



WILLAMETTE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XLII, Number 9 Salem, Oregon

September 2020

President: Elizabeth Tice—503-363-0880—email: eliztice@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Tice—503-363-0880—email: willvgs@yahoo.com
WVGS Web Site <http://www.wvgsor.org>

WVGS ACTIVITIES—SALEM MEETINGS

Willamette Valley Genealogical Society Meeting

From Governor Kate Brown's website, August 24, 2020

<https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19>

For all of Oregon, regardless of what phase a county is in, face coverings are required for ages 5 and up in indoor public spaces and outdoors anywhere physical distancing isn't possible, including while exercising. All indoor social get-togethers are capped at 10 people.

WVGS qualifies as an "indoor social gathering". This means that our monthly general meeting for September has been cancelled by the Executive Board. **There will not be a General meeting on September 12th, 2020.**

Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board will meet in September on Thursday
September 10, 2020 at 11 am at the
Veterans of Foreign Wars
630 Hood St NE, Salem, Oregon

We will be able to spread out and maintain our distance while wearing masks.

There are several issues that need to be addressed:

How will we hold elections without meetings?

How will we handle membership renewals for 2021?

Dues should be reviewed in September for increases or decreases.

A change in the Research Policy has been proposed.

Ancestral Mathematics

In order to be born, you needed:

2 parents
4 grandparents
8 great-grandparents
16 second great-grandparents
32 third great-grandparents
64 fourth great-grandparents
128 fifth great-grandparents
256 sixth great-grandparents
512 seventh great-grandparents
1,024 eighth great-grandparents
2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment – How many struggles? How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How many love stories? How many expressions of hope for the future? – did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment...



WVGS Information

MEMBERSHIP REPORT By Suzan Rempel

Membership as of June 13, 2020 was 1 society, 22 Life Members, 44 single memberships, and 10 family memberships (20 individuals) for a total of 87 members. No changes since then.

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

Salem Public Library now offers contactless Curbside Service, by appointment only, to Salem Public Library cardholders. While our book drops remain closed, patrons with Curbside Service appointments can also return items.

STEP 1: To begin this process, you can visit your library account to place holds on items you wish to check out:

On the CCRLS website

With the CCRLS mobile app

Contact staff by email at library@cityofsalem.net

Contact staff by phone at 503-588-6315 (leave a message; we will call you back during regular business hours)

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 (if held)

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| January 11 | July 11 |
| February 8 | August 8 |
| March 14 | September 12 |
| April 11 | October 10 |
| May 9 | November 14 |
| June 13 | December 12 |

Salem Public Library is closed do to COVID-19. You can check the online catalog at https://catalog.ccrls.org/client/en_US/sp/ . Our collection of genealogical materials is in storage. But, the Library is now able to offer contactless curbside pickup to their collection, by appointment only, to City of Salem resident cardholders.

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 News

President's Report for August 8, 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 August 6th and the General Meeting scheduled for August 8th were cancelled. Members were notified in the August newsletter that the meetings had been cancelled.

1. Treasurer's report: Barbara Foster compiled a Treasurer's report for the month of July.
Income was \$140 for research and \$2.83 in interest for a total income for June of \$142.83. Expenses were for rent at Candalaria \$344.21, total for expenses for the month \$344.21. BALANCE on July 31, 2020 was \$33,090.95.
2. Membership Report from Sue Rempel: No changes, we have 1 Society, 22 Life members, 10 families/20 members, and 44 singles for 77 memberships or 87 members.
3. Meetings and speaker were cancelled.
4. Salem Public Library is closed. Volunteers will not be at the desk.
5. Corresponding Secretary Tony Hoff reported "We had 4 research requests in July; 3 to our society and 1 referral from the SPL. There were requests for 5 obituaries and 1 for a burial location.
6. Craig Smith is working on the Fall issue of Beaver Briefs, Vol. 52, #4 which is due out on November 1st. The Summer Issue was sent out on August 1st, 2020.
7. Dennis Hill has kept our website updated.
8. We are keeping our isolation as recommended so the society has conducted very little business. We are still putting out the monthly newsletter, Tony Hoff answers research requests, Barbara Foster is preparing monthly Treasurer's reports and Craig Smith and Dennis Hill are working on the next issue of Beaver Briefs. Other than that, we are not conducting any business.

Liz Tice, President

North Santiam Historical Society Awarded Grant To Digitize Historic Mill City Newspapers

The North Santiam Historical Society has been awarded an \$8,764.60 grant through the State Library of Oregon to digitize a large portion of one Mill City's historic newspapers, *the Mill City Enterprise*, a weekly newspaper published from 1944 -1996. With the award 13,484 pages of the *Mill City Enterprise* (dating from November 25, 1948 to December 25, 1975) will be digitized at a cost of \$0.65 per page or \$8,764.60. This grant is funded by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) + Oregon Digital Newspaper Program (ODNP).

