



WINEPRESS

NEWSLETTER

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NVGS Library 707-252-2252
1701 Menlo Avenue, Napa, CA 94558-4725
Hours: 1st & 3rd Monday evenings 5 to 8
Days: Tue. Wed. Thur. 11 to 5
Saturdays: 1st, 2nd & 3rd. 10 to 2
And by appointment

Email: napagen@napavalleygenealogy.org
Web: napavalleygenealogy.org

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Fundraising: Vacant

Mission Statement

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.

A Message from our President



After serving on the NVGS board for ten years, I am stepping down from board service. It has been an enlightening process, discovering parts of myself I never knew. I have been delighted to hear from those who complimented me on positive changes to the society and library, never really knowing what those changes were. And to Eric in Virginia, thank you for the Mother's Day e-cards. I would like to take this time and space to thank the many people who have donated some time that has gone without a thank-you. These are the very small things that probably go unnoticed.

First of all, to those who anonymously donate cans and bottles, thank you. And another to my husband who takes those cans and bottles to the recycling plant for money into our checking account.

Then there is Tom Fisher who graphites the front door so that your key (if you have one) doesn't break in two while turning the tumbler. Tom also fixed the back gate lock.

Sharon Marangoni's husband, Jim, went up on a ladder to check out the gutters. Tom sealed the leaky gutter seam.

Bente Shoar often picks up papers and weeds that appear in the garden.

And Lanita bakes goodies for our programs.

I know, I know, so many people deserve recognition, but our "village" is made of service, big and small. A few months ago I created a document that really opened up my mind to the huge amount of effort and improvements that have been made over the last few years. It was such a pleasant surprise to see the results of the work done by our volunteers.

Enjoy your holidays with friends and family.

Karen Burzdak
NVGS President

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGY SOCIETY CALENDAR of EVENTS

All members and guests welcome to attend.

Nov 2016

Nov 2, (1st Wed) **Genealogy Software Group**, 1pm NVGS Library.

Nov 5, **Genealogy + Crafting workshop**, 1 pm NVGS Library. RSVP advised.

Nov 8, (2nd Tue) **Family History Writing Group**, noon, at NVGS Library

Nov 14, (2nd Mon) **BOARD MEETING**, 2pm NVGS Library.

Nov 17, (3rd Thurs) No program. Happy Thanksgiving month.

Nov 22, (4th Tue) **Family History Writing Group**, noon, at NVGS Library.

Dec 2016

Dec 7, (1st Wed) **Genealogy Software Group**, 1pm NVGS Library.

Dec 12, (2nd Mon) **BOARD MEETING**, 2pm NVGS Library.

Dec 13, (2nd Tue) **Family History Writing Group**, noon, at NVGS Library.

Dec 15, (3rd Thur) No program. Happy Holidays.

Dec 27, (4th Tue) **Family History Writing Group**, noon, at NVGS Library.

WinePress deadline, Dec 18, articles to Editor Sandra Hoover, email articles or drop off in editor's box at library. Early deadline because of the holiday.

Calendar of Upcoming Events of Interest

Nov 5, 2016 “**Cyndi Ingle at Preservation Park**” Want to learn how to dig deeper online? You've used her award-winning genealogy indexing site, CyndisList.com, but did you know that she's a nationally-recognized genealogy lecturer & author? Come discover what you've been missing through her day-long series of classes and let Cyndi's 35 years of genealogical experience help you unlock hidden doors to your family history research. The seminar is at historic Preservation Park in downtown Oakland, CA. Free parking for participants is located across the street at City Center West garage on the day of the event. A wonderful lunch and free coffee throughout the day is also provided with your admission. Presented by California Genealogical and Society Library. For more information: <http://californiaancestors.org>.

Jan 5, 2017 “**Easily Create a Video of Your Family Research**” Presented by Santa Cruz Genealogical Society, the program will be from 1pm to 3pm. Presented by Dr. Jan Joyce Ahrens. Go to www.scgensoc.org/event for more information.

May 6, 2017 “**Root Cellar 2017 Spring Seminar**” Presented by Sacramento Genealogical Society. Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, 11427 Fair Oaks Blvd. Fair Oaks, CA. Registration dates will be announced in 2017. Information at: www.rootcellar.org.



NEW ACQUISITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

California

979.465 H29sj *The History of Washington Township.* Alameda County, CA. Indexed.

Ohio

977.119 V28hc *Hancock County, Ohio-Wills and Estates Index, 1851-1900*

977.1 H29scg *Seneca County, Ohio: history and families.* Indexed. Includes: Biographies, Genealogy, History, Maps and Pictures.

977.143 V39ph *Riley Township Putnam County Ohio, Cemeteries.* Burials in five cemeteries. Listings alphabetical by last name. Includes birth, death, row-lot and remarks. 1800's to 1997.

