

# Emma Runcorn

Here is some information on Emma Runcorn - the lady who brought the Sabbath truth to Mrs Armstrong. If anyone has a photograph of here, please do send to me.

Her husband was Horatio J "Ora" Runcorn.

According to Ancestry.com

NAME: Ora Runcorn

BIRTH: abt 1864 - Wisconsin

RESIDENCE: 1940 - Waconda E P, Waconda, Marion, Oregon, USA

His spouse was Emma Runcorn and her gravesite information may be found here:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/97488984/emma-l.-runcorn>

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Richard Nickels had this published in his newsletter dated December 2000:

>Mrs. Armstrong goaded Herbert into studying the issue of Sunday versus the Sabbath, and after six months of diligent study trying to prove his wife wrong, Herbert Armstrong surrendered to God, was baptized, and came to consider Mr. and Mrs. Runcorn the Armstrong's spiritual parents. Through the Runcorns, Armstrong became acquainted with the Church of God in Salem, and nearby Jefferson, Oregon. (See Autobiography, pages 261-264, 281.) Armstrong began to preach to the Church of God people, was ordained as an elder, and in 1934 began radio broadcasting, which led to the formation of the Radio Church of God (later renamed Worldwide Church of God). Emma Runcorn, the elderly lady next door to Armstrong's parents, was instrumental in leading thousands to God!

Armstrong's Autobiography shows that Mrs. Runcorn's husband was O. J. Runcorn, and HWA refers to her as Mrs. Ora Runcorn. HWA also mentions the Runcorn's son, Fern, who was on the school board for Eldreage School, north of Salem.

In the 1900 census records for Marion County, Oregon, there is a listing for Ora J. and Emma L. Runcorn. At that time, they were living in Salem, Oregon. Ora J. is listed as male and the head of the family. He was age 36, and was born in April of 1864 in Wisconsin. They had been married for 14 years. His parents were both born in England. He is listed as a day laborer who rents his home. His wife, Emma L. Runcorn, was born in February of 1865 and was age 35. They had two children. She was born in Wisconsin. Her father was born in New York, her mother in New Jersey. Fern P. is listed as their son. He was born in October 1, 1886, in Wisconsin. Molly S. was listed as born in May of 1888, and is age 12. She was born in Wisconsin (See Marion County Census records for 1900, ED #136, Sheet 1, lines 40-43).

The 1920 census had no listing for an O. J. or Ora Runcorn, but it did list Fern, born in Wisconsin, as being 33 years old, employed as a baggage man for S. P. Rye Co. His wife, M. Lucille, was aged 22 and a homemaker. They had, at that time, a son named

Robert E., who was six months old as of January 1920. (See Marion County, Oregon Census Records for 1920, ED # 346, Sheet 15, lines 37-39).

Emma Spees (Speese or Speece) Runcorn married Ora J. Runcorn in 1886. Her parents were: Silas Spees and Elizabeth Shover. Her brothers and sisters were: Will, Addison, Martha, and George. Her grandparents were John Spees and Martha Slater.

Both Ora and Emma were listed in the Salem City Directory for 1935. Neither were listed in the 1938/39 directory. The 1936/37 directory is missing. It appears that they died in the late 1930s. We have not yet been able to obtain a photo of Emma Runcorn, but in the Kingdom of God, we look forward to visiting with the elderly lady next door.<

- research by Kathy Puliafic

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## **Ora Runcorn in the news**

Ora J. Runcorn appointed vice postmaster for Marion County (Oregon): source Oregon Journal (Saturday, June 27, 1914, Portland, Oregon, Page: 2.

Ora Runcorn had a horse in the Tree Minute Trot with a purse of \$200 in the races of August 29 and 30 according to article of August 28, 1894 (Tuesday) in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel of October 5, 1899, page 2.

“Plainfield-Ora Runcorn, who was reported to have been killed in an accident is alive and will recover.” The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Date: October 5, 1899  
Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin