

How was the operation run? Michael farmed with two horses pulling the plow. His sons were some of the first farmers to use the Bear River wind machines for frost protection.
Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? YES
How has this changed over the years? Gary still manages the vineyard although we hire a vineyard management company for help with pruning, suckering, replanting and harvest – jobs we used to do ourselves. Mark does the same with his part of the old Heitz property.
What is your favorite story or memory from your family's history of farming in Napa? Michael hired Chinese laborers to clear the land of valley oaks for planting his orchard and vineyard. He gave them room and board and \$1 a week pay. If they stayed all week, they got a new pair of Levi pants at payday. They camped out on the hill behind the house. They used long, one-handed saws with which to cut trees, used black powder to clear stumps and then used animals to pull the stumps.
What do you feel Farm Bureau has done to protect and preserve your family's farm over the years? NCFB has protected family farms from urban development.
What can Farm Bureau do to maintain your family's ability to farm for the next 100 years? NCFB can assist small farmers with today's regulation compliance.
What would you like to do to help the future of farming? What measures and methods would you like to see implemented to assist in that future? At NCFB, few **family** farmers in attendance, big vineyard management companies and absentee landlords are taking over – land use tenuous for family farms.

Andrew Hoxsey, Oakville, California
Interviewed by Anne Nissen

When did your family first arrive in Napa County? Late 1800s
From where did they emigrate? Genovese region of Italy.
Who were those first family members? Guiseppa (Joe) Pelissa and later his bride Anna Maria
What did they do? Spent their first six months in San Francisco then came to Flynnville, south of Calistoga.
Where was their farming operation located? Flynnville area where they farmed grapes; then moved to the Yountville area in the 1920s.
How was the operation run? Planted grapes, then diversified to survive with cherries, prunes, walnuts, and dairy. Started Golden State Trucking Co. shipping from Fort Bragg, Sonoma and Napa Valleys to Berkeley.
Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? Yes.
What is your favorite story or memory from your family's history of farming in Napa County? It's not a favorite, but the first grape harvest in 1903 was memorable. 45 tons were delivered.
What would you like to do to help the future of farming? What measures and methods would you like to see implemented to assist in that future? Conservation Issues

Lewelling Family (Doug Wight), Napa County, California
Interviewed by Anne Nissen

When did your family first arrive in Napa County? 1864
From where did they emigrate? South Carolina to Indiana to Iowa. They imported grafted fruit trees from Iowa
Who were those first family members? John Lewelling and Elvy Elliot. John Lewelling: "Father of California Horticulture"
Where was their farming operation located? 1864: bought property on west side of St. Helena; established "Lewelling Vineyards"; 400 acres planted in grapes, almonds, cherries. Had a "dry house" – drying apples, pears, grapes... Built family home in 1870, which still stands today
How was the operation run? Variety of help: had some Chinese laborers, Scandinavian immigrants
Had in-house and field servants; later, high school students helped out
Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? YES

How has this changed over the years? We are finally making some money now.

What is your favorite story or memory from your family's history of farming in Napa County? The family history, lineage

What do you feel Farm Bureau has done to protect and preserve you family's farm over the years? Ag Preserve helped and hurt farmers

What can Farm Bureau do to maintain your family's ability to farm for the next 100 years? Estate tax huge – perhaps help establish a family exemption for family farms?

What would you like to do to help the future of farming? What measures and methods would you like to see implemented to assist in that future? Take some of the celebrity status out of agriculture, i.e., celebrate the land and those who work it.

Lincoln Family, Napa County, California

By Jim Lincoln

Harry Latham Lincoln brought his wife Anna Fennel and 4 children Anna, Ella, George, & Edward to California by boat from Illinois arriving in Gordon Valley in 1859. After farming for a few years and having 3 more children he purchased 200 acres and the family moved to Capay Valley for 6 years and then finally to San Jose for 3 years to school the children. They arrived in Napa Valley in 1877, settling in Calistoga. Harry's sons George Fennel and Edward Fletcher Lincoln both farmed in Monticello for a number of years before Edward came to Oakville in 1898 and purchased the ranch just north of the Yountville hills. Edward Fletcher Lincoln had 6 children, 5 born in Monticello and the last born in Oakville in 1900. The Lincoln ranch at that time was 100+ acres and extended from the Napa River to the present Highway 29 and from Yountmill road to the present Cardinale winery. Farming included cattle, hogs, barley, hay, apples, prunes, grapes and other crops. In the early 20s in addition to farming the home ranch, two brothers, George Audrey and Alva Louis started Lincoln Bros blacksmith and tractor in Oakville at the present day parking lot of Oakville Grocery. The company was purchased in the '50s by a son-in-law and moved to Rutherford and renamed Wilcox tractor. The home ranch property was divided among the six children in 1938 and several sold their parcels immediately. My father (William Wayne Lincoln) aka WW, purchased the home parcel from his uncle Edward Lloyd Lincoln in 1964. It was farmed as permanent pasture for cattle until the early '70s when it was planted to vines during that planting boom. The last parcel which contained the house was sold to long-time family friend Tom Gamble in 2011.

McQueeney Family, Napa County, California

When did your family first arrive in Napa County? 1920

From where did they emigrate? South Africa to New York City – San Francisco to Napa County

Who were those first family members? Willam Moskowitz, George and Dorothy Moskowitz.

What did they do? They were in the sheep and cattle and goats business.

Where was their farming operation located? Wooden Valley & Capell Valley

How was the operation run? They ran 2,000 sheep raised for wool, spring lamb, and mutton – 100 cows for local meat markets – 60 angora goats for mohair

Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? How has this changed over the years? My Uncle Harold Moskowitz has a vineyard and winery at Moskowitz Corners in Capell and The McQueeney's have cattle and goats.

What is your favorite story or memory from your family's history of farming in Napa County? When I was a kid we were lambing during the winter. Mom, Shirley (Moskowitz) McQueeney, was riding through the hills on horseback checking ewes having trouble lambing and weak and cold Lambs. Mom had a couple of lambs wrapped in gunny sacks tied to her saddle. The ground was sloppy wet and she was riding down a steep hill. The horse started sliding down the hill the horse sat on its butt, front legs stretched out front. The horse, Mom, and the lambs slid a good 100 yards reached the bottom. The horse jumped up and

they rode away. Another day at the office... I was 10 then and when I asked her about it she doesn't remember, nothing out of the ordinary to remember.

What do you feel Farm Bureau has done to protect and preserve your family's farm over the years? The NCFB bonds the common interests of people who need to remain on the land. In support of Proposition 13, support of Environment and Conservation.

What would you like to do to help the future of farming? What measures and methods would you like to see implemented to assist in that future? Keep up the fight; encourage land owners to consider grazing as the alternative of leaving their properties to be come over grown with vegetation. Keep the fight up to eliminate the death tax.

Pete Molinari, St. Helena, California
Interviewed by Anne Nissen

When did your family first arrive in Napa County? Davide Molinari settled in St. Helena in 1884. He married John Cavalli's widow, Josephine, in St. Helena in 1891. Note: Josephine's original first name was Guissepina (Cavalli). She had 3 sons by John Cavalli in Switzerland. Josephine's first husband, John Cavalli, is buried in St. Helena cemetery.

From where did they emigrate? From Switzerland in 1867

Who were those first family members? Davide and Josephine Molinari. Peter E. Molinari (I) married Ruby Heitz in 1924. In 1925 Peter and Ruby took over family operation.

