

# 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](mailto:research@napagensoc.org)

Email: [info@napagensoc.org](mailto:info@napagensoc.org)  
 Web: [www.napagensoc.org](http://www.napagensoc.org)

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### Elected Officers

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### Committees:

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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

### NVGS Orientation Video Now Available

Read about it on page 4

[NVGS New Member Zoom Orientation - YouTube](#)

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**"HOW TO WRITE  
 ANCESTRAL  
 STORIES YOUR  
 RELATIVES WILL  
 WANT TO READ"**

Presented by  
 Pam Vestal  
 October 21, 2021  
 1:00pm

NVGS  
 Virtual Program

## NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGY SOCIETY CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Oct 2021

Oct 4, (1st Mon) **Round Table Discussion Group: “CEMETERIES”** 11:00am Zoom

Oct 6, (1st Wed) **Library Committee Work Party.**

Oct 8, (2nd Fri) **Board Meeting**, 10:00am. via Zoom.

Oct 21, (3rd Thurs) **Program: “ How to write Ancestral Stories Your Ancestors will Want to Read”** by Pam Vestal. Zoom

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

### Nov 2021

Nov 1, (1st Mon) **Round Table Discussion Group: “HERALDRY”** 11:00 am Zoom

Nov 3, (1st Wed) **Library Committee Work Party.**

Nov 12, (2nd Fri) **Board Meeting**, 10:00am. via Zoom.

Nov 18, (3rd Thurs) **Program: “ Mayflower the Story Goes On”** by Mark & Sally Perkins

Zoom, 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](mailto:info@napagensoc.org) In subject line state: Newsletter item.

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2021

### Oct. 23, 2021 Saturday 10am

**“Italian Genealogy: Tracing your Immigrants in the US and in Italy”**  
Information go to <https://www.californiaancestors.org>

**Dec. 2, 2021 Thursday** “Special Event” Napa Valley Genealogical Society is Hosting an event along with Bookmine our local Book store. Lori Erickson will speak on her book “The Soul of the Family Tree”. Her approach to family history is refreshing and thought-provoking.

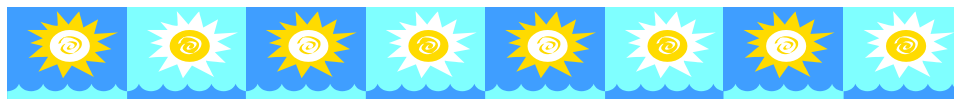
Since Lori lives in the Central Time Zone, This will be a Zoom Event.  
More information about this event will be available next month.

**Dec 6, 2021 Monday 11:00am** NVGS Round Table Discussion Group : will present  
“Holiday Celebrations” Zoom meeting.

### **A Reminder**

Did you miss our speaker last month? If so, you may view the recording now on our new website, as you sign in as a member. [napagensoc.org/Program-Videos](http://napagensoc.org/Program-Videos)

These recordings will be available for only a limited time.



## Welcome New Members

Name

Surname Searches

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Artie Berry | None given |
| Kevin Moore | None given |
| Susan Parry | None given |

### 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:

- Every person must wear a mask, indoors.
- 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:publicity@napagensoc.org)

## Mary's Book Corner



### Paging the Dead By Bryon Bonner

Paging the Dead is a cozy genealogical mystery. It is more mystery than genealogy but it clips right along and is very entertaining. Published in 2013 it is a bit dated, especially the rather strange statements about DNA but don't let that put you off. The characters are all quite interesting and I look forward to finding more by this author.

*Happy reading, Mary*

## NVGS Orientation Video Now Available

Board and committee members joined forces on September 11, 2021 to present a Zoom orientation to our Society. New members and seasoned veterans alike may find helpful information about who we are and what we do on the 43 minute video. To access the recording, go to our website home page and click *Program Videos for Members Only*. On the next screen, click *NVGS New Member Zoom Orientation - September 2021*. Even easier, you can click the following link and go straight to the video on our YouTube account. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did making it!

[NVGS New Member Zoom Orientation - YouTube](#)



## Recycling Update



Thanks to generous donors dropping off aluminum cans and plastic bottles, our recycling fund has grown to **\$349.28** for 2021!

Please consider collecting these items at home and dropping them off at the library.

Bags can be delivered when the library is open on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, or anytime by throwing the bags over the back gate onto the patio.

