



## WILLAMETTE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

*Volume XLI, Number 11*

*Salem, Oregon*

*November 2019*

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

### WVGS ACTIVITIES—SALEM MEETINGS

#### **Willamette Valley Genealogical Society Meeting** **November 9, 2019, 10:30 am to 1 pm** **Veterans of Foreign Wars Building, 630 Hood St NE, Salem, Oregon** **(Park in the parking lot across the street.)**

**10:30 am – 11:45 am General Membership Meeting.**

A business meeting will be held to conduct society business.

**12 noon – 1 pm Program: Kerry Wymetalek “Soldiers, Sailors and Pioneers” Veteran’s collection at the VFW Hall**

“Ghosts in the attic” is the lead for a Corvallis Gazette-Times article written by Bennett Hall March 27, 2016. The story was about the Mobile Veterans Museum stored at and displayed at and from the Marion Post 661 Veterans of Foreign Wars Building. The title was appropriate as the building does creak with age. The Building itself; though not an ancient building as some in Salem are, was constructed by veterans for veterans. The builders were craftsman of the time and all were Spanish American War and WWI veterans and their families. Marion Post was named after the name of the county of its’ location as were many Posts of the time. It was formed and chartered almost 99 years ago (The Post birthday is March 16th). The land was donated by a member and the materials were purchased with funds donated by the membership. The actual construction began in 1938 and was completed by 1940. Virgil T Golden, a decorated WWI Army veteran and successful businessman in the community was an active member and contributor to Marion Post. Recently his grandson brought in his military records and pictures. This started a movement to reproduce Virgil’s Army Uniform for the display and research into his family history. Others have done this research as well, so I am leaning on their efforts and expertise.

Kerry Wymetalek: “I was born in Pendleton OR the second of fraternal twins. My family moved to Portland and within a couple years, the State dismantled my family. The older kids went to a foster family and the younger ones went to different foster families and then to adoption. My twin and I were adopted together. We lived in Portland, then Sauvie Island, then Portland again.

After the Columbus Day storm in the early sixties, we moved to Seaside. Early on my adopted family introduced us to the coast and it stuck. I learned about the sea, earned my income from the sea and realized early my career would be in the Navy. I served all over the world because of the Navy and became interested in other cultures. After serving my required service I left active duty and attended Oregon State University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology. While earning my degree, I began to research my family heritage. I also was an active member of an adoptive rights group and testified before committees in the Oregon Legislature. In 1982, while researching I found record of my birth and my birth surname and, soon after, my birth mother and most of my siblings. Last year we found our last missing sister because of DNA testing.

**WVGS programs are always open to the public.**

#### **Upcoming Programs for 2019**

December—Annual potluck and auction

December 14th—our meeting will again be at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Building on Hood Street.  
Thank you, Kerry!

**November 7th, Thursday 11:30 am to 1:30 pm**  
**WVGS Executive Board Meeting.** We will meet at the Broadway Commons in an upstairs room. The Broadway Commons is at 1300 Broadway Street NE, Salem. Board meetings are open to all members.



## WVGS Information

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT** By Suzan Rempel

Membership as of October 12, 2019 was 20 Life Members, 60 single memberships, and 13 family memberships (26 individuals) for a total of 106 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**

The Willamette Valley Genealogical Society collection of books, CDs and microfilm/microfiche is housed at Salem Public Library, **585 Liberty St SE Salem, Oregon**. Our collection is online through the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service. The catalog for Salem Public Library can be searched at [https://catalog.ccrils.org/client/en\\_US/spl/?dt=list](https://catalog.ccrils.org/client/en_US/spl/?dt=list)

### **Parking at Salem Public Library**

The Library Parkade is metered parking at \$.75 an hour. Parking is free after 6 pm and on Sunday. The Pringle Parkade is free on week-ends and after 6 pm. Otherwise you will have to find street parking in the residential areas.

### **Volunteer Hours at Salem Public Library:**

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>             | Closed                          |
| <b>Tuesday - Saturday</b> | 11:00 am - 5:00 pm              |
| <b>Sunday</b>             | 1 pm to 4 pm                    |
| <b>DNA Help</b>           | By appointment from our website |

### **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**.

### **Questions about Autosomal DNA?**

**Denise Sproed**, member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, is available to answer your questions about Autosomal DNA testing after 5pm. Contact her on our web page, <http://wvgsor.org/Research.htm>, to make an appointment.

### **NORPAC Label Redemption Program**

NORPAC is a local farmer-owned cooperative. In August the headline in the *Statesman Journal* was "NORPAC files Chapter 11 bankruptcy, reaches deal to sell itself to Oregon Potato Company". Therefore we have ended this program.