Timeline:

- 1884: Davide settled in St. Helena; worked for Lyman Family for 8 years
- 1891: Married Josephine Cavalli in St. Helena
- 1896: Peter E. Molinari (I) born
- 1899: Bought 9.5 acres at 485 Mills Lane, St. Helena \$5.00; built Roman press
- 1905: Assessor's list: 16,000 gal. wine – valued at \$18,000.
- 1924: Peter E. Molinari (I) and Ruby Heitz marry
- 1925: Peter and Ruby take over operation

What did they do? Davide and Josephine Molinari bought 9.5 acres at 458 Mills Lane, St. Helena, in 1899. Property had grapes and orchards of prunes and walnuts. Previous owners were Allen and Elizabeth Gillihan who had bought the property a year earlier from Louis and Jane Roulet who had built a winery prior to 1898. Davide and Josephine built a Roman press addition at the winery.

Where was their farming operation located? 458 Mills Lane, St. Helena

How was the operation run? Peter (I) befriended the Gonzales Family who spent part of the year working with Molinari, while residing in a tent on the property. The Molinari farm size was manageable for one family, although neighbors often helped each other. No money was exchanged, just labor and maybe extra items, i.e., eggs shared.

Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? YES

What is your favorite story or memory from your family's history of farming in Napa County? Peter J. Molinari, 4th generation, remembers all school breaks spent working on the farm, picking prunes and hauling them to the dryer in town.

*cutting off chicken heads and birds running around headless

*shooting robins for his grandmother's great polenta and robin breast meals

What do you feel Farm Bureau has done to protect and preserve your family's farm over the years?

Peter E. Molinari II recollects many meetings of the Napa County Farm Bureau at Lodi Farm Center on Lodi Lane in St. Helena. The meetings were a combination of business and social events always with a farm advisor. Mr. Herman Baade often spoke on farm issues, i.e., how to control caterpillars in prune orchards and husk flies in walnuts. Mr. Baade was Napa County Farm Bureau President for many years. *What can Farm Bureau do to maintain your family's ability to farm for the next 100 years?* "I think that Farm Bureau can serve its members best by continuing to be proactive politically to educate the public about the importance of agriculture and representing growers, both large and small, in legislative matters both locally and statewide."

Narrative from 3^d generation of The Molinari Family:

Davide Molinari was born in 1829 in Gerra Verzaska, Switzerland and came to California in 1867. After taking work in Petaluma, St. Helena and Oregon, he returned to St. Helena in 1884. Guissepina Cavalli was born in 1860 in Intragna in the Ticino region of Switzerland. Guissepina met and married John Cavalli in Intragna and they had three children in Switzerland.

In 1890 John Cavalli left for California. Guissepina and the three boys followed a few months later and joined John in St. Helena. Five months later John Cavalli died and is buried in the St. Helena public cemetery.

On December 12, 1891 David(e) Molinari married the widow Josephine Cavalli. At that time David(e) was working for the Lyman Family on the Bale Mill property north of St. Helena and lived in the house which later became the original Frog's Leap Winery.

On October 12, 1899 David(e) and Josephine bought 9.5 acres of orchards and vineyard on 458 Mills Lane from Allen and Elizabeth Gillihan of San Francisco for \$5.00, according to the deed. The Gillihans owned the property for less than a year, having purchased it in 1898 from Louis and Jane Roulet. Roulet was a cooper and wine maker and built the existing wooden winery some time prior to 1898.

In 1899 David(e) and Josephine and their family moved into the Mills Lane property and later added to the winery and built the Roman press which is still there. The 1905 assessor's list shows 16,000 gallons of wine on the property at a value of \$18,000.

Without question, the 9.5 acres at 458 Mills Lane have been owned and farmed by five generations of The Molinari Family.

October 12th of this year (2013) will commemorate 114 years and counting! This is 14 years longer than the Napa County Farm Bureau has been in existence.

MY EARLY RECOLLECTIONS OF FARM BUREAU

My parents, Peter E. Molinari I and Ruby Heitz, were married in 1924 and took over the operation of the farm in 1925 after the death of my grandfather David. Josephine had pre-deceased David(e).

I would guess that Peter and Ruby joined the Napa County Farm Bureau sometime in the 1930's during the "Depression years". I can recall them taking my sister Marilyn and me with them to meetings at the Lodi Farm Center on Lodi Lane in St. Helena. The meetings seemed to be a combination of a social gathering in combination with a business meeting. Officers were elected from the group of farmers who lived in the area around the farm center and who chose to join. My parents actively participated in the meetings and my father was elected president for several years. I also remember that Walter and Bessie Lenz were very active members.

As far as I was concerned, the Lodi Farm Center was the Farm Bureau. Attending every meeting was the Napa County Farm Advisor. He always made a presentation and answered any questions the members had.

In those days Herman Baade (body) was the Farm Advisor. He was a well-liked gregarious man who always wore a "Smokey the Bear" brimmed hat. A lot of his talks centered on things like how to control caterpillars in prune orchards and husk flies in walnuts. Mildew control in vineyards was occasionally mentioned.

Lodi Farm Center had a low-key Christmas party every year and Mr. Baade was Santa Claus and passed out bags of hard rock candy to the

kids who were there. The Bertolini and Milani names come to mind, but there were others.

Every year, every Farm Center (at least in Northern Napa County) reserved space at the Fair held in Calistoga and all members were encouraged to display their best fruits and vegetables for judging. This often led to questions about the competency of the judges, but a blue ribbon was always cherished.

I left St. Helena and the farm in 1942 and did not participate actively in Farm Bureau, although we kept our membership active. I fear that small family-operated farms like ours will find it harder and harder to remain viable due to the pressure from all sides for more regulation and consolidation with larger operations. Those growers that are within City Limits are especially vulnerable. I think it would be almost impossible to predict where Molinari Vineyards will be in 100 years.

I think that Farm Bureau can serve its members best by continuing to be proactive politically to educate the public about the importance of agriculture and representing growers both large and small in legislative matters both locally and state-wide.

Peter E. Molinari, March 25, 2013

Bob and Julius Mueller, Napa, California

When did your family first arrive in Napa County? The earliest documentation I have found is the 1880 Federal Census. Their youngest child was born in 1876 after their move but I am unsure where in California she was born.

From where did they emigrate? Clinton, Missouri

Who were those first family members? Daniel S. Yates (1852-1930), His wife Louisa Yates (Turner) (1851-1925), her parents George Turner (1823-1905), Sara Ann Turner (1826-1906), and several of their other children.

What did they do? I believe initially Daniel was a laborer. I am unsure at what point Daniel S. Yates began farming for himself. At the very least, we know he was farming his own land around 1900.

Where was their farm located? Off Skellenger Lane in Rutherford.

How was the operation run? We are not sure how it was run during the early years. While Bob Mueller was growing up on the farm it was half old-head trained vineyard and half cattle land that they leased out for grazing.

Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? How has this changed over the years? We now have vineyard in the Carneros AVA and in the Oak Knoll AVA. We are still a family operation.

What is your favorite story or memory from your family's history of farming in Napa County? Not many stories have been passed down. I do think however that the family farm survived prohibition by selling grapes to home winemakers. As the story was told to me, the grapes were shipped to the Midwest.

