

WILLAMETTE VALLEY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER

Volume XLV Number 10 Salem, Oregon

October 2023

President: Doug Crosby

Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Tice- WVGS email: [willvgs@yahoo.com](mailto:willvgs@yahoo.com)

WVGS Web Site <http://www.wvgsor.org> Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wvgsor](http://www.facebook.com/wvgsor)

**Willamette Valley Genealogical Society Meeting Day!**

• Time: Saturday, October 14, 2023, 10:30 am to 1 pm

• Place: Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St. SE, Salem, Oregon

Collaboration Room, Lower Level. Free 3-hour parking in the Library Parkade.

• 10:30 am – 11:30 am General Membership Meeting.

A business meeting will be held to conduct society business.

• 12 noon – 1 pm Program: Sons and Daughters of the Oregon Trail

Our speakers for October 14<sup>th</sup> will be members of the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers. The Oregon Pioneer Association was formed in 1875 to create one central organization from the several pioneer groups that had been active since 1850. That Association became the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers in 1897 and incorporated in 1901, with the purpose of keeping the spirit, memories, and stories of our forebears alive for future generations. In keeping with that purpose, the SDOP celebrates Oregon's entry as a state of the Union on February 14, 1859, our Valentine present to the United States.

All direct descendants of pioneers who arrived in the Oregon Country – the present states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, parts of Montana, Wyoming and most of the Province of British Columbia – prior to the entry of Oregon to the Union on February 14, 1859 – qualify for full membership.

**Come join us for this program on Oregon History. The program is open to anyone.**

**There will be a Board meeting on Thursday October 12, 2023 at 11:30 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 630 Hood St NE, Salem, Oregon. Members are welcome.**

***There is bad news...***

"Coffee shops are now charging almost \$5 on average for a cup of coffee". [[businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com)]

**WVGS dues for 2024 will be \$30 !**

***and good news...***

You only have to sacrifice half a cup of coffee a month for dues!



***Thanks for your ongoing membership!***

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 September 23, 2023 was 3 societies, 22 Life Members, 230 single memberships, and 22 family memberships (44 individuals) for a total of 299 members. We now have an online membership form. Welcome all new members!

### **Newsletter**

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. The same is true for our exchange societies and complimentary newsletters.

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

### **Meeting Dates for 2023**

January 21	July 8
February 11	August 12
March 11	September 9
April 8	October 14
May 13	November 11
June 10	December 9

### **WVGS Officers for 2023**

#### **Elected Officers**

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

#### **Appointed Positions**

Newsletter Editor: **Elizabeth Tice**  
 Beaver Brief Editors: **Dennis Hill & Craig Smith**  
 Librarians: **Deanne Smith**  
 Volunteer Coordinator: **Alan Town**  
 Publicity:  
 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 soon. 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 Saturday and 1 pm to 4 pm Sunday. Volunteers are there to help patrons for free with their genealogy questions. This includes members! 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.



## WVGS News

**From Your President's Desk:***Crosby's Comments, September 2023*

Last month I closed with the question "Will I 'See You In September' ....", thinking of the hit song of the 60's. Unfortunately, the answer was largely "No".

First, I'd like to thank those who did attend, and our presenter Rik Vigeland for his inspiring presentation. Secondly, I want to acknowledge that some members were ill or had family who were. Third, I want to note that a significant percentage of WVGS members don't live in the Salem area - and can't be reasonably expected to attend meetings. Thank you for your support!

I'm left wondering why more of the "locals" didn't attend. Would you be willing to help us understand what we can do to better serve you, and engage your participation? An email to [willvgs@yahoo.com](mailto:willvgs@yahoo.com) subject "Comments" would be appreciated!

Thank you,

*Doug Crosby*

**Ways to contact WVGS:**

- ♦ If you live in the Salem area, come into Salem Public Library and talk to a volunteer or leave a message for an officer.
- ♦ By email at [willvgs@yahoo.com](mailto:willvgs@yahoo.com)
- ♦ On our website at [www.wvgsor.org](http://www.wvgsor.org)
- ♦ Come to the next meeting on October 14th at Salem Public Library!