### **WVGS Officers for 2019**

#### **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****Genealogical Scholarship Information**

WVGS member **Dave Bruey** has created a wonderful program that will benefit all members of the society.

WVGS will offer scholarships for members to take genealogy courses.

- WVGS will pay for online courses offered online by the National Institute for Genealogical Studies (NIGS).
- After course completion, the recipient will be responsible to present a program to the WVGS membership at a meeting.
- Members can view the many course offerings at <https://www.genealogicalstudies.com/>.
- If you wish to submit a proposal for consideration of a scholarship, please complete the form on the second page of the form. Transmit your proposal to WVGS member David Bruey for coordination. Contact David Bruey at [dbruey@hotmail.com](mailto:dbruey@hotmail.com)
- The proposals without the authors' identities will be presented at a monthly meeting of the WVGS for a selection vote by the members present.
- Complete information and the applications are on our website under "Member Page".

Don't let the requirement of presenting a program discourage you—you won't have to do it alone!

**November, 2019****Candalaria Connection by Jerry Rodgers**

*Minnesota History* is the quarterly publication of the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS). The magazine provides history lovers with stories about Minnesota's past in both print and digital formats. The entire collection is available in digital format from their website. The MNHS website also has a number of genealogical research resources available, including vital records, historical maps, newspapers and guides for Minnesota research.

**WVGS Collection:**

-Volume 49 #8, (1985) through Volume 61, (2009). Most volumes cover a two year period.

**Indexes:**

-The MNHS website has a topic index for the entire collection, Click on the "Explore" tab to find the magazine link. A menu list provides a number of options to find and download articles.

<http://www.mnhs.org>

-PERSI (PERiodical Source Index). PERSI is a consolidated index to the records of over 8000 genealogical and historical publications from all over the world.

<https://www.findmypast.com/persi>

To request a Candalaria publication, use the online request form at the materials link on the WVGS website. Scroll down to the materials stored offsite to find the form. Enter your name, contact information, and publication(s) requested. You'll be contacted when the materials are available to view at the WVGS library desk.

If you need assistance, contact Jerry Rodgers at 503-507-7455 or one of our helpful volunteers available at the WVGS library desk from 11 to 5 Tuesday through Saturday or 1 to 4 on Sunday.

**WVGS Publications**

We have revised our publications brochure, updating postage costs, as well as prices for our publications. Thanks to Barbara Hunter and Sally Broadwater for helping with this project. Our website has the updated information on

our publications, which include many cemetery books for Marion County, some Linn County records, and census books like the 1895 and 1905 Marion County, Oregon Censuses. Publications for sale will be listed in 2020 in the newsletters.



## WVGS News

## WVGS News

**Election of Officers for 2020**

Election of officers for 2020 will be held at the November general meeting. We are looking for members who are interested in becoming more involved in our society. Our officers from 2019 are willing to run for office again, but if you are interested, please contact an officer. We will fit you in somewhere! We are facing changes next year (again!) as we move with Salem Public Library to a smaller space while the library building undergoes earthquake retrofitting. Our society is more than our desk at the library, but this is our public face and access to the public. Our books will not be available during the 18 to 24 months of work. We have been very successful with our volunteer program.

**Nominations for WVGS Officers for 2020:**

**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*

**2020 Membership— Time to Renew!**

It's that time of year again-Time to renew your membership-

Sue Rempel, our Membership VP, is ready to process membership renewals. Officers and members in September decided there was no need to increase dues as we are in good financial shape.

**Annual Dues remain at \$25 for individual membership or \$30 for family membership,** includes 4 issues of Beaver Briefs on-line, 12 monthly newsletters and reduced rates on research. An additional \$7.00 is needed to pay for postage to receive copies of Beaver Briefs in the mail. Use the form on page 7.

You can mail your completed membership form to our address: WVGS, P.O. Box 2083, Salem, Oregon, 97308-2083.

**Proposed Changes to WVGS Constitution and Standing Rules are to eliminate pro-rated dues. Members can view the complete WVGS Constitution on our website under the Member tab.**

**Constitution****ARTICLE XV AMENDMENTS**

Section 1 This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership in attendance at any regular meeting, provided that the notice with the proposed changes is sent out at least ten (10) days in advance of that meeting.

**ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

Section 2 The membership year shall be from January 1st through December 31st. ~~Dues will be pro-rated for members joining after March 31st. (eliminate this sentence)~~

**Standing Rules:****ARTICLE IX STANDING RULES**

Section 3 The Standing Rules may be amended by a majority vote of the members in attendance at any regular meeting, provided that the notice with the proposed changes is sent to members at least ten (10) days in advance of that meeting.