Nichelini Family, Napa County, California

For Anton Nichelini the great adventure in Napa Valley began one hundred twenty nine years ago. In 1884, Anton was the first Swiss to come to Chiles Valley. He arrived on horseback when Napa's Highway 128 was little more than a dirt trail. He homesteaded the land, planted grapes, and olive trees and started selling wine in 1890 to the mining camps in Chiles and Pope Valleys. By 1895, he had built a substantial stone winery and a seven-bedroom house above it. This would become the home for Anton and his wife, Caterina, and their 12 children. You can see it today just as it was. Well almost. Inside, the wine making and processing equipment are all new and the redwood barrels no longer exist, replaced with top grade French and American oak. The huge 1895 state-of-the-art Roman wine press pressed its last grape in

1955. But you can still see it. It is one of only three left standing in North America as far as anyone knows. In another perspective, consider that in 1890 there were 128 bonded wineries in Napa County. Right after the end of prohibition, the number surged to 168. But by 1965, there were only 24. Today, Napa has over 450 bonded wineries. Nichelini was there the entire time. How did Anton and Caterina pull this off? Anton was born in 1862, in Verscio, Switzerland, near the Italian border. He was handpicked to be educated in Paris, France, and also to learn the trade of stone masonry. However, he is going to become a farmer as well as a winemaker. Arriving in Sonoma in 1882, he apprenticed with one of the most respected and leading farmers and winemakers of his day, Joshua Chauvet, a Frenchman, who, in Sonoma County, had just completed the largest winery in Sonoma. He was a vineyard manager and winemaker there for nearly 6 years. Ready to be on his own, he went to Napa. The Nichelini family continued winemaking and expanded grape growing during Prohibition to include Alicante Bouche for shipment back East, but they also expanded their farming endeavors which extended post-Prohibition, including 70 acres of prunes and many acres of walnuts. And so, over the years, generations of Nichelinis have kept the legacy going, working the land and accumulating knowledge from the past as they excitedly look to the future to continually improve. The walnuts, prunes, and olives are no longer forefront, with grape growing and winemaking taking center stage. Today, Aimée Sunseri, the seventh Nichelini winemaker and the first of the 5th generation, continues to strive for even more perfection. Nichelini is most well known for its Zinfandel wine, including the Nichelini clone, which was the varietal first planted by Anton and Caterina. The oldest vines today were planted in 1929. Other standouts are Cabernet Sauvignon and Petite Sirah. For whites, it has been Muscadelle de Bordelais (previously known as Sauvignon Vert), the oldest vines today having been planted in 1946.

Page and Ragatz Families, Napa County, California

Jeffrey Clark Page's family has been farming property between Ragatz and Trubody Lane continuously for 125 years. Jeff and his wife Mary Page, and daughters Lily and Rosa live on Trubody Lane. They farm a vineyard in a partnership there on Trubody Ranch.

The first family members to arrive in Napa County were George and Minnie Ragatz in 1888. George B. Ragatz was born in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. His wife Minnie was born in Switzerland. Jeff Page's great-grandmother and great-grandfather George and Minnie had a family farm on Ragatz Lane and grew and sold orchard fruit such as peaches and pears. They had help from their sons Ben and Leland. Their daughter Lillie (Ragatz) Page and husband Leonard Page later grew walnuts and prunes, ran sheep and turkeys, and later certified Hereford cattle. The Pages farmed with help from a few hired hands as well as seasonal workers at harvest. Cattle round-ups were managed cooperatively with ranching families. Lillie and Leonard's "Home place" ranch was on Trubody Lane, just south of Ragatz Lane. They ran cattle in other locations: Conn valley, Pope Valley, American Canyon, Carneros and Yountville. Lillie sold the last of the Hereford breeding stock in 1974 and leased her property to a winery for vineyard.

Jeff's other set of great-grandparents, Zenas and Mary Page, settled in Yountville in the 1890's. They were born in England, immigrated to Canada, and then moved to Yountville. The family treasures the story of Zenas scouting a new farm location on horseback, riding from the Fraser River valley in British Columbia to Napa Valley. Zenas raised Hereford cattle and prunes on his property just south of the Veterans Home, Yountville.

Jeff's favorite stories told to him by his grandmother Lillie include the 1930s era "turkey round-up": picture hundreds of turkeys being herded down an empty unpaved Silverado Trail by two men on horseback and six border collies, all the way from Conn Valley! All Lillie's round-up stories were great, especially the time the old hand with failing eyesight inoculated Jeff's grandfather instead of the steer. Leonard never did get hoof and mouth disease after that! Lillie's stories of round-the-clock feedings of "bummer lambs" (lambs whose mothers rejected them) were sweet. She would keep the bummer lamb in a wood prune box near her kitchen woodstove. During the walnut-planting heyday, husband Leonard planted trees right up to the house where Lillie wanted a rose bush. On the advice of her mother, Lillie was instructed to secretly pour salt water on the young walnut tree to kill it. Lillie later got her rose where she wanted, after the walnut mysteriously died.

Bob Pestoni, St. Helena, California
Interviewed by Anne Nissen

When did your family first arrive in Napa County? The Pestoni side of my family arrived in 1882. My mother's side (Dominguez) I'm unsure of but their property records show them on Howell Mountain in 1895.

From where did they immigrate? The Pestoni side immigrated from Monte Carasso, Switzerland. The Dominguez side was Portuguese and from the Azores.

Who were those first family members? Albino Pestoni and he married Maria Modonna. Manuel Dominguez married Serena Abreu.

What did they do? Both sides of the family farmed grapes and made wine.

Where was their farming operation located? Both Pestoni and Dominguez farmed Howell Mountain. The Dominguez family had 250 acres, some of which is now part of the Viader Estate. The Pestoni Family vineyards, home and winery are now part of Bell Canyon Reservoir. Albino's 1892 winery still sits on the shoreline. Lena Dominguez married Henry Pestoni and they began farming grapes, walnuts, chickens, dairy, hogs and alfalfa on Whitehall Lane in 1922. This property is vineyard today and still farmed by the Pestoni Family for their Rutherford Grove Winery. Lena Dominguez brothers bought Elhars Estate Winery in 1923 where they farmed grapes and bootlegged until the end of prohibition. They would go on to run it as Old Bale Mill Winery until 1958.

How was the operation run? Both were run as family farming operations.

Pocai and Ballentine Families, Napa County, California
Interviewed by Norma Tofanelli

When did your family first arrive in Napa County? 1906

From where did they emigrate? Italy

Who were those first family members? Libero Pocai arrived in California in 1884 at the age of 22. He emigrated from Lucca in Tuscany, Italy. After the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, he and his wife Maria headed North to Calistoga for her health.

What did they do? In San Francisco, Libero worked in the wood and coal business. Once he had his own property in Calistoga, he planted a vineyard and started his own winery, L. Pocai and Sons, acquiring the 115th winery bond in California.

Where was their farming operation located? The original 60 acres are between Maple Lane and the Silverado Trail. The deed records that the payment was made in gold coins. The vineyards are still owned and farmed by his granddaughter, Betty and her husband, Van Ballentine.

How was the operation run? Libero had two sons, Frank and Henry, who worked with their father in the fields and in the winery. The land was very rocky and working the ground was difficult. A team of horses was used to till the soil. The winery's largest production was 50,000 gallons. L. Pocai and Sons won many gold medals at the California State Fair: gold medal in 1951 for Claret, gold medal in 1954 for Gamay and bronze in 1947 for Zinfandel. Frank and Henry continued to produce wines until they retired in 1963 and closed the winery doors.

Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? How has this changed over the years? Frank's daughter, Betty Pocai, married St. Helenan Van Ballentine, whose father, John, had emigrated in 1910 from his small farming estate in Omagh, County Tyrone, Ireland to San Francisco. He purchased the original Sutter Home Winery and was one of the first to apply for a bond after Prohibition. His first vintage was 1933. He named his estate Deer Park, after his Irish family estate. He retired in 1959, closing his Deer Park winery. His son Van continued to work in his own vineyard on Crystal Springs Road. He married Betty Pocai and today they own over 100 acres of vineyards. Together they revived the Ballentine brand and built their own winery in 1995, behind their 100-year-old farmhouse north of Deer Park Road on Highway 29, which they continue to operate today.