The three decades selected for this first round of digitizing was a dynamic time in the history of the North Santiam Canyon, including the post World War II booms and busts of the timber industry and the effects felt in the local communities. The *Mill City Enterprise* was in a position to record the unique perspectives of the people who lived and worked in the North Santiam Canyon during those turbulent times.

By reporting on local people and events the Enterprise documented life in the Canyon and has now become a valuable historic archive. George Long, last owner and editor of the *Mill City Enterprise*, donated his collection of bound copies (January 1, 1953 —December 28, 1989) to the North Santiam Historical Society for preservation. Up until now they have only been available to researchers who could come to the Museum.



Obituaries

From FamilyTree Magazine

Obituaries

WHERE TO SEARCH FOR OBITUARIES:

- 1. Scrapbooks.** Start searching for obituaries in home sources, such as scrapbooks. They may lack source information and dates, but make sure you still transcribe, scan or photograph all the news articles anyway.
- 2. Scanned Newspapers.** Use websites such as:
 - The Library of Congress' free Chronicling America site:
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/>
 - Free Google News Archives:
<https://news.google.com/newspapers>
 - Newspapers.com (Ancestry.com owned subscription site):
<https://www.newspapers.com/>
 - GenealogyBank (subscription site owned by NewsBank):
www.genealogybank.com
- 3. Crowd-sourced Websites.** Many people post obituaries at sites like the popular website "Find A Grave".
- 4. Search Engines.** Use your general search engine like Google to seek out obituaries. Search for a person's name in quotation marks. You may find obituaries in places you never expected.

DETAILS IN OBITUARIES

- 1. Death notice.** Sometimes a death notice contains very little information. Often funeral notices were printed instead of an obituary.
- 2. Earlier editions.** Sometimes editions in the days or weeks before a death might give information on what lead to the person's death.
- 3. At best.** In the best cases, an obituary will provide place and date of birth and death, parents' and siblings' names, other details such as military service, organizations.
- 4. Geographic Information.** Sometimes a death notice tells how long they have been in the area or where they had lived previously.
- 5. Details about cause of death.** Obituaries of gave the cause or circumstances of death. In earlier times, suicides were reported in a straightforward manner.



Obituaries

6. Obituaries for Women. Obituaries for women often not only omitted their maiden name, but their given name as well, only noting their passing as Mrs. Jack Ragsdale. Women's obituaries also reflected their more limited social mobility.

HOW TO SEARCH FOR OBITUARIES

- 1. Online and in libraries:** Try online for the scanned newspaper. Search for other newspapers in the town/county where you think the person died. The local library remains a good place to look for older obituaries, with library newspaper archives often dating back a century or more.
- 2. Some questions to ask yourself as you search include:**
 - Have I tried different versions of my ancestor's name? For example, have you tried initials, nicknames, and misspellings? For a married woman have you tried her husband's name rather than her given first name? (For example, "Mrs. George Smith" rather than "Mrs. Mary Smith.") If she was married multiple times, consider trying all her different married surnames.
 - Have you tried searching without narrowing by place?
 - Have you tried searching on people who may be mentioned in the obituary, like a spouse, children, or siblings?
 - If your ancestor lived in a large city, have you tried papers in nearby cities?
 - If you have the death certificate, have you tried searching using the name of the funeral home in the newspaper?
 - Have you tried to search for legal notices or other related articles?
- 3. Information is only as accurate as the informant knew.** Use a death date or death date range and the same for birth date. People often are not buried where they died. Try places close by, where they previously lived, or where a family member lived.
- 4. Make sure you see the original.** Make sure you see the actual newspaper clipping yourself and make a copy, digital or paper. Otherwise you are at the mercy of someone else's transcription.



Best Public Libraries for Genealogy

- ◆ Many public libraries now have dedicated genealogy or local history collections, making them an essential destination for every roots researcher. There you'll find not only books, but also rare manuscripts, genealogical journals, census records all full of valuable information you won't find on the Internet.
- ◆ Some of those local libraries have gone above and beyond to develop incredible family history collections that draw genealogists from well outside their neighborhoods. The Allen County Public Library's genealogy collection has garnered a national reputation and attracts more than 100,000 researchers from across the country each year.
- ◆ **Allen County Public Library** The Fred J. Reynolds Historical Genealogy Collection is the second-largest genealogy collection in the United States and the largest genealogy collection in a public library. Its holdings include more than 350,000 printed volumes and 513,000 items on microfilm and microfiche. Users in Fort Wayne also have access, for a small fee, to more than 2 million additional microfilms from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. ACPL creates the Periodical Source Index (PERSI), a subject index to genealogy and local history periodicals from all over the United States and Canada, including French Canadian journals.
- ◆ **Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research in Houston, Texas** This branch of the Houston Public Library has one of America's best genealogical collections. With an emphasis on the Gulf Coast region, the library also has an international collection and material for all fifty U.S. states. Collections include Texas and Houston-area death records including funeral home records, censuses, passenger arrival lists, manuscripts, international resources for Europe, Canada, and Mexico, military records, family histories, genealogical periodicals, maps, and family history vertical



