



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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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 biggest news is that the Library is now open to the public one day a week! This represents our first step toward regular hours of operation. Staff will be available to welcome you at the library Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm for research on the computers or in the stacks.

Research appointments can also be scheduled on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. To make an appointment, send an email to research@napagensoc.org with your contact information. Messages left on the library phone - (707) 252-2252 - are checked once a week.

Hours of operation will expand based on library utilization during regular hours and with scheduled appointments.

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"Essential US Records
for
Genealogical Research"

Presented by
Nancy Loe
August 19, 2021
1:00pm

NVGS
Virtual Program

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGY SOCIETY CALENDAR of EVENTS

Aug 2021

Aug 2, (1st Mon) **Round Table Discussion Group:** 11:00am Zoom

Aug 4, (1st Wed) **Library Committee Meeting. Want to volunteer?**

Email to: info@napagensoc.org

Aug 13, (2nd Fri) **Board Meeting**, 10:00am. via Zoom.

Aug 19, (3rd Thurs) **Program: "Essential U.S. Records"** Zoom talk by Nancy Loe.

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

Sept 2021

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

Email to: info@napagensoc.org

Sept 6, (1st Mon) **Round Table Discussion Group:** 11:00 am Zoom

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

Sept 16, (3rd Thurs) **Program: "Doing a Deep Dive in Ancestry's Collections."**

Zoom talk by Annette Burke Lyttle.

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 2021

Aug 2, 11am NVGS **August Round Table Discussion Group**, on Zoom
"FAMILY STORIES"

For more information go to: napagensoc.org

Aug 6, 11am **Downtown Napa Walking Tour** - Napa Co. Historical Society
11:00 am - 12:30 pm See napahistory.org for details.

Aug 14, 10am **The Silent Language of the Stones: How to Read Gravestone Symbols** - San Diego Genealogical Society. 10:00 am - 12:15pm Zoom Webinar <https://casdgs.org/>

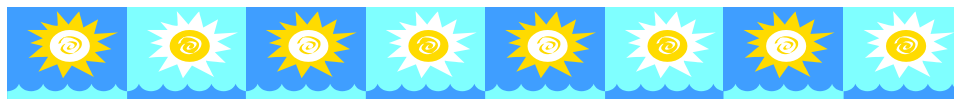
Sep 6, 11am NVGS **September Round Table Discussion Group**, on Zoom
"BRICK WALLS"

For more information go to: napagensoc.org

A Reminder

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

These recordings will be available for only a limited time.



Welcome New Members

Name

Surname Searches

Joan Harris

Allen, Donovan, Harris, karalus, Szenatowicz

SAFETY MEASURES AT THE LIBRARY

While we are delighted to welcome you back to the library, your safety is our primary concern. The following guidelines have been established for visitors coming to research or to attend a Special Interest Group:

- Vaccinated individuals are not required to wear a mask. Unvaccinated persons must wear a mask.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the front desk.
- Disinfectant spray and wipes will be provided to clean equipment before and after use.

MEMBER BENEFITS - TOURS & SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

New members (or any member wishing a refresher) can request a **library tour** with an experienced staff member. Submit tour requests by email - info@napagensoc.org - or by leaving a message on the library phone, 707-252-2252.

The **Writing Group** has resumed meeting at the library on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. See napagensoc.org and click Meetings and Interest Groups for details.

The **Roundtable Discussion Group** meets monthly via Zoom on the first Monday at 11:00 am. NVGS volunteers lead informal discussions on genealogy topics of interest.

Special Interest Groups are open to NVGS members only.

Publicity Volunteers Reach Out to Community

The newly formed and active publicity committee is off to a great start! We have wonderful volunteers who have stepped up to help contact a few organizations each month to exchange information about upcoming programs and events. A big thanks to Nancy Gilien, Linda Jesmok, Jennifer Roodzant, Roxanne Hogan, Juanita Hoover, Phyllis Boyson, Lanita Stillwell, and Lynn Champlin! We are currently reaching out to 17 different organizations!

If you are interested in joining the team, feel free to contact Sally Perkins at publicity@napagensoc.org

Mary's Book Corner



The Lost Family
by Libby Copeland

The Lost Family: How DNA Testing is Upending Who We Are by Libby Copeland is a must read for all genealogists; those who have already tested, those who are thinking about being tested, and those whose relatives have tested.

