

# H. W. Turk is Killed by Train

## Pioneer is Caught in Auto at a "Man Trap" Crossing

H. W. Turk, a pioneer of Mt. Pleasant and for the past six years a resident of Washougal, was instantly killed when his auto was hit by the 7:14 local passenger last Friday evening. Mrs. Turk was also in the car and miraculously escaped any very serious injuries.

Mr. and Mrs. Turk were doing some buying at the local stores, and were on their way to their home north of the track. They had started down the short, steep grade on the south side of the railroad crossing and on account of a barn and a high bank topped with tall grass, were unable to see or hear the train approaching. Mr. Schoenheinz, who lives in the Goebel house, was the only eye-witness of the collision. He was immediately above it and engaged in cutting grass on the bank. He says that there was only a few seconds interval between the time he first saw the auto coming down the hill and the collision. The marks of the auto wheels were evidence that the auto turned to the right and struck the train at an angle, and as Mr. Turk was on the left side, he was pitched against the train when the auto hit and was thrown about 65 feet. It was evident that Mrs. Turk stayed with the auto as it spun around with the impact.

Mr. Schoenheinz ran as quick as possible to her assistance, and found Mrs. Turk sitting on the auto seat which was on the ground between wreck of the machine and the track. At this time Mr. Schoenheinz did not realize there had been any person besides Mrs. Turk in the auto as Mr. Turk was thrown into some vines at the edge of the road. The auto was completely demolished, except the engine.

It is thought by relatives that Mr. Turk was dead before the train struck him, as his heart was very weak, and the imminent danger no doubt would cause his heart to stop and cause almost instant death. This theory is borne out by the fact that it might have been possible for him to have turned down along the track. The injuries he received from the train were sufficient to cause instant death.

The auto struck the tender on the front end. The engineer, according to those who were near, had given the proper warning signals for the crossing, but he did not see the auto until almost the instant it struck. He shut off the steam and applied the emergency brakes, but it was too late.

Mrs. Turk received a broken collar bone and a rough shaking up, but it is expected that she will be fully recovered in a short time.

Henry W. Turk was born in England, May 2th, 1836, and died in Washougal July 10th, 1914, aged 78 years. From England he was brought a mere child to the United States living in Illinois and in Michigan from whence he came to (*missing copy*) cite of the temperance cause. He believed in the Grange as an aid to the prosperity of the man who cultivated the soil and almost never missed a meeting.

He was a man of exceedingly strong convictions and on some subjects perhaps rabidly so. If he thought a thing was right it was intensely right and often that conviction took control of his whole mind and thought and heart.

Having espoused the cause of labor as opposed to what seemed to him oppressive capitalism he talked and worked and lived almost for this principle. Perhaps in no other direction was he more positive and certain and intense than in the espousal of Socialism.

The funeral services were held Monday, 13, at 10:00 a.m. at the Congregational church, conducted by Rev. C. F. Clapp. A large number attended the services. The funeral procession then proceeded to Mt. Pleasant, where the Grange took charge of the burial.

He was married in 1913 to Mrs. Harris, who was in the auto at the time of the collision and who survives him.

# J. O. Wing Dies in Auto Accident

## Lives Only a Few Hours After Auto Turns Over.

Washougal, Clark County and the State of Washington, has lost one of its best citizens in the sudden passing of J. O. Wing last Saturday morning, Nov. 20, 1915. As the shock and grief of parting has become less acute by the passage of time, the realization of his worth as a public spirited man, as a friend, father and husband, comes to those who knew him more or less intimately.

Mr. Wing was coming home from his ranch on Mount Pleasant just after dark on Friday evening. He was driving his Ford with only one light burning, as the others were not working. On coming down the lower part of the hill not far from C. F. Schmied's, he realized that the machine was going a little too fast for the slippery condition of the road. He reached for the foot brake, but had difficulty in working it as some of the boards on the floor of the car were loose. He then reached with his hand for the emergency brake. It was then that the machine struck a tree at the side of the road and started up the bank, overturned into the road, pinning him under face downward, the weight being across his back. Mr. Wing, although hurt, was able to call for help. He was heard by Mr. Schmied and sons, who first went up the railroad not knowing exactly from where the calls came, but they returned and went up the road to Mr. Wing's assistance. He was unconscious when they arrived. F. E. Bethea was called on the phone and brought his machine to take the injured man to his home in town. On Mr. Bethea's arrival Mr. Wing had regained consciousness and was able to help himself a little in getting into the car.

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placed in an easy chair. He had been injured internally, the car having struck him across the back. He was conscious and unconscious by turns all night, Dr. Price being constantly in attendance. At about 5:00 a.m. he tried to turn over, began breathing heavily, and in half an hour had breathed his last.

J. O. Wing was a high type of the best product of civilization. No man can achieve the qualities which he possessed in a single lifetime. Back of him was a line of ancestors of the same type who handed down to him his unfailing attention to duty, his fairness, his honesty, his strength of mind, and his sense of obligation to his fellow man. Old friends and business associates tell many narratives which give proof of all these qualities.

J. O. Wing was born in 1859, the son of a Methodist preacher, and was educated at Syracuse University. He came to the coast in 1885, settling at Mount Pleasant, where he engaged in farming until the time of his death.

He was active in public life, particularly as a Grange member. He was Past Master of the state Grange, and of late years has been a member of the legislative committee of that organization.

He was a member of the Washougal city council, secretary of the Washougal Commercial Club, director of the Clarke County Fair Association, secretary of the Washington Fire Relief Association, and Noble Grand of the local lodge of Odd Fellows, and a member of the United Artisans.

The people as a whole respected and trusted Mr. Wing, thrusting upon him many offices which he felt it his duty to accept, and although the demands on his time were many, he never failed to keep an appointment or attend a meeting, or complete any task required of him.

Mr. Wing is survived by his wife, and four children, Mrs. Gilbert Stayton of this place, Mrs. Fayette W. Marble and Lacy Wing of Portland, and Mrs. A. D. Wallace, of Wallace, Idaho.

25 September 1999

Sharon Tiffany, Executive Director  
Skamania County Historical Society  
Post Office Box 396  
Stevenson. Washington 98648

Dear Sharon,

Thank you very much for your letter and your kindness in sending the copies of the Mt. Pleasant section of *History of Skamania County, the obituaries from the Skamania County Pioneer*, and the Skamania County Heritage publications list.

I was happy to see dear Thelma Ross' article about her Woodruff grandparents on the publications list. She is a distant Chandler cousin, and we corresponded for years before her death. When I was in Washougal a few years ago, she and her husband, Jack, took me to see Jesse Otis Wing's property (the land that was cleared by 40 Chinese workers for an earlier owner), the old schoolhouse site, the Mt. Pleasant grange hall, and the nearby cemetery — and also to the Washougal cemetery where I saw the grave sites of other ancestors — and also the gravesite of the Rosses, purchased in advance for their demise.

Although I already had copies of the obit of Vashti Viola Chandler Turk, my great-grandmother, and of Amy Pearl Turk Wing, my great-aunt, I was pleased to know you have records there that perhaps will still be available to future generations. The Mrs. J. H. Richardson who died in an auto accident in Vancouver probably is a relative of my great-grandmother Lorinda Richardson Wing, who is buried at the Washougal cemetery.

The Mt. Pleasant history said that the first school was held in a church and that Mrs. J. O. Wing was the first teacher at Mt. Pleasant. How nice to learn that. She was Hulda Beardsley Wing, my great-grandmother.

The Wings and the Turks were very active in the Grange, and the two families knew each other well. Lacy Emerson Wing married Amy Pearl Turk, and his sister and her brother also married. The latter, Hubert Emerson Turk and Lorena May Wing, were my father's parents. (Dad was born at Mt. Pleasant but reared in Aberdeen and Moses Lake and in Wallace, Idaho. His parents divorced when he was a toddler, and he was later legally adopted by his stepfather and renamed "Harold Turk Wallace.")

Enclosed is a small gift in appreciation of the Skamania County Historical Society's work. If you incurred personal expense, I intend for you to be reimbursed for postage and copying costs from it. Thank you again!

Sincerely,  
Barbara Reynales