

**Salem, Marion County, Oregon, USA**

**PLOT353**

**MEMORIAL ID 119775885 · [View](#)**

**Source**Katherine M.

**“Kate” *Gall* Wassman**

**BIRTH** Apr 1851

Germany

**DEATH** 21 Dec 1921 (aged 70)

Salem, Marion County, Oregon, USA

**BURIAL** [Oregon State Hospital Patient Memorial](#)

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Kate Wassmann's cremated remains were not initially taken after her death and for years were available at the Oregon State Hospital to anyone who is related. In 2020 a relative claimed her ashes.

The State Hospital website of unclaimed cremains lists her name as Kate Gall Wassman. In other records her name has been found as Katherine, and Catherine. Her surname has been found spelled Wassman and Wassmann. Weighing various data, the name Katherine M. “Kate” Wassmann will be used here. Her maiden name was Gall.

Kate Gall and her parents were born in Germany and their primary language was German. Most records indicate she was born in about April 1851 and one record says she was born in 1861. About 1880 she married John H. Wassmann, a soapmaker. They were known to have had at least three children who were all born in Portland, Oregon: Frank Henry (born on 1/31/1883), Walter George (9/1/1884), and a baby who died in August 1888. It is believed, but unconfirmed Kate & John had another child, a baby girl who was born in Portland on 7/5/1891.

In April 1892, Kate's husband was arrested in Portland for having tried to kill her. Bail was set at \$300. John informed the court he wanted his wife to be examined for insanity. The judge said that could be addressed later. Divorce proceedings between Kate & John were ongoing in May 1892.

On 9/14/1893 Kate was admitted to the Oregon State Insane Asylum in Salem, Oregon (later called Oregon State Hospital). A guardian, C. Bircher, was assigned to Kate's case in 1894. He petitioned the court to sell her real estate in 1897. Kate was a patient at the institution during the censuses of 1895, 1900, 1910 & 1920 and in each one she was said to be married. In the 1900 census she was referred to as M. Wassman and in the others she was listed as Mrs. M. Wassman without further detail. The 1900 census said she had never had children. The 1910 census said she had 3 children with all three living at that time. After having been a patient at OSH for 28 years. On 12/14/1921 Kate developed pneumonia and died of that condition 7 days later in the state institution on 12/21/1921.

Kate's ex-husband had a soap making company in Portland and later in Eugene. In each of businesses he had a different partner. Those partnerships dissolved. The one in Eugene was discontinued in 1906 after a public fist fight for which the partners were arrested and each fined \$7.50.

During the 1900 census, Kate's sons Frank and Walter were living with Kate's brother Frederick Gall in Benicia, Solano County, California. In April 1925 Kate's ex-husband, John, was working as a watchman in a garage in Oakland, California. The building was destroyed by fire. John and two other men were caught in the blaze. John was burned very severely before he could be rescued. He died in Alameda County, California on 7/2/1926 and was buried at the Benicia City Cemetery.

Kate's son Walter died in Solano County, California on 11/11/1949. He and his wife Harriet had two sons (Kate's grandsons): Walter, Jr and Harold F. Wassmann. Kate's son Frank H. Wassman died in October 1966 in Solano County. It appears he and his wife Elizabeth never had children.

More information about unclaimed cremains at OSH is available at <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/amh/osh/pages/cremains.aspx> A book by David Maisel and a documentary by Ondi Timoner & Robert James, both entitled "Library of Dust" also provide more information.

## Family Members

### Spouse

- 



John H. Wassmann

1849–1926

### Children

- 



Frank Henry Wassmann

1883–1966

- 



Walter George Wassmann

1884–1949

Plot # 353