

# 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](mailto:napagen@napavalleygenealogy.org)

Email: [napagen@napavalleygenealogy.org](mailto:napagen@napavalleygenealogy.org)

Web: [napavalleygenealogy.org](http://napavalleygenealogy.org)

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### Elected Officers

President, Sandra Hoover  
[sandrahoover@comcast.net](mailto:sandrahoover@comcast.net)

V. President: Sally Perkins &  
Mark Perkins

Secretary: Christine Dunn  
[cdunn1949@yahoo.com](mailto:cdunn1949@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Jeanine Layland  
[jelayland@comcast.net](mailto:jelayland@comcast.net)

### Directors:

Computers and Web:  
Ruth Jenkins-McIntire  
[ruthljenkins@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthljenkins@yahoo.com)

Education: Vacant

Librarian: Sandra Hoover  
[sandrahoover@comcast.net](mailto:sandrahoover@comcast.net)

Membership: Lanita Stilwell  
[lkstilwell@outlook.com](mailto:lkstilwell@outlook.com)

Publications: Sue Ziemski  
[sziemski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sziemski@sbcglobal.net)

Publicity: Vacant

Ways & Means: Vacant

Committees :

Programs: Michael Drew  
[mdrew1008@att.net](mailto:mdrew1008@att.net)

Research: Mary Herzog  
[herzogm@pacbell.net](mailto:herzogm@pacbell.net)

Volunteers: Gail Martin  
[gmmartin43@gmail.com](mailto: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

*Do you shop Amazon ? Shop Smile.Amazon...to make a difference.*

This is something you can do that costs you nothing and gives a donation to us.

#### First time:

Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) NO WWW

You will be asked to select a charity. Browse for Napa Valley Genealogical Society and select. That's it!

#### Subsequent to sign up:

Once you have signed up for the program, you need to go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to shop or their dollars won't count. If they happen to go to the main site in error, a dialog box with link will appear on their screen asking if they want to go to smile part of the site.

The pricing is the same and all of their account information and Prime benefits all transfer to the Smile site.

At last count Amazon has contributed over \$18M to participating charities.

WOW, way to go Amazon.....

## NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGY SOCIETY CALENDAR of EVENTS

### July 2020

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

July 10, (2nd Fri) **Board Meeting**, 11:00am. This is a Zoom meeting.

**WinePress deadline**, July 27, articles to Editor Sandra Hoover, email articles to: [sandrahoover@comcast.net](mailto:sandrahoover@comcast.net)

### Mary's Book Corner

Genealogical Crime Mystery Author

Nathan Dylan Goodwin



[www.nathandylangoodwin.com](http://www.nathandylangoodwin.com)

Want to know what Morton Farrier has been up to during the English lockdown?

Want to know about the latest addition to the Farrier household?

Want to help Morton to solve a mini-case?

Yes..? Then read on!

Hello from Kent!

As mentioned in my previous newsletter, I have spent the past few weeks writing a short story about life during the lockdown for our friend, Morton Farrier, imaginatively entitled Morton in Lockdown. The story is web-based and is a kind of choose-your-own-adventure, in that the reader is given some choice as to the direction the mini-case takes. There are various paths, but only one ends up at Part Six.

Knowing that some people have been adversely affected financially during this pandemic, I wanted to ensure that everyone who wanted to could read the story. Therefore, the pricing of the story is discretionary; pay what you are able to afford at the end of the story by PayPal (or by debit/credit card from my website's shop page, where you can buy a tip in £s) - no obligation.

I hope you, too, will enjoy taking a read of Morton in Lockdown.

Wishing you and your loved ones health and happiness in these troubled times. My very best wishes, Nathan (in Lockdown).

Go to—<https://tinyurl.com/y9hfpsgz> —to solve this mini-case.

*Happy reading, Mary*

*With all the complaining about the need/importance to wash our hands, wear masks, social distancing, etc. - it seems timely, and good to note we really have nothing to complain about -*

**The** next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be, Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got **married** in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

**Baths** consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water.

**Houses** had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying . It's raining cats and dogs.

There was nothing to stop things from **falling** into the house.. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The **floor** was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, Dirt poor. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a thresh hold.

