



SMVGS Newsletter * December 2020

Hello SMVGS Members!

I sure hope the best for each of you, and that you and your families are well. You probably knew this was coming.....Because of the governor's mandate for ten or less people to gather, plus most restaurants are not open for indoor or outdoor dining, we felt the need to cancel our December luncheon. We're not happy about this, but don't want to put anyone at risk (for illness, nor for quarantining). This year has been so hard on businesses and societies such as ours. We miss our associations with all of you and we miss gathering at our amazing Family History Center. Let's hope and pray for relief from this quarantine in the very near future.

Here's some exciting news! The San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society (SLOCGS) has invited us to view their Zoom meetings/programs in 2021. Since they are purchasing an upgraded Zoom account to accommodate more people, they are asking that each person viewing pay a fee. I will get the details on the amount and how the payments would be made, along with their 2021 schedule of programs and speakers. Please let me know if you'd be interested in joining, virtually, with our neighboring society, so that I can send you the information as soon as possible. Their first meeting of the year will be on January 2nd at 10:00 am. Thomas McEntee will be the featured speaker in January. To view the SLOCGS calendar, go to <https://www.slocgs.org/index.html#jan2021>.



Recently, I've started to research the Scottish side of my family. Only two surnames have emerged so far: Miller and Culloden. I decided to sign up (for free) for a website that I heard others have had success with. The site is called Scotland's People ([scotlandsppeople.gov.uk](https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk)). You can watch a video about using their site at: <https://youtu.be/bg5s880RuME>. I did find a few

people with the surname Culloden, but not the one I was looking for. I didn't try the Miller surname yet, since I have very little information about my Robert Miller. Next, I started looking for a friend's grandfather's information. His name, Alexander Ritchie, was very common, so I will have to try filters to cut down the number of matches. It's an easy-to-use site, and when you find a name that matches your criteria, you may view or order a copy of the record by paying for credits and/or vouchers, which cost £0.25 each and are available in batches of 30 (£7.50) or 40 (£10). Give it a go!

Once again, I'd like to put in a plug for RootsTech 2021, aka "RootsTech Connect." It will be completely virtual and FREE! The dates are 25 - 27 Feb 2021. For more information, click on this link: <https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>.

I truly hope to see you IN PERSON in 2021. Have a lovely Christmas!

Sincerely,

Sandy Peterson
SMVGS President



25 - 27 FEBRUARY, 2021

Introducing RootsTech Connect: A Free Online Conference Experience

For the first time ever, the world's largest family celebration event will be entirely virtual and completely free. Get ready to celebrate shared connections with people from around the world. Connect with friends, your family, your past, and your heritage and homelands—all from the comfort of your home and in your browser.