

WINEPRESS

NEWSLETTER

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

Open Wednesdays 10-1, and 1st & 3rd Saturdays 10-1,
and by appointment.

Research requests. research@napagensoc.org

Email: info@napagensoc.org

Web: www.napagensoc.org

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May, June 2022

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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 Library hours: Open every Wednesday from 10-1 and on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 10-1.
Staff Personal can assist you with your research.

UPDATED MASK GUIDELINES

"In keeping with current county and state guidelines, masking inside the library is no longer required. Masking for unvaccinated persons is strongly recommended."

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"Making the Most of Family Search Resources"

By Bruce & Barbara McLeod

www.napagensoc.org

**May 19, 2022
1pm**

**NVGS
Virtual Program**

More Info on page 5

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGY SOCIETY CALENDAR of EVENTS

May 2022

May 2, (1st Mon) **Round Table Discussion Group: "Road Trips"** 11:00am Zoom

May (Every Wed) **Library Committee Work Party. 10am to 1pm**

May (2nd + 4th Tue) **Family History Writing Group**, noon, at NVGS Library.

May 13, (2nd Fri) **Board Meeting**, 10:30am. At the Library.

May 19, (3rd Thurs) **Program: "Making the Most of Family Search Resources"**
by Bruce & Barbara McLeod

"Zoom Meeting, 1:00 pm - Brief announcements and discussion precede presentation"

June 2022

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

Jun (Every Wed) **Library Committee Work Party. 10am to 1pm**

Jun 10, (2nd Fri) **Board Meeting**, 10:30am. At the Library.

Jun (2nd + 4th Tue) **Family History Writing Group**, noon, at NVGS Library.

Jun 16, (3rd Thurs) **Program: "Genealogical Treasures at Sutro Library"** by Dvorah Lewis

"Zoom Meeting, 1:00 pm - Brief announcements and discussion precede presentation"

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 2022

First Monday of each Month—at 11:00am

"NVGS Round Table Discussion Group"

There is a different subject each month. This is a Zoom meeting for members only.
A reminder will be sent out before each meeting.

May 25-28, 2022

"NGS NATIONAL CONFERENCE"

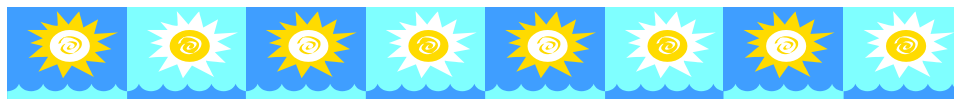
In May 2022 the national genealogy conference sponsored by the National Genealogy Society will be held in Sacramento, California. The theme this year is "Our American Mosaic" with numerous workshops that will be offered. In addition, there will be special events and tours in and around Sacramento.

Details about the conference is available on the website at:
<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>

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

These recordings will be available for only a limited time.



Welcome New Members

Name

Surname Searches

Elizabeth Shaeffer

Derum, Gustafson, Wilson

NEW MEMBERS MAY SCHEDULE A LIBRARY ORIENTATION

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

SET ASIDE TIME

Set aside time for a new look at old problems by broadening your general search to include periodicals and indexes for nearby or relevant areas, especially those that are available online.

The American Genealogist, *Rhode Island Roots*, and *The Maine Genealogist*, are all on AmericanAncestors.org (except for the most recent five years). These periodicals are all reliable and indexed, and this kind of browsing can bring rewards.

Another approach is to work on allied or associated families to see what's now in print or online that wasn't years ago.

S: *The NEHG Register* vol. 174, fall 2020 issue.

New England Historic Genealogical Society.

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.

Mary's Book Corner



"The Blood Detective"

by Dan Waddell

The Blood Detective by Dan Waddell is a fast paced murder mystery set in London and enhanced by featuring a professional genealogist called in by the police to help them solve a series of murders that seem to have some connection that they can't figure out.

I read it in one day. I couldn't put it down.

Happy reading, Mary

UPCOMING EVENTS continued 2022

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ONLINE WEBINAR

Wednesday, May 18 at 6:00 pm (PDST) Cost \$5.50

The Art of Slow Genealogy

by Tara Shymanski, BA, PLCGS



Are you a genealogy tortoise or a hare? The hare rushes to find new documents but genealogy tortoises create more accurate and thorough family trees. This step-by-step method suggests ways to slow down, cite your sources, and read and analyze records. This process results in a more precise family history.

