

WILLAMETTE VALLEY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Volume XLVI Number 4 Salem, Oregon

April 2024

President: Doug Crosby
Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Tice- WVGS email: willvgs@yahoo.com
WVGS Web Site <http://www.wvgsor.org> Facebook: www.facebook.com/wvgsor

Willamette Valley Genealogical Society Meeting Day!

· Time: April 13, 2024, 10:30 am to 1 pm

- Place: Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St. SE, Salem, Oregon
Free parking in the Library Parkade.
- 10:30 am –11:45 am General Membership Meeting in the Collaboration Room, Lower Level
A business meeting will be held to conduct society business.
- 12 noon to 1 pm Program: "American Imaginators"

Speakers: Mark and Donna Hinds

The Hinds are "costumed interpreters," or professional educators who get into their passion for history by literally stepping into the lives of Oregonians from the past. They are costumed interpreters, quite literally bringing history to life.

American Imaginations
Costumed Interpreters
Mark & Donna Hinds



There will be a Board meeting on Thursday April 11, 2024 at 11:30 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 630 Hood St NE, Salem, Oregon. Members are welcome.

WVGS FUNDRAISER Help support our Genealogical Society when you shop!! Earn a donation for WVGS from Fred Meyer every time you shop and they scan your Rewards card. Go online and link your Rewards card to Willamette Valley Genealogical Society in your Fred Meyer Rewards account. The donation does not affect the rewards that you earn.





WVGS Information

MEMBERSHIP REPORT By Suzan Rempel

Membership as of March 12, 2024 was 1 society, 27 Life Members, 228 single memberships, and 22 family memberships (44 individuals) for a total of 300 members. Welcome all new members! And thank you to those who have paid dues for 2024.

Member Benefits

We send newsletters to our members and exchange societies **by email** from our Yahoo email account (willvgs@yahoo.com). If you are not getting it, please check your spam folder or contact us. If any member would prefer a hard copy, please let me know.

We email the **Beaver Briefs** to all members with an email address. If you want a hard copy, the cost is an additional \$10.00 for postage. **Beaver Briefs** can be accessed by members on our website under Member Page with a password. If you need your password, contact us at willvgs@yahoo.com. Members who do not have an email and do not pay the \$10 fee for a hard copy of Beaver Briefs will not receive Beaver Briefs.

Meeting Dates for 2024

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

WVGS Officers for 2024

Elected Officers

President: *Doug Crosby*
 1st Vice-President (Program): *Kerry Wymetalek*
 2nd Vice-President (Membership): *Suzan Rempel*
 Recording Secretary: *Liz Tice*
 Corresponding Secretary: *Debbie Root*
 Treasurer: *Barbara Foster*

Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor: *Elizabeth Tice*
 Beaver Brief Editors: *Dennis Hill & Craig Smith*
 Librarians: *Deanne Smith*
 Volunteer Coordinator: *Alan Town*
 Publicity: **Chairperson Needed!!**
 Webmaster: *Dennis Hill*
 Periodicals: *Jerry Rodgers*
 Hospitality: *Sharon Hoff*

Document Research: Searches for Oregon documents can be done. If successful, the fee is \$10.00 per document or 3 for \$20.00 for nonmembers and \$5.00 per document or 3 for \$10.00 for WVGS members. If these require a trip to the Oregon State Archives, Marion County Clerk's Office or other sites, The fee is \$10.00 per document for members and non-members (3 for \$10/\$20 does not apply). The \$5 and \$10 charges include postage for 5 pages or less. If over 5 pages there will be a charge for postage and handling.

General Research

We will conduct searches using resources such as Ancestry.com, censuses, city directories, Oregon Donation Land Claims, newspapers, and other sources. General research is not restricted to research in Oregon only! The minimum fee for research is \$10, if successful. This includes a copy of one document. Research is \$10 per hour, \$5 for each additional 1/2 hour and the cost of additional documents. The \$5 and \$10 charges include postage for 5 pages or less. If over 5 pages there will be a charge for postage and handling. There is also a charge of 10 cents per page for every copy over 10 pages.

Membership for 2024

We have a new membership form in this newsletter. and on our website. Yearly dues will be \$30 for a single membership and \$40 for a family.

If you want to receive Beaver Briefs in print, the cost will still be an additional \$10.

Genealogy Help

Come visit our volunteers at the Genealogy Desk at Salem Public Library. We have volunteers from 11 am to 5 pm Tuesday to Thursday (library is open until 6 pm), 11 am to 5 pm Friday and Saturday. Salem Public Library is closed on Sundays and Mondays. Volunteers are there to help patrons, including members, for free with their genealogy questions. Volunteers have access to Ancestry.com, newspapers.com and other sites. Reminder: Ancestry.com Library Edition is free at Salem Public Library when you are there in person.



