

Willamette Valley Genealogical Society

1. About us:

- a. Willamette Valley Genealogical Society (**WVGS**) was formed in 1968 as a non-profit to promote an interest in genealogy by helping others with their research, presenting programs of family history interest, and publishing records of Marion County.
- b. **Membership is free for 2021.** We welcome anyone interested in their family history, especially those just getting started. We publish a monthly newsletter and quarterly bulletin. Membership includes online access to those. We also have publications from other genealogical societies in Oregon and Washington. In a “normal” year we have monthly meetings and programs of genealogical and historical interest.
See our website at www.wvgsor.org for a membership form.

2. How we help you:

- a. We provide research services for anyone who contacts us. The complete research policy is on our website. The website lays out the policies for doing detailed research and lists the charges for looking up that information. Basically, the cost is \$10 per hour for general research but if there is a request for documents, newspaper articles or other items the charge is \$10 per piece or three for \$20. There is a discount for members when obtaining documents/articles online. (No discount if it involves a trip to OSA, etc.). Research is not limited to Oregon only.
- b. We are a partner with Salem Public Library and maintain a volunteer desk there to provide free help. When we are at the library, we have access to our large collection of 5,000 genealogy and history books, periodicals, and family histories. Our trained volunteers also use computers to visit genealogy websites.
- c. Salem Public Library has access to the Library Edition of ancestry.com, the most popular genealogy website. We also access free sites such as familysearch.org.
- d. WVGS subscribes to newspapers.com and genealogybank.com for obituaries and other newspaper articles, Fold3 for military records,

americanancestors.org for New England research and FamilyTree Magazine. We teach a genealogy class at the Senior Center 50+.

2. Research during a pandemic:

- a. All research must be done remotely until Salem Public Library reopens. At the present time, all contact must be done by email or through the US mail: Contact WVGS at willvgs@yahoo.com
Mailing address Willamette Valley GS
P.O. Box 2083
Salem, Oregon 97308
- b. Our skilled volunteers can look up census records along with birth, marriage, death, and burial information. In addition, researchers have access to military, immigration, citizenship, family tree and city directory resources and all types of newspaper articles.
- c. Our 5,000 books are in storage at Salem Public Library and not accessible.
- d. We still have our own collection of periodicals and family histories stored at our storage space. The list of our materials is on our website, wvgsor.org under "Materials". The periodicals and family histories can still be accessed by a volunteer.
- e. During the library's closure, we are offering limited free research to residents of Marion and Polk counties. Willamette Valley Genealogical Society is offering either one hour of free research or one newspaper article/obituary per household. This is for residents of Marion and Polk Counties. The results would only be sent by email. Contact us at willvgs@yahoo.com.
- f. If more than one hour of research or more than one news article/obituary is desired, then the research fee policy would apply. Go to the 'Research' page at www.wvgsor.org for more information on our research policy.
- g. Research is not limited to Oregon only.
- h. Ancestry.com is the most popular genealogy site. Salem Public Library is offering access free access to ancestry.com to library patrons during the pandemic! Salem Public Library says "During the closure, our virtual services are still available. These systems require a library card and PIN number for access. Don't have a library card? You can sign up online

through our shared Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service (CCRLS) catalog at: <http://bit.ly/CCRLSregister>. We can help you sign up.

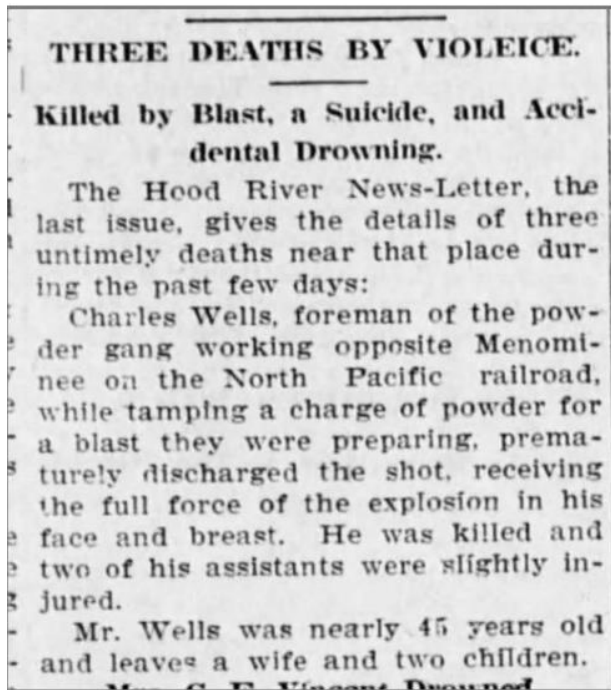
Sample request:

Death certificate for my grandfather, Charles A Wells, died in Hood River County in May or June 1906. He was killed in an accident building the railroad.

Response:

Found a newspaper article for when he was killed by a blast:

East Oregonian (Pendleton, Oregon) · Mon, Jun 4, 1906 ·



Checked Oregon State Archives:

No counties were keeping Death Certificates in 1906:

- Hood River Death records at Oregon State Archives:
 - Birth and Death Records [book 23], 1915-1919,
 - Birth and Death Records [book II], 1915-1919
 - Death Records [city], 1907-1915, Death Records, 1908-1915, 1919-1949
- Wasco:
 - Birth and Death Certificates, 1915-1922, Birth and Death Records, 1915-1941
 - Death Records, 1907-1915, Death Certificates, A-Z, 1921-1944
- Sherman:
 - Birth and Death Records, 1915-1941
- Morrow: none
- Umatilla:
 - Death certificates, 1913-1944, Death register, 1907-1929

Recommendation:

Search for railroad records, North Pacific Railroad, Twohy Brothers, Portland and Seattle Railway.