

WINEPRESS

NEWSLETTER

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

Open by appointment during California's shelter-in-place mandate, the NVGS staff are working at home and available to take in your research requests. research@napagensoc.org

Email: info@napagensoc.org
Web: www.napagensoc.org

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No 4

April, May 2021

Elected Officers

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Committees:

Programs: Michaele Drew
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Research: Mary Herzog
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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

The Napa Valley Genealogy Library is open for pre-scheduled appointments only.

Email to research@napagensoc.org with a message that you would like to visit the library. Please leave your name and phone number.

A staffer will call you to set up your appointment.

New Members may also schedule a **Library Orientation**.

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"COMING TO AMERICA"

THE ELLIS ISLAND EXPERIENCE

Presented by
Madeline Yanov

April 15, 2021
1:00pm

NVGS
Virtual Program

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGY SOCIETY CALENDAR of EVENTS

April 2021

Apr 7, (1st Wed) **Library Committee Meeting. Want to volunteer?**

Email to: president@napagensoc.org

Apr 9, (2nd Fri) **Board Meeting**, 10:00am. via Zoom.

Apr 15, (3rd Thurs) **Announcements & Program: Coming to America: The Ellis Island Experience**, what our ancestors went through when they entered Ellis Island.

1:00pm - Announcements and Discussion; 1:30pm - Program Starts

May 2021

May 5, (1st Wed) **Library Committee Meeting. Want to volunteer?**

Email to: president@napagensoc.org

May 14, (2nd Fri) **Board Meeting**, 10:00am. via Zoom.

May 20, (3rd Thurs) **Announcements & Program: What's in Your Closet? Home Sources for the Genealogist.**

1:00pm - Announcements and Discussion; 1:30pm - Program Starts

WinePress deadline, Articles to Editor Sandra Hoover, due 26th of each month,

E-mail articles to: info@napagensoc.org In subject line state: Newsletter item.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday

April 17th, 2021 Sonoma County's Genealogical Society's 28th Annual Spring Seminar, 2021 (Via Zoom)

Featuring: Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, FASG, FUGA, FNGS

8:00 AM to 4 PM

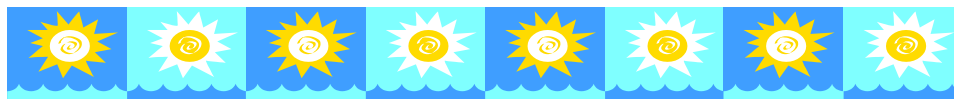
For more information or to register on line: <http://www.scgsonline.org>
Once you register you will receive a link for the zoom meeting.

A Reminder

Did you miss our speaker last month? If so, you may view the recording now on our new website www.napagensoc.org.

Lisa Gorrell's talk on **“Focused Research”**

Lisa Gorrell's recording will be deleted from the Members Only section of our website on **April 18**.



Welcome New Members

Name	Surname Searches
Deborah Berthold	Lumpkin, Simmons
Denise M. Bleuel	Bleuel, Levis
Jennifer Roodzant	Clore, Cole, Flinn, Forbes, Mann, Post, Reese, Robinson, Weaver, West
Bob Saxby	Saxby
Bob Shields	None given

NEW MEMBERS MAY SCHEDULE A LIBRARY ORIENTATION

Email to: research@napagensoc.org or call 707-252-2252

Joke of the day

What is the Best way to make Easter easier?

Put an i where the t is.



Reopening the Library

The library is now open for appointments only.

Email to: research@napagensoc.org

Include your name and a phone number where you can be reached.

A staffer will call you to schedule your appointment.

**REMEMBER
WEAR A MASK
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**

There is hand sanitizer and gloves available for your use.



Mary's Book Corner

Pale as the Dead

By Fiona Mountain



Sometimes genealogists take themselves and their quest a bit too seriously. Fiona Mountain's *Pale as the Dead* may be a cure for that. It is really a bit of fluff, but what's not to like about a setting in the quaint English Cotswolds and a genealogist using the research techniques of almost twenty years ago to try to solve both a contemporary family mystery and one about a classical painting? Try it, you might like it; I certainly did.

Happy reading, Mary



I'd also like to give everyone a head's up about a new FaceBook Group — Genealogical Crime Mystery Book Club. Our favorite author, Nathan Dylan Goodwin, is one of the founders. It seems like most of the active Genealogical Mystery writers are chiming in and listing all their books and telling what they're working on next. The rest of us stick mostly to sharing our experiences reading them and suggesting additional books. Come join the fun!

