



WinePress Newsletter

Volume 52, Issue No. 2, Mar/Apr 2024

[Library Hours](#)

[Research Requests](#)

[Get a PDF](#) of this newsletter on our Archives page

In This Issue

- March Education Program
- April Education Program
- Roundtable Conversations
- Save the Date: 50th Anniversary
- Napa County Historical Society Event
- What's a FamilySearch Affiliate Library Anyway?
- Ask-A-Genealogist in Action
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Library Happenings
- Mary's Book Corner
- Welcome New Members
- Member Reminders
- NVGS Events Summary

March Education Program

25 Tips for Researching Your Female Ancestors

by Gena Philibert-Ortega

Thursday, March 21, 1:00 p.m.

Every year for Women's History Month, Gena Philibert-Ortega creates 30 blog posts about researching female ancestors. Based on those articles, she will share 25 tips to help you identify, trace, and discover more about your female ancestors.

~ Attend via Zoom or in person at the NVGS Library ~
Non-members **MUST** register

[Learn More & Register!](#)

April Education Program

Why They Left, Where They Went, and What Their Journeys Can Reveal

by Pam Vestal

Thursday, April 18, 1:00 p.m.

Why did our ancestors leave their homes? Why did they settle where they did? Using unexpected records, social history, the law, and more we'll discover the secrets our ancestors' migrations can reveal as we track them from place to place, across the ocean, across the country, even across town!

*~ Attend via Zoom or in person at the NVGS Library ~
Non-members MUST register*

[Learn More & Register!](#)

Roundtable Conversations

March: **Amazing Female Ancestors**

Monday, March 4, 11:00 a.m.

[Learn More](#)

April: **Unusual or Standout Ancestors**

Monday, April 1, 11:00 a.m.

[Learn More](#)

*~ Attend via Zoom ~
All members are welcome: Join us!*

Save the Date: 50th Anniversary Celebration

Join us at our Library on June 29, 2024 to celebrate our anniversary! Food, music, fun, and lots more. [Get details](#)

Napa County Historical Society Event

City of Immigrants: An American Story

Continuing through March 30, 2024

Exhibit on-view at the Goodman Library

1219 First Street, Napa

Just a reminder that the exhibit above runs through March 30, 2024. This free exhibit explores the many waves of immigration into Napa Valley over 100 years, from 1820 to 1920.

[Learn More](#)

What's a FamilySearch Affiliate Library Anyway?

by **Linda Jesmok and Jeanine Layland**

NVGS is a FamilySearch Affiliate Library—So What?

FamilySearch (FS) has three levels of access to all of their on-line/digitized materials. The difference between these levels is based on what material is accessible to the researcher.

[Read full article](#)

Ask-A-Genealogist In Action

by **Mark and Sally Perkins**

What could be better than having an experienced group of genealogists help you hunt down an elusive ancestor? Ask-A-Genealogist, our newest member benefit, is just that resource. Chris Burditt, research services coordinator, heads up a team of volunteers ready to help pinpoint resources and strategies to get your research on track. All it takes to start the conversation is an email to him at research@napagensoc.org.

My wife, Sally, and I decided to try this approach for ourselves. Here is the initial request we sent to Chris:

[Read full article](#)

Volunteer Spotlight



Chris McKenzie

by Sally Perkins

A Minneapolitan by birth, Christine McKenzie, (Chris) found her way to Napa Valley in 2018. She happened to move near to one of NVGS's long time members and another awesome volunteer, Bente Shoar. One conversation led to another, and Christine realized that her longtime curiosity and interest in family history could have a welcome mat waiting for her at NVGS! She officially became a member in April of 2023 and a volunteer extraordinaire soon after!

Chris comes to the Society with a professional background in managing employees and accounts in the insurance industry, which also involves great communication and organizational skills. She moved to Houston and lived there for 20 years before moving back to Minneapolis to be nearer to family. Both of those places were very large cities. Chris now enjoys living in Napa, the wine capital of California! Aside from the wine, she loves the beauty of the area and the small town environment that still allows access to the bigger cities nearby.

Christine has two daughters, one who lives in Oakland with her family and another who lives in England. Chris enjoys being a grandmother and traveling! You can find her in Oakland enjoying grandma duty often and playing in London and beyond with her daughter.

Christine has served as a Member-at-Large on the Board for NVGS and is currently producing the Newsletter which comes out bi-monthly for us. She started doing that in the fall of 2023, working with Sandy Hoover and shifted to the position of editor in December. At the same time, the Board and its technology team were working hard to update the website and create a new template for the Newsletter which Chris has managed to learn (with lots of help from Susan Ingersoll) and implement during these first few months of 2024.

Chris enjoys volunteering at NVGS because she gets to meet a lot of "cool people" who are willing to share their family stories and doing the newsletter is a good fit because she loves learning about all the material in the articles that people submit. Getting beyond Family Search and online research has allowed her to learn about how much more is available in the library that adds incredible information and depth to her research. We are so grateful for her time, energy, and contribution!

Library Happenings



Local Scout Troop Visits Our Library

by Linda Jesmok

After two 3-hour Genealogy Badge training sessions, 10 scouts, 10 parents, Bob De Young (my Scout liaison), Patricia Woichek (co-trainer), and I all came away excited by the potential of genealogy to reach every age.

Requirements to earn the Scout Genealogy badge are well-planned, and the Scouts were best served by doing their homework ahead of time, completing short trees and family group sheets, and interviewing a relative.

