

WINEPRESS

NEWSLETTER

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

Closed indefinitely during California's shelter-in-place mandate, the NVGS staff are working at home and available to take in your research requests.

napagen@napavalleygenealogy.org

Email: napagen@napavalleygenealogy.org

Web: napavalleygenealogy.org

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Nov, Dec, 2020

Elected Officers

President, Sandra Hoover
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V. President: Sally Perkins & Mark Perkins
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Secretary: Christine Dunn
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Treasurer: Jeanine Layland
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Directors:

Computers and Web:
Ruth Jenkins-McIntire
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Education: Vacant

Librarian: Sandra Hoover
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Membership: Lanita Stilwell
lkstilwell@outlook.com

Publications: Sue Ziemski
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Publicity: Vacant

Ways & Means: Vacant

Committees :

Programs: Michael Drew
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Research: Mary Herzog
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Volunteers: Vacant

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

*** Holiday Giving * See's Candy ***

Virtual Fund Raiser

Page 4, click the link and enjoy.



Do you have questions about researching?

The library staff is taking calls and emails for research. Keep them coming in at 707-252-2252 or email to napagen@napavalleygenealogy.org



*When you order from **AMAZON SMILE** Remember to designate Napa Valley Genealogy*

Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchases to NVGS at no cost to you.



Recycling Benefits NVGS

So far this year we have collected \$309.00 in Recycling Revenue. Thank you to everyone who donates their used plastic bottles and cans. Keep those used plastic bottles and cans coming over the back fence for recycling. Mark our recycle guy takes them to recycle.

NAPA VALLEY GENEALOGY SOCIETY CALENDAR of EVENTS

November 2020

Nov 7, (1st Wed) **Library Committee Meeting**, Cancelled for November.

Nov 13, (2nd Fri) **Board Meeting**, 11:00am. This is a Zoom meeting.

December 2020

Dec 2, (1st Wed) **Library Committee Meeting**, 12pm will be online.

Dec 10, (2nd Fri) **Board Meeting**, 11:00am. This is a Zoom meeting.

WinePress deadline, Dec 28, articles to Editor Sandra Hoover, email articles to:

Mary's Book Corner

Swabbed & Found,

An Adopted Man's DNA Journey to Discover His Family Tree



In December 2013 a colleague of Frank Billingsley, knowing he was adopted, forwarded a press release to him telling about a man who had found his biological parents through DNA. As Frank tells it, that email changed his life and set him on a roller coaster ride to finding his own bio-parents. Granted, as a popular TV presenter in Houston, he had contacts that many don't have and lots of help from some of the best genetic detectives around but his way of telling his story of the four years of his often frustrating search is very clear and compelling. I found the little snippets of his family tree as his understanding of it progressed to be especially helpful.

When the library reopens be sure to have a look at it on the Member's lending shelf.

Happy reading, Mary

DO YOU KNOW?

Early Occupations**ANKLE BEATER**

Answer:.....-young person who helped to drive the cattle to market



Welcome New Member

Name

Surname Searches

No new members	
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Board Openings

There are open spots on our board. If you would like to join our group as a board member please contact the society at 707-252-2252. Leave a message and we will return your call.

We promise to have short board meetings and email keeps us in touch.

Many of our board meetings are online or due to Covid-19 we meet virtually. The board meets once a month.

Thank you for considering this opportunity in helping your community with the genealogy needs of everyone who is interested in family history.

“Golden Rules of Genealogy”

1. “Speling Dusn’t Cownt”

Back in the day folks couldn’t spell and many could barely write, so check all variant spellings of names. Whenever possible, use wild card or Soundex searches to find variant spellings of your names.

2. “Assume Nothing”

Check all your facts, don’t assume that any particular document is right or wrong, and always try to find other independent sources to corroborate your facts as much as possible. Verify, verify, verify. For instance, don’t assume that: Your ancestors were married, or that census information is accurate. Don’t assume that: vital (or other) records were correct, or that your ancestor’s life events were recorded. And don’t assume your ancestors were enslaved, or newly freed slaves in the same vicinity with the same surname were related.

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A NEW COUSIN A DAY KEEPS THE BOREDOM AWAY





Start your Holiday Shopping on-line

Ship to multiple address's.



See's CANDIES.

Napa Valley Genealogical Society Storefront

Bag 0 Checkout

Help Us
Reach Our Goal!



See's Candy to Lift Your Spirits and Support Our Society!

Help sweeten the end of the year by supporting Napa Valley Genealogical Society's first virtual fundraiser. We receive all profits from any items you purchase from our Year-Round and Holiday Candy Stores. Candy is shipped directly to your home.

To browse available products, click the [blue](#) and [red](#) links below.

[Year-Round Candy Store](#)

The Year-Round Candy Store offers traditional candies in familiar See's packaging. Items are shipped when your order is received. The last date to order from this storefront is December 4th.

[Holiday Candy Store](#)

The Holiday Candy Store offers similar products in holiday packaging plus several Christmas-specific items. Shipping begins November 16th. The last day to order from this storefront is December 4th.