It's here—AI Assisted Indexing

FamilySearch Newsroom

What to Expect from FamilySearch in 2024

Advances to Computer-Assisted Indexing

In 2024, FamilySearch will continue to improve its computer-assisted indexing algorithms to recognize and index historical genealogical records in Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and English. Our handwriting recognition technology, coupled with the help of online volunteers, is making millions of record images text-searchable faster, vastly improving your ability to discover your ancestors worldwide.

Full-Text Search

On a related note, FamilySearch has been leveraging its state-of-the-art, AI-powered handwriting recognition technology to also improve its record search experience. We try to index the most important details of a record to help you find your ancestors. In 2024, we are working to make your search even more powerful by adding full-text search capability to select record sets.

FamilySearch senior product manager John Alexander told Deseret News that now they have more historical documents than they can keep up with.

“Here’s the problem that we’ve been having: in order for those images to be useful and accessible for people to find their families on them, they need to be indexed,” he said.

Only about 20% of the documents FamilySearch has access to today have been indexed. And while more than 2.6 billion historical resources have been indexed and are usable, more than 5 billion additional documents are still waiting. And new documents are being added to that waiting list at a historically high rate: roughly 1 to 2 million more are added every day.

“Even though we’ve tried to grow our family search indexing and get more people involved, digitization has gotten so much faster, we can’t keep up,” Alexander told Deseret News. “We can’t index all of the images coming in the door.”

So a new artificial intelligence is currently being tested and “taught” to read English, Spanish, and Portuguese, with plans for Italian later this year.

“In just a couple of hours, the computer can index more than you or I could do in a whole lifetime if we did nothing besides indexing for the rest of our lives,” Alexander told Deseret News. “So in terms of efficiency, it’s very fast.” But a computer will always make mistakes, so human indexers will always be needed for quality assurance checks.

FamilySearch is not alone:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), in conjunction with Ancestry and FamilySearch, used artificial intelligence to index the 1950 US Census population schedules released in April 2022. Entries made by enumerators were scanned and transcribed then released for use at a much faster rate than what was accomplished with manual indexing performed for the 1940 US Census release in 2012. For the 1950 US Census, users were encouraged to review the transcriptions and submit corrections as part of a community effort by genealogists and other researchers.

Chances are you have already used AI in your genealogy. For example, when you start typing a search into Google, the list of possible searches that you get is generated by a form of AI.



Fall Classes

September Classes

The Genealogy Classes at the Center 50+ are in partnership with the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society. Six separate classes will be held—sign up for all or some. Cost is \$10 for each 3 hour class.

Instructor: Liz Tice, WVGS

When: Mondays, Sept 30, 2024-
Nov 4, 2024

Time: Each class is 10 am to 1 pm.

Cost: \$10 per class

Where: Center 50+

2615 Portland Rd NE, Salem, OR 97301

Contact: Senior Center 503-588-6303

Register online at [https://
egov.cityofsalem.net/center50Plus/](https://egov.cityofsalem.net/center50Plus/)

Class 1: Sept 30, 2024, 10 am– 1pm

How to Get Started on Genealogy.

Family information, forms, get organized, genealogy trees, sourcing.

Class 2: Oct 7, 2024, 10 am-1pm

Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.

These are two of the “big” genealogy sites. We’ll go over the features of each and best ways to search.

Class 3: Oct 14, 2024, 10 am—1 pm

Vital Records. Vital records pertain to birth, marriage and death records.

Where to find them, what might be on them and how to get missing records will be talked about.

Class 4: Oct 21 ,2024, 10 am-1 pm

Military Records & Land Records

You can find personal information and where your ancestors lived. We’ll cover types of records and where to find them .

Class 5: Oct 28, 2024, 10 am –1pm

Native American, Immigration & Ethnic Sources. We’re an immigrant nation. We’ll look into how we can find records of our ancestors arriving and becoming citizens and before.

Class 6: Nov 4, 2024, 10 am-1pm

Googling and Free Sites. An important part of searching for genealogy records is “googling”. There also are many free genealogy sites.



Monmouth Workshop



Ancestry.com Library Edition Free Workshop For our members in Monmouth

⇒ **Saturday, May 18, 2024, 11 am to 12 noon.** At Monmouth Public Library

⇒ **By Willamette Valley Genealogical Society**

⇒ **Coming Soon to Monmouth Public Library: Genealogy Volunteers from Willamette Valley Genealogical Society**

⇒ **Monmouth Public Library will have Ancestry.com Library Edition available to Library Card Holders.**

To help you get started, Liz Tice, from WVGS will conduct a workshop on using Ancestry.com. Lots of hints and examples

⇒ **Agenda:**

1. Basics of Ancestry.com Library Edition

A. Know the records- What are vital records? What kind of records are available that can help us?

B. How to access Ancestry.com at Monmouth Public Library

Home Page- Do a global search first. What are wildcards?