**Section 2 Membership Policies:**

B. The membership year is from January 1 through December 31. ~~Dues shall be pro-rated as follows: members joining April 1st through June 30th pay ¾ of annual dues, members joining July 1st through September 30th pay ½ of annual dues, and members joining October 1st through December 31st pay ¼ of annual dues. (Eliminate this sentence).~~ **Members joining at any time during the year pay the full amount of annual dues. (add this sentence).**

Members will vote at the upcoming November meeting and it will be in effect for 2020. The membership form will be revised, if passed, but you can still use the form on page 7 of the newsletter to renew now.





## Aurora Colony



## Aurora Colony

### October Program

**Patrick Harris** was our speaker for October, talking about the history of the Aurora Colony in Aurora, Oregon. Patrick is the Executive Director of the Aurora Colony Historical Society. Patrick was very knowledgeable about the history of the colony which was established by leader William Keil as a Christian communal community. William Keil was the leader for almost 40 years. Patrick gave a very interesting talk, enjoyed by everyone.

### **A Christian Communal Society**

Nearly 600 people, almost all German and Swiss emigrants, established and lived in the Aurora Colony, a Christian communal society, from 1856 to 1883. Christian communal living in the Aurora Colony was carried out by individuals who were members of specific family groups, and this was notably unlike other Christian colonies that practiced celibacy.

Known by his followers as Father Keil and as Dr. Keil and King Keil to others, Wilhelm Keil was the leader of one of the most successful nineteenth-century utopian community experiments west of the Rocky Mountains. He was born in Bleicherode, Prussia in 1812. In 1836, he married Louisa Reiter, and the couple embarked for America soon after.

Keil went through a series of religious transformations but ultimately denounced all organized religion and sought to establish his own belief system among a group of devoted followers. In 1844, Keil sent scouts to find a location for a Christian community devoted to the Golden Rule. Later that year he established the colony of Bethel in Shelby County, Missouri.

After ten years in Missouri, Keil saw encroaching civilization as a threat to his colony, so he once again sent out scouts to find a suitable location for a new colony, this time in the Pacific Northwest. The group selected a site on the Willapa River in Washington Territory, and Keil led a group of eighty individuals there in 1855. The lead wagon was the hearse for Keil's oldest son, Willie, who had died shortly before the trip began.

After arriving at Willapa, Keil rejected the site as it was too remote and isolated for commercial opportunities. He and most of those who came from Missouri moved to Portland, where he learned there was land available twenty-five miles to the south in the Willamette Valley. In 1856, he established a new colony there named for his daughter Aurora.

For twenty-one years, Keil led the community as it built a hotel, church, and other buildings and became successful in developing crops and orchards. The community held true to its basic Chris-

tian beliefs, but Keil's isolationist view transformed into an understanding of the economic role the community could play in providing goods and products to the Willamette Valley's growing population. Among those products was the excellent food served at the Aurora Hotel and the music of the Aurora bands. Keil was instrumental in bringing the railroad to Aurora in the early 1870s as a way to connect Aurora with other cities.

Keil remained the leader of Aurora, and nominally of Bethel, until his death in December 1877. Soon after his death, efforts began to disband the two colonies, with the final dissolution taking place in 1883.

- *The Oregon Encyclopedia*

### **Today at the Aurora Colony Historical Society**

Old Aurora Colony Museum exhibits focus on Colony families, crafts and history. Tours are offered of the buildings that house the collections of artifacts that have been passed down over the generations. Throughout the year there are several special events that feature quilts, craft demonstrations and hands-on activities for adults and children.

#### Museum Admission

- Adults: \$6.00
- Students, Seniors 60+, & AAA Members: \$5.00
- Members, & Children 5 and Under: FREE
- Family: \$20.00

#### Museum Hours

- Tuesday - Saturday: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Sunday: Noon - 4:00 pm
- Monday: closed

The Museum is also closed for the month of January and on all major holidays.

#### Office Hours

- The Aurora Colony Historical Society office is open Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm.

#### Address

15018 Second Street NE  
(Corner of Second & Liberty Streets)  
Aurora, Oregon 97002

<http://www.auroracolony.org/>



**Susan N. Bell**

### **Susan Bell 1933-2019**

WVGS lost a long time member on September 26, 2019. Sue Bell became a member in 1982 and was the Beaver Briefs editor for a total of about 21 years. Writing all the articles by hand (they were typed up, copied and mailed by Sherrill A. Hochspeier), she planned the Beaver Briefs content for years in advance down to the color of the covers. When Sue did retire, she left us a folder with many partial articles and ideas.

Sue also held various offices over the years, but she was known for her knowledge of Marion County history, even though she was not a native Oregonian. She was born in California, lived in Hawaii with her husband Bill Bell and children, and then moved to Salem in 1981.

