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Contact Us at the
SM Public Library

Member Meetings
Jan-Jun, Sep-Nov
3rd Thursday monthly
2-4pm
if no coronavirus.
Preceded at 12:45pm
by the Board Meeting
Family History Center
908 Sierra Madre
Santa Maria

NEXT MEETING
To Be Determined
Family History Center

Presentation: To Be Determined

Next Board Meeting
To Be Determined
Family History Center

Library Docent
By appointment

APRIL MEETING CANCELLED

President's Message April 2020



Dear SMVGS Members and Friends,

What a month it has been! Many are at home and love the simpler, quieter life. Some are at home and worried about the future of their employment. Family and friends may be keeping in touch by way of video-conferencing or by accidentally running into them at the grocery store. A few of you may be working from home. All of these new and unusual circumstances because of the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 have

been unsettling. It won't shock you, then, that we're not meeting this week on Thursday.

We're wondering when life will get back to normal. We're missing some of our friends, grandchildren, and foods. Are you spending more time reading, researching your ancestors, watching TV or YouTube? Maybe you've taken up gardening? Perhaps you're trying out new recipes, if you can find all of the ingredients at the store.

Well, it has been odd to not have our monthly meeting for two months in a row, now. Even though each summer we take a two-month break, I'm definitely missing my Society friends and get together. Let's hope that the virus fizzles out soon and that those who are ill will make a strong recovery.

Thanks to Stephanie Bishop, our new Vice President, we have some genealogical resources on the internet that are offering free access to classes and other activities during the quarantine. She found quite a few and I'll share a few with you today since we won't be meeting this month.

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President's Message

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These are FREE webinars from FamilyTree.com:

https://news.familytree.com/legacy_news/2020/04/free-webinars-each-day-the-entire-month-of-april.html

- April 21 - [Documenting Native American Families in 19th and 20th Century Records](#) by Angela Walton-Raji
- April 22 - [Spreadsheets 101 - Excel-lence in Genealogy](#) by Mary Kircher Roddy
- April 23 - [Polled! Finding your Ancestors in New South Wales Colonial Muster and Census Returns](#) by Carol Baxter
- April 24 - [Ten Brick Wall Tips for Beginners](#) by Marian Pierre-Louis
- April 25 - [Using Snag-It to Annotate a Screenshot](#) by Cari Taplin
- April 26 - [The Five-story Fall: Correlating Indirect and Direct Evidence to Extend the Pedigree](#) by Debra Mieszala
- April 27 - [Organizing Your DNA Results](#) (updated!) by Diahna Southard
- April 28 - [An Introduction to Spanish Surnames](#) by Daniel Smith-Ramos
- April 29 - [Photography for Genealogy](#) by Nicka Smith
- April 30 - [Finding Your 17th Century Ancestors in England](#) by Paul Milner

Also, here's a link to a thorough list from Legacy Family Tree of activities to do that you might have been putting off:

https://news.familytree.com/legacy_news/2020/03/a-genealogical-to-do-list-while-you-keep-your-distance.html

As I said before, if you need something and don't have a friend or family member who can help you, please feel free to contact me. My family and I are doing well and have been very blessed. We'd like to be help others, since we're able.

One more thing, if you have a family history story or tip that you'd like to share, please send it to Mike Farris, so he can add it to our newsletter. Mike does a great job at editing our newsletter each month, but he's often looking for material to fill up the gaps.

I truly hope that you and your family are healthy!

Genie Says...

You think you've got it bad. Have you ever been quarantined to a magic lamp for a month?

Bulletin Board

We'd love to help you research your family or scan your photos!
Santa Maria Family History Center
 908 Sierra Madre Ave., Santa Maria, CA 93454
 805-928-4722
Hours:
 Mon, 10 am - 2 pm; Tue & Wed, 10 am - 2 pm & 7 pm - 9 pm





What I've Been Doing by Your Friendly Editor, Mike

I am sure all of our members have been diligently spending their sudden wealth of excess time researching family history. Actually I have been. I hope you don't mind if I share an experience with you.

My daughter married a Blankenship. The family has been extremely well documented in several books by Gayle King Blankenship. Unfortunately, and as you can see from the figure, if you do not know exactly what you are looking for, books like this can be tedious at best and overall difficult to follow. As many of you know, I do not use the standard Genealogy database tools. I find an Excel spreadsheet to be more to my liking. What I have been doing is converting a 400-page, (I swear) 4-point type font book (again I refer you to the picture), to my format.

Well, after the first one hundred pages or so (literally 11,000 lines in my spreadsheet), I decided that I needed a change. Some of the entrees reference the cemetery where the family member is buried. I thought I would take a break and visit three or four of the cemeteries on findagrave.com; you know, do a little original research. It seemed like fun. Everyone knows (I hope) what a fantastic resource findagrave.com is. So, how do I choose which one? Simple; I take the first grave mentioned in Gayle's book: that would be Jesse Dillon, buried at Dillon Cemetery, Franklin County, Virginia. Jesse had seven children documented in findagrave.com.

