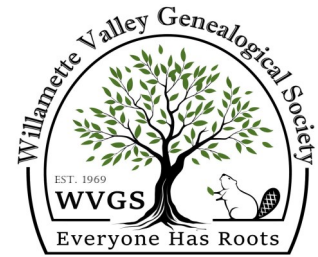


# Willamette Valley Genealogical Society

# Newsletter

Volume XLVI, Number 5, May 2024



## Welcome to the New WVGS Newsletter

Your *Newsletter* is coming to you with a new face and a strong mission to help you in your quest for your family history. Here you will find opportunities to increase your knowledge and skills, stories of your fellow members as they search for their ancestors, ways we can work together for our shared progress, and some bits to help keep the newsletter fun. We hope you will enjoy it!

## What Members Said: A Report on Our Newsletter Survey

A big Thank You goes to all the members who responded to the recent survey about our newsletter. The greatest single message from respondents is that they want information that will help them in their own family history research. Below are some specifics.

A whopping 89% want research tips. Thus there is a newsletter column for Research Tips. 82% want opportunities for more learning, so there is a column of Opportunities 4U. (There are also additional articles in this newsletter about opportunities, such as the WVGS Scholarship Program and the WVGS Member Mutual Assistance Program.) 79% want to read about the research journeys of other members, so there is a column for Member Profiles. 75% want news of their fellow members' present genealogy activities, so there is a column for Member News. 75% want to know about new books available, so there is a column of Books Added. A majority of members also liked the other ideas offered in the survey but without apparent enthusiasm. 28% of our members offered additional ideas. (Thank you!) Almost all of those additional ideas are about learning to be more effective researchers and writers. We hope this first edition of the new *Newsletter* will fulfill some of your wishes!

This newsletter is sent by postal mail to members who do not use email. When an article invites members to respond by email, members can instead respond by writing to this address:

**WVGS, P.O. Box 2083, Salem OR 97308-2083**

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## Opportunities 4U

Three locations in Salem offer volunteer advice and free access to “premium” (paid) online databases. One is Salem Public Library and our WVGS help desk. The other two are LDS FamilySearch Centers. They welcome all researchers whether LDS members or not.

One FamilySearch Center is at 4550 Lone Oak Rd SE, phone [\(503\) 569-3097](tel:5035693097). Its hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00 to 9:00 pm and Wednesdays 10 am to 1:00 pm. It provides over a dozen computer workstations. Access is by a door in the rear of the building. If the door is locked, just knock. See below for its online offerings. Photos are on other pages.

The other FamilySearch Center is at 862 45th Ave NE, phone [\(503\) 884-9302](tel:5038849302). Its hours are Tuesdays 12:30 to 4:00, Wednesdays 1:00 to 8:00, Thursdays 9:00 to Noon, and the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 9:00 to Noon. It provides a few workstations and, by the way, has a new high-tech photo scanner.

The online resources available at FamilySearch Centers include (with predominant usage in parentheses) Ancestry Institution (sites in several countries), Findmypast (UK), Geneanet (several European countries), Puzzilla (research opportunities), 19<sup>th</sup> Century British Library Newspapers (searchable database), Alexander Street (social and cultural history), American Ancestors (New England and other renowned resources), ArkivDigital (Swedish records), FamNet (New Zealand roots), Fold3 (military), Goldie May (software tools), Irish Ancestors, MyHeritage Library Edition (databases and more), Newspaper Archive, and Paper Trail (westward migration). You can review these resources online for further descriptions.

When seeking help from a volunteer, remember every volunteer is different with different areas of experience and expertise. Your question that cannot be answered by one volunteer might be thoroughly answered by a volunteer on the next shift. Keep trying. Ask around.

If you are one of our members who lives far from Salem, there are FamilySearch Centers throughout the United States (and beyond). Apparently, all the Centers in the United States have the same research tools as listed above for the Salem Centers.