Regusci Family, Napa County, California

Gaetano Regusci arrived in Napa County in 1893. He emigrated from Ticino, a town in the Italian-speaking region of southern Switzerland along the Italian border. Gaetano, who later returned to Switzerland at the age of 32 to marry Livia. They returned to Napa and in 1926, their son Angelo Regusci was born.

Gaetano was a dairyman and cattleman by trade, so he worked on various ranches in the southern end of the Napa Valley. In 1932, he cashed in a life insurance policy, borrowed from friends and family, and took a mortgage from the bank to buy 286 acres in the now Stags Leap District for \$22,000 (\$77 per acre). The ranch was purchased to continue his dairy farming heritage.

The dairy operation was first located at red barn across from Clos du Val. Eventually, the second floor of the 1870's era winery on the Regusci ranch was converted to a dairy as well. At the height of the dairy business, the Reguscis were running eight milk trucks throughout the valley. The family also had a hog operation and beef herds, as well as prune and walnut orchards. In 1972, Angelo Regusci began transitioning the ranch from cattle to grapes, and replanted the prune orchard to vines.

Jim Regusci, Angelo's son, started a vineyard management business in 1985 that now manages acreage in Napa, Sonoma, Lake and Solano counties. Today, Jim lives on the ranch and manages the estate vineyards and Regusci Winery, established in 1996. As for fond memories, "The feeling I shared with my father the day we opened our tasting room in 1996. He was there to watch the ranch that he and my grandfather worked so hard to hold on to over the years, evolve full circle back into a winery."

"Farm Bureau has recognized the changing environment of farming in Napa County, and has always adjusted, keeping agriculture first and foremost." Continue to grow the working relationship with local population and all parts of the county and continue to present a united front with the vintners, grape growers and other local organizations to promote agriculture as a whole. Continue to grow and adapt to agricultural needs as a whole. Focus and invest into education for the general public, and promotion of developing youth/encouraging youth to take an active role in agriculture.

Rodgers and Siqueira Families, Napa County, California

By Anna Hickey

All families have stories and the members of those families pass on those stories, but I have the rare advantage having most of my family's history available at our "Ranch" in Napa. When telling these stories, there are characters that are legendary. The legends in our family are Louis J. Siqueira, John Martin Rodgers, Frank "Mississippi" Smith and of course there was Smitty.

In a way, the Ranch had become like a museum. There are pictures, personal items, and special nick-knacks that were put in hope chests and boxes that have been left untouched for decades. Our barns are filled with the remnants of a dairy, of a cattle operation, and old wagon wheels. While looking at photos in the family home, one realizes that those that are dated in the 1970's look recent compared to most in the house.

There are seven generations of us in the Napa, Sonoma and Solano counties but our ancestors came from the Azore Islands off of Portugal. The amazing thing is that both sets of my great-great grandparents came from the Azores. They were from different Islands not knowing one another and all destined to move to a new Country and end up in Napa and the surrounding area.

My Great-great grandparents Rose Paula and Manual Rodgers (Rosas) met in the Santa Rosa area around 1869. Manual Peter was a farmer and had 10 children that he raised to be farmers as well, one of whom was my Great-Grandfather John Martin Rodgers, aka Mr. Coca-Cola. John M Rodgers was born on a ranch in Petaluma on April 18, 1880. He remained on that farm until 1901, learning to be the farmer and businessmen that his father was molding him into. His biography is in the History of Solano and Napa Counties.

My Great-great grandfather Louis J. Siqueira began his journey to America not as a farmer but with an eventful career as a sailor and fisherman. He fished and whaled off the coast of New Zealand, Australia, Siberia and the Behring Strait, and in the course of his expeditions he took two trips around the world. He eventually arrived in San Francisco, in 1870 and it was there he decided to change his occupation to a farmer; he stayed on in Contra Costa for a few years raising grain. He then took up a claim of 300 acres

at Twin Sisters Peak, Solano County, and in 1876 bought 480 acres in Napa County in the Wild Horse Valley area. He had pasture crops and also planted some acreage in vineyards. The Siqueira descendants still maintain ownership of this land today. My Great-grandmother Florinda Siqueira was born on this Wild Horse Valley Ranch as were her 11 siblings.

Louis J. Siqueira also has a biography in the History of Solano and Napa Counties. He was an amazing man considering his limited education in Portugal in his early youth. After he arrived here he became greatly interested in educational work and was the founder of the public school in Wild horse Valley and was the clerk on the board of trustees in Mountain district until his death in 1902. Most of the students in this school would be his children and that of his brothers who owned property nearby. The children would study and learn there but their other focus was helping on the farm. After Louis J Siqueira passed, it was considered a great loss to the county, as he was a prominent factor in its development and at the time of his death was one of the oldest settlers in Wild horse Valley. The family went on farming this property until recent years.

The Rodgers and Siqueira histories began in the Azores. Then after traveling around the world, they settle in this area and raise their families and their crops. Coming from different Islands in the Azores, Napa/Solano County was the place where my great-grandparents would meet. John M. Rodgers then married Florinda Siqueira, bringing both of these Portugese farming families together. They continued on with the drive for business and farming that their parents had. They had three children Clifford, Lionel, and Avril. They then purchased property in Napa County in 1940, the ranch on the Valley floor and property off of Silverado Trail. This was after John M Rodgers had started a grocery business and then purchased the Empire Soda Works, which he then named the Rodgers Bottling Co in Vallejo. John M. Rodgers only went as far as the 6th grade, but he finished his education through correspondence courses. Not only was he well known for his business practices but also for his ability to find water. He was sought after in both Sonoma and Napa counties to find areas where there would be sufficient water to dig wells. Companies such as Safeway used his witching skills to find water when others failed. After buying the "Ranch" and starting a farming operation he divided the bottling company between his three children. Rodgers Bottling Company went to Lionel Rodgers and Val Nap Beverage Company to Avril Smith. Both of these companies were in Vallejo. Coca Cola Bottling Company went to Clifford Rodgers and was located in Napa and then eventually moved to Vallejo. John M Rodgers was known as Mr. Coca Cola and was a very well respected man in Napa and Solano counties. The "Ranch" produced everything from tomatoes, corn, and wheat to dairy cows. He began leaning more towards the dairy business and opened a local dairy known as Rockinar Dairy. He would graze cattle on what we, in the family, refer to as the Upper Range, a property located on the Silverado Trail. He was the first patient to enter the Queen of the Valley Hospital on March 4, 1958. He died of cancer on April 19, 1958.

Avril Rodgers (Smith) with her husband Frank "Mississippi" Smith ran cattle on the Napa property for many years. It was here that they raised their five children, among whom the eldest was "Smitty", another well known local legend, deserving of his own story. Of course as any farmer knows things and needs change and the "Ranch" has seen many changes, going from open fields of alfalfa and cattle to the amazing vineyards that we have today. John Rodgers three children have now all gone and left their children and their children's children to farm and love this land.

The Rodgers history on the Napa Ranch continues to this day, I write this account while sitting in the upstairs of the "Ranch" house that John M Rodgers rebuilt. We maintain this office for the operation of our Suisun Vineyards and for the overseeing of the Rodgers Vineyards. We have stopped farming cattle but we maintain a lovely hobby farm that produces eggs for Yountville restaurants and joy for many children. We continue to farm vegetables and have thought of taking them to market but instead we share with local families.

What the Rodgers family has in history in Napa and Solano Counties is precious and rare, with the help of groups like the Napa County Farm Bureau I hope that the small family owned and operated farms will not end with our generation. Families like ours know that if we do not serve our land well it cannot serve us. We also know that we are a dying breed and that this type of farming needs to be preserved to preserve a way of life that is not replaceable. We Rodgers/Siquiera's have watched the Valley change through 7 generations and I hope that we can continue to watch as those in this Valley try to preserve and embrace the way of the old farmer.