Tara Shymanski's lifelong passion for genealogy started when she heard family stories as a teenager. She has a BA in History and a Certificate in Canadian Records from the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. Tara is enthusiastic about educating herself and others on completing comprehensive and accurate family histories. She blogs to tell her family stories.

Register at: SCGSgenealogy.com

CONTRA COSTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

June 9, 2022 Thursday 6:30-8:00 pm

Using Maps in Genealogical Research - Part 2

with Melinda Kashuba



In this second session on maps, Melinda will help you discover strategies to locate maps, websites and free map tools that allow you to walk the roads your forefathers walked. Even if you did not attend the first session you will want to attend this event.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Via ZOOM Registration Required. CCGS.net



Napa Valley Genealogical Society Presents:

Making the Most of FamilySearch Resources

Zoom Presentation by Bruce & Barbara McLeod

May 19, 2022 - 1:00 pm

Presentation follows brief Society business meeting

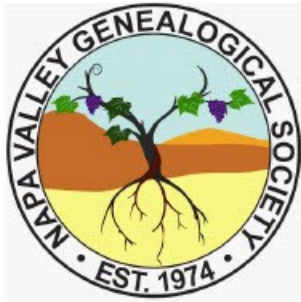
Bruce and Barbara will highlight features in the FamilySearch database that can assist in gathering vital records data and preserving memories found in stories, documents, recordings, and photographs. They will also discuss the resources available at the FamilySearch Library in Oakland.



Guest Registration: Click “Making the Most of FamilySearch Resources” on the Home Page - napagensoc.org. Click “Register.” Last day to register is May 17.

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

After careers in law and nursing and raising seven children, Bruce and Barbara recently became Directors of the FamilySearch Library on Temple Hill in Oakland.



Napa Valley Genealogical Society
Presents:

**Journey to the West of the West:
Genealogical Treasures
at Sutro Library**

Zoom Presentation by Dvorah Lewis, M.S.

June 16, 2022 - 1:00 pm

(Brief business meeting precedes presentation)

Sutro Library, the California State Library branch located in San Francisco, has one of the largest genealogy collections west of the west (i.e., Salt Lake City). Sutro Library is not just a physical hub for the genealogy community, it is also a virtual hub. Come learn about the highlights of the genealogy collection, how to search online, and how to access once on-site.



Guest Registration: Click “Journey to the West...” on the home page of napagensoc.org. Click “Register.” Last day to register is June 14.

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

Dvorah Lewis joined the California State Library in 2017 as the Genealogy & Local History Librarian at Sutro Library. She earned her Master’s in Library & Information Science at UCLA. Her passion for archives and genealogy was inspired by an interview with her great Aunt Essie, then the eldest member of her family. She is excited to help researchers learn how to navigate the State Library’s extraordinary collections and resources.

VISITING CEMETERY GRAVE SITE REVEALS FAMILY I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD

My great grandfather, Joseph A Gilman died 13 August 1913 in Oakdale, Stanislaus county, CA [NE of Modesto] and is buried there in Oakdale Citizens Cemetery. OK, found him. I enter this into my computer and move on. Not so fast. I visit Joseph's cemetery plot and guess what, he is not alone: there is a Martha Jane Ford and a Alexander Ford buried alongside Joseph – who are they? Joseph A. Gilman first married Sarah Jane Ward, then married this Martha Jane and after Joseph died in 1913, Martha Jane then married this Alexander Ford. I didn't know Joseph had married a second time nor that his second wife remarried after Joseph died. Sure glad I visited his grave site. So who is this Martha Jane?

She is Martha Jane Westrope, who's family came into Butte and Tehama counties from Illinois in the early 1860's. Gee, I already have three family lines in this area, in this era – these three lines will intermarry down to bare my paternal grandmother. She will come to marry – Joseph A. Gilman's son from his first spouse, Sarah Jane Ward – my paternal grandfather. No one said genealogy is tidy.

