



WINEPRESS

NEWSLETTER

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NVGS Library 707-252-2252
1701 Menlo Avenue, Napa, CA 94558-4725

Closed indefinitely during California's shelter-in-place mandate, the NVGS staff are working at home and available to take in your research requests.

napagen@napavalleygenealogy.org

Email: napagen@napavalleygenealogy.org

Web: napavalleygenealogy.org

Volume 48

No. 4

August, 2020

Elected Officers

President, Sandra Hoover
sandrahoover@comcast.net

V. President: Sally Perkins & Mark Perkins
regamasa@gmail.com

Secretary: Christine Dunn
cdunn1949@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Jeanine Layland
jelayland@comcast.net

Directors:

Computers and Web:
Ruth Jenkins-McIntire
ruthljenkins@yahoo.com

Education: Vacant

Librarian: Sandra Hoover
sandrahoover@comcast.net

Membership: Lanita Stilwell
lkstilwell@outlook.com

Publications: Sue Ziemski
sziemski@sbcglobal.net

Publicity: Vacant

Ways & Means: Vacant

Committees :

Programs: Michael Drew
mdrew1008@att.net

Research: Mary Herzog
herzogm@pacbell.net

Volunteers: Gail Martin
gmmartin43@gmail.com

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 YOUR BOARD

We hope you enjoyed solving the mini mystery that we had in the July 2020 newsletter from, Genealogical Crime Mystery Author, Nathan Dylan Goodwin.

If you missed it you can still go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y9hfpsgz> to solve this mystery case.

Don't trash it make use of it.

Now that we have all had time to sort, clean and downsize, we are re-printing "Incorporating Family Heirlooms into Family Décor" on page 5. Or just what can I do with grandma's ??????????

Use it, incorporate it, give it a new life, enjoy it.

The library staff is taking calls and emails for research. Keep them coming in at 707-252-2252 or email to napagen@napavalleygenealogy.org

Thank you to all who have sent in their memberships and to those of you who toss your used plastic bottles and cans over the back fence for recycling.

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGY SOCIETY CALENDAR of EVENTS

August 2020

Aug 5, (1st Wed) **Library Committee Meeting**, 12pm Cancelled for this month, will continue online at a later date.

Aug 14, (2nd Fri) **Board Meeting**, 11:00am. This is a Zoom meeting.

WinePress deadline, Aug 27, articles to Editor Sandra Hoover, email articles to:
sandrahoover@comcast.net

Mary's Book Corner



“It’s All Relative”

By A. J. Jacobs

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, it is unlike any other book that I have come across about genealogy and family history research.

A. J. Jacobs is a professional writer who likes to pick large projects and then write about them. In this case, he did his DNA and then became fascinated by the idea that we are all related to one degree or another. He came up with a plan for staging a worldwide family reunion based on the people who showed up as matches to him. I remember seeing announcements about the reunion held in New York in 2015. The book chronicles how he managed to gather together enough volunteers to put on an event which attracted 3700 people, not counting the ones attending 44 simultaneous reunions around the world. Each chapter in the book is a riff on some facet of the planning or some random thought that flitted through his mind as he researched his own family. Some are light and funny while others are quite profound.

Thanks to Sue Ziemski who brought to my attention the squib about this book in VIA magazine. I found a copy in the Napa Public Library.

Happy reading, Mary

DO YOU KNOW?

Early OccupationsWhat was a RAKER?

Answer:.....Street sanitation worker....



Welcome New Member

Name

Surname Searches

No new member this month.	
---------------------------	--

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Vintage Fashion Show, originally scheduled for Sunday, March 15, has been postponed until 2021. This is an important fundraiser for our society, please donate cost of your ticket if you are able.

If you did not purchase a ticket now is a great time to make a donation to the society, which is tax deductible.

**Keep those plastic bottles and tin cans coming,
all those refunds go to the NVGS fund raising account.**

**Are you getting overwhelmed with your bags of cans and bottles.
You may toss the bags over the gate into the back yard.
We will get them to recycle.
Thank you**

“FINDING FAMILY”

We are getting ready to start up the Finding Family Column in the Napa Valley Register as we had done in 2018-2019.

Looking for stories to submit to the newspaper. These stories can be how you found a relative, how you traveled to do family history research or even what mistakes you made along the way. Really anything goes, as long as it is a printable family history story.

Some suggested ideas: Genealogy in a pandemic; What I found being stuck inside; I finally crashed the brick wall; Look what I found; That person does not belong in my family.

Put your thinking caps on and write a story, any length, and send it to the editor at: sandrahoover@comcast.net Put in the subject “Finding Family”.