**THANK YOU!!!**

# NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

## HOW TO WRITE ANCESTRAL STORIES YOUR RELATIVES WILL WANT TO READ

**Zoom talk by Pam Vestal  
21 October 2021**

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



Part of the thrill of genealogy is sharing our discoveries with those we love. With good research, thoughtful planning, and a dash of ingenuity, we can create engaging stories to entice even the most reluctant readers.

Learn how to breathe life into dry genealogical facts, choose a compelling story structure, and present what you've written in an appealing way. Creating a captivating story from our ancestors' names, dates, and places is like turning fish eggs into caviar; the facts don't change, but the way we describe them makes all the difference.

**Pam Vestal** became a professional genealogist and speaker after a 20-year writing career. Her articles have appeared in the *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly* and the FGS's *Forum* magazine. She lectures from coast to coast, specializing in turning genealogical research into illustrated stories that even non-genealogists can enjoy.

**Guest registration:** Go to our Home page: [napagensoc.org](http://napagensoc.org). Click "How to Write Ancestral Stories..." and "Register." A Zoom link will be sent several days prior to the event. Registration ends October 19.

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

# NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## MAYFLOWER: THE STORY GOES ON



Mark and Sally Perkins have made multiple research trips to New England over the last 15 years. Together, they share a passion for research that unveils the hidden histories within our families and our nation.

Zoom talk by Mark and Sally Perkins  
NVGS Board of Directors

18 November 2021

1:00 - Announcements & Discussion  
1:30 - Program Starts

The Wampanoag have lived in southeastern Massachusetts for more than 12,000 years. They are the tribe first encountered by Mayflower Pilgrims when they landed at Patuxet (Plymouth) to establish Plymouth Colony.

In 2020, America commemorated the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony, a story that cannot be told without the perspective of the indigenous people who were here as that ship arrived and who still remain. This presentation will share some of the indigenous voices bringing balance to the last 400 years of Wampanoag and American history.

**Guest Registration:** On our home page ([napagensoc.org](http://napagensoc.org)), click "Mayflower..." and "Register." A Zoom link will be sent prior to the event. Registration ends 16 Nov 2021.

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



## Discovering My Vallejo Roots

I have lived in Vallejo since 1975. Like many people, we moved here when my husband got a job at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Although I have deep roots in the Bay Area, I thought none of my ancestors had ever lived in Vallejo. It turns out I was wrong.

I was following my father's family through ancestry, tracing back each generation starting with my grandfather. Eventually I found my fourth great grandmother Philura. Philura, or Lura as she came to be called, was born in Stonington, Connecticut in 1800. She married George Richmond in Groton in 1828. Lura and George had five children. When Lura was 39, George died. Thanks to newspapers.com, I found a lot of information about George's death. He was onboard the whaling ship *Caution*, when he was lost overboard off the coast of Florida. This tragic accident occurred right before a major typhoon, which caused a great deal of damage to ships in the area and generated a newspaper article in the *Jacksonville Republican* on October 25, 1838. The article lists casualties for several ships in the area at the time, including this brief paragraph for the *Caution*: **On board the sloop Caution, Capt. D.P. Holmes, George Richmond (lost overboard before the gale), Nat, a Portuguese, Albert Spaulding, Nathan Fish, Latham Brightman and Tom Crandle, a malatto.**

Thanks to ancestry, I also was able to find George's will, listing his wife Lura and his children. I am a direct descendent of George and Lura's fourth child, George E. Richmond. But our family knew nothing about Lura's other children.

When she got older, Lura moved in with her daughter Maria and her husband Charles Houche. Imagine my surprise when, in the 1880 census, I found Lura and the Houche family living at 227 Pennsylvania Street in Vallejo, California. Charles ran a grocery store in downtown Vallejo.

Lura outlived her daughter, dying in 1897, at almost 100 years old. I was able to find the Houche family plot in a list of graves at Sunrise Cemetery kept by the Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum. Next – a trip to the cemetery.

Using the meticulous records kept by the cemetery, I found the location of the Houche family plot, but there was no headstone. The manager of the cemetery said that a lot of headstones had toppled over in the last earthquake. We trekked over to the small corporation yard and there it was, lying in the dirt, a nice tall marble pillar that marked 11 Houche graves, including Lura's.