Here I am a month later, and I have only gotten through four of his children. The amount of information is incredible. To summarize, I have added 2600 lines to my spreadsheet. In addition, I have gotten 9 birth certificates, 2 marriage licenses, 6 wills, 28 death certificates, 77 obituaries, 488 gravestones, 1 headstone application, 10 draft registration cards, 7 newspaper articles, 96 personal photographs, and at least a billion new leads.

I hope all of you are having as much fun as I am.

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6 Mary F. b. 1857 VA; unmarried 1880, living with mother in Summers Co. WV
 7 William J. b. 1860 Floyd Co. VA m. after 1880, Almeda ____; with mother in 1880 Summers
 8 Nancy S. b. ca 1863 VA
 9 Martha U. b. ca 1866 WV

#10 JOHN WASHINGTON DUNN
 Born: 2-20-1853 (cem. & D. Cert.) Pittsylvania Co. VA (D. Cert.)
 died: 11-28-1928 Petry (Mercer Co.) WV of dropsy (D. Cert., Dept. of Vital Statistics in Charleston, found by Valerie Terry which named John's parents and opened up the ancestors of Pittsylvania Co. VA). John W. was buried in Bolin Cem. on Rt. 18 between Athens & Pettry.
 Married 1) 1-14-1873 Mercer Co. WV, Mary C. Davis
 2) 11-22-1920 Mercer Co. WV, Mrs. Eliza (Hazelwood) White (age 48)
 Land: 1913 Nov 25 Mercer...W. I. & Ida Bee Gautier to James R. Dunn & John W. Dunn for \$775...28 a. on ES of Bent Mtn. & waters of Lick Creek adj. J. C. Sloan, A. E. Pennington, Lizzie Higgenbotham & Lucinda Bird; sold 1919 to A. E. Pennington (DB 92:600, 110:170, 123:351)
 1917 Mercer...James R. Dunn to John W. Dunn for \$300...his interest in 28 a. East End Bent Mtn. (DB 110:170)
 Census: 1870, 1880, 1900 Mercer Co. WV

#11 MARY CLEMENTINE DAVIS
 Born: 2-15-1851 Mercer Co. VA/WV (cem.) See Davis Chapter
 Died: 5-22-1917 (cem.); buried in Bolin Cem., Rt. 18, Mercer Co. WV
 Parents: John Lee & Christenia (Johnston) Davis

Will of John W. Dunn, Jr.

Mercer Co. WV WB 9 p. 187

Know by all men by these presents that I, J. W. Dunn, Jr., make this my last will and testament to my wife Eliza Dunn I hereby bequeath one cow either one she may select, one hog if I have any at my death also the old set of furniture in the sitting room consisting 1 bedstead dresser wash stand and center table, one feather bed and six home made chairs and cook stove, to my eight daughters I hereby give all the remainder of my household goods, to my wife Eliza I give all my chickens, the two enlarged pictures are to be disposed of as the executor may suggest, my book case I give to my son Frank E. Dunn; all my other personal property to be divided equally between my children after my debts and burial expenses are paid. I hereby appoint R. A. Martin as executor of this my last will and testament signed and sealed in our presence and in the presence of each other this April 16, 1927. /s/ J. W. Dunn /w/ A. E. Pennington, G. R. Coburn

Made 4-16-1927, Ret'd 12-8-1928

SURNAME DUNN Children all born Pettry, WV (Mg. Rec.; 1880, 1900 Mercer census; J. Crouse):
 *1 Ida Bee b. 6-18-1875 d. 9-12-1941 m. 6-24-1896, Phillip K. Blankenship. See Blankenship Chapter.
 2 Charles Edgar b. 5-20-1876 d. 3-9-1907 (cem.) or 3-9-1905 killed by a train (D. Reg.), bur. Bolin Cem., Rt. 18; school teacher
 3 Nannie Estaline b. 3-27-1878 d. 7-10-1961, bur. Elgood Cem., m. 8-27/29-1896, Joseph Wallace Thompson (1876-1945), s/o John David & Emma (Deweese) Thompson; lived Elgood then Island Creek. Children (E. Rainey in MCH 417; 1900 Mercer census), surname **THOMPSON**:
 A) Boyd Leslie b. 5-17-1897 d. 5-16-1958, bur. Elgood Cem. m. Genniv Pennington (1901-1983). Children & grandchildren (J. Crouse), surname **THOMPSON**:
 1) Dixie m. Vaughn Moxley. Child, surname **MOXLEY**:
 a- Linda Rae
 2) Billie June
 3) Vance Havery b. 8-25-1920 m. 4-18-1941, Iris V. Ray (1922-). Children, surname **THOMPSON**:
 a- Steven Ray b. 2-21-1942 m. 12-7-1959, Bonnie Taylor. Children, surname **THOMPSON**:
 1- Cheryl Lynn b. 2-17-1963
 2- Michael Steven b. 9-21-1964
 b- David Keith b. 12-9-1943 m. 5-7-1965, Evelyn L. _____. Children, surname **THOMPSON**:
 1- David K. Jr. b. 1-10-1966
 2- Christopher J. b. 6-10-1970
 3- Tara Lee b. 8-9-1971
 c- Joel Richard b. 8-6-1947
 4) Max m. Theresa ____
 5) Joseph Wallace
 6) James David