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Contact us at the
SM Public Library

Member Meetings
Jan-May, Sep-Nov
3rd Thursday monthly
2-4pm
ZOOM meeting

March Meeting:
Thursday, March 18, 2:00pm

Program:
RootsTech Connect Highlights
presented by Genealogy Society
Board Members

Next Board Meeting:
1:00pm, Friday, March 12
at Sandy Peterson's home
(or on Zoom for those interested).

Library Docent
By appointment

President's Message March 2021



Hello SMVGS Members & Friends,

At our February virtual meeting, we had eight members attend our Zoom meeting, and it was fun doing something different! We'd like to thank Cindy Ransick from the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society Museum who welcomed me into the museum so I could interview her. There were a couple of technical issues, but overall it went very well. Here's a link to the recorded interview, in case you missed it:

[http://
gofile.me/3BMK6/
qVirWtXMh](http://gofile.me/3BMK6/qVirWtXMh)

Cindy told us about her work at the museum, gave us information about the museum's volunteers, plus a very special project she's been working on. Her project includes working with a few very rare letters from historic people. I enjoyed interviewing her, and there's a possibility that we'll hear from her again in the fall.



I highly recommend that you try out our Zoom link for this month's general meeting on March 18th at 2:00 PM. Three of the SMVGS board members will be giving their highlights from the recent RootsTech Connect Conference. Watch for the Zoom link that will be sent 1-2 days before the meeting. (If you'd like help setting up Zoom, let me know asap.)

A bit of historic information for the month of March from Encyclopedia Britannica:

"**Saint Patrick's Day**, feast day of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 to convert the Irish to Christianity. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him—for example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with



religious services and feasts. Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, 2021."

FYI: RootsTech Connect keynotes and classes will be available for free for the next 11 months at: <https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

Remember to watch for the March General Meeting Zoom link on or about March 16th.

Have a great month!

Sandy Peterson



Recommended Website

I stumbled onto this website

<https://familyhistorydaily.com>

when I saw the first picture below in the Ventura County Genealogy Society Newsletter and was trying to decide whether or not I would be plagiarizing it. I Google'd "genealogy cartoons" and looked at the images that were found...and there it was. After looking over the site fairly carefully, I decided that plagiarism was not going to be an issue, so I became greedy.



Ed. Note:

As some of you know, I spend some, as in "a great deal," of my time at the SMV Historical Society Museum. During a couple of our chats, Cindy and I have discussed the importance of locations. This discussion has segued into the work that I am doing at home. Again, some of you—anyone who reads *Genie* every month—know that I am transcribing a 400-page book on the Blankenship family into an Excel spreadsheet. I have learned a great deal beyond the family from my work. I thought that I would share with all of you some of my new-found wisdom in the form of a short quiz. Turn the page over to read the answers.

Today on newsmax.com, the Governor of West Virginia said that West Virginia is the third oldest state in the United States. Since many of the Blankenship family were from West Virginia, I was started by this disclosure. I also found an entry in the Blankenship book that said (sort of): Joan Blankenship (1695-1768), born in Charleston, WV, USA.

Question 1: was the Governor correct?
Question 2: there is an egregious mistake in the Blankenship book entry; what is it?
Extra Credit: what does egregious mean?

Questions 3: On a different subject: how many of the states in the United States have been a republic?

Question 4: Again from the Blankenship book, Mercer County was in Virginia from 1785 to 1792 and again from 1837 to 1863. Where was it a) from 1792 to 1837 and b) from 1863 to the present?

ANSWERS BELOW

- Q1: no; WV, the 35th state, separated from VA and became a state in 1863 joining the Union in the Civil War.
- Q2: Joan Blankenship was born in neither the US or West Virginia as neither existed in 1695.
- Extra Credit: It was a joke, but it means "outstandingly bad, shocking"
- Q3: Three republics: California, Texas and Vermont.
- Other independencies: Kingdom of Hawaii, Provisional Government of Oregon, Republic of West Florida, Republic of Rio Grande, State of Deseret, Republic of Sonoran, State of Muskogee, Republic of Fredonia, and Indian Stream Republic. (I hope I didn't miss any.)
- Q4: Kentucky
- Q4b: Virginia



Finding the Hidden Clues in First Names: A Starter Guide

As original as a child's first name might seem, it often offers clues into a family's near and, sometimes, very distant past. Given names link generations of family through repetition and can be a powerful tool to push our research to greater depths. To shed an even brighter light on this research opportunity we must understand the influences behind naming traditions.