Treat yourself and the ones you love, stay safe, and we will be together again soon!

Every Genealogist Needs to be Organized, Right?

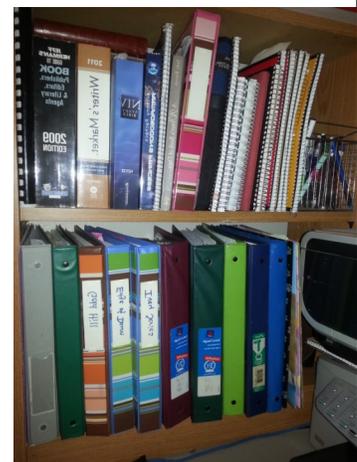
All facts and bits of information that we collect about people need to be recorded and organized so that the relationships between the people make sense and that we can find what we are looking for quickly. Ideally we use genealogy software, it is the most efficient way. Enter data once and then use it as a finding aid. If you work better with printed paper, just print out charts for the piece of your family that you are working on at the time.

But, what about all the documents, letters, and articles you have found? If, and that's a big if, you have recorded all the information found in those items and cited where you found them in your software, you won't need to file a lot of paper. Remember though that you have to have several backup files in different places.

There will always be some paper that needs to be filed and there is no one right way to do it so you need to figure out what works best for you. You need to think about what you don't want as well as what you do want. Piles of paper on the dining table or even the floor won't work in the long run. Spending time on elaborate color or numbering schemes is no longer necessary because the genealogy software does all that for you. What you need is the ability to find a specific piece of paper or digital scan on your computer whenever you need it. You also don't want to have to spend your precious research time on maintaining a filing system.

Files on your computer are the easiest. They don't even require a hierarchy of folders. Just make sure that the relevant surnames are in the filename and then do a general FIND. A list of files will appear and can be sorted in date order. Pre-computer, people came up with lots of ways to file paper but most of them are no longer necessary. The biggest choice these days is between binders and folders. The usual objection to folders is that loose papers can fall out if you are carrying them around with you to libraries and courthouses. Now we take our phones, tablets, or laptops with our dedicated software with us instead.

Over the years I tried several different systems but found that my to be filed paper just kept piling up. Finally I worked out a system of individual file folders for each person, grouped in hanging files by surname. I like it because it lends itself to both fine and crude filing at the same time. I can take a stack of papers and quickly file them by surname in the hanging files. When I have time, or need to find everything about a specific person, I can sort the papers into the individual folders. When there are too many pieces of paper for one file folder, I can create subject files for one person. Some surnames have so few pieces of paper that I just use the hanging file folder and don't bother to create individual folders. Since I'm filing by surname and not by nuclear family there are no questions about how to file papers for children vs adults, nor where to file papers about women. They are always filed under their maiden names. If that is unknown they go in a file named "Elizabeth, wife of Benjamin Haynes" in the Haynes file. What I like about folders is that you can easily move a paper from one folder to another and folders tend to force you not to have too many papers in one place. I use a combination of box bottomed hanging files and regular ones and multiple hanging files for major surnames with lots of paper.



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Every Genealogist Needs to be Organized, Right?

Original certificates and other original family papers go into sheet protectors in binders, filed by surnames alphabetically. Original photos are filed by surname in photo boxes. All genealogy based e-mail is sorted into surname files in my e-mail program. They are easy to sort through when I need to refer to them.

If I am unsure about a surname I'm looking for I only have to refer to my software to refresh my memory on which line it occurs.

In the end, happiness is when you can easily find what you are looking for without feeling overwhelmed with the task of filing.

Mary Herzog
Sept 2020

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“Golden rules of Genealogy”

3. “Use Discretion”

Never lie in your genealogy reports, but use discretion when reporting family information, as it may affect some of your living relatives.

4. “Always Document Your Sources, No Matter How Much They Contradict One Another”

Over time, you will compile more data and those once seemingly contradictory pieces of evidence may prove to be just the pieces of the puzzle you need to prove or disprove your theory. But be consistent as you cite your sources. There are all sorts of standard citation formats that you can follow, but even if you just make up your own form for listing your sources, be consistent with it. Future researchers (your descendants) will thank you. Cite your sources.

5. “Most Dates Are Approximate”

Prior to the 20th century, anyway. It's okay to state that someone was born “abt. 1845” or died “May 1915” if you don't have an exact date. And even if you have an exact date from one document, another document may have a different date. And which date is “correct?” They all are.

6. “If Unsure, Say So”

Future researchers will thank you for being honest if you simply say that you cannot prove a specific fact, yet you “suspect” such and such is true. Don't fudge the facts. Ever.

7. “Computers Are Great, But Don't Forget The Library”

Yes, we love doing our research online and we think that there's nothing better than using the computer to find new sources, view digital images of original documents and even connect with long lost relatives. But, for genealogists, the internet will never replace the wonderful work of libraries, county courthouses, archives, and historical societies. Do as much as you can online, then turn off your computer and hit the bricks!

