out the Help page if you need to install a copy. There's also a link and instructions for installing the free Google Chrome browser, along with a link and instructions for tying your Fred Meyer Purchase Rewards Matching Donation to the WVGS. There are also tips for searching a PDF document and using the WVGS website.

Hopefully I have piqued your curiosity! Take full advantage of this membership benefit.

**Dennis Hill - WVGS Webmaster & Senior Beaver Briefs Editor**



### President's Reports

#### President's Report for March 14, 2020

The coronavirus pandemic hit Oregon in March 2020. WVGS Executive Board met on March 12, 2020 and decided to cancel the General Meeting to held on March 14th. Members were contacted by email that the meeting had been cancelled.

1. Minutes from the February general meeting had been printed and are available.
2. Barbara Foster reported the bank had corrected a \$.06 error they had made. INCOME for research from Tony \$156.50, Fred Meyer rewards \$44.60, cash can \$40.50, interest \$15.29; total income \$411.89. EXPENSES rent \$344.21, BB postage \$39.60, copies BB \$100, State Farm Insurance \$465, Toner \$77.49, supplies for packing \$74.16, Dept of Justice fee \$20.00, American Ancestors subscription \$94.95, Genealogy Bank subscription \$49.95, total expenses \$1,265.36. BALANCE on Feb. 29, 2020: \$32,906.01. Also, the AUDIT was completed and Balanced.
3. MEMBERSHIP Sue Rempel's report: totals: 1 Society, 22 Life Members 13 Families/26 Members, 65 Singles for 101 Total Memberships 114 Total Members, 7 Count BEAVER BRIEFS to be mailed. She also added at the end of March, the list will be purged of unpaid memberships. At this point, we have 31 unpaid members from 2019.
4. Scheduled speaker for our program for March was cancelled as the meeting was cancelled.
5. Corresponding secretary Tony Hoff reports only 3 research requests in February; 2 to our Society and 1 to SPL. They were for 9 requests for obituaries.
6. Salem Public Library was up and running on Broadway until the Library closed. Our books were boxed for storage...a great group of volunteers helped.
7. VOLUNTEERS Craig Smith updated the laptops while the library was moving. The new setup at SPL seems to be working. No complaints and we have served 29 patrons from February 18-29. Business is a bit slow.
8. BEAVER BRIEFS Dennis Hill reported all articles for the next issue have come from Craig since Dennis will be gone most of the month of April. And Dennis reports TAXES COME FIRST.
9. WEBSITE Dennis Hill agreed with Craig's report... website will be updated as he has time before they leave.
10. Liz has successfully completed another set of Classes at the 50+ Center, 8-12 people took each class. She will have a WORKSHOP Class on SATURDAY, JUNE 20 at the Center.

**Liz Tice, President**



### President's Reports

#### President's Report for April 11, 2020

Oregon Governor Kate Brown's proclamations prohibited large gatherings due to coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Oregon. Therefore, the WVGS Board meeting scheduled for April 9th and the General Meeting scheduled for April 11th were cancelled. Members were notified in the April newsletter that the meetings had been cancelled.

1. No meeting General Meeting was held in March, so no minutes.
2. Treasurer Barbara Foster prepared a Financial Report for March 2020. Income was \$867.71: Dues \$175, sale of pedigree charts \$6, BB postage \$7, research \$85.50, donations \$28, classes at Senior Center \$354, interest \$12.21. Also, there was a new life member \$200. Total Income for the month of March was \$867.71. Expenses of \$394.21 were for rent at Candalaria \$344.21 and the February speaker \$50. ACCOUNT BALANCE on March 31, 2020: \$33,375.51.
3. Sue Rempel's report for Membership was 1 Genealogy Society, 23 Life Members, 9 Families/18 members, 43 singles, total 76 memberships/85 members. New membership began April 1st.
4. Corresponding secretary Tony Hoff reported we only had 1 research request in March and that was sent to our society. It was a request for Naturalization records. It appears we are in a slow period for requests.
5. Salem Public Library closed. The library is providing remote access to Ancestry.com Library Edition to patrons with a library card. Our volunteer desk closed on March 14th.
6. Liz Tice indexed the Methodist Marriage Licenses that we copied from the Methodist Archives, information in the April newsletter.
7. Dennis Hill kept the website updated, including the index and images for the Methodist Marriage Licenses.