In those old days, they **cooked** in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.

Sometimes they could obtain **pork**, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had **plates** made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous!

**Bread** was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

**Lead** cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

**England** is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift.) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a ..dead ringer.

And that's the truth...Now, whoever said **History** was boring ! ! !



## Welcome New Member

Name

Surname Searches

Juanita E. Hoover

Carter, Graham, Hall, MacKintosh, Smith

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**



*Juanelle (Nell) Jones Dunn*

*1930 - 2020*

*Past President of Napa Valley Genealogical Society passed away peacefully on June 10, 2020*

*while residing in Olympia, Washington*

*Graveside Services were held at Tulocay Cemetary*



We asked and you answered. Some of you believe that the mystery person to the left of Tom Wakeman is Betty Bertagnolli.

Betty was a long time member of our society and a hard worker as were the other members in this photo.

Photo was taken in 1984, Tom was president of the society then.

Marian McGuire, Virginia Wakeman, Sandra Ogle, Tom Wakeman, & ?

Who is the person to the left of Tom Wakeman ?

If you know please tell us. And if there is a wrong name above tell us that also.

Library phone (707) 252-2252.



## My Dad's Service to his Country

My Dad, Roy Allan Davis, served in the US Army twice. The first time was a few years after he graduated from high School. He loved horses and the idea of being a mounted soldier appealed to him so in 1939 at age 24 he joined the Army and was assigned to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Regiment which was attached to the First Cavalry Division. This Division was totally mounted and included the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry of Western Fame. The division lost their horses at the beginning of WWII and became mechanized so he was in one of the last Cavalry Divisions.

His most vivid memories of his time in the division were about maneuvers held in the West Texas desert. Except for the time they ate and slept, they were in the saddle from the time they left Fort Bliss until they returned two months later. His service in the Cavalry lasted for one year.

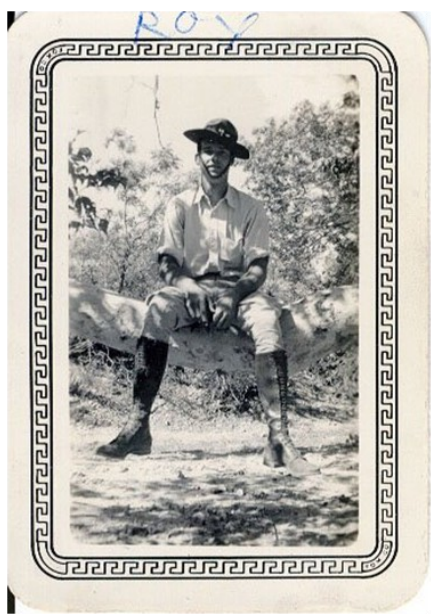
In 1943 during WWII, he joined the US Army Air Corps and after a year of Basic Training and Air Mechanics School was assigned to the 492<sup>nd</sup> Bomber Group in training in Idaho for overseas duty. In April 1944, the 492<sup>nd</sup> Group was put on a train and sent to the embarkation center near New York City. They were then packed on board the New Amsterdam, at a time the third largest ocean liner afloat. The ship was supposed to be fast enough to avoid German U-Boats. With about 8,000 troops aboard, they traveled for 8 days to reach Scotland, taking a zig zag course as a precaution. The soldiers then traveled by train to an airbase east of London near the channel coast and smack-dab in the middle of the area often referred to as "Bomb Alley". He served there in England as an Air Mechanic and later in France at an airfield where planes loaded spies and supplies to drop in war zones.

My Dad never talked much about his experiences but I do remember him saying that when he was in England there were many times he had to run and dive into the shelter of a foxhole when the airfield was being bombed. When the war ended he was in France and he talked about the joy of the French people to have it be over! Much of what I know of his experience comes from a story he wrote about his early life!

Submitted by:

Ruth Davis Jenkins-McIntire

June 24, 2020



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](mailto: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 .....



Have a safe holiday.