Working with the cemetery, we were able to have the headstone replaced. A small crane was used to carry it to the site. A new cement slab was poured for the granite stone on the bottom. A hole was drilled in the marble pillar and a piece of rebar was inserted to anchor the pillar to the granite stone. My granddaughter and I spent two satisfying afternoons cleaning the headstone. Now the marble it is so white that you can see it from Sacramento Street.

The discovery of Philura's grave makes my connection to Vallejo all that much deeper. Maybe this is why Vallejo has always felt like home to me.

NVGS Member, Christine Dunn



## Volunteer Spotlight

What do you get when you cross a Flower Troll with a Norwegian Troll? You end up with a lovely garden couple named Bente and Tom Shoar. Bente's interest in genealogy began about 30 years ago when she and Tom visited the Boston Public Library on a rainy day instead of sightseeing. When Tom discovered card files on his colonial family's migration from England to Massachusetts around 1640, the die was cast. However, 20 years passed before Bente signed up for an introductory course at NVGS, got organized, and took a deep dive into research on their families.

Volunteering is important to Bente. She enjoys helping people find their roots. Her roots reach back to a farm in Denmark where her family had a big yard filled with flowers, fruit trees, and a large vegetable garden. In the United States, she has always had flower gardens. Two years ago, she and Tom moved into an apartment and promptly filled their patio with flower pots.

Watching weeds take over the grounds around our genealogy library, Bente decided to take matters into her own hands. She and Tom can often be found pulling weeds, pruning, raking, and watering.

When asked about landscape projects on the horizon, Bente expressed her hope to plant something by the entrance this fall or winter. The library needs donated plants and help with fixing the irrigation system. Right now watering must be done by hand. The Shoars welcome help from anyone with a desire to keep our grounds looking their best.

Why does Bente call herself a Flower Troll? Aside from her Danish heritage (trolls originate in Denmark), Bente reports that her dining room table always has cut flowers. She used to pick them from her garden; now, she picks them at Trader Joe's and enjoys arranging them. Tom is the Norwegian troll because his mother's family is from Norway. Together, the Shoars keep our grounds beautiful and welcoming. Think of them when you visit the library, and if you have an affinity for growing things, you, too, could become a garden troll!

- Mark Perkins

## Other Genealogical Events

**Thurs Oct 7, 1:00 pm**

**Genealogy Society of Vallejo-Benicia presents: A Year in Salem: The Witchcraft Crisis of 1692.**

1:00 pm In Person at Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum AND Virtual via ZOOM.

Gay Scott presents "A Year in Salem: The Witchcraft Crisis of 1692". Join us for a Halloweenish meeting looking into what happened at the Salem witch trials. Gay will delve into witchcraft roots from Mesopotamia to Europe and England leading up to the witchcraft crisis of 1692 in Salem, Massachusetts. Gay's 7 x great grandmothers was accused of being a witch in Salem in 1692. Gay Scott has a love of history and is a member of the Mt. Diablo Chapter DAR, the Anne Hutchinson Chapter Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, San Francisco Chapter Magna Charta Dames and Barons and now the Associated Daughters of Early American Witches.

You are welcome to either join us remotely via Zoom or in person. Please call 707-334-0675 or email [president@gsvb.org](mailto:president@gsvb.org) to get a Zoom invite. For further information visit our website at [www.gsvb.org](http://www.gsvb.org) or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/GSVB.org](http://www.facebook.com/GSVB.org)



*Saturday, October 16, 2021*

*The Sonoma County Genealogical Society*

*presents*

*Jill Morelli*

*Too Many Marys: Solving Identity and Same  
Name Conundrums*

Three types of identity issues will be described with case studies and strategies for a successful identification for each.



Jill Morelli, CG, loves to share her passion for genealogy with others. She is a writer, lecturer, and researcher specializing in methodology, the US Midwest, and Scandinavia.

Jill has been successfully published in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *Swedish American Genealogist*, *Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and many others. In 2017, she founded the online "Certification Discussion Group," sharing her journey and demystifying the process of submission of a portfolio to the Board for Certification of Genealogists. Jill is past president of the Seattle Genealogical Society, program director of her local chapter of the Association for Professional Genealogists (virtual), and belongs to many local genealogical societies.

Meeting begins at noon; Presentation at 1:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Please register for this presentation at [scgsonline.org](http://scgsonline.org).