I will confess that when I tested in 2012 I was very confident that I would find no surprises in my family tree. It's turning out to be true that only a small percentage discover secrets in their immediate family but what those find can be devastating.

More to the point, when I asked other relatives to test, I also didn't give much thought to what they might find. That has become a large ethical issue that every genealogist needs to consider carefully.

Copeland gives a very complete view of all the ramifications of DNA testing so that we can do a better job in terms of "do no harm" as we research our family history.

Happy reading, Mary

Recycling Update

Thanks to the generous support of our members, cash received by NVGS in 2021 for recycling has grown to **\$318.28!** Please consider dropping off your aluminum cans and plastic bottles at the library to keep the total growing. Recycling can be delivered on Wednesdays from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm when the library is open, or tossed over the gate onto our back patio at any time. Let's see if we can top \$500 by the end of the year!



Bring them to the library.

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

Essential US Records for Genealogical Research

Zoom talk by Nancy Loe, MA, MLS
19 August 2021

1:00 pm - Society Announcements & Discussion

1:30 - Program Starts



Essential U.S. Records explores federal and state censuses, military records, courthouse records, newspapers, and migration records for the United States.

Record locations and search strategies for family historian are also covered.

Nancy E. Loe is a professional archivist and genealogist, who writes and lectures on U.S. and European genealogy research and records. After a long professional career in academic archives and genealogy libraries, Nancy launched her website, SassyJaneGenealogy.com. Her site features a blog, monthly newsletter, and genealogy ebooks. She also provides expert guidance on organizing research and preserving family papers and photographs.

Guest registration: Under “Upcoming Events” on the Home page of napagensoc.org, click “Essential U.S. Records.” Click “Register.”

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

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Thursday August 5 - ZOOM Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Genealogy Society of Vallejo-Benicia. Topic: Vallejo Neighborhoods
Part 2. Send email to president@gsvb.org to get Zoom invite.

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Genealogy Society of Vallejo-Benicia PRESENTATION VIA ZOOM
Thursday, August 5 - 1:00 pm - Vallejo Neighborhoods Part 2



Genealogy Society of Vallejo-Benicia featured August 5 meeting speaker is Jim Kern. His talk will be part 2 of Vallejo Neighborhoods, concentrating on those parts east of Interstate 80. We will learn their history, how they formed and what parts of Vallejo they occupy, plus more.

Jim has been the Executive Director of the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum since 1989 and entrances us with his talks no matter what the subject. He is also the current chair of the Solano County Historic Records Commission. Kern earned his Masters Degree in history and museum studies from Kent State University in Ohio, His first museum job was at the home of President James Garfield, who lived in Kern's home town of Mentor, Ohio.

The Zoom presentation will be made remotely. If you would like to attend, send an email to President@gsvb.org no later than 4 pm (PST) Wednesday, August 4 and request a Zoom invitation. More information on the event can be found on the society's website at www.gsvb.org and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GSVB.org

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS:

DOING A DEEP DIVE IN ANCESTRY'S
COLLECTIONS

Zoom talk by Annette Burke Lyttle

16 September 2021

1:00 - Announcements & Discussion



Filling out a search form on Ancestry only returns a small percentage of the millions of records available on the site. Many other ways to search on Ancestry are more efficient and effective.

Learn how to dive deeply into Ancestry's record collections and come up with amazing finds about your ancestors.

Annette Burke Lyttle owns Heritage Detective, LLC, providing professional genealogical services in research, education, and writing. She is a member of the board of directors of the Association of Professional Genealogists and editor of *The Florida Genealogist*.

Guest Registration: Go to "Upcoming Events" on our Home page: napagen-soc.org. Click "Doing a Deep Dive in Ancestry's Collections" and "Register."

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



FamilySearch Family History Library Reopening

SALT LAKE CITY, UT—The [FamilySearch Family History Library](#) in Salt Lake City, Utah, announced it will begin a phased reopening starting 6 July 2021. The popular destination service has been closed since March 13, 2020, due to precautions pertaining to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The library serves beginner and professional family history patrons from all over the world and is a popular tourist attraction for the state of Utah. Initially, hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, with plans to extend to additional days and hours soon.