**Fall Genealogy Classes Fall 2023**

- **Willamette Valley Genealogical Society will have a series of genealogy classes on a variety of genealogy topics. You sign up for each one separately-some or all of them. Each one will have a presentation and hand-out on the topic. You may bring your own laptop/tablet. \$10 for each class. This is a repeat of the Spring 2023 classes.**
- **The Genealogy Classes at the Center 50+ are in partnership with the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society.**
- **Sign up for all or some. Cost is \$10 for each 3 hour class.**
- **When: Mondays, Sept 25, 2023-Oct 30, 2023**
  - Class 2: Oct 2, 2023, 10 am-1pm Ancestry.com and FamilySearch
  - Class 3: Oct 9, 2023, 10 am—1 pm Vital Records
  - Class 4: Oct 16, 2023, 10 am-1 pm Military Records & Land Records
  - Class 5: Oct 23, 2023, 10 am –1pm Immigration & Ethnic Sources
  - Class 6: Oct 30, 2023, 10 am-1pm Googling and Free Sites
- **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>**





Oregon Trail



Oregon Trail

Oregon  
EncyclopediaA project of the  
Oregon Historical Society
<https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/>
**The History Channel says:**

The Oregon Trail was a roughly 2,000-mile route from Independence, Missouri, to Oregon City, Oregon, that was used by hundreds of thousands of American pioneers in the mid-1800s to emigrate west. The trail was arduous and snaked through Missouri and present-day Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho and finally into Oregon. Without the Oregon Trail and the passing of the Oregon Donation Land Act in 1850, which encouraged settlement in the Oregon Territory, American pioneers would have been slower to settle the American West in the 19th century.

**THE OREGON TERRITORY AND ITS PIONEERS:** <http://www.oregonpioneers.com/ortrail.htm>

THE JOURNEY		
<a href="#">Wagons</a>	<a href="#">Horses-Mules-Oxen</a>	<a href="#">Provisions</a>
<a href="#">What to Pack</a>	<a href="#">Water</a>	<a href="#">Fuel and Fire</a>
<a href="#">Buffalo</a>	<a href="#">Indians</a>	<a href="#">Camp</a>
<a href="#">The Trail</a>	<a href="#">Death on The Trail</a>	<a href="#">Arriving</a>
<a href="#">Oregon Trail 101</a> by Prof. Jim Tompkins	<a href="#">West To Oregon With Ollie The Ox</a>	<a href="#">Wagon Train Research</a> by Stephenie Flora
<a href="#">Indian Conflicts</a>	<a href="#">First White Child Born In Oregon</a> by Stafford Hazelett	<a href="#">Bob Zybach</a> <a href="#">Music On The Trail</a>

EMIGRANT LISTS		
<a href="#">Pre 1839</a>	<a href="#">1839</a>	<a href="#">1840</a>
<a href="#">1841</a>	<a href="#">1842</a>	<a href="#">1843</a>
<a href="#">1844</a>	<a href="#">1845</a>	<a href="#">1846</a>
<a href="#">1847 A-L</a> <a href="#">1847 M-Z</a>	<a href="#">1848</a>	<a href="#">1849</a>
<a href="#">1850</a>	<a href="#">1851</a>	<a href="#">1852 A-I</a> <a href="#">1852 J-Q</a> <a href="#">1852 R-Z</a>
<a href="#">1853</a>	<a href="#">1854</a>	<a href="#">1855</a>
<a href="#">Photo Gallery</a>	<a href="#">Diaries/Journals/Reminiscences</a>	<a href="#">Pioneer Researchers</a>
<a href="#">Biographies</a>		<a href="#">Pioneer Life</a>

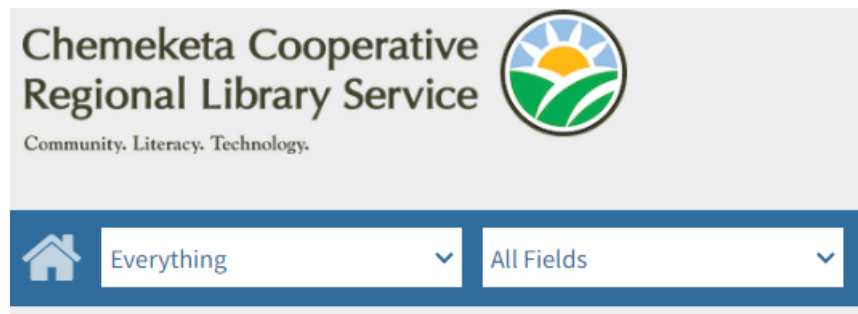


Oregon Trail Pioneers



Oregon Trail Pioneers

WVGS books are at Salem Public Library and you can find them in the online catalog.