While we are all isolating in our homes, now is a good time to continue genealogical research, organize those photos and maybe even preserve and digitize important photos and documents.

RESOURCES

Research beyond **Family Search** and **Ancestry** should include **Heritage Quest** which can be accessed through the County Library at countyofnapa.org in the Database section. For newspapers and other collections check the Library of Congress at loc.gov. Google also has an archive of newspapers.

Consider preserving and sharing family photos and stories by scrap booking family history. For archival supplies check Gaylord.com. They also provide information of preserving family heirlooms. Photopostos.com offers self-adhesive envelopes for photo postcards. smile.amazon.com also offers many types of archival items.

Your scrap books can be professionally printed for sharing with family. Few websites include: shutterfly.com and snapfish.com and walgreens.com.

TIP

Many gravestones list the date of death and the age at death. The birth date can be calculated from this information: for example death May6, 1889 at the age of 71 years, 7 months, 9 days.

- a. write the death year, month, day as : 18890506
- b. subtract the age at death: 710709
- c. this gives the figure: 18179797
- d. now subtract 8870
- e. the result is 18170927
- f. the birth date is 1817, 9th month (Sept), 27th day or 27 Sept, 1817

Submitted by Sue Ziemiński

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGY

PRESENTS

“ COMING TO AMERICA: THE ELLIS ISLAND EXPERIENCE”

Presented by Madeline Yanov

Zoom meeting on 15 April, 2021

1:00 pm - Society Announcements and Discussion

1:30 pm - Program Starts



- Between 1892 and 1954, Ellis Island, New York, processed over 12 million immigrants.
- Do you know what they experienced at that processing station? What was their first taste of America like?
- Madeline Yanov takes us on a visit to the processing station as we retrace each step our ancestors took to enter this country. We will discover the services that Ellis Island offered immigrants and why not everyone was admitted to the country.

Madeline Yanov, current president of Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, has over 30 years experience researching family histories. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and operates Time Travel Genealogy, a full-service genealogy company.

Guest Registration: Under "Upcoming Events" on the Home page of napagensoc.org, click on Ellis Island. There will be a button to click for registration.

Members of the society will receive the Zoom link and do not need to register.

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS:
“WHAT’S IN YOUR CLOSET?
HOME SOURCES FOR THE GENEALOGIST”

Zoom talk by Mary Herzog
20 May 2021

1:00 pm - Society Announcements and Discussion
1:30-Program Starts



Before exploring online databases and traveling to repositories, every genealogist can find inspiration for family research close to home in photos, letters, documents, heirlooms, trinkets, and oral histories. These home sources provide the precious foundation for a lifetime of study. Mary Herzog will share how her genealogical journey evolved with the aid of home sources and ways that we can make the most of what lies hidden in our closets and drawers.

Mary began her research twenty-seven years ago when her husband received a letter asking for family information from an unknown cousin. The timing was perfect because she had just retired from over thirty years with the Public Health Department and was looking for something to do. Over the years she has taught numerous classes at the Napa Valley Genealogical Library and served as research consultant for many of our members. Her special interests include research on her Azorean ancestry, visiting with her many cousins in England who did not emigrate, and finding DNA cousins.

Guest Registration: Under “Upcoming Events” on the Home page of napagensoc.org, click on “What’s in Your Closet?” Find and click “Register.”

Members of the Society will receive the Zoom link and do not need to register.

FOUND MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER IN MASONIC CEMETERY BOOKS

