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Contact Us at the
SM Public Library

Member Meetings
Jan-Jun, Sep-Nov
3rd Thursday monthly
2-4pm
Family History Center
908 Sierra Madre,
Santa Maria

NEXT MEETING
2-4pm April 19
Family History Center

Next Board Meeting
April. 12, 2018, 2:00pm
FHC

Library Docent
By appointment

Greetings from Deanna Baker President of the SMVGS

So at our last General Meeting, on Feb 15th, we discussed brick walls (everyone has at least one, if not many). Those are the areas of our research that we just can't seem to find information on an ancestor or a missing relative in our family tree. A few members shared their brick walls and others offered helpful suggestions where they might search.

Assuming you've reviewed all available records in your home and questioned your living relatives, especially those older, your search begins.

The "experts" tell us the first step to find missing information is we have to become familiar with the locality where our ancestors lived. Let's face it, those who help us can't begin to know what is available for every area and for the time period in which your ancestor lived. So, that brings us to the second step: establish a timeline on each ancestor. Then we have to look for gaps in time and place. This may mean not only looking at your elusive ancestor but also the spouse, children, parents, and siblings.

Then you need to turn to the BIG FOUR: FamilySearch, Ancestry, MyHeritage, and FindMyPast. If you're not familiar on FamilySearch.org with the Wiki, Books, Catalog, or Collections found under the Search tab, you are missing out on some possible records identified there.

Ancestry.org also has a Search tab where you can search the collections in their Card Catalog. They say the hints and record suggestions on a regular search only represent 10% of the websites most popular database. So, under their drop down tabs, the one marked Extras has a section titled Ancestry Academy that provides many mini-classes such as "How to Use the Card Catalog."

MyHeritage.com also has a research tab with its latest feature called Super Search. It also provides more records than previously.

And finally Findmypast.com also has a Search tab with A-Z record sets that can help broaden your search.

That is just a beginning to go around, break through, or go over your brick wall. And the latest I heard was "dig deep," you may have to dig under that brick wall. Call me an optimist, but I believe the information is out there, we just have to find it.

Deanna
Ph 714-4258





From Our Secretary

The San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society program for May 5, 2018, will feature Linda Serna. Linda has been researching and writing family stories for over 35 years. She worked on the first season of the PBS Genealogy Roadshow program and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Genealogical Speakers Guild and several ethnic genealogy societies. Linda loves history, writing and traveling. She especially likes seeing how individual family stories fit in, and make up, the fabric of history. She will present two topics at the meeting: "From Tales to Docs to Stories" and "When the DNA Doesn't Match the Paper Trail." The SLOGCS meetings are held on the odd numbered months at the SLO Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Hall at 520 Dana St, SLO, from 12:00 to 3:00.

Announcements

Next General meeting is April 19th. Barron Smith will present a program about the Civil War, title "The Great American War Between the Haves and Have Nots."

From the Editor

As you probably remember, I did a survey at the last meeting. The point of the survey was to see what kind of experiences our members have been having with DNA testing. We had a fantastic response, almost everyone gave me something. I had planned to include a couple of these in each of the next few issues of Genie, but there has been so much to put into this issue that I feel I need to wait until the May issue of Genie before I start with this. I apologize, but I will start this next month.

—Mike

More From our Secretary

Joshua Taylor will be the featured speaker at the Saturday, April 14 meeting of the Santa Barbara Genealogical Society. (You've probably seen Joshua on Genealogy Roadshow.) Use the link below and scroll down to the bottom of the page for more information and the registration form.

<https://sbgen.org/eventListings.php?nm=216>

Genie Says



Theodore Roosevelt was the 5th cousin of Franklin Roosevelt and the uncle of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Site of the Month

Last month our "Site of the Month" was

<http://www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>

This is not intended to be our site for this month, but it came up at the meeting so I wanted add it as another good newspaper site:

<http://www.newspaperabstracts.com>

This month's "Site of the Month" once again comes from our past president, Sandy:

thefhguide.com

This site is full of good information. It's free and mostly a "how to" website for FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com, and FindMyPast.com. The "lessons" have quizzes at the end, plus there is a tracker to help you keep track of your progress.



Cite of the Month

"I looked up my family tree and found out I was the sap."

— Rodney Dangerfield



Joshua Taylor

in Santa Barbara

For more than 20 years Joshua Taylor has been discovering – and sharing – the incredible connections that can be made through genealogy and family history.

As host of the popular series Genealogy Roadshow (PBS) he crisscrosses the United States – solving longstanding family history mysteries and uncovering genealogical treasures at every turn.

Since February 2016, Joshua has been the President of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B), America's second oldest genealogical organization, headquartered in New York City.

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, April 14, 2018

Spring Seminar 2018

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Location: First Presbyterian Church, State and Constance

Look for More Information and Registration Details in January 2018

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society