“While billions of our records are available online, we realize that many researchers—including professional genealogists whose livelihoods depend on reliable records—are anxious to access records in-person within the library. We know the extended closing has created difficulties, and we are excited to welcome our guests back into a safe environment for continued research and discoveries,” said David Rencher, director of the Family History Library and FamilySearch’s Chief Genealogical Officer.

Rencher says as one of the most popular attractions in the state, it has been tough to be closed for so long, but necessary to ensure the health and safety of staff and guests. When the library reopens, patrons will be asked to respect any prevailing safety precautions at that time. In addition, sanitizing stations are placed throughout the library, and continuous cleaning procedures will also be in place.

The library has taken advantage of the prolonged closure to make needed renovations to the facility that will be very exciting to patrons when the doors reopen. “Guests will return to an environment that will significantly improve discovery and research experiences,” said Rencher. Crews have been busy preparing to welcome guests back by remodeling, adding new features like state-of-the-art patron workstations with multiple monitors and adjustable height desks to accommodate sitting or standing preferences, enhanced workflow throughout, and nearly 40,000 books from new acquisition and long-term storage.

The library has added or upgraded the following new, free patron services. They are accessible through the new [Family History Library web page](#).

- Guests can sign up for free, online, [one-on-one virtual consultations](#) with a research specialist (available in languages).
- [Library look-up services](#). If you can’t come to the library, a staff member can retrieve a book from its shelves and help you find what you’re seeking.
- In [FamilySearch Communities](#) online, guests can get assistance from volunteers worldwide, including locating or interpreting ancestor records, asking questions, or sharing their expertise with others.

Continued on next page

FamilySearch Family History Library Reopening

- In [FamilySearch Communities](#) online, guests can get assistance from volunteers worldwide, including locating or interpreting ancestor records, asking questions, or sharing their expertise with others.
- Check out the growing menu of popular free [online classes and webinars](#). New selections are offered and recorded weekly and made available on-demand.
- In the library, take advantage of improved services to digitize your family photos and artifacts or convert family audio and video tapes to digital media.

FamilySearch family history centers and libraries will open based upon the direction of their local ecclesiastical leaders and government guidelines. If you plan to visit a FamilySearch center soon, please call ahead to ensure it is open and its hours of operation.



IN MEMORIAM

“We are lucky to have known you.”

<i>Barbara Allen</i>	<i>1931-2021</i>	<i>Marge Miller</i>	<i>1938-2020</i>
<i>Fern Beetsch</i>	<i>1929-2021</i>	<i>Alverda Scriven</i>	<i>1912-2020</i>
<i>Joy Firtell</i>	<i>-2021</i>	<i>Cecelia Setty</i>	<i>1935 -2021</i>
<i>Laura McCoy</i>	<i>1933-2021</i>	<i>Joanna Wade</i>	<i>-2021</i>
<i>Sherry Melton</i>	<i>-2021</i>		

“You will be greatly missed and always remembered.”

Family History and the Culture of Food

Do you recall with fondness the special foods you shared with family as a child? Can you mark moments of travel when you experienced an unforgettable meal? Memories of food, family, and friends remind us of the goodness of life and enrich us with a sense of belonging. Along with the old saying, “You are what you eat,” it is also true that “Those who share our table remain part of us.”

Hoping to connect the power of food with the joy of genealogy, four society volunteers recently presented a program titled “Family History and the Culture of Food” at The Springs of Napa retirement community. Thirteen residents gathered in the lobby to hear Sally Perkins, Sue Ziemski, and Mark Perkins share stories of how food created bonds and memories in their extended families. Linda Jesmok serves as our liaison with The Springs and helped with logistics.

Sue recalled the presence of her grandmother’s Boston Baked Beans at family gatherings in Michigan. She loved the beans so much she positioned herself by the pot to ensure she received her share. Sadly, her grandmother’s recipe has been lost. To this day, Sue hopes to uncover the secret ingredient that made those beans a beloved memory.