The Stranger in My Genes

Reviewed by Sharon Marangoni and Karen Burzdak

I recently read this book, authored by Bill Griffeth. The author had been a long-time genealogist when he found out through DNA testing that the father he grew up with was not his biological father. The man is devastated, having anxiety attacks and catatonic phases, to the point of needing medication to cope. Part of his reaction has to do with how he views his mother, who is 90 years old, and if he should confront her. I read this book because I, too, found out through DNA that my biological father is not the one I knew. However, I did not have the same reaction as the author. The DNA test did not take anything away from me. I am still who I am, my life is and was the same as it always had been. If you are considering using DNA for your research, you should read this book. (SM)

Since I was adopted at birth, a few things jumped out at me. First of all, Bill felt “nothing” when he found out about the family he was biologically related to. My experience was the same.

And this quote says much: “One man gave me my genes and the other gave me my love.” (KB)

Mary's Book Corner



Family Shadows

John Nixon is a British genealogist who has taken to writing novels. *Family Shadows* is the first of four that I read on my Kindle during our recent travels. I enjoyed them because of the lovely British settings and the variety of research methods used in solving the mysteries. The writing gets smoother as the series progresses. *Family Shadows* contains a warning for genealogists; there may be severe consequences to what you discover and the results can be devastating.

*Happy reading,
Mary*



Welcome New Members

No new members this month

Contra Costa Genealogical Society Seminar

Sharon Marangoni, Karen Burzdak, and I attended the Contra Costa Genealogical Society seminar on October 14 featuring well-known speaker John Philip Colletta. He kept the large group engaged and entertained right from the beginning to the very end. We learned an enormous amount of information about immigration and naturalization in the US and came away with a lot of references to additional useful material.

Seminars and conferences such as this one are a great way to energize your family research and to gain new insights. Watch for announcements of nearby ones.

Mary Herzog

NVGS 2017 February Program

Topic for the February program will be more about FamilySearch.org a follow-up to last year's program.

Don't miss out; mark it on your calendar.

Beginners Classes 2017

Beginners' classes will be held on February 11 and 18, 2017. These two Saturdays are appropriate for members with some experience as well as non-members.

Details on registration in the next newsletter.



In Memory
Marie Wood





Our program in October was on DNA Testing.

Our presenter, Vernon Smith from Marin County Genealogical Society, was thorough in his presentation, but if you are like most of us, you are still wanting more information, especially in little bits and pieces that you can understand. Vernon suggests going to the Marin Genealogical Society's website and get to this link for more help:

[www.maringensoc.org/DNA Interest Group](http://www.maringensoc.org/DNA%20Interest%20Group).

Did you learn:

- The basics of genealogy testing.
- Where you can test and what results you might get.
- Attaching results to your online tree.

A new DNA SIG group will be starting soon. Watch your NVGS emails for details.

Contact the society and let us know your thoughts on this subject.

Phone# 707-252-2252 or email to: napagen@napavalleygenealogy.org.

Attention: NVGS Board members/DNA



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society presents; Lisa Gorrell

“German Research: Let’s Get Started!”

Nearly 50 million Americans have German ancestry. The earliest Germans came in colonial times. It was land and religious freedom that brought Germans to America. Yet, it wasn’t until 1871 that there was a united Germany. Come hear how to get started in your German research by learning about sources here in the U.S. to help bridge you to the German states of your ancestors.

Lisa Gorrell has been seriously researching her family for more than twenty years. It was the birth of her daughters that began the journey connecting the past and the future generations. One trip to Sutro Library to use microfilm of the 1920 census and finding her grandfather’s family got her hooked. Now, a yearly trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City keeps her going. Besides U.S. Southern and Mid-western states, she researches German, Irish, English, and Swedish families.

She is currently the Recording Secretary for the California Genealogical Society, a board member with the Contra Costa Historical Society and volunteers at their archives at the History Center in Martinez, and a past-president of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society. She is also the tour leader with the California Genealogy Society’s research trip to Salt Lake City.

Lisa enjoys giving genealogy presentations and writing about her family on two blogs: “Mam-ma’s Southern Family” <http://mam-massouthernfamily.blogspot.com/> and “My Trails into the Past”, <http://mytrailsintothepast.blogspot.com/>. She has also written a three-generation family history about her husband’s Swedish ancestors.

WHEN: Monday, November 14, 2016 ~ 7:30 PM

WHERE: Congregation Beth Emek 3400 Nevada Court Pleasanton, CA

COST: No Charge ~ Visitors welcome

For additional information contact; Marilyn Glass & Diane Wiedel, program chairs,
Email: program@L-AGS.ORG.

Jabber from Janice



Here are some digital sites that you may have not checked in some time or never quite got around to exploring:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ARCHIVES

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/institutions/California+State+Archives>.

