

Finding Family –March 2017

Should I Stash or Share My Family History

By Eric E. Giboney

After a trip to New Market, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley, which included stops in many antique shops, I felt compelled to write the following.

If I take my family history and lock it away in a box for safe keeping, is this what my ancestors would have me do with their pictures and memories?

How often I pass through an antique shop and find countless numbers of old photos, birth, marriage and death certificates. When I inquire from the store owner on how they came in possession of these items, the answer is always the same: Some estate or yard sale of one that has passed away and most likely recovered from their attic. And very likely the same for the thousands and thousands of old family pictures selling on eBay.

Is my great-great grandmother, Eve Lola (Walters) Giboney, whose picture I have sought for a good many years, in someone's attic or antique store in California? With no writing or indication on it of who is portrayed in the picture?

Eve Lola Walters was born in Missouri in the year 1854 to Jerdon J. Walters and Mary (Grogan) Walters. She migrated with her family by ox team from Missouri to Oakville, Napa County, arriving on Oct. 7, 1856. They resided in Oakville until 1861 and then moved to Pope Valley. There she married John Butler Giboney in 1868. She was the mother to four sons and four daughters. Eve passed away on May 20, 1939.

After the many of experiences where I have seen others' family history lost or scattered, I decided to be sure that all the family history I possess is available to others. This I've done by scanning all the pictures, documents, stories and getting them shared with others in my family.

Then I placed and uploaded this same collection to FamilySearch, [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and portions of pictures and valuable dates and information to [Findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com), which web site displays where ancestors and loved ones are buried.

Also I have donated copies to the local genealogy society in the areas my ancestors have lived. Because of the wealth of information that can be found at the Napa Valley Genealogical Society, I have been able to learn so much more about my ancestors that lived, laughed and loved in Napa Valley and expand my knowledge of not only their happy days, but also the trails and challenges. The records found at any genealogical society have come by an act of sharing in one fashion or another.

It's a marvelous thing the many friends and extended living family I have gained, once I made the decision and put forth the effort to share my family history, that otherwise was sitting here in boxes and file cabinets.

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Indeed, we naturally hold these things we cherish close to us. Making copies of those pictures and documents and sharing those stories makes them no less valuable. In fact, when we discover and share family history, it keeps our ancestors' memories alive. This is what our ancestors would have us do with the precious symbols of their life experiences. Please share!