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Stephanie Bishop

Committees
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Genie: Mike Farris

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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:
April 15, 2:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Program:
What's New
on FamilySearch

Next Board Meeting:
9:45am, Tuesday, April 13
at Sandy Peterson's home
(or on Zoom for those
interested).

Library Docent
By appointment

President's Message April 2021

Hello SMVGS Members & Friends,

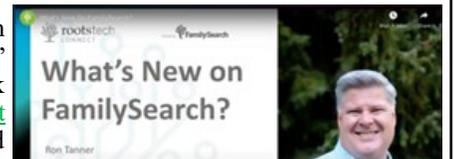
It's springtime, and some places are beginning to open up after a long COVID hibernation. I know that not everyone is yet comfortable with being around others, but hopefully fears will be lessened as the weather warms up. On that note, I want to announce that the Santa Maria Family History Center will be opening soon. FYI: A requirement for the center to open is that all patrons and staff wear a face mask. I will keep you posted on an opening date.



Our March meeting went quite well, but we had very few attendees. So why do I think it went well, then? For one thing, our technology ran without a hitch! Secondly, the content was amazing. Each officer prepared notes for one or two of her recommended RootsTech Connect classes, which we viewed in February. One of Deanna Baker's class choices was titled "I Got Stuck With Grandma's Heirlooms." Several good tips were offered for what to do with these items. A summary of "Documenting Underrepresented Family Stories" was shared by Shirley Brady. Stephanie Bishop discussed two classes pertaining to digitizing photographs plus how to organize them: "Managing Scanned and Digital Photos" and "Unlock the Shoebox, parts 1 & 3." The last recommendation was from me. I thoroughly enjoyed a class that was not really a class as much as it was about discovering resilience and strength in ourselves by learning about our ancestors' life-experiences. It was titled "Finding Resilience with Ancestry and Henry Louis Gates, Jr." The well-known TV host interviewed three famous people and shared with them new discoveries regarding their ancestral lines. It was touching to watch them connect with their long-deceased loved ones through the research. This presentation was sponsored by Ancestry.com. You can view the "handout" at the end of the newsletter. (Watch the partially recorded March general meeting here: <https://gofile.me/3C6i9/WSdN02Bfj>)



Our April Meeting program will be a RootsTech Connect video, "What's New on FamilySearch" by Ron Tanner. Please join us via the Zoom link for this month's general meeting on [April 15th at 2:00 PM](#). Watch for the link that will be emailed 1-2 days before the meeting. (If you'd like help setting up Zoom, let me know asap.)



A question came up at our last board meeting. Would any members like or need a membership card? In the past, those have been mailed to the member upon receipt of their annual membership dues. This is one thing that COVID has changed, at least for now. There are times when you might need to show your SMVGS membership card to receive a discount at another society's seminar, or to use at certain libraries. Let Sandy or Shirley know if you'd like a card for the 2021-2022 year.



President's Message continued:

A new event that you may want to add to your calendar is for the San Luis Obispo County Genealogy Society. They meet five times per year, and their next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 1st, 2021, at 10:00am. Midge Buchert and I have been asked to present information about her Italian-Swiss research project, plus give an update on what's happened since her video interview in February 2020. Many of you attended the presentation that we conducted at the Santa Maria Public Library and then again at the Santa Maria Family History Center. There are some exciting updates, so we hope you'll "tune-in" via Zoom. As soon as Susan Cox, SLOGGS's program chair, sends me the link, I will pass it on to you.

Remember to watch for the April General Meeting Zoom link on or about April 13th.

Have a great month!

Sandy Peterson
SMVGS President
On.line@gte.net

rootstech CONNECT Recommendations

RootsTech.org → Sign In* → Sessions → Search by Title, Speaker, or Topic

- **Deanna Baker**
"I Got Stuck with Gramma's Heirlooms" by Laura Best Smith
"The Value of Family History If You Don't Have Someone to Pass It Along To" by Elizabeth Stitt
- **Shirley Brady**
"Documenting Underrepresented Family Stories" by Larissa Lam & Baldwin Chiu
- **Stephanie Bishop**
"Managing Scanned and Digital Photos" by Jenny Joyce
"Unlock the Shoebox, Parts 1 (Digitizing) & 3 (Organizing) Your Family Photos" by Maureen Taylor, Christopher Desmond, & Nancy Desmond
- **Sandy Peterson**
"Finding Resilience" with Ancestry and Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Many classes have downloadable handouts at the bottom of the class page.

ed. note:

I finally finished transcribing the Blankenship book, all 400 pages, into an Excel workbook. It took over a year, but now I am working on an Eggleston book... "No rest for the genealogist," as Genie likes to say. I have found several quotes that I thought I would pass on to you with the hopes that you will find them as interesting as I have.

"The voyage across the Atlantic was uncomfortable and long, but the pilgrims had good English ale to keep the scurvy away..."

"The Indians taught the settlers how to make the soil fertile by burying dead fish and then planting three or four seeds of maize and a few beans in holes made with crude sticks. The beans could then twine up the sturdy corn stalks and the family would have two kinds of nourishment from the soil."

"Meadows for the animals were held in common. Even today there are many place names which have the word 'common' appended to another name. There is a beauty spot in North Yorkshire called Eggleston Common."

"Hot coals would be put into the oven until it was very hot. Then the coals would be scraped out leaving bits of ash behind. The risen dough would then be put in and, when baked, only the 'upper crust' would be fit for the family and the servants got the lower crust along with the ashes."

"Below the gentry in status, though not necessarily in wealth, stood the class of...yeomen...Yeoman...came between gentlemen and mere husbandmen: legally, the term suggests ownership of a freehold worth 40 shillings or more a year. It was, in fact, an economic status, not a legal one. If a line between them and the husbandmen can be drawn, it may be about 100 acres: dietetically, they were distinguished by the composition of their bread, the yeomen having good 'yeoman bread' of wheat, the husbandmen eating a mixture of whatever grains were available."

People "would have taken their meals in the kitchen whether it was a part of the house or a separate building. There would have been a long table which they called a 'board'. Along either side of the board would be long benches and at the top of the board the only chair where the father sat. He was the chair-man of the board and that is where that phrase came from."

In English law from the 13th Century until 1692, a testator (one leaving a will) "was required to effect a tripartite division of his goods: one third must constitute the widow's portion, one third went to the children and only the third of the deceased could be disposed of freely."

"...it was the custom in many parts of England to leave the property to the youngest, not the eldest, son... This custom of leaving to the youngest was called Borough English." Many years after leaving England for America, Bygod Eggleston continued the practice of Borough English when he left his property to his youngest son, Benjamin. The term today is "ultimogeniture," as opposed to "primogeniture."