C. Search Tab- you can search topics and also select a state or county to search. Examples, hints and spelling issues. How to browse for a person in a record.

D. Family Trees- Other peoples’ trees are great helps, but they are not “records”.

E. Ancestry.com- what does it cost to subscribe yourself? What are the differences?

How to Use

 **ancestry**
library edition



Salem History



Salem History

Are you new to Salem or not familiar with our history? Our program in April will be about early pioneers in Salem. Do you need to read up?

WVGS's quarterly publication has had many articles on Salem's rich history. Members can find those on our website, <https://wvgsor.org/> under the **Member** page.



Donna and Mark Hinds, in period costumes, volunteer at Champoeg State Park, which was the first seat of Oregon's provisional government in the 1840s. *Thomas Patterson / Statesman Journal*

Salem's history, of course, begins with Native American History when "an estimated 80,000 Kalapuya Native Americans once resided in the Willamette Valley". You can find information at Travel Oregon, <https://www.travelsalem.com/miscellaneous-content/where-to-find-native-american-history/> under **Where to find native american history**.

Read the Kalapuya story at the **Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde** website <https://www.grandronde.org/>



Confederated Tribes
of **Grand Ronde**

The City of Salem has **Explore Salem's Rich Past** at <https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/things-to-do/history>

The Willamette Heritage Center connects generations through gathering, preserving, and sharing Mid-Willamette Valley history. A visit to our site is a step back in time. Our five-acre property is home to fourteen historic structures that vividly weave together the story of the Mid-Willamette Valley and the development of today's diverse communities through permanent and changing exhibits, a research library and archive, a textile learning center, and rentable event spaces. Our site is also home to retail shops, cooperative artist studios, and offices for our partner organizations.

Explore the history and culture of the Kalapuya people, who have called this place home since time immemorial. Follow the immigration of 19th-century missionaries and Oregon Trail travelers. The 1841 Jason Lee House and Methodist Parsonage are the oldest standing wooden frame houses in the Pacific Northwest, featured along with the John D. Boon House (1847) and Pleasant Grove Church (1858), built by Oregon Trail immigrants. <https://www.willametteheritage.org/>

And of course Salem is the capital of Oregon. <https://oregoncapitol.com/>





New WVGS Books



Book Collection

After looking at newsletters from years past, we realized that we used to list new books that were added to our collection. Since Salem Public Library has been cataloging 5 titles per month (per our contract) this past year, we have decided to start this up again.

- **Settlers of Maryland, 1701-1730 by Peter Wilson Coldham. 1995. Call number: 929.3753, v.2, 1701-1730**
- **Signers of the Mayflower Compact, Part I, II, II by Annie Arnoux Haxtun. 1899. Call number: 974.402 Haxtu**
- **Sketches of Maryland eastern shoremen: genealogical extracts from Portrait and biographical record of the Eastern Shore of Maryland by F. Edward Wright. 1994. Call number: 920.07521 Sketc**
- **Moravians in North Carolina by Jennifer Bean Bower. 2006. Call number: 305.89186 Bower**
- **Mt. Hope Cemetery in Marion County, Oregon 1995. Call number: 929.50979537 Mt. Hope**

Remember: WVGS books cannot be checked out. They are available for use at Salem Public Library.

What Books are in the Willamette Valley Genealogical Collection??

WVGS has about 5,000 books that are held at Salem Public Library. Although our books cannot be checked out from Salem Public Library, you can search our collection on our website. You do not have to be a member to do this.

- ♦ Go to the WVGS website at <https://wvgsor.org/>
- ♦ Click on the second choice on the top left: **Materials**
- ♦ Go down the page to **The Catalogued Book Collection—Sorted by Subject (in yellow).**
The WVGS book collection is available for reference at the Salem Public Library. The PDF list of nearly 5,000 cataloged items is searchable. The list includes the book title, author, and Dewey number (the collection is filed at the library by Dewey number).
- ♦ Click on **The Catalogued Book Collection.** A pdf document will come up titled **“WVGS Collection By Subject”**. Our recently added books (see above) have not been added to this but it is a list sorted by Subject 1 and Subject 2 of our books. Look for the subject that you are interest in such as Deschutes County, Oregon Land Records. You will find a book under
US OR Deschutes Land Patent deed records of Deschutes Co., Oregon, 1904-1916. Windheim, Karen 929.379587 Paten
- ♦ If you plan on coming in to look at it, copy everything. Our books are on the shelf in Call Number order so all the Oregon books, for example, are not together on the shelf. A volunteer will help you find it.
- ♦ If you are not able to come in to the library, send a request for what you are looking for to us at willvgs@yahoo.com