The small eyeball designates digitized State of California archives. Use to Search OAC to enter a surname (or search terms). On the right side is a screen revealing your library hits and an eyeball icon to choose just those digitized. Also, scroll thru alphabetical index. What if this digitized item was part of your family - Aid to the Burr-Allyne family papers and photographs, 1839-2012 or Finley – McFarling genealogy collection? Hint: alphabetical is not necessarily by surname but often first name as categorized or title, i.e. under “C”, C. W. Gibson letter to his cousin, Townsend Holly, 1863 April 4. A search for a surname could turn up an item but it is not digitized, you could read the description and find contact information on the holding institution. These items are not limited to California.

INTERNET ARCHIVE

<https://archive.org/>.

A non-profit library of accessible media of all types. Use the menu bar search box to enter terms. If you use more than one term, a screen comes up offering an advanced search. This is a bit complex but you could find something you never thought to see.

US GENWEB

<http://usgenweb.org>

An old standby that I highly recommend that changes regularly. Some counties have an amazing amount of information and other counties are looking for a volunteer to get files online. Choose State from the list on the left. From the State site you will be able to choose the county from a list, table or map. Each county maintains their site with volunteers usually an historical or genealogical society. Napa County webmaster/coordinator is Ruth Jenkins-McIntire. **Thank you, Ruth, and the many volunteers who have helped make this information available.**

Happy hunting!

Janice Cox Brown

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January meeting and program

Our Annual Meeting, at which time we elect officers and directors and approve the budget, will take place on January 19, 2017, at 1:30 pm. Members eligible to vote must be of record and in good standing by November 15, 2016. You will receive a notice either by email or by post.

A program follows, which will be in the form of a webinar (or two, or three) on topics of general interest to us genealogists. We welcome all persons interested in genealogy.

Its location is not yet confirmed, but it likely will be held at the Senior Center for better seating purposes.

400 years of Oxfordshire History

Over four million historic parish records have been digitised for the first time, offering insight into the history and people of the county of Oxfordshire.

Published in conjunction with Oxfordshire Family History Society and the Oxfordshire History Centre, the [Oxfordshire Parish Registers, 1538-1965](#) detail generations of baptisms, marriages and burials that took place in the local area over a period of 400 years.

Searchable by name, birth date, parish, baptism, marriage, confirmation and burial date, name of spouse and name/s of parents, these records contain vital information for anybody looking to find out more about an ancestor who lived in Oxfordshire.

A number of famous names feature in the extensive collection. From prime ministers to novelists, these include:

[Sir Winston Churchill](#) – Prime Minister, officer in the British Army, writer and artist, Churchill held many important political and cabinet positions – leading the nation during World War Two. Churchill’s baptism record from December 27, 1874, appears within the collection, noting him as the “second son of the Duke of Marlborough, Member of Parliament for the Borough of Woodstock”

[C.S. Lewis](#) – Novelist, scholar and broadcaster best known for his fictional work, The Chronicles of Narnia, The Space Trilogy and The Screwtape Letters, which sold millions of copies and were translated into more than 30 languages worldwide. Clive Staples Lewis was born in Belfast but his burial record is included in the Oxfordshire collection. He passed away in Oxford the same day US President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, November 22, 1963.

[Hardwicke Rawnsley](#) – One of the most prolific writers of sonnets, Hardwicke became known for his writing on the Lake District. Oxford-educated, Hardwicke was a Church of England clergyman, poet, hymn writer, local politician, and conservationist. He encouraged Beatrix Potter to write ‘The Tale of Peter Rabbit’, even contributing to one of the versions. He was also one of the founders of the National Trust. Hardwicke was baptised in the parish Shiplake on October 26, 1851, the record of which can be found in the digitised collection.

At the start of the 15th Century, both the British government and the Church of England became particularly interested in record keeping, and a 1538 Act of Parliament required ministers to document the key life events that took place across their parish. In 1812, George Rose’s Act called for preprinted registers to be used for separate baptism, marriage, and burial registers as a way of standardising records.

Starting in 1538, the collection pre-dates the censuses and civil registration making it a valuable resource for anybody looking to trace their ancestors back before official systems were established.

Analysis of the records shows that 1834 was perhaps the busiest year on record for Oxfordshire couples – being the year most babies were baptised (5,026) as well as the year most marriages were recorded (4,402). This was not an isolated year, as 1833 was the second busiest year for couples in the county on both fronts, with 4,938 baptisms and 4,209 marriages processed.

Ancestry’s Senior Content Manager Miriam Silverman comments: “The Oxfordshire collection tells a story of the lives of people living in the area over four centuries of fascinating history – including a host of famous names with connections to Oxfordshire. Now with the newly digitised collection, it is the perfect time to get online and find out more about Oxfordshire’s history.”

To search the [Oxfordshire Parish Registers, 1538-1965](#) and more than 18 billion historical records worldwide, visit www.ancestry.co.uk

Reprinted from: <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2016/10/04/400-years-of-oxfordshire-history/> Posted by [Kristen Hyde](#) on October 4, 2016 in [Collections](#), [United Kingdom](#), [Website](#)

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