Stewart Family (John W. Stewart), Napa, California

When did your family first arrive in Napa County? The Stewart family moved from Marin County in 1904, perhaps a bit before. They arrived just in time for the 1906 Earthquake.

From where did they emigrate? We are of Scottish ancestry

Who were those first family members? My grandparents were John and Elizabeth (Steele) Stewart

What did they do? They were dairy people. But that involved much more than just dairy, in that such operations necessitated hay and grain production on their holdings. Additionally, they raised hogs, chickens, and a large garden. They were pretty self-sufficient.

Where was their farming operation located? Stewart's Dairy is located on the Napa-Sonoma Highway, just south of Napa.

How was the operation run? It was a family operation, with my uncle, aunt, father and other relatives joining in the labor effort.

Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? How has this changed over the years?

My father and uncle divided their partnership in the dairy in the early 1940's. My uncle continued with the dairy operation for several more decades. My Cousins are still on the Home Place, and one is actively engaged in ranching... the Dutch Belted and Galloway (Oreo) cattle. Vineyards are now planted on the remaining lower lands. My Father moved to the Carneros property, and developed a prospering hay, grain, cattle and sheep operation. My sisters and I had active roles in this operation as we grew up, and some of us never left the operation.

What is your favorite story or memory from your family's history of farming in Napa County? My Father talked about going through the 1906 Earthquake. He was just 6 years old, and pretty terrified as the bed in the 2 story home place slid from wall to wall as the earthquake rolled. My Grandfather was milking in the corrals, and recounted carrying pails of milk, and stumbling because of the ground shaking. A day or so later, the family sat on the hill behind the house watching the glow from the fires in San Francisco, occasionally hearing a blast as the firemen dynamited buildings trying to control the fires. My Father talked about watering the horses from the Napa River as they were mowing hay in the flats below the house in the late teens. Hay season was the end of May, and the water quality was satisfactory for horses even at that time of year.

What do you feel Farm Bureau has done to protect and preserve your family's farm over the years? My parents were Farm Bureau members for year and years. As a small kid, I remember going to neighbors houses for Farm Bureau meetings in the evening. My Father was always involved, and doing something for Farm Bureau. First, Farm Bureau brought neighbors together, and into their neighbor's homes; friendships developed. Second, business was done differently a half century ago... much more was done with a visit with, or a phone call to, the elected official that you had known for years. Farm Bureau did a lot to keep the elected folks on track as far as Napa staying a rural agricultural community.

What can Farm Bureau do to maintain your family's ability to farm for the next 100 years? Help make small operation farming profitable, so my kids will want to adopt this kind of lifestyle. Achieving that will involve minimizing urban encroachment, advocating for fair and reliable allocations of water resources, nurturing diversified crop farming for small operators, and educating the public on the need for fair pricing of farm and ranch commodities.

What would you like to do to help the future of farming? What measures and methods would you like to see implemented to assist in that future? I have long been an advocate for diversified farming operations. The Valley has pretty much migrated to mono-culture; most all arable acres are in grapes. We need to get the great university minds thinking about what other high value crops are suitable for the Napa Valley. A number of us are becoming concerned that we are losing the small farm and ranch operators; I saw this coming over 40 years ago when I chose to be an engineer instead of a farmer, and now the great minds are beginning to talk openly about it. Small operators are becoming an endangered species, and we need to do something to assure their survival. My focus is on the lack of succession planning and the lack of family wanting to farm. When the parents get old, they just sell to the big guy, and the big guy just keeps buying little guys, and pretty soon there will be no little guys, just big guys. And the big guys some day will want to optimize their return on investments, and will quickly abandon the soft farming practices that we all enjoy today. Abundant and reliable water resources are key to prospering farming and ranching operations. My professional life was focused in water and wastewater utilities. I have long been an observer of water resources, and the closed system in which we live. We must look to more efficient uses of water: more water efficient plants; more water efficient high value crops; more efficient irrigation delivery systems; better understanding of groundwater (quit mining and start harvesting) yield; develop a reliable water allocation method to balance the needs of farming, domestic water supply, and fisheries; and promote the use of recycle water in agriculture. All that is why I just raise beef cattle in the middle of the vineyards, and am working hard to bring recycled water to Carneros.....

Diana Stockton, St. Helena, California

When did your family first arrive in Napa County? 19th C

From where did they emigrate? From England and Scotland to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Canada, Sacramento and San Francisco

Who were those first family members? in Napa County they were Donald And Elizabeth Bates McRuer

What did they do? Donald was US Congressman from CA to the 39th Congress (one of Abraham Lincoln's). A banker, Donald lived in San Francisco. When their niece, Ethel Lincoln, married great uncle Ralston Hamilton, Ethel was given the property, "Ethelwild"

Where was their farming operation located? Sulphur Creek Canyon

How was the operation run? Estate farm with horses, cows, a goat, hens; truck garden; foreman and hired hands

Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? No more cows; too many deer. Still have horses and hens, pastures and open land.

What is your favorite story or memory from your family's history of farming in Napa County? The caretaker, Mel Eisan, would walk the family's cow down to the Tiedemans on Fulton Lane to breed the cow with their bull.

What do you feel Farm Bureau has done to protect and preserve your family's ability to farm for the next 100 years? Advocacy at home and away in support of open space, a balance between wildlife and farmed land, the Agricultural Preserve, and on-going education for all ages. Continue its advocacy and information resources. Better Water Management throughout the County.

Tamagni Family (Teddy Tamagni), Napa County, California Interviewed by Norma Tofanelli

When did your family first arrive in Napa County? About 1910

From where did they emigrate? Ticino, Switzerland

Who were those first family members? Charles Tamagni. He arrived in New York in 1886 with \$4.00 in his pocket. He was just 16, could not speak English and found his first job washing dishes in a New York hotel. Two years later, he came to California, settling in Bodega for 3 years where he started his own business. At age 24, he married Margherita Quanchi and raised 10 children. They were married in Santa Rosa.

What did they do? Had a stock ranch and creamery in Knights Valley and stock ranch in Gualala

March 3 1905 Charles Tamagni of Knights Valley purchased a bull

May 11 1906 Charles Tamagni - Knights Valley dairyman is milking 55 cows and also has a vineyard

December 1912 Charles Tamagni sold creamery butter at Peoples Meat Market and CF Clarks store

They started Tamagni Dairy along the Silverado Trail in Calistoga in the early 1900's.

Charles was elected to Napa County Board of Supervisors in early 1930's.

August 28, 1936 Charles was re-elected as Napa County Supervisor of the third district

One of his projects was completion of Silverado Trail from St. Helena to Larkmead.

Where was their farming operation located? Along both sides of the Silverado Trail in Calistoga. The dairy lands included where Three Palms Ranch and some of the Cakebread vineyards are now located.

They also owned the hillside where the Upper Valley Disposal Land Fill now exists.

Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? How has this changed over the years?

Grandson Teddy Tamagni has retained a portion of the original Tamagni dairy lands where he has a small vineyard and horses. He operates a large equipment repair company and keeps many of the valley's tractors chugging up and down vine roads.