As soon as we get some stories lined up we will be submitting them to the register.



GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Why Learn About Your Family History?

Maybe you're curious if you descended from someone famous. You may be visiting your ancestral homeland or compiling a family medical history. Perhaps you want to learn more about your heritage so you can one day pass down stories and traditions to your children. Whatever your reason for embarking on this journey, exploring your family history will enrich your life in unexpected ways.

Family History lets you do all this and more:

Discover Your Story—Preserve Your Heritage—Share with your family

Get Started in Three Easy Steps

1. Begin with what you know.

It's easy with your free family tree on Ancestry.com. Simply enter names, places and dates for yourself, parents and grandparents. Don't worry if you don't have all the facts. This is the beginning of the treasure hunt.

2. Ask your family for more.

Family history can be a wonderful excuse to pick up the phone or share a meal with siblings, grandparents and other loved ones. Ask your relative for stories, photos and knowledge about your shared heritage.

3. Let Ancestry.com fill in the blanks for you.

Ancestry.com will use every fact you enter into your tree to help you find historical records, photos and member family trees for missing details about your ancestors. The more you add to your tree, the more we can help you grow it.

What next?

Preserve: Add context to your family story. Attach favorite photos, stories and documents to people in your tree.

Search: Put on your detective cap. Ancestry Hints can get you off to a great start. Once you've followed these clues, you can look for more on your own by searching historical maps, postcards and record collections using our custom genealogy search engine.

Print and Share: Create a family history book. Share the rich heritage you've discovered with your family by easily creating a hardbound family history book, calendar or poster form your tree.

Look Inside: Find answers in your own DNA. Ancestry.com DNA testing can easily open doors to your ancient ancestry and possibly help you meet living genetic cousins you never knew you had.

Tools for the Family Historian: Ancestry.com Family Trees, Hints, Print & Share, Storytelling, Learning Center, Community, all FREE.

- Historical Records and Member Trees (\$). The worlds largest online collection of family history records.
- Family Tree Maker (\$) This #1 best-selling family history software for 20 plus years running integrates with Ancestry.com records, Ancestry Hints, And it provides additional features such as interactive maps, a web clipper and video tutorial.

Source: Reprinted from Ancestry.com

Incorporating Family Heirlooms into Family Décor

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2016/10/25/incorporating-family-heirlooms-into-your-decor/>

Grandma's bookcase, your great-grandfather's clock, your aunt's vanity—it's easy to see how family heirlooms can stack up in the attic fast. Clean out the attic by incorporating your family treasures into your home decor. They not only tell your story and history, but they can also compliment your savvy style. From creating a vintage gallery wall to giving an antique heirloom a fresh coat of paint, here are some easy, attainable ways to display your family treasures and incorporate them into your existing spaces.

Find Balance

It's easy to think that heirloom pieces will make your home feel like an old, stuffy museum, but by creating balance between old and new, you can make your old pieces feel at home by complementing them with contemporary furnishings, artwork and accessories. Sometimes it's as simple as adding a stylish potted plant or an abstract painting to warm up a darker, elaborate piece. Other times, putting the piece next to a modern rug is all you need to make it feel less like Grandma's old bookcase and more like a unique vintage find.

Update It

One of the easiest ways to incorporate heirloom furniture is to give it a new life. Older furniture is revered for being impeccably made, so take advantage of having a sturdy piece with added character by giving it a facelift. Update your piece with a bold new paint color or a more modern stain. Chairs can be reupholstered with a chic neutral or a funky pattern to bring them from drab to glam. Giving your piece a modern makeover will not only make it much easier to incorporate into your existing decor, but it will also help you preserve your family history and save the piece from ending up in a landfill.

Incorporate Art

Vintage sketches, landscapes and original paintings can look surprisingly modern when paired together as a gallery wall in contemporary living spaces. Mix up the frames with new and old, and feel free to play with gilded, wood and sleek modern finishes. A few framed family photos are easy additions to an open bookcase and shelving. Finish off the look by adding a few smaller antiques next to a selection of photos for a personal touch.

Give It a New Life

Sometimes heirlooms just don't cut it with your decor or needs. But don't write them off just yet—consider giving them a new life as something else. Old rugs are great examples. Instead of sitting in the basement collecting dust, rugs can be great for reupholstering an ottoman or bench. Not only will they show off a wonderfully inviting patina, they'll be a fantastic boho-chic addition to a living room or bedroom. Any typewriters, record players or old-timey speakers in the attic? Why get rid of them when they can be an industrial decorative accent or a unique coffee table base!