Sue always amazed me with her historical knowledge, which I suspected was her real interest rather than genealogy. We do have a book in our family history collection at Candalaria that she wrote about two great-great-aunts "Kate & Ida (Weber): two Victorian ladies".

Sue was an active member for many years. Besides Beaver Briefs she researched and edited many of our publications, including "The Asylum Cemetery" in 1991 and "St. Barbara's Cemetery" in 2006. Sue was always professional, cheerful and helpful in finding that misplaced comma. A loss of a wonderful person to us and her family. Her obituary can be found in the *Statesman Journal*, 6 October 2019 or through the Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service online.



**Beaver Briefs**

### **Beaver Briefs**

The Fall Issue, Volume 51, No. 4, 2019 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 2019 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:*

Rachel Delaney Brooks ..... 2

#### *Continuing Series:*

#### Genealogy Tool Box:

A List of State Censuses ..... 23

Excerpts from the Oregon Statesman ..... 29

#### *Regular Features:*

Letter from the Editor ..... 1

Surname Index ..... 37

Beaver Briefs Vol. 51, No. 4 will be sent by email or US mail on November 1, 2019.

Also don't forget that we are soliciting articles for Beaver Briefs from our members. We all have stories and maybe unusual research. Let's share!

### **WVGS Subscriptions**

Our Society subscribes to publications and websites that help our volunteers and are also available to members. Members can come to Salem Public Library to access the online sites. Currently we subscribe to **FamilyTree Magazine**, **newspapers.com** and **Fold3**. FamilyTree Magazine has great research articles and other genealogical subjects, newspapers.com has been of great help in finding obituaries and Fold3 has military records.

When the library moves to temporary space on Broadway St, our books will be stored. So volunteers will be using mostly the laptops to help patrons and members who come in. If you have any suggestions for other magazines, societies or websites that we might subscribe to for assisting researchers, please let us know!



# Willamette Valley Genealogical Society Membership Application

Revised December 2018, previous versions obsolete

## Mailing Address:

Willamette Valley Genealogical Society  
P. O. Box 2083  
Salem, OR 97308-2083  
Email: [wilvgs@yahoo.com](mailto:wilvgs@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 (\$25 individual or \$30 family membership), includes newsletter and electronic copy of 4 issues of Beaver Briefs

Pro-rated Amounts for new members who join after March 31st:

SINGLE Apr-Jun: \$18.75 Jul-Sept: \$12.50 Oct-Dec: \$6.25

FAMILY Apr-Jun: \$22.50 Jul-Sept: \$15.00 Oct-Dec: \$7.50

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional cost for postage of hard copy of Beaver Briefs in the mail (\$7) for members only, 4 issues

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ One-time payment for Life Membership q Under age 70 (\$250) q Age 70 or Over (\$200)  
See website for information on Life Membership or pick up a form from an officer.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Hard copy of Beaver Briefs only (\$20) by mail, non-member only, 4 issues

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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<br>1000 Country Club Rd. [back– ring bell]<br>Woodburn, OR 97071 / 503-981-4731 | CLOSED      |  | 10 am—<br>2 pm                       | 7 pm–<br>8:30 pm | 4 pm -<br>8 pm | CLOSED     | CLOSED         |
| Salem East LDS Family History Center<br>862 45th Ave NE<br>Salem, OR 97301 / 503-371-0453                          | CLOSED      |  | 9 am—<br>4 pm                        | 1 pm—<br>8 pm    | CLOSED         | CLOSED     | CLOSED         |
| Salem LDS Family History Center<br>4550 Lone Oak Rd SE<br>Salem, OR 97302 / 503-378-0383 ext 7                     | 4pm—<br>7pm | CLOSED   | 9am—<br>9pm                          | By<br>Appt.      | 9 am—<br>9pm   | CLOSED     | 10 am–<br>1 pm |
| Oregon State Archives<br>800 Summer St NE<br>Salem, OR 97310 / 503-373-0701  | CLOSED      | 8 am—12 am and 1 pm—4:45 pm<br>(CLOSED State Holidays) |                                      |                  |                |            | CLOSED         |
| Salem Public Library<br>585 Liberty St SE<br>Salem, OR 97301 / 503-588-6052  | 1 pm– 5 pm  | CLOSED   | 10 am—9 pm<br>(CLOSED City Holidays) |                  |                | 10 am—6 pm |                |
| Willamette Heritage Center<br>Research Library<br>1313 Mill St SE<br>Salem, OR 97301 / 503-585-7012                | CLOSED      | CLOSED   | 12 pm—4 pm                           |                  |                |            | CLOSED         |

9967147888 www.gograph.com



November 2019 Newsletter

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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