Best Public Libraries for Genealogy

- files. Their special collections includes 25 major genealogical collections.
- ◆ **Mid-Continent Public Library Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri** The collection covers the entire United States and includes over 80,000 family history books, 100,000 local history items, 565,000 microfilms and microfiches, and 7,000 maps. Significant holdings include all federal censuses 1790-1930 and many indexes, federal land sales in Missouri 1818-1903, the Draper Manuscript Collection, Kentucky tax records, Missouri State Penitentiary Records 1836-1931, papers of the St. Louis fur trade, Records of Antebellum Southern Plantations, indexes and Compiled Service Records of MO Union and Confederate Civil War soldiers, Union and Confederate unit histories, selected passenger arrival lists, Native American sources, partial state vital records for AL, AR, CA, GA, IL, IN, KY, OR, TX, WA, Massachusetts original town records, city directories, the Independence Examiner, and Kansas City Star and Times, other newspapers (primarily Missouri), American Biographical Archives, Black Biographical Dictionaries, UMI Genealogy and Local History Series, and the United States Serial Set.
 - ◆ **New York Public Library in New York City, New York** The New York Public Library's collection is one of the largest in the world with over 14 million titles. The Irma and Paul Milstein Division of U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy has an outstanding collection of American history at national, state and local levels; international genealogy and heraldry in Roman alphabets; the Dorot Jewish collection; photos; New York censuses, directories, and vital records. The Milstein Division acquires materials beyond the local region. The United States town, city, county and state history collection is national in scope. Books requested in the Bill Blass Public Catalog Room are delivered to the Rose Reading Room. The open shelf dictionaries, encyclopedias, biographies, and indexes alone include 25,000 volumes. The Milstein Microfilm Room gives access to New York State censuses, New



Best Public Libraries for Genealogy

York City directories, and indexes to New York City vital records (births late 19th century-1982; deaths late 19th century-1982; and marriages 1869-1937), coroner's inquisitions 1823-1898, divorce index 1784-1910, 1890 New York City "Police" Census, New York City historical newspapers, NYC land and property records 1654-1857, 18th and 19th century wills for many counties. In addition, the Manuscripts and Archives Division, 3rd floor, has about 30,000 feet (9,144 meters) of archival papers of individuals, families, and organizations mostly from the New York area. The Rare Book Division, 3rd Floor, has 130,000 titles from Europe, England, and the Americas. The Art, Prints and Photographs Division, 3rd floor, has 200,000 prints. The New York Public Library now houses the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society's collection. All of their collection has been cataloged and is located in the New York Public Library's online catalog.

- ◆ **Newberry Library in Chicago, Illinois**
A large Chicago repository with genealogies, local histories, censuses, military, land, indexes, vital records, court, and tax records many from Illinois, the Mississippi Valley, eastern seaboard, Canada, and the British Isles.[14] They have over 17,000 printed genealogies. The collection is noteworthy for its colonial America, especially New England holdings. They have church, town, and county histories from all parts of the United States, Canada, and the British Isles. This includes a comprehensive set of New England town histories, and strong collection of county histories from the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic states. Their Civil War unit histories collection is one of the best.
- ◆ **Los Angeles Public Library** The place for research in Southern California. Good genealogy collection and biographical indexes. Key online database subscriptions, censuses, vital records indexes, 10,000 family histories, 5,000 U.S. city directory microfilms, heraldry, how-to guides, selected passenger arrivals including San Pedro/Wilmington/Los Angeles for 1907-1948, local histories, maps, military records, newspapers, obituaries, and periodicals.



Best Other Libraries for Genealogy

- ◆ **Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah** 3,400 databases, 3.1 million microforms, 4,500 periodicals, 310,000 books of worldwide family and local histories, civil, church, immigration, ethnic, military, and records of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Friendly people with expertise are available to help visitors. We employ an impressive cadre of 45 full- and part-time. Our collection includes about 1.4 million rolls of microfilm on-site, along with over 600,000 books, serials, and maps. In addition, guests have free access to billions of additional record images online. The Family History Library has 550 internet-enabled guest computers and over 200 microfilm and microfiche readers. The Library also offers free access to film, book, and photo scanning equipment to help our guests digitally preserve and share family records.
- ◆ **New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston, Massachusetts** Best overall collection for New England vital records and probates, and excellent collection for Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, and Europe. The manuscript collection for members only has diaries, letters, account books, business papers, church and town records, sermons, maps, wills, deeds, unpublished town and family genealogies, photos, and papers of the region's best genealogists since 1850.
- ◆ **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Library in Washington D.C.** The DAR Library houses one of the largest genealogical collections in the United States. Its book collection includes more than 150,000 volumes concerning people and places throughout the nation. The collection focuses primarily on the generation of the American Revolution, but also includes substantial resources for studying people from the colonial period and the nineteenth century. "Through the efforts of local DAR members and chapters nationwide approximately 15,000 volumes of Genealogical Records Committee Reports have entered the Library and constitute a unique source for family histories, cemetery record transcriptions, and Bible records.



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. | | | | | | |



September 2020 Newsletter

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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