Get Creative with Dinnerware

Silver and china sets are classic heirlooms from the bygone era of formal dining and extravagant dinners. While most of us don't have much use for elaborate sets, they're the perfect opportunity to get creative. Cluster a few pieces on a bookcase for a decorative accent or turn pitchers into flower vases. Antique silver trays are stunningly beautiful and great for grouping collections together in a variety of settings. You can use a tray to accent a bar cart, top off a pouf to create a casual side table or house varying jars of lotions and potions on top of a vanity for a glamorous bathroom addition.

Austin's Bible and How It Came To Me
by Mary Herzog

Austin Snead is my second great grandfather. I've been thinking a lot about him lately as I dug through my Snead research for a double third cousin of mine who is writing a novel based on Austin's life. I had done most of that research 20-25 years ago when I connected with Snead researchers on the Snead Forum at RootsWeb.

I had trekked to the Bay Area to comb through microfilm at the Oakland Family History Center and Sutro Library, and planned vacations around visiting ancestral places long before "everything" was available online. My husband, Michael, is a writer. After taking some writing classes locally he decided to apply for the Iowa Summer Writing Festival, the amateur's version of the Iowa Writer's Workshop. We ended up going three years in a row. I loved it. We stayed on campus in downtown Iowa City, with a branch of the Iowa State Historical Society and State Archives personal, a couple of blocks away from the campus. He was busy, except for meal times, from 9 in the morning until 9 at night. I had the rental car and could roam all over the state doing research and visiting interesting places. The second week we sought my family places in nearby states. The third year, 2001, he decided that in addition to the standard week, he would take two weekend seminars but I wasn't so sure that I could fill nine straight days with things that interested me. I discovered there was a conference for the Ostfriesland (Michael's family) Genealogical Society in Minneapolis at the same time so I signed up.

Shortly before we left home, another researcher with whom I had been corresponding on a collateral line, saw a notice in an online forum that Herbert Snead of Minneapolis had Austin Snead's Bible and shared it with me. I quickly figured out which Herbert Snead he was, found a phone number for him, and called to invite myself to visit.

We had a delightful afternoon and evening visit and he was able to answer a lot of questions for me. Among the family papers that I had were quite a few that my grandmother had collected. There were a handful of mysterious slips of paper, the earliest dated 1830, some signed by Austin Snead and some by his father William. Bert explained that Austin's Bible was full of them, apparently Austin used it as his filing system. Bert had about twice as many of the slips as I had. Later I discovered that another family member had more of the slips.

On a trip to Virginia I found an official court ledger where receipts were written out in longhand and then a line drawn across the page with the next receipt written below it. I think that the clerk must have had a separate loose piece of paper where the receipt was copied in the same manner and then cut off the sheet to be given to the person.

Bert's mother, Mabel, was an avid genealogist and traveled back to Washington to the DAR library and the National Archives for research.

Continued on page 7

Closed indefinitely during California's shelter-in-place mandate, the NVGS staff are working at home and available to take in your research requests.

You may call the library and leave a message at 707-252-2252, we will be checking the messages regularly. Or you may email a message or request at: napagen@napavalleygenealogy.org

Send an email with specifics and it will be transferred to a staff member who will contact them.



DUES

Invoices for dues for the year 2020-2021 have all been sent (via either email or snail mail), you should have received it by now, and we would really appreciate a prompt response.

Since we had to cancel our fundraiser this year we are in need of your dues to help provide the maintenance of the building, and all the things the library has to offer (books, computer programs, scanner, pioneer files, etc.), the various programs & groups, etc.



We know you can not use these things currently, but one day in the future we'll come roaring back and we need to have a place to roar back to

Austin's Bible

Continued from page 6

He explained that three typed transcriptions of affidavits which were in my grandmother's papers were documents that his mother had found in Washington and then typed and transcribed. I came away from that visit with a rather poor photocopy of the family pages from the bible. We kept in touch and several years later as his health declined, he decided to send the Bible to me, along with a whole packet of his mother's research. Unfortunately, the family record pages were missing from it but in the packet I found a very good, clear copy. I think he must have decided to take them out in order to make a better copy and then either forgot to put them back or decided to keep them within his own family line. Bert died in 2010 at the age of 90.

Thinking about how all of this came about I realized some good things for researchers to keep in mind. *First*, corresponding with a variety of people also interested in family history meant that someone noticed a message online which I had not seen. *Second*, I had done descendency research long before it became popular for DNA matching and therefore I already knew how Herbert Sned fit into my family. *Third*, I was willing to take a risk and follow up immediately. *Fourth*, sometimes things just line up and put you in the right place at the right time.

I think that can be called serendipity.