Source: Got Genealogy.com Vol 2, No 6 June 2009

Natives and Immigrants: It's Time to Be Allies

by Mark Perkins

Since 1990, U.S. Presidents have proclaimed November as a time to honor the contributions of indigenous peoples in America. **“Native American Heritage Month”** has its roots in the early 1900s when several initiatives sought to establish an American Indian Day. What started as an attempt to gain a day of recognition has grown into a whole month aimed at increased awareness and celebration of native cultures.

History of a family, a culture, or a nation comes alive when facts tell the story the way it should be told. This November we are also commemorating the quadricentennial of first contact between the Mayflower Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians in 1620. This anniversary has become an opportunity to tell a more inclusive American story.¹

To learn how we as members of the Napa Valley Genealogical Society can act as allies to our friends and neighbors with native ancestry, NVGS conducted phone and email interviews with Charlie Toledo, Executive Director of the Suscol Inter-Tribal Council. Excerpts from these interviews have been edited for clarity.

NVGS: Does the Suscol Inter-Tribal Council have plans to honor Native American Heritage Month?

CT: We usually have a Native American Art Auction dinner. This year's event (24th Annual!) will be virtual due to social distancing requirements. The online Art Auction will extend over eleven days with three Zoom “coffee chats” with Native Americans active in the Suscol Inter-Tribal Council.²

NVGS: How can we participate in alternate celebrations such as Indigenous Peoples' Day (Columbus Day) and The National Day of Mourning or Un-Thanksgiving Day (Thanksgiving)?

CT: Since 1975, Native Americans and their allies have staged a sunrise ceremony at Alcatraz Island on Un-Thanksgiving Day. The event commemorates the 1969 occupation of the island by the Alcatraz-Red Power Movement. Activities include traditional drumming, prayers, singing, and dancing. I went for over 30 years but because of the cold and the early hour, I let others get on the boat now! Radio station KPFA broadcasts the event from the island every Thanksgiving Day.³ A similar sunrise ceremony now occurs on Indigenous Peoples' Day in October. Both events are invitational only this year because of the pandemic.

NVGS: What can we learn from indigenous cultures about the wisdom of intentional fire-setting to maintain forest health and promote sustainable agriculture?

CT: Our elders tell us, “The California first people tended the whole state! Every square inch of California was touched by human hands.” It was not a “wilderness waiting to be discovered.” It had been continuously inhabited for 60,000 years by civilized people who cared for and tended the land in ways that would now be called sustainable, organic, free range, etc. The wildfires that have threatened and destroyed communities in California are the earth healing herself. These fires will continue until two-leggeds learn how to live gently on the earth with care for the trees, the water, and all creatures - four-legged, insects, fish, winged ones, and so on.

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Natives and Immigrants: It's Time to Be Allies

NVGS: What do you know of your personal ancestry?

CT: What I know comes from oral tradition, genealogical research, dreams, and medicine work going back 10,000 years. After my sister retired, she did research by computer, DNA testing, and social media. We both drew from oral stories of living aunts and cousins. On our Spanish side we can trace our ancestors back to the 1300s. Our native side includes the oldest strains of DNA in North America.

NVGS: What challenges do Native Americans encounter in trying to research their ancestors?

CT: With DNA testing, it's much easier now. But historically, research has been made difficult by the forced relocations, the horrific genocides, the systemic lies passed along as "history," the active repression to hide truth since 1492, and the blocking of accurate curriculum.

NVGS: How might our society be an ally to the Suscol Inter-Tribal Council in its commitment to promote cultural exchange and support communication between indigenous peoples and the broader community?

CT: Here are some practical things that your members can do:

- Check out the Suscol YouTube channel, become a subscriber, and share videos you enjoy. (<https://www.youtube.com/user/SuscolCouncil>)
- Discover the truth about what the U.S. government did to the indigenous peoples of this continent, especially in California. Sign up for a free five-part Zoom workshop series starting January 21, 2021 to learn the fate of native peoples in Napa County. To register, contact the Suscol office at suscol@suscol.net or call (707) 256-3561.
- Like us on FaceBook.
- Participate in Suscol's public activities like the upcoming Art Auction.
- Help get accurate curriculum (K-16) in schools across the United States.

Notes

¹ For more information on the Wampanoag people and their first contact with the Pilgrims, visit www.plymouth400.org. Click Menu. Click "Our" Story: 400 years of Wampanoag History. Find [Click here](#) at the bottom of the page to see the "Our" Story video library on YouTube.

² On November 11th at 11:00 am, Suscol Inter-Tribal Council's online **Native American Art Auction** goes live. Bidding closes at 7:00 pm on November 21st. Art pieces in the auction include handmade sweetgrass and quill baskets, abalone jewelry made by California native artists, and more. Check out the Art Auction on the Suscol website: suscol@suscol.net.

³ To hear a broadcast of the Indigenous Peoples Sunrise Ceremonies on Alcatraz Island, tune in to radio station KPFA 94.1 FM or online at <http://www.kpfa.org>.