**Liz Tice, President**

#### President's Report for May 9, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Oregon, the WVGS Board meeting scheduled for May 7th and the General Meeting scheduled for May 9th were cancelled. Members were notified in the May newsletter that the meetings had been cancelled.

1. Treasurer's report: Barbara Foster compiled a Treasurer's report for the month of April. Income was \$30 for dues, \$500 donation and \$4.14 in interest for a total income for April of \$534.14. Expenses were for rent at Candalaria \$344.21, which was the total for expenses for



### Chemawa Cemetery Project

the month. BALANCE on April 30, 2020 was \$33,565.44. The \$500 donation was from the estate of Sue Bell. Liz sent a thank you letter and a copy of our Beaver Briefs memorial to her daughter.

2. Membership Report Sue Rempel: There were no changes in membership. We have 1 Society, 23 Life members, 9 families/18 members, and 43 singles for 76 memberships or 85 members. One change that will be reflected in next month's report is the death of Life Member Donald Houk.
3. Meetings and speaker were cancelled.
4. Salem Public Library is closed. Volunteers will not be at the desk until June 1st, 2020 at the earliest.
5. Corresponding Secretary Tony Hoff reported "it was another busy month (or not)! We had a grand total of one research request in April and that was sent to WVGS. The person wanted 4 death certificates and 2 marriage records on her ancestors.
6. Editors Craig Smith and Dennis Hill finished Beaver Briefs Vol. 52, #2 in April and Liz mailed print copies by the May 1st deadline, as well as sent electronic copies. As usual, a great issue.
7. Liz Tice updated the information for members from the membership form (need help with, can help with, 5 surnames, languages). Dennis Hill has put the information on website, Dave Bruey with the go-between with contact information. Info was also in May newsletter.

**Liz Tice, President**

#### Chemawa Death and Burials Database

In 1990 Willamette Valley Genealogical Society began a project on Chemawa Cemetery. Members read the cemetery, collected death certificates and newspaper obituaries, searched microfilm records in Seattle at the National Archives, and looked at funeral home records. Results were published in our quarterly publication, Beaver Briefs in 1993 and 1994.

In 2019, WVGS members Doug Crosby, Nancy Henderson, Ann Hill, Anne May and Liz Tice began work on updating the information that WVGS published in 1993/94. The Chemawa Indian School was unwilling to help or look for records, saying it is under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In the internet age, we have been able to find more obituaries, death certificates and use other sources such as Ancestry.com for censuses to include new information.

We are posting the database for Chemawa Deaths to our website for use by anyone interested in the Chemawa Cemetery. [www.wvgsor.org](http://www.wvgsor.org)



**Willamette Valley Genealogical Society Membership Application**  
 Revised December 2019, previous versions obsolete

**Mailing Address:**

**Willamette Valley Genealogical Society**  
 P. O. Box 2083  
 Salem, OR 97308-2083  
 Email: willvgs@yahoo.com  
**For more information:**  
**WVGS Web Site Address:**  
<http://www.wvgsor.org>

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** \_\_\_\_\_

NAME-ADDRESS-PHONE	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Woodburn LDS Family History Center 1000 Country Club Rd. [back- ring bell] Woodburn, OR 97071 / 503-981-4731	CLOSED		10 am— 2 pm	7 pm- 8:30 pm	4 pm - 8 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
Salem East LDS Family History Center 862 45th Ave NE Salem, OR 97301 / 503-371-0453	CLOSED		9 am— 4 pm	1 pm— 8 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Salem LDS Family History Center 4550 Lone Oak Rd SE Salem, OR 97302 / 503-378-0383 ext 7	4pm— 7pm	CLOSED	9am— 9pm	By Appt.	9 am— 9pm	CLOSED	10 am- 1 pm
Oregon State Archives 800 Summer St NE Salem, OR 97310 / 503-373-0701	The Reference Room at the Oregon State Archives is closed to the public to limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Reference requests may still be submitted using the online form.						
Salem Public Library 1400 Broadway NE Salem, OR 97301 / 503-588-6052	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.						
Willamette Heritage Center Research Library 1313 Mill St SE Salem, OR 97301 / 503-585-7012	Museum closed until further notice.						



June 2020 Newsletter

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Williamette Valley Genealogical Society  
P. O. Box 2083  
Salem, OR 97308-2083