WVGS Membership Application - 2024 Calendar Year

- New Membership
 - or
 - Renewal
- Individual(\$30/yr) \$ _____
 - Family(\$40/yr) \$ _____
 - Hard Copy Beaver Briefs..... (\$10) \$ _____
- Individual Life Membership:**
- Under age 70..... (\$250) \$ _____
 - Age 70 and over(\$200) \$ _____
 - Additional Donation..... \$ _____
- Total enclosed \$ _____**

Please Print Clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____ Email Address _____

May WVGS include your contact information in our directory in the members only pages?
If so, please check items for which permission is given: Your Name Your Address Your Email

Signature _____

Send this form and your check or money order to:

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

For more information:

Visit our web pages; www.wvgsor.org
Find us on Facebook; www.facebook.com/wvgsor
Scan the QR code at right
Send an email to willvgs@yahoo.com



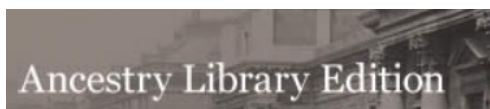
Note: Membership includes emailed color versions of our Beaver Briefs Quarterly, and acces to all previous Beaver Briefs (along with other materials) in our Members Only pages on the web. **B&W hard copies for your calendar year are available to members for an additional \$10.00 postage and handling. Non-members may receive this year's Beaver Briefs in B&W hard copy for \$20.00.**

Note: We will have a 2024 membership form on our website soon, and you will be able to pay with PayPal. But for now members will have to print the form in the newsletter or on the webpage and mail it to us at the address above with your check.

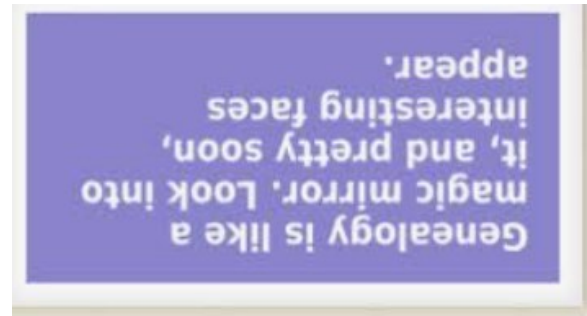
Reminder Tax Deduction

The Internal Revenue Service has determined that the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society, Ind. Is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Your donations to WVGS may be tax deductible. WVGS is an Oregon Non-profit Corporation. Your donations can be made in person at our monthly membership meetings or by sending a check to: Willamette Valley Genealogical Society, PO Box 2083, Salem, OR 97308.

Come into Salem Public Library or contact us at willvgs@yahoo.com for help with your research. WVGS subscribes to various websites and publications. Ancestry Library Edition is free at Salem Public Library. You can do your own research. Volunteers will help you. Volunteers have access to newspapers.com, Fold3 and GenealogyBank. Only volunteers have access to these paid sites.



NAME-ADDRESS-PHONE	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Salem East LDS Family History Center 862 45th Ave NE Salem, OR 97301 / 503-371-0453	CLOSED	CLOSED	10:30 am-4 pm	1 pm - 8 pm	9:00 am-12:00 noon	CLOSED	2nd and 4th Saturday: 9:00-12:00
Salem LDS Family History Center 4550 Lone Oak Rd SE Salem, OR 97302 / 503-378-0383 ext 7	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Oregon State Archives 800 Summer St NE Salem, OR 97310 / 503-373-0701	The Archives is open by appointment. To order records, please submit an online request form or to schedule an in-person appointment at 503-373-0701 (option 1) or Reference.Archives@sos.oregon.gov. Appointments are available Monday – Friday, 8:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (excluding holidays).						
Salem Public Library 585 Liberty St SE, Salem, OR 97301 (503) 588-6315	Salem Public Library's Main Library, 585 Liberty ST SE, Salem, Oregon. Hours: 10 am –6 pm Tuesday-Thursday, 10 am—5 pm Friday & Saturday.						
Willamette Heritage Center Research Library 1313 Mill St SE Salem, OR 97301 / 503-585-7012	The Research Library and Archives is closed to drop-in researchers due to precautions over COVID-19. We are still open, but on a very limited basis and by appointment only. Please check out a description of our range of services during the pandemic here. To schedule an appointment, get help with a research or reference question or order an historical photograph please fill out the form (January 2024)						



April 2024 Newsletter

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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