In the NVGS training sessions, we reviewed the badge requirements, and the Scouts shared their preliminary findings. At our direction, the stacks were plundered with enthusiasm. The Scouts found a nice variety of things that related to their own family research. Our last activity each day was to launch the Scouts into FamilySearch, with resulting joy of discovery and fanfare.

The parents seemed to have as much fun as the kids! I hope to contact Napa's other Boy Scout troop, and to see if similar training might benefit local Girl Scouts—so perhaps there will be further sessions in the offing.

Special thanks to Ruth Jenkins-McIntire and her husband for making scout interactions smooth by gussying up the computers, making sure all were in top-notch working order.

Unique Cemetery Resources Held at Our Library

by Sue Ziemski

The Napa Valley Genealogical Society Library offers numerous resources for research. Cemeteries have often been great resources for conducting genealogical research.

[Read full article](#)



Mary's Book Corner



The Accidental Archivist

by Angela Bier

This is an extremely well-written true story of a very complex family story. The author and her relatives use every trick in the book to solve the question about who is the Daddy, including software used for "stud books" to record race horses complex pedigrees. This is a book that entertains as well as teaches research methods.

Happy Reading, Mary

Musings

"History isn't about dates and places and wars. It's about the people who fill the spaces between them."

~ Jodi Picoult



Ancestral Mathematics

In order to be born, you needed:

- 2 parents
- 4 grandparents
- 8 great-grandparents
- 16 second great-grandparents
- 32 third great-grandparents
- 64 fourth great-grandparents
- 128 fifth great-grandparents
- 256 sixth great-grandparents
- 512 seventh great-grandparents
- 1,024 eighth great-grandparents
- 2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 11 previous generations, you needed a total sum of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment...

- How many struggles? How many battles?
- How many difficulties? How much sadness?
- How much happiness? How many love stories?
- How many expressions of hope for the future?

– did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment...

Welcome New Members!

**Elizabeth (Betty)
McCormick Malmgren**

Surname Searches: McCormick

Sarah Miller

Surname Searches: Thompson, Oxendine, Holland

Linda Odelson

Surname Searches: Suss, Segal, Dudelzsch

Megan Titus

Surname Searches: Grigsby

Member Reminders

Ask-A-Genealogist

Do you have a brick wall in your research that you just can't bust through? Ask-A-Genealogist is a member benefit which gives you access to our knowledgeable, experienced volunteer researchers. [Learn More](#)

Schedule your FREE library orientation!

Email: Info@NapaGenSoc.org

Call: (707) 252-2252



Recycle to Help NVGS

Ongoing Fundraiser: We collect **aluminum cans and plastic bottles** (no glass please) to recycle for cash. Please remember NVGS when you recycle these items. It's amazing how your recycling donations can add up!

Collect the items in a plastic bag and bring them to the NVGS Library any time. If the Library is not open when you are ready to drop off, simply **toss the bag(s) over the fence** at the back of the building.

Has Your Contact Info Changed?

Please let us know as soon as possible if you change your email address, phone number, or street address. [Contact Us](#)

Did You Miss a Past Speaker?

Members can view **education program recordings** on our website! Click this link, then log in: NapaGenSoc.org/Program-Videos

Monthly program recordings are available for a limited time

Library Catalog Is Online

Did you know that our library has a **searchable online catalog**? Access it from your home computer or mobile device (or use the PC's at our library). [Plan your visit](#) with this useful tool, which allows you to print a list of the publications you want to view. [Learn more](#)

NVGS Events Summary

March 2024:

Mar 4 (1st Mon): **Round Table Conversation, "Amazing Female Ancestors"**, 11 a.m., via Zoom

Mar (Every Wed): **Library Committee Work Party**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mar (2nd & 4th Tues): **Family History Writing Group**, 12 p.m., NVGS Library

Mar 8 (2nd Fri): **Board meeting**, 10:30 a.m., NVGS Library

Mar 21 (3rd Thurs): **Education Program, "25 Tips for Researching Your Female Ancestors"**, presented by Gena Philibert-Ortega, 1 p.m., via Zoom or in person at NVGS Library

April 2024:

Apr 1 (1st Mon): **Round Table Conversation, "Unusual or Standout Ancestors"**, 11 a.m., via Zoom

Apr (Every Wed): **Library Committee Work Party**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Apr (2nd & 4th Tues): **Family History Writing Group**, 12 p.m., NVGS Library

Apr 12 (2nd Fri): **Board meeting**, 10:30 a.m., NVGS Library

Apr 18 (3rd Thurs): **Education Program, "Why They Left, Where They Went, and What Their Journeys Can Reveal"**, presented by Pam Vestal, 1 p.m., via Zoom or in person at NVGS Library

[Full NVGS Calendar](#)

[Other Bay Area Genealogy Events](#)

NVGS Links:

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[Online Catalog](#)

[Ask-A-Genealogist](#)

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[WinePress Archives](#)

We hope you enjoy the new WinePress format!

Please be patient as we iron out the kinks in using this new way of communicating with you.

Contribute to WinePress:

Deadline: 26th of each month

Submissions: Newsletter@NapaGenSoc.org

Subject line: Newsletter item

About Napa Valley Genealogical Society:

The Napa Valley Genealogical Society is dedicated to the promotion of genealogical, historical, and biographical research, and the preservation of family history. The society serves as a medium to share knowledge through workshops and educational programs.

Napa Valley Genealogical Society & Library

(707) 252-2252 | Info@NapaGenSoc.org | NapaGenSoc.org

1701 Menlo Ave, Napa, CA 94558-4725

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