

George & Emily Tavis: Hugo's Early Settlers

George W. Tavis

Born: 1867 Illinois
 Father & Mother's Birth Place: Illinois

Emily Tavis

Born: 1876 Nebraska
 Father & Mother's BP: Iowa Missouri

1910 Census. Spring Valley Precinct, Stevens County, Washington

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|----|------|--------|
| George W. Tarvis | Head | IL | 1867 | 43 yrs |
| Emily Tarvis | Wife | NE | 1876 | 34 yrs |
| Elsie M. Tarvis | Dau | WA | 1892 | 18 yrs |
| Minty M. Tarvis | Dau | WA | 1896 | 14 yrs |
| Charles J. Tarvis | Son | WA | 1898 | 12 yrs |
| George WJR Tarvis | Son | WA | 1901 | 9 yrs |
| Willaim I. Tarvis | Son | WA | 1902 | 8 yrs |
| John E. Tarvis | Son | WA | 1906 | 4 yrs |
| Thomas L. Wise | Hired Man | NE | 1867 | 43 yrs |
| Isaac Tavis | Father | IL | 1838 | 72 yrs |
| Maersa Tavis | Mother | IL | 1839 | 71 yrs |

In the 1910 census George was identified as a farmer; Thomas was a hired man. The ultimate 300 acre Wise-Tavis ranch was comprised of the old Trimble homestead and, land from the railroad, and more parcels.³

1. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records. 2007. Official Federal Land Records Site (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>). Internet.

2. Koch, Joseph , Draughtsman. 1895 Official Josephine County, Oregon. Map. Scale 1 inch = 1 mile. Meston - Dygert Book M'F'G. Portland, OR.

3. Metsher, Chas. F. 1932 *Metsker Map. Josephine County, Oregon.* Portland, OR.

4. Atwood, Kay. 1984. Josephine County Historical Resources Inventory: 1983 - 1984. Volume I. Grants Pass, OR.

5. *Rogue River Courier.* 1920. Man Ground to Death Under Train Wheels.

Tavis Settler Family, Early Settlers: 1911 - ca.,1920

1911 The members of the Wise family granted their parts of the farm estate to their brother-in-law, George W. Tavis, a resident of Washington state. George immediately moved to the farm and took over the stock operation.⁴

1920 The Tavis family farmed there until George was killed when struck by a Southern Pacific train on July 16, 1920.^{4&5}

Man Ground To Death Under Train Wheels⁵

George W. Tavis was instantly killed early Sunday morning when he was run over by a freight train which he was attempting to board. According to people who witnessed the accident, Mr. Tavis waited until the long freight was nearly past then mad a leap for one of the end cars. He lost his grip and was thrown under the wheels. He was dragged about 150 feet from the point where he tried to board the train.

Mr. Tavis had come down from Merlin, where he resided, Saturday to do some business and meant to take the train back Sunday morning. He found that the train north was marked up late and as he and his wife were expecting company for dinner, he was in a hurry to get home. He was standing near Sixth street when the freight started pulling out. Thinking that he would be able to get home much earlier by riding on the freight he attempted to catch it but failed and fell beneath the wheels.

Mr. Tavis was born in Illinois in October 1867, making him 52 years of age when the accident happened.

George Tavis, Of Merlin, Falls Under Freight Which He Tries To Board

Continued *He was well known here, having been in business here at one time. Mr. Tavis and his family came to Merlin six years ago from Stevens county, Washington. He leaves a wife, Emily Tavis, and five children, the youngest being a son 14 years of age. Two married daughters are expected in from Spokane tonight.*

The funeral service was held at the I. O. O. F. Cemetery at 2:30 Tuesday afternoon.

1920 Census. Lucky Queen Precinct, Josephine County, Oregon

| | | | | |
|------------------|---------|----|------|--------|
| William I. Tavis | Head | WA | 1902 | 16 yrs |
| Emily Tavis | Mother | NE | 1876 | 42 yrs |
| John E. Tavis | Brother | WA | 1906 | 14 yrs |



Importance⁴ The Tavis and Wise families were well known through the Merlin-Hugo area and relatives continue to reside there. The barn is one of the oldest barns in the Merlin-Hugo region and the complete pole construction is unique.

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in your community's history and land use.

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

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GEORGE W. TAVIS: MAN GROUND TO DEATH UNDER TRAIN WHEELS



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Brochure 391 Of Hugo's Early
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**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**

Josephine County Historical Society

Brochure 391 in Hugo's Early Settler Brochure Series

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