

The 2020 WVGS Shaw Catholic Cemetery Project

As part of our 2019 cemetery project, some members of WVGS decided to update our database on Shaw Cemetery, as well as Chemawa Cemetery.

The cemetery in Shaw, Marion County, Oregon is across the street from St. Mary's Catholic Church and has been called St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery as well as Shaw Catholic Cemetery or just Shaw Cemetery. Currently it is listed on Find A Grave as "Shaw Catholic Cemetery, formerly known as Saint Marys Cemetery".

Former "Beaver Briefs" Editor Sue Bell surveyed the cemetery and published the records in BB Volume 45, Issue #2-4 and BB Volume 46, Issue #1 in 2013. She used the church records, newspapers and Oregon Death Certificates from the Oregon State Records.

According to St. Mary's Church records, the first burial was in 1928, but there are burials as early as 1912 in the cemetery. The survey was done only on the Old Section. Sue also included a list of former pastors of the church as well as a plat map for the Old Section. One interesting fact is that since the priests at St. Mary's pastored Fairview, established as the State Institution for the Feeble-Minded, some children who died at Fairview were also buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

In updating the data base, we have used the internet to complete information on families, dates, and cemeteries. There are additional Oregon Death Certificate numbers, but the Oregon State Archives was closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, so the death certificates themselves were not checked (June 2020). Hopefully, we can do that later. Also Find a Grave memorial numbers were added. In one case a death date was read wrong by Find a Grave (1988 instead of 1938) and one person, Isabel Barnes, was added to our database that was left off in 2013.

The original information with a list of pastors and a plat map can be found by WVGS members by searching "Beaver Briefs" posted on our website. Others can contact us through our email, willvgs@yahoo.com.