I now prepare my research trip to Butte and Tehama counties to include not three lines but four. I make a point to include as many collateral families, uncles and aunts, cousins, nephews and grandparents etc. as I can – for if I find no information on any direct lines, I may yet discover that information through their collateral relations. Of course, visiting their cemetery grave sites is a priority. I find almost everyone buried in established cemeteries. All I can find as to where Martha Jane Westrope's mother [Mary Hayton Westrope] is buried is ... “above the West entrance to Lassen National Park.” Define ‘above’?

Fast forward, July 2004 – I am entering the West entrance to Lassen National Park. [I've been here scores of times on vacations, hikes and weekend drives – never thought I would be here tracing genealogy]. I ask the ranger in the office if she knows of any such cemetery or graves “above here or around here”. She says she's not from around here and she does not know of any. OK.

I continue slowly driving east – further “above the West entrance” – looking for anything that may resemble a cemetery, an entrance or any markings. Nothing. The first anything I see is a small ‘one-room’ grocery store after about my fifth mile – I feel I have gone too far. Going in I ask the same questions. “No, nothing like that around here at all or up further. Try asking down at the West entrance station, they could tell you.”... hummm. How far ‘above’ is ‘above’? Did I drive far enough? Did I drive too far? Was what I first read even correct in the first place? Mary Westrope died in 1877, even if I did find her resting place would there even be a marker?

Driving back down to the ranger station, it's pretty much solid granite on both sides. I hadn't realized I had driven so far. There is definitely no ‘above’ above this West entrance. Entering the ranger station again, there is a different ranger on duty so I recite my last half hour and repeat my questions. The reply is the same [yawn] but then is added, “...you can drive around if you want and take a look. I can't promise you'll find anything.”

With no guarantees of finding anything, not even knowing where I am going, I just begin to drive around if only just to explore – following curiosity, my nose, serendipity, a sixth sense? As I am driving up a steep hill, I stop a ranger driving coming down in the opposite direction. I might as well ask him, why not, expecting the same reply. Pause. “ya know, I don't know myself, but a fellow ranger told me someone had mentioned to him something about some graves somewhere around here.

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VISITING CEMETERY GRAVE SITE

With no guarantees of finding anything, not even knowing where I am going, I just begin to drive around if only just to explore – following curiosity, my nose, serendipity, a sixth sense? As I am driving up a steep hill, I stop a ranger driving coming down in the opposite direction. I might as well ask him, why not, expecting the same reply. Pause. “ya know, I don’t know myself, but a fellow ranger told me someone had mentioned to him something about some graves somewhere around here.

I don’t even know if there are any, but I can show you where I think they told him they were.” “Sure.” He turns around leading me up the hill, through a few climbing switchbacks, slowing down upon reaching a flat turn-around. Sweeping a broad arc of the circle, he says, “I think he said they were somewhere through there, but I don’t know.”

There are no markers, no paths, no stakes, no signs of any kind, no trace of anyone having been through there – it is just ordinary thinning forest. I begin slowly walking in, not even knowing what I am looking for. Then, ohhh! Here is an unassuming weather-worn, three split-log-high oval enclosure – maybe 30 x 10 feet – 20 feet from a ledge. Inside, there she is: “Mary Westrope. Feb 28, 1829. July 27, 1877.”

Looking around while standing within the enclosure, below the ledge in plain sight is the West entrance ranger station to Lassen National Park. Mary Westrope is literally buried ... “above” the West entrance to Lassen National Park.

How was I lead here? At any “no” I heard this morning, I could just as easily agreed, checked this off as ‘not found’ and moved on to my next research item. But I didn’t, what kept me looking? We each have a different name for it – intuition, ‘following your gut’, ‘thinking on your feet’ – always listen to it, follow it... it’s rewards are beyond words.

Todd Gilman

Great Truths Adults Have Learned

1. Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.
2. Wrinkles don’t hurt.
3. Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
4. Today’s mighty oak is just yesterday’s nut that held its ground.
5. Laughing is good exercise, its like jogging on the inside.
6. Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

OPEN HOUSE AT NVGS LIBRARY

Sue Ziemski demonstrated how to preserve your family Memorabilia.



Mary Herzog explaining how to add pictures to your Ancestry Tree on your mobile devices.

14 members and non members came for our OPEN HOUSE.

Thank you Sue and Mary for the wonderful presentations.