Tiedemann and Bettinelli Families, Napa County, California

Henry (Henrich) Tiedemann and his wife Rosa Sutter settled in the Yountville area in 1879 and rooted our families' long-lived tradition of farming in the Napa Valley. Henry was born in 1841 in Lamstadt,

Germany, and in his late 20s, a three-month voyage by sailing ship brought him to New York Harbor. In 1870, he made his way to California where he met Rosa Sutter, a native of Zurich, Switzerland. They married in Napa in 1879 and raised five children on a ranch on State Lane (known then as Caymus Avenue) just outside of Yountville. The family raised livestock including cows, pigs, chickens and turkeys, and their crops included walnuts, grapes, hay, and grain. Deer and rabbit hunting was a frequent activity that supplied the family with meat, and Rector Canyon was a favorite spot for Sunday family picnics.

When Henry and Rosa passed away, their son Henry and his wife Emily Jennings continued to farm the well-established homestead on State Lane. Emily had emigrated from Slough, England as a young woman. While traveling with her family of employ to Stags Leap for the summer months, she met Henry Tiedemann. They married in 1913. While raising four children on the farm, they increased the grape acreage, growing both blacks and whites as they were called. They also continued to grow walnuts, prunes, hay and grain and they increased the livestock production by often raising hundreds of turkeys and many pigs at one time.

One of my favorite stories from my Grandparents era happened during Prohibition at their State Lane vineyard. Like many other Napa farming families, my grandparents maintained quite a cellar, selling wine through relatives in San Francisco. To protect their assets, a warning system had been developed between the various neighbors to alert one another when the "revenueurs" were in the neighborhood. While my grandmother was home alone one afternoon, she suddenly got the word that "they" were headed in her direction. She hastily went to the cellar and removed all the bungs from the wine barrels. When the officers arrived and asked permission to enter the cellar, she let them know that her husband wasn't home and she couldn't possibly allow them in. After telling them she knew nothing about the wine operation, she allowed the officers to peek into the cellar. They saw all the barrels without bungs, assumed they were empty and moved on. When they left, grandmother immediately replaced all the bungs, and relayed the story to grandfather when he returned. The day was saved by a proper Englishwoman turned grape grower (and wine seller) in Napa Valley.

In 1947, the next generation continued to expand the grape growing operation. After serving in the Philippines and Southeast Asia during World War II, Henry Tiedemann (b. 1922) returned to State Lane to farm a portion of the original family land. Henry married Mabel Ghirardi, who was from another Yountville farming family that has been in the area since the 1880's. By then the farming operation was limited to grape production. The family cow, poultry operation, lamb, and pig raising was for the benefit of the family. It was not a commercial venture, but a tradition and continuum of farm life.

The Ghirardi Family had immigrated from Brione, Switzerland in 1883. After a brief stay in Port Chicago (near Concord, CA) they moved to Yountville with two small children. Antone Ghirardi and Maria Consolacio Ghirardi had rural roots near Locarno. Antone maintained a small dairy in Dry Creek area, making butter for the San Francisco market. He cooled his butter in Hopper Creek and shipped the butter to San Francisco once a week by train. He and his wife raised six children and one of these sons, Giacomo (Jim) Ghirardi, farmed near Yountville. He was an expert teamster and kept draft horses and mules. Jim Ghirardi made his career at the Napa Nook vineyard working for John Daniels of Inglenook. He was still using mules to draw a French Plow in the 1960's. Jim Ghirardi mentored Henry Tiedemann, his son-in-law, at the State Lane Vineyard.

In 1977, our family combined with yet another local heritage farming family with the marriage of Marsha Tiedemann and Larry Bettinelli. The Bettinelli family had immigrated to Sonoma County from Switzerland in the 1870s and established themselves as prominent dairy farmers. In 1959, the Bettinelli family purchased a dairy in Oakville on the current Cardinale Winery property. In 1963, Larry's family sold their dairy cows and planted one of the first Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards in the area. After serving in the Marines during Vietnam, Larry returned to the Napa Valley to peruse his passion for farming again. He was a vineyard manager for Beringer, Christian Brothers, and Walsh Vineyards Management before forming his own vineyard management company in 1990. For the past two decades, Larry has focused on building a farming foundation to pass on to coming generations. He now works side by side with his son, Giancarlo Bettinelli, and son-in-law Paul Goldberg. Together they farm throughout the Napa Valley including the original Tiedemann State Lane Vineyard, which he now owns with his wife Marsha.

Our farming roots in Napa are still thriving now thanks to all the strides and sacrifices our ancestors made through good land stewardship. Our 7th generation here is now well underway with Matteo Bettinelli (4), Gaetano Bettinelli (1) and Isolina Goldberg (7 months). They aren't farming yet, but they do love to play in the dirt, and we think that's a good start!

Over the past 100 years the Napa County Farm Bureau has served as a means to preserve the sustainability of agriculture in Napa and allow farming families like ours to continue to do what we do best—farm and thrive on the land that has been passed down to us from previous generations.

Farming in Napa and retaining our family's land for the next hundred years will be increasingly challenging. The role of the Farm Bureau and other organizations will be critical in protecting land owners rights, and helping to promote social, environmental, and economic sustainability in the Nation's premiere wine growing region.

Tofanelli, DalPorto and DiGiulio Families, Napa County, California
By Norma Tofanelli

When did your family first arrive in Napa County? Early 1900's

From where did they emigrate? The village of Porcari, in Lucca, Tuscany, Italy

Who were those first family members? Giovanni and Amabile Dal Porto and Sebastian DiGiulio

What did they do? They farmed - first as migrant laborers then as land owners. Groups of young Italian men went from farm to farm, asking for work just as Hispanics do today. Their goal was to save enough money to buy their own piece of land where they could raise and feed their families. They wanted to live an independent life - this was essential to their character.

Where was their farming operation located? The Dal Portos settled in St. Helena - Pratt Avenue and Mee Lane. The DiGiulio's settled on Dunaweal Lane in Calistoga.

How was the operation run? As was custom at the time, the farms were self-sustaining. They included everything for a family to survive: not only crops to sell (pears, prunes, walnuts, silk worms, grapes) but horses for working the land, cows for milk and cream, calves for steaks, pigs for sausages, chickens for eggs and roasting, rabbits and pigeons for stews, fruits and vegetables for fresh eating and canning. The entire family worked in the fields and gardens, caring for plants and animals because they could not afford to hire labor and because they loved their independence in the fields. They hired help only for what they could not do themselves. Little children worked alongside adults - learning to love the land by being in the dirt.

Farmers had to feed their families and keep their land so the crops changed as the markets changed. Many combined pears, prunes and small vineyards - much of the grapes destined for home-made wines. Pears were taken to Carneros for sale and prunes had to be dried. Most farmers had prune dippers, where the prunes were dipped in hot water and lye to crack the skins. They were then spread, single layer, on large, shallow wood prune trays to dry in the sun.

Nonno Sebastian never wanted to own a lot of land - his motto was "Don't you got enough?" He was the true model of sustainability. He wanted only what he could care for and what would take care of his family. He wanted to be a farmer - not a land owner, managing estates and workers throughout the valley. He wanted to milk his own cow and prune his own grape vines - completely free and indebted to no one. He simply wanted to be a farmer.

Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? How has this changed over the years?

My family still remains as active as possible - we are in the dirt as much as we can. My mother does most of the books and supervises all the work. She still works in the fields: suckering, tying and picking as much as she can. My brother is the vineyard manager and does all the tractor work - one of the few farmers still working the land himself, on his own tractor. He knows every speck of dirt under every vine. He used to sleep under the vines as a baby while we worked in the rows. The main change for our family is due to the dwindling number of family members who will work the land. When I was a child, there were 4 adults (grandmother, grandfather, mother, father) and kids (aunt, brother, myself) working the farm. With 2 kids almost equalling an adult, we had about 6 people to work the fields.

Now there are only my 88-year old mother, my brother and myself - so we have to hire labor. This is not how we want to farm, but how we are forced to farm.