by Todd L Gilman wetzebra@wetzebra.net

Article # 1

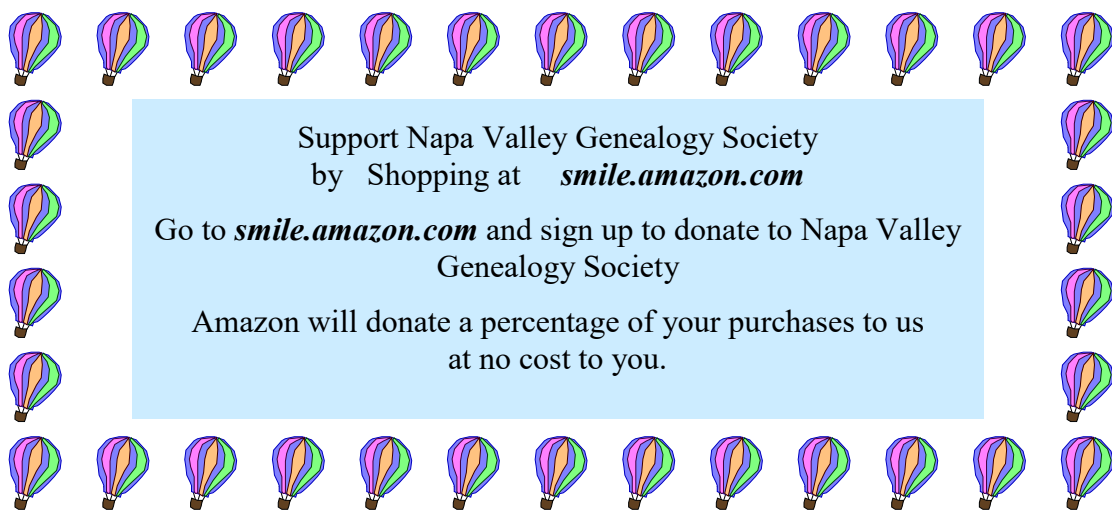
My great grandmother Sarah Jane Ward Gilman was born 25 December 1843 in China, Penobscot, Maine. She was the youngest of four – having three brothers: Martin Emery, born 1835; Olin Weston, born 1837 and Albert Melville, born 1840. Over the 1860's these four removed to Columbia, Tuolumne, California. The brothers later removed to various locations throughout northern Nevada and Lassen county California following prospecting, lumbering and stock raising. The Ward brothers and their sister [after having divorced my great grandfather, Joseph A. Gilman 4 March 1885 in San Francisco] made their home in Reno, Washoe, Nevada.

All four siblings died in Reno within two years of each other, 1912-1914: My great grandmother Sarah Jane Ward Gilman and her brother Albert Melville dying a mere 4 months apart, 16 September 1913 and 30 December 1913 respectively. The Ward families – direct, extended and collateral – are buried in Reno's Masonic Memorial Gardens. All three Ward brothers are listed as buried there and have respective headstones. But there is no cemetery record nor headstone of sister Sarah; but her obituaries and funeral documents say she's buried here. The cemetery secretary suggests, "go to the Masonic Grand Lodge Office and ask to see their cemetery books, they keep their own."

I thought – 'Masonic ... humm, secret this? secret that? are they like sealed Mormon records, for Masonic eyes and ears only? Is it members only?' While reciting 'a chance blown, never known', I walk up the Lodge Offices' narrow flight of stairs, introduce myself and state my interest. Pause. She replies, 'Yes we do, just a minute, let me get them for you,' as she disappears into the vault.

Opening the book, I see each plot is transcribed with more detail than had the funeral records or the cemetery records combined. I scan each family plot of interest. Scanning down the Ward brothers plot ... there she was – Sarah Jane Ward Gilman ['Buried'] – in the same grave as her brother Albert Melville.

Editors note: Thank you Todd for providing articles for our newsletter. Articles # 2-3-4-5 will be published at a later date.



A Little Bit of Heaven: Benefits of an Affiliate Library

For decades, serious genealogists have made the pilgrimage to Salt Lake City to delve into the rich resources of the Family History Library. As an alternative, many records could be viewed on microfilm sent to institutions across the country.

Many of the records housed at the Family History Library can now be viewed in digital format on home computers. Some records, however, can only be viewed at family history centers or affiliate libraries. These digital records include images and name indexes. Currently, there are about 400 million original records available in a digital format at affiliate libraries.

Now for the GOOD NEWS... we are an affiliate library! Your NVGS membership entitles you to access millions of records on our computers.

Familysearch.org is better than ever at our Napa Valley Genealogy Library!

To schedule an appointment call **707-252-2252** or email ***research@napagensoc.org***

Speakers Wanted

Have a speaker you would like to see at one of our 2021 program meetings? If so please let us know and we will try to book them for a virtual program.

Leave a message at NVGS, **707-252-2252** or email ***info@napagensoc.org***.



Trash into Treasure: Recycling Made Easy

Are you getting overwhelmed with your bags of aluminum cans and plastic bottles? It's time to lighten your load and fatten our coffers.

Just toss your bags over the side gate into the library backyard and we will get them to the recycling center.

THANK YOU!

FINDING FAMILY COLUMN

A Call for Stories



NVGS is 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, length 500 words is best, and send it to the editor at: ***info@napagensoc.org***. Put in the subject line "Finding Family".

This column appears in the Napa Valley Register on the first or last Monday of the month.