Sally took us on a journey from Africa to her grandmother’s kitchen in Louisiana. She described how slaves wove okra seeds in their children’s hair and sewed them in their clothes before being transported to America. Okra became a central ingredient in the gumbo that southern cooks prepared for their families. Sally remembers her grandmother making endless pots of chicken gumbo to nourish members of her church and community during times of illness and natural disaster. To the delight of the audience, she served samples of gumbo using the recipe that has been passed down from her great grandmother.

Mark traced the East European origins of the Polish babka he remembers at Easter with his family in Connecticut. Babka means “little grandmother” in Polish. His grandmother passed her babka recipe down to her daughters who continued the tradition of baking the fragrant, sweet loaves filled with eggs, milk, cinnamon, and raisins. Using the recipe written down by his mother, Mark recreated a babka loaf and served it to those in attendance.

After the presentations, residents shared memories of traditional foods from their own families. Sue, Sally, and Mark encouraged the practice of writing down memories and recipes and sending them to younger family members. Someday, younger generations will enjoy knowing the origins of their cherished foods and how to prepare them for their own families.

NVGS at The Springs
Napa, CA



SUPERIOR COURT - BRICK WALL LETTER
RESEARCHING RELATIVES IN A STATE HOSPITAL?
VISIT THE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

My great grandmother, Sarah Jane Ward Gilman and her three brothers had died within two years of each other, 1912 – 1914. Each of these four siblings had written a will; each will listed respective beneficiaries – including their relationship to the deceased as well as their residence. With each siblings family being each other siblings nieces, nephews, in-laws etc. here were four unique 'snapshots in time' as to who and where the same individual was throughout these two years.

My interest centers on sister to my grandfather, my great aunt, Gertrude Gilman; who in two of the above wills had her – now suddenly, Gertrude Gilman Willis – residence listed as Agnew State Hospital in Santa Clara, CA; another listed her as 'mentally incompetent.' Yet by 1917, she is legally competent.

At the time, 2003, I could not find anything in Agnew Hospital records but knew where someone with her husbands name died in 1943, with a wife named Gertrude... hummm.

Jump to Nov 2010 and Internet 2.0! I take a break from some heavy research, I decide to relax by revisiting any old research that has been gathering dust and 'play with it' on the Internet. I pick up my great aunt again. I happened to open findagrave.com and see if there was anything on her husband. Bingo! There is someone there with his name, but is that him? I plug in 'Gertrude Willis', there she is and the same plot # as her husband, next to him – its her! [There was no findagrave.com in 2003!] Of course, I itemize all Willis in the cemetery and find his entire family, two generations back are all buried in adjoining lots. [I now have both their death certificates – Gertrude spent the last twelve years of her life in a State Hospital.]

An idea flashes, now that the San Jose Mercury is now on-line, [it was not in 2003] lets try plugging in my names during 1914-1916 and see if anything shakes loose. It is one of those aaahhh moments: 'I never knew' – 'of course, I never thought to look there' – 'all this time, right under my nose and so close'.

As a legal proceeding 'Order to show cause' it read: 'In the superior court of the county of Santa Clara ... in the matter of the estate and guardianship of Gertrude Gilman Willis, an insane person ... this petition is filed by Joseph B. Gilman [her brother, my grandfather] the guardian of Gertrude Gilman Willis...'

My grandfather IS Gertrude's legal guardian – I never knew. County Superior Court, of course! If Gertrude, or anyone, is declared anything – i.e. placed in a State Hospital – there must be legal records attesting to this fact; and a guardian legally appointed for that individual. Unlike requesting records from a State Hospital where you have to prove your relationship to that individual and where record-keeping is iffy – anyone can request County Superior Court records-documents and as county records ... their there. So I go down to Santa Clara county Superior Court records, fill out the request for information; next day, I get a call – 'we have 30 pages for you!'

There are so many lessons here on how brick walls may be surmounted.

- Dust off a brick wall-research done in Internet 1.0 or before and run it through Internet 2.0 and 2011 search engines?
- You are deeply researching a genealogy surname; take a break, choose another surname and just 'splash' around with it on the internet and just go where ever it leads you.
- But most important of all, if researching a relative who has been in a State Hospital or the like – research that county's Superior Court records for that individual – chances are, something's there.

I never thought to look there.

by Todd L Gilman wetzebra@wetzebra.net