What is your favorite story or memory from your family's history of farming in Napa County? My favorite memories are in the vineyard - sharing the work with my aunt who was only 3 years older, running ahead to check on my baby brother sleeping on a blanket under a vine. I clearly see my grandfather walking up a row behind Curley, our horse, raising dust as he passed by the vines we worked beneath. Afternoons were spent playing in the creek along our property - three little kids running wild and free. When we

picked, May and I shared a row and kept up with the adults. We had to drag our boxes into the middle of the row when they were full so dad could see them to carry them out - they were too heavy for two little girls covered in grape juice and dirt. I'd give anything to be back under a Burger vine picking grapes with May - those really were the days, my friend...

What do you feel Farm Bureau has done to protect and preserve your family's farm over the years? Farm Bureau is the champion of the Ag Preserve - this is critical for the future.

What can Farm Bureau do to maintain your family's ability to farm for the next 100 years? Farm Bureau must continue to lead the fight to keep our lands from being paved. We must renew the message of our Agricultural Preserve. Too many newcomers just want to "cash in on ag" - they don't want to work in their own fields, caring for their own lands. They don't understand why we cannot over-commercialize our lands. We must draw hard lines or we will lose it all. Every time we pave over land for an industrial-commercial processing facility we lose the land under that asphalt and cement. As our lands are purchased for incredible amounts by those who demand the prestige of owning a Napa Valley "estate", the price of the land is driven up, far beyond the value of its productive capacity. This makes it impossible for farmers to keep their lands and puts it in the hands of corporate interests, many global entities, who care only for the profit potential. This can lead to the paving over of our treasure, our land.

We must not let this happen. We owe it to future generations who must have land to feed themselves.

What would you like to do to help the future of farming? What measures and methods would you like to see implemented to assist in that future? We must renew the message of the land. We must never forget that our main goal is to keep the land open for farming. We are losing our historical families who understood the reasons why we sacrificed to keep the land. We are losing our farmers to corporate entities and hedge funds. We must educate newer arrivals who just see vast vineyards and wineries and come to "cash in" any way they can. Every violation of our land use policies, every illegal short-term rental, every wedding at a winery, every illegal bus load in a vineyard chips away - constant erosion will someday convert it all.

These are the reasons why I have become active with Farm Bureau - the first line of defense for the land.

Raymond Tonella, Napa, California

When did your family first arrive in Napa County? After the SF earthquake in 1906

From where did they emigrate? Italy

Who were those first family members? Granduncle, Joseph Ponti; when wife died in 1966 made gift to Louis Tonella (b. 1912-d.2008), her nephew of the land on Skellenger

What did they do? Joseph Ponti hired by Georges de Latour at Beaulieu as an apprentice winemaker and vineyard manager. He became General Manager, a post he held for 40 years. Died in 1972.

Where was their farming operation located? Skellenger Lane in Rutherford. The land was purchased in the 1920s.

How was the operation run? Louis Tonella ran it with his partner, Caccioca, who was on the Board of Supervisors when the Ag Preserve was passed in 1968.

Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? How has this changed over the years? Skellenger Lane vineyards are now leased to Sequoia Grove but still have a small family vineyard on Niebaum Lane.

What is your favorite story or memory from your family's history of farming in Napa County? Ray worked for Christian Bros. as manager and grape buyer for years and Louis Tonella went to work for him from 1974 to 1998.

What do you feel Farm Bureau has done to protect and preserve your family's farm over the years? Push to protect and extend the Ag Preserve

What can Farm Bureau do to maintain your family's ability to farm for the next 100 years? To maintain the Ag Preserve and advocate for not splitting properties

What would you like to do to help the future of farming? What measures and methods would you like to see implemented to assist in that future? Keep the Ag Preserve and similar laws while carefully encouraging government/private partnerships (though it does not apply so much in Napa Co. the Williamson Act is an example). Ray now serves on a committee/board at UC Davis that guides researchers and studies vineyard pests and disease all over the US.

Jack Varozza, St. Helena, California

When did your family first arrive in Napa County? 1870 - Vincenzo "James" Varozza came to SF. Married Giovanna "Jennie" Dodini in 1877 who came to the US in 1874. They moved to St. Helena from Napa in 1879.

From where did they emigrate? (James Varozza) Mergoscia, Switzerland and (Jennie Varozza) Cugnasco, Switzerland

Who were those first family members? James and Jenny' children - Emile, Joseph, Elva - Joseph married Mary Maggetti in 1905 and had three children. She passed during the flu epidemic. He married his second wife Mary Rossini in 1920 and had four more children. Charles, June, Alice and Harold.

What did they do? (Great Grandfather) James worked for Spring Mt Winery, was also the last foreman at the Bale Grist Mill, leased Summit Vineyard on Spring Mt., bought lot 8/1882 and built home on Spring St., then on Spring Mt and then moved to home and vineyard on Hudson Street (now Pratt Avenue). (Grandfather) Joseph owned 600 acres up on Spring Mt. and planted vineyard (now Langtree Rd) 1907 to 1913, owned a Blacksmith Shop in St. Helena next to the post office, sold the Spring Mt. property and bought vineyard and winery from Emile Zange on Pratt Avenue in 1913. Joseph made wine and farmed the vineyard until his death in 1946.

Where was their farming operation located? Bell Canyon, Spring Mountain, and Pratt Avenue in St. Helena

Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? How has this changed over the years? Varozza family has farmed this vineyard continuously for 100 years. Jack is third generation here on the ranch and fourth generation St. Helena. The family has gone from no electricity and using horses to modern day farming equipment. The vineyard rows were 7 x 7 to accommodate the horses. The ranch was planted as a field blend. The original winery equipment was all wood and canvas hoses with hand pumps, cooling was done at night by opening doors and windows, and closing them early in the morning. Sanitation was done with Lye. The fruit was all picked by hand into lug boxes and transported to the second floor of the winery via horse and wagon and the use of a dirt ramp. Wine was stored in casks and barrels in the downstairs portion of the winery and nine thousand gallon redwood tanks upstairs in the winery.

What is your favorite story or memory from your family's history of farming in Napa County? Hearing the stories about Harold watching his dad, Joseph, Jack's grandfather, going back and forth in the vineyards behind the horse and plow. Harold was supposed to be watching the wine tanks and fell asleep. He woke to the hollering and stomping of Joseph coming up the stairs and wine running all over the floor. He jumped out the second story door into the wagon load of pumice and ran to hide until Joseph cooled off. Jack's favorite memories are in the spring and his Dad taking off on the old international td6 tractor from behind the garage pulling the disc to cut the first green grass of the season.

What can Farm Bureau do to maintain your family's ability to farm for the next 100 years? Help keep taxes reasonable. Everyone thinks if you own a vineyard you are rolling in cash but just the opposite is true. Labor is spiraling out of control; prices have gone up and quality gone down. Make keeping vineyard in the family possible. Between the government and siblings it is almost impossible to keep a family vineyard intact.

Wagner Family, Rutherford, California

When did your family first arrive in Napa County?