## Ask Jeanie

Dear Jeanie,

What can I do about my husband? He lives in front of the computer looking up his dead relatives. They never even sent us Christmas cards. He doesn't even do yardwork anymore. And he's starting to smell bad. Help! Signed, Desperate

Dear Desperate,

Your husband is suffering from Geneyosis. He needs to join a genealogist recovery program similar to Alcoholics Anonymous. There is a local recovery chapter in Salem called the Willamette Valley Genealogy Society. It might not cure him, but by taking him to meetings you can at least air him out once a month. Signed, Jeanie

**Have a question for Jeanie? Send her an email with the word Newsletter in the subject line to [willvgs@yahoo.com](mailto:willvgs@yahoo.com).**

## Member Mutual Aid

As you know, genealogical research is a gigantic field of endeavor. WVGS has about a hundred members, and each of us knows a little or a lot about that huge field. The question for many members is how we can share our knowledge for each other's benefit.

If you would like help from another member, send a message with Newsletter in the subject line to willvgs@yahoo.com. State what kind of help you would like. Newsletter space is limited so please be succinct. Your question, perhaps edited, will appear in the next newsletter. Your name will not be published. If someone can help, we will arrange contact between you.

### Here are some member requests. Can you help a fellow member?

**Dear WVGS:** Can someone translate a German birth record from the 1850s for me?

**Dear WVGS:** I am descended from Huguenots. Are there other members who are descended from Huguenots and who would like to get together to share our knowledge?

**Dear WVGS:** I have done a lot of research about my family, and I want to begin writing what I have discovered. I don't know how to organize all this information. How has someone else done it? Maybe I could do mine like theirs or get some ideas.

**Dear WVGS:** Is someone proficient at MS Publisher? The newsletter editor needs a lesson!

**If you can help with any of these, or if you would like to ask for some help from other members, send an email with Newsletter in the subject line to willvgs@yahoo.com.**

## Books Added

The Salem Library staff is cataloging a backlog of WVGS books at the rate of five per month. The five listed below are now available to use in the library but cannot be checked out.

*Mt. Union Cemetery* by Oregon State Society, DAR. [1994]. Call number: 929.50979534 Mt. Union

*Mulkey Cemetery: Hawkins Heights, Off Hawkins Lane and Broadview, South of 18th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon* by [Tami Dingle]. 2002. Call number: 929.50979531 Mulk

*Marriages and deaths, St. Mary's County, Maryland, 1634-1900* by Margaret K. Fresco. 1989. Call number: 929.50975241 Fresc

*Early church records of New Castle County, Delaware, v. 1* by F. Edward Wright. 1994. Call number: 929.37511 Wrigh v.1

*Early Missourians and kin: a genealogical compilation of inter-related early Missouri settlers, their ancestors, descendants, and other kin, v. 1-2* by Roy

Burgess. 2000. Call number: 929.3778 Burge

## Scholarships Available for You

WVGS is budgeted to offer up to four scholarships per year for members to take genealogy courses online. This means you. A course usually lasts six weeks with homework and assignments each week. Do you want to take a course to become very knowledgeable in some aspect of genealogy important to your work?

The trade-off is simply that you will need to offer a program of some kind at a WVGS meeting to share with the rest of the membership some of what you learned. If you want help preparing or presenting a program, an experienced member will be happy to help. If you are inexperienced or afraid to give a presentation, that alone is a good reason to do this. Go for it!

**To see the many courses available, go to <https://genealogicalstudies.com/>**

## Research Tips

As you know, not long ago in genealogical time, writers (“scribes”) wrote people’s names and other information into official record books based on what the scribe heard when the informant spoke. Thus, a person might have his name spelled several different ways in the same community record books depending on what each scribe heard each time the name was being spoken for the record.

There is a way to make an educated guess at other possible spellings by understanding that certain pairs of sounds are identical except that one is “voiced” while the other is “unvoiced.” Especially if an informant did not enunciate clearly, a scribe could easily miss the difference between the voiced and unvoiced sounds. In brief, a voiced sound uses the vocal cords, but an unvoiced sound is made of air passing through the “voice box” without the activation of vocal cords. A sigh is not voiced; a groan is voiced. In effect, we turn on or off our voice boxes to make the sound we want. Try making some of these sounds out loud.

Five pairs of sounds are often involved in variant spellings. They are the pairs P/B, T/D, K/G, F/V, and S/Z. The first letter in each of those pairs is unvoiced, and the second in each set is voiced. When you say the first and then the second, you can hear and feel the difference. Notice that we hold our mouths in exactly the same position for both sounds in each pair. Our jaws and tongue do not change. The only difference is that we don’t use our voice box for the first sound in each pair, and we use it for the second sound in the pair.

Thus, holding our mouths exactly the same, Pen becomes Ben if we voice the first sound. Battle becomes Baddle or Taddle. Genter can become Kender. Volter may turn into Folder or maybe Volder, and so forth. Therefore, if you can’t find the name you are looking for, especially when you know it should be there in the text or index you are searching, try out some of those five voiced/unvoiced pairs to discover what other spellings might be at work in the records. Ask yourself, “What might the scribe have heard?”

## Member News

*This page is to report some of the current activities of WVGS members in their family history research. To respect the privacy of those members and their work, some contents have been removed from this public version of the Newsletter.*

Do you have a recent or upcoming accomplishment in your genealogy life? Please tell us about it! Email your news with Newsletter in the subject line to [willvgs@yahoo.com](mailto:willvgs@yahoo.com). Thanks!

## Member Profile

*This page is to describe the lifelong family history research journeys of WVGS members. To respect the privacy of the member presented in this issue, some contents have been removed from this public version of the Newsletter.*



This is a photo of the entrance to the FamilySearch Center on 45th Avenue NE. The Center is described in the “Opportunities 4U” article on page 2. The green sign is outside the entry door.

# Willamette Valley Genealogical Society *Newsletter*, May 2024

## Housekeeping

**WVGS elected officers** are Doug Crosby, president; Kerry Wymetalek, 1st vice president (programs); Suzan Rempel, 2nd vice president (membership); Liz Tice, recording secretary; Debbie Root, corresponding secretary; and Barbara Foster, treasurer. Appointees are Dennis Hill and Craig Smith, editors of *Beaver Briefs* quarterly; Deanne Smith, librarian; Alan Town, WVGS help desk volunteer coordinator; [Vacant], publicity; Dennis Hill, webmaster; Jerry Rodgers, periodicals; Sharon Hoff, hospitality; and David Bruey, newsletter editor. You are invited to contact any of them by sending an email to willvgs@yahoo.com. They would love to hear from you.

**General Member Meetings** are held on the second Saturday of each month at Salem Public Library on Liberty Street. They consist of a business meeting from 10:30 to 11:45 and a program from Noon to 1:00 p.m. Members can attend either or both. Programs are open to the public. The dates remaining in 2024 are 05/11, 06/08, 07/13, 08/10, 09/14, 10/12, 11/09, and 12/14. Come on out! There are cookies.

**Society Income** comes from member dues, fees for research services, donations, and the Fred Meyer rewards program. (You can name WVGS as the community group for support.) There is no charge for research assistance provided by WVGS volunteers at the Genealogy Help Desk of Salem Public Library. Donations may be tax deductible as WVGS is a 501(c)(3) organization.

**Our Membership** total is 106 as of April 19, 2024. That total includes sixty-four single memberships, seven family (@2) memberships, twenty-seven life memberships, and one organization membership.

**Our Website** address is [www.wvgsor.org](http://www.wvgsor.org). Notice that it is a “dot ORG.” A veritable trove of interesting and useful information is posted there.

**Beaver Briefs** is a quarterly publication sent to member email addresses. Members without email may receive black and white print copies for \$10 per year. Back issues can be accessed by members via the Member Page of our website at [www.willvgs.org](http://www.willvgs.org).



This is a photo of the entrance to the FamilySearch Center on Lone Oak Road SE. The Center is described in the “Opportunities 4U” article on page 2. The entry is not the glass double door on the right side of the photo. The entry is the leftmost solid door set back with the white sign on it on the left side of the photo.

## **Willamette Valley Genealogical Society Meeting Day!**

We will meet on Saturday, May 11, 2024, in the Collaboration Room, Lower Level, Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St. SE, Salem, Oregon. There is free parking in the Library Parkade. WVGS Programs are open to the public. Bring your friends.

**General Membership and Business Meeting 10:30 am to 11:45 am**

**Scanning Workshop 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm**

Do you have photographs, documents or perhaps the family record pages of an old Bible you would like to digitize? Perhaps some old letters, a diary, or a scrapbook? We will have several workstations capable of scanning flat items as well as books. The CZUR scanners accommodate items up to 13x19 inches, books or loose sheets, color or black and white. Multi-page materials can be saved as a single PDF file. The flatbed accommodates black and white or color, positive or negative, of various standard sizes.

**Don't forget to bring a USB thumb drive to save your material.**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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