

**The Meffords of Capay:** Claire Mefford Mabry [whose husband Bill Mabry played fiddle for years with *Asleep at the Wheel* the Texas swing band—often locally, much to our delight!] contacted me recently and let me know her grandparents were great friends of my great-grandparents Wyatt Godfrey and Mary Duncan of Capay and Hungry Hollow from the 1870s. Claire’s father Clarence was best buddies with their son, my great uncle Wyatt Godfrey, jr., as well. She sent me a great photo of the *Townspeople of Capay* [also seen in Ada Merhoff’s book: *Capay Valley, The Land & The People, 1846-1900*] picnicking on the Duncan Ranch in about 1900 with our ancestors circled in ink for me—what a delight! She tells us some of her family history in Capay Valley, here:

*“My grandparents came to Capay in 1877 from Elmira, Solano Co. They had eight children; three were born in Elmira and the other five in Capay. Their names were: George, John, Henry, Mary, Deina, Franklin, Stella and my father Clarence. My grandfather built a small house on what is now Mefford Lane in Capay. Two retired professors from the University of California bought the house around twenty years ago and had the name changed. My grandmother was forty-five when Dad was born. He said his mother always told him she was Stonewall Jackson’s cousin, so I checked it out on the computer and sure enough she was. Her grandmother and Stonewall’s father were brother and sister. She had died in the flu epidemic in 1913 and I had never even seen a picture of her until I got a copy of “The Jackson Brigade” quarterly. Her picture was on the back cover. Dad’s best friend was Wyatt Duncan, jr, and their mothers were also best friends. I had never heard Wyatt’s mother called anything but “Mother Dunc.” Wyatt had a Stutz Bearcat car and dad said it was very very fast. At the same time he was telling me this he also mentioned a fine moonshine still hidden in the Capay hills. I asked him if there was a connection between the fast car and the still but he just smiled. Since it was prohibition at the time, I always wondered...”*

Enjoy some of the photos she shared, here. She went on to tell more, but you will have to enjoy it on our website [greatercapayvalley.org](http://greatercapayvalley.org) — or buy the Book: **The History and Stories of the Capay Valley**, by Elizabeth “Betsy” Monroe coming out February 2015! See the website for details and order instructions.