1857 Stice Family via wagon train from Bible Grove, MO

1883 Glos Family from San Francisco, CA

1906 Wagner Family from San Francisco, CA

From where did they emigrate? Stice Family: Arrived in Pennsylvania in 1754 from Lorraine. Then moved to North Carolina, Kentucky, Missouri, then Napa in 1857. Glos Family: Johannes, the emigrant we refer to as Charles John Glos, was born in Klingenuenster, Rheinpfalz, Germany and arrived in New York in 1874, then San Francisco around 1876 where he met and married fellow Rheinpfalz emigrant Anna Maria Breitsch. Moved to Napa in 1883. Wagner Family: Charles Wagner, Sr. originally from

Westhoffen, Alsace; Arrived in Nebraska in 1885, then moved to San Francisco in 1890, where he married Katharina Delbrugge from Bremen, Germany. Moved to Napa in 1906 after the earthquake. *Who were those first family members?* Moses Stice born about 1804; Bluford Stice born about 1825; Charles John Glos born 1858; Charles Wagner, Sr. born 1865

What did they do? Farmers. Stice/Glos/Wagner families farmed cereal, vegetables, grapes, prunes, walnuts, and made wine.

Where was their farming operation located? Stice: Stice Lane near St. Helena; Yountville, Oak Knoll District; Glos: Howell Mountain; Glos Lane near Rutherford; Wagner: Rutherford Road and Conn Creek Road

How was the operation run? Family business.

Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? How has this changed over the years? Yes. The most significant change is regulation. Also a person's land used to be personally owned with all the inherent responsibilities. This has changed to joint ownership between the land owner and the people.

What is your favorite story or memory from your family's history of farming in Napa County? Farming Potatoes on Wagner Ranch (now Honig) in Rutherford.

What do you feel Farm Bureau has done to protect and preserve your family's farm over the years? Nothing that I am aware of.

What can Farm Bureau do to maintain your family's ability to farm for the next 100 years? These are areas where we need help: Lobby for right to farm and farmers individual right to use water for irrigation of crops; work to reduce the power of the government entities: county planners, state level bureaucracies working in environmental, CDFG, etc.; help find a supply of labor for farmers; work to keep agriculture from moving elsewhere due to the above.

What would you like to do to help the future of farming? What measures and methods would you like to see implemented to assist in that future? Farming is threatened by the people living in the cities, yet their vote affects farming. For example - environmental, flora, fauna, taxation issues. If we could form a farm ballot on issues that are primarily farming related, this would help farming. Otherwise, there is little hope for farmers.

Wolleson Family, Calistoga, California **Interviewed by Norma Tofanelli**

When did your family first arrive in Napa County? Around 1900

From where did they emigrate? Denmark

Who were those first family members? Martin Wolleson, grandfather of Charlie Wolleson, who still owns and operates the Wolleson vineyards.

What did they do? Martin Wolleson arrived on the east coast and moved west. He began ranching in Stockton, California, and then moved on to St. Helena where he leased 19 acres, which he purchased in 1903. He raised his family there - it is the Wolleson home ranch today. The Agricultural Heritage Club, sponsored by California Farm Bureau and the California Chamber of Commerce, has recognized 1903 officially as the first year of operation of the Wolleson Ranch in St. Helena.

Where was their farming operation located? Wolleson's still own and operate the home ranch at the corner of Larkmead Lane and Highway 29, across from Tucker Farm Center. Martin's wife, Nona Wolleson, joined with Lillian Bell Miller and Mrs. Morisoli to found the Tucker Farm Center.

How was the operation run? As was customary at the time, almost everything was done by hand. Horses did the heavy work of plowing and cultivating with Martin walking behind. The family did all the planting, budding and picking. Martin's only son, Milton (Charlie's father), began running the ranch in the 1930's. He bought his first tractor in 1939. Milton leased other properties, also farming prunes. Wolleson's still maintain a half-acre of zinfandel that Martin first budded over 100 years ago. Many valley farmers have used bud wood from those still-productive ancient vines.

Does your family still have an active role in the farming operation? How has this changed over the years? Charlie Wolleson still plays about as active a role as it gets. At 83, he still does all the tractor work himself using the antique tractors from an extensive and famous collection of tractors that he personally restores and maintains. While working the ranch, Charlie also became a mechanic and for years ran Wolleson's Garage in Calistoga. Although he officially "retired" in 2000, he still puts in 60 - 70 hours a

week in the vineyards and working on his tractors. He is also active on the tractor pulling circuit, traveling the western states with his tractors. Grandson Andrew Chadsey often travels with him and, at 11, became one of the youngest pullers around. His daughter, Susan, works with Charlie and maintains the ranch books. They produce Cabernet, which goes to Chateau Montelena, as well as Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc and Zinfandel.

What is your favorite story or memory from your family's history of farming in Napa County? Charlie grew up quick in the world of motor vehicles. At 15, to meet the family's need to deliver the crops they were growing, his father took him down to get his license and then put him in the truck to deliver his first load to Sonoma County. He then began delivering milk for the thriving Tagmagni dairy.

Noteworthy:

The Chavez-Leeds Family, Rutherford, California, ca.1925-Present

The Gosling Family, Angwin, California, 1869-1956

The Muir-Hanna Family, Napa County, California, 1950-Present

Postscript:

Thank you to all the participants and contributors to the NCFB Centennial Farm Family Interviews – our deepest apologies if we inadvertently overlooked or excluded any centennial families from this compilation,

The Napa County Farm Bureau Centennial Committee

*In appreciation and honor of the hard work and loyalty
of the following Napa County farm families,
their descendants, colleagues, and farmers-to-come.
100 years and growing!*

THE ABRUZZINI FAMILY
THE ACQUISTOPACE FAMILY
THE AZEVEDO FAMILY
THE BARBERIS FAMILY
THE BARBOZA FAMILY
THE BARKLEY FAMILY
THE BARNES FAMILY
THE BATTUELLO FAMILY
THE BELL / MILLER / LERNER FAMILY
THE BERINGER FAMILY
THE BORELLI FAMILY
THE BRANDLIN FAMILY
THE BROWN FAMILY
THE BUHMAN FAMILY
THE CHADBOURNE FAMILY
THE CHAIX FAMILY
THE CLARK FAMILY
THE COOKE FAMILY
THE DAL PORTO FAMILY
THE DEL BONDIO FAMILY
THE DIGIULIO~TOFANELLI FAMILY
THE DUNLAP FAMILY
THE FEGUNDES FAMILY
THE FORNI FAMILY
THE FREDIANI FAMILY
THE FULTON~BEARD FAMILY
THE GALLAGHER FAMILY
THE GALLERON FAMILY
THE GARDNER FAMILY
THE GHISLETTA FAMILY
THE GORDON FAMILY
THE GOSLING FAMILY
THE HALÉ FAMILY
THE HARDIN FAMILY
THE HAUG / DECKER FAMILY
THE HAYNE FAMILY

THE HEITZ FAMILY
THE LAIL FAMILY
THE LARSON FAMILY
THE LAURENT FAMILY
THE LINCOLN FAMILY
THE LIVERMORE FAMILY
THE LUVISI FAMILY
THE MCQUEENEY FAMILY
THE MUIR~HANNA FAMILY
THE GIOVANNONI FAMILY
THE MILLER HERRICK FAMILY
THE MOLINARI FAMILY
THE MOSKOWITE FAMILY
THE MUELLER FAMILY
THE NICHELINI FAMILY
THE PAGE FAMILY
THE PERATA FAMILY
THE PESTONI FAMILY
THE PINA~STICE FAMILY
THE POCAI~BALLENTINE FAMILY
THE PRIDMORE FAMILY
THE RAYMOND FAMILY
THE REGUSCI FAMILY
THE RODGERS / SIQUERA FAMILY
THE SAMUELS FAMILY
THE STEWART FAMILY
THE TAMAGNI FAMILY
THE TIEDEMAN FAMILY
THE TONELLA FAMILY
THE VALLERGA FAMILY
THE VAROZZA FAMILY
THE WAGNER FAMILY
THE WHITE FAMILY
THE LEWELLING / WIGHT FAMILY
THE WOLLESON FAMILY
THE WURZ FAMILY