Just some of our books on Oregon Pioneers

- Benton County pioneers : study of the inhabitants listed in the 1850 federal census of Benton County, Oregon by O'Neil, Shirley H 929.379534 O'Nei
- Oregon, Clackamas County: index to land abstracts in the library of the Clackamas County Family History Society by Clackamas County Family History Society (Oregon) 929.379541 Clack
- Homesteads in Clatsop County, Oregon, 1863-1883, books 1 & 2 homestead entries by Penner, Liisa 929.379546 PenneH
- Circuit court records, Oregon Territory and early statehood, 3rd Judicial District. bk. 1. 1851-1866, vault 1-9 / abstracted by Ron Curry Genealogical Society of Douglas County 929.37952 Circu bk.1-7
- Douglas County, Oregon land patents by Hermann, Lillian 929.379529 Herma
- Register of married women's separate property, 1859-1903 (Douglas County, OR) by Dickover, Bette 929.379529 Dicko
- Oregon pioneer remembrances : a collection of Mark Phinney's W.P.A. survey records. V.1 by Boyce, Lois M 979.5040922 Orego V.1
- Voices of the Oregon territory : conversations with bullwhackers, muleskinners, pioneers, prospectors, '49ers, Indian fighters, trappers, ex-barkeepers, authors, preachers, poets & near poets & all sorts & conditions of men by Lockley, Fred 979.5040922 LockIV
- The Oskaloosa Company: last wagon train to Skinner's in 1847: a history of the southern road to Oregon by Davis, Charles George 978.02 Davis
- The settled in Applegate county: frontier days along the lower Applegate River in Southern Oregon by Johnson, Olga W. 979.527 Johnson
- Jackson County, Oregon, deed book 1, May 5, 1853 to February 2, 1857 by Hinkle, Carol 929.379527 Jacks
- Transcription of the United States land patents from the original records of Wasco and Crook County, Oregon : Jefferson County deed index, book 1 (M to Z) ... by Green, Susie 929.379562 Green
- Genealogical material in Oregon provisional land claims, abstracted, vol. I-VIII, 1845-1849 by Gurley, Lottie LeGett 929.3795 Gurle
- Linn County, Oregon pioneer settlers : Oregon Territory donation land claim families to 1855. v.1 (1-40) Oregon Territory families in Linn County, Oregon to 1855 by Miles, John 929.379535 Milesv.1
- Friend and family on French Prairie (and elsewhere) (Marion County, OR) by Brown, George T., St. Paul Mission Historical Society 929.379537 Brown
- Marion County (OR) History v.1 (v1-13) 1955 by Marion County Historical Society 979.5 M339m v.1
- Reflections of Oregon pioneer families by Phillips, Jeannie Sharp 979.504092 Refle
- The great wagon train of 1843 / [compiled for the Clackamas County Family History Society by Erickson, Beverlee J 920.0795 Erick
- Polk County (OR) pioneer sketches by Childress, Sarahj 979.538 Polk2
- Oregon pioneers / compiled by the Oregon Genealogical Society. V. 1 (V1-5) by Oregon Genealogical Society 929.3795 Orego2 v.1
- The 1853 overland migration to Oregon by Evans, David 929.378 Eight
- The McCully train : Iowa to Oregon, 1852 by McKiernan, John S 929.378 McCul
- Yamhill county pioneers : study of the inhabitants listed in the 1850 federal census of Yamhill County, Oregon. . 2 (v. 1-2) by O'Neil, Shirley H 929.379539 O'Nei v.2

**Our books cannot be checked out but we can do "look-ups".**



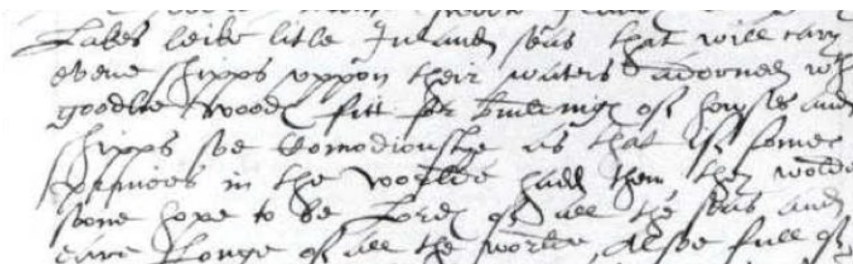
## Handwriting



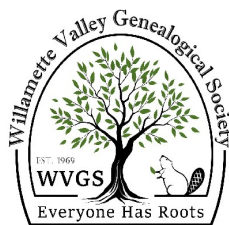
## Handwriting

Ancestry.com tips for reading old handwriting:

- Printing or enlarging the image  
If you're working with an original document, scan it; that way, you can handle it without damaging it and zoom in on parts of the document.
- Tricky letters, spellings, and abbreviations  
There were no standard spelling rules before 1755 in England or before 1828 in the United States.  
In the past, a long form of the letter s looked like our contemporary letter f.  
Words currently spelled with the letter i were often formerly spelled with the letter y; for example, "mine" was spelled "myne."  
The letters u and v were frequently interchanged; the word "ever," for example, was often spelled "euer."  
The letter j was often replaced with i, so the name "James" may appear as "Iames."  
The word cousin often meant niece or nephew.  
The title Mrs. could show high social status, not necessarily marital status.  
Good brother or good sister in a document means brother- or sister-in-law.  
The term in-law was also used to describe step-parents.  
The word infant was used to describe both a baby and a person under legal age.
- Abbreviations and contractions were often used to save space on paper, which was an expensive commodity.  
Here are some common shorthand references:  
The letter y often replaced the letters th; for example, "the" was often written "ye."  
The symbol @ sometimes replaced the word per, for example if you come across @week it most likely means "per week."  
The symbol &, which replaces and, often had personal variations and could change from author to author.  
Superscripts were used more often in old English. You see them used most often today as ordinal indicators, such as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> etc. Some examples in old English include wch, wth for "which" and "with," and maty for majesty.
- Strategies  
Look up unfamiliar or archaic words and abbreviations online.  
Research the kind of document you're working with; certain documents may have specific phrases, jargon, and abbreviations. Understanding the document's historical context can help you read the handwriting and understand its meaning.  
Read the document aloud; hearing it may help you to recognize unfamiliar words.  
Write the words yourself by placing tracing paper over a photocopy of your document and tracing each word. Creating the characters of the text may help you understand the words and the context.  
Make an alphabet chart as you go. Write out the alphabet on a separate piece of paper, then copy examples from the document for each letter, both lower- and uppercase. It's usually easiest to identify letters in more obvious words like names and places, then refer to your chart to help with more difficult words.







## WVGS Membership Application - 2024 Calendar Year

Circle one: **New Membership** or **Renewal** or **Beaver Briefs only**

Circle one: **Individual (\$30/yr)** or **Family (\$40/yr)** or  
**Individual Life (\$250 one time, \$200 for age 70 and over)**

**Please Print Clearly**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Membership includes emailed color versions of our Beaver Briefs Quarterly, and access 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.

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

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.wvgsor.org)  
Find us on Facebook; [www.facebook.com/wvgsor](https://www.facebook.com/wvgsor)  
Scan the QR code at right  
Send an email to [willvgs@yahoo.com](mailto:willvgs@yahoo.com)



**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 this form and mail it to us at the address above with your check.**

Come into Salem Public Library or contact us at [willvgs@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

Ancestry Library Edition



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	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	CLOSED	CLOSED	9 am- 4 pm	1 pm- 8 pm	By appt.	By appt	By appt.
Oregon State Archives 800 Summer St NE Salem, OR 97310 / 503-373-0701	Hours: 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday–Friday except state holidays. The Reference Room is open by appointment. <a href="http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/">http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/</a>						
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 -7 pm Tuesday-Thursday, 10 am—5 pm Friday & Saturday, and 1 pm—5 pm Sunday.						
Willamette Heritage Center Research Library 1313 Mill St SE Salem, OR 97301 / 503-585-7012	The Research Library and Archives by appointment only. Due to social distancing guidelines and reduced staff, the WHC Research Library is open on a limited basis by appointment only. Appointments will be considered only in cases where we can't provide services remotely. <a href="https://www.willametteheritage.org/research/">https://www.willametteheritage.org/research/</a>						



October 2023 Newsletter

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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