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Call: 805-922-3130  
SMV Historical Museum

Member Meetings  
Jan-Jun, Sep-Nov  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday monthly  
2-4pm  
Family History Center

**NEXT MEETING**  
**11:30am January 18**  
**Family History Center**

Next Board Meeting  
Jan 10, 2018, 1:00pm  
FHC

Library Docent  
By appointment

## A Message from Our President

I'm writing this in December, and it makes me think of gift-giving. I love finding an old family photo, scanning it, perhaps touching it up a bit, then printing and framing it to give to an unsuspecting relative for Christmas! Recently, I printed a 24"x32" canvas print at Costco to hang on the wall at the Family History Center. It is a sepia-toned beauty that captured my young grandfather, David Kolasinski, his sister, Paulina, and brother, Charles. We think it was taken in about 1915, possibly in Pennsylvania, New York or New Jersey. It looks as if the suits my grandfather and his brother are wearing may have been borrowed, with sleeves tucked up to fit. I love the clear details of their faces. This is one of my favorite family heirlooms, gifted to me from my dad's first cousin, Hank in Wyoming, to me.



One aspect of the photo that I love, and don't love at the same time, is the hand-written notes that were added to identify these two sons and one daughter. Added to the front, and on top of the photo, are arrows that distinctly link a name to each standing figure. I actually am grateful for the "damage" that was done to the photo because it preserved a part of my family history that may have been forgotten. You see, Paulina, died in a fire shortly after this photo was taken. She was only 16. I don't believe there are other photos of her sweet face. Some details about the fire are written on the back of this photo.

Going back to the thought of gift-giving, wouldn't preserving your family heirlooms be a prudent gift to give yourself and your posterity? By scanning them and uploading them to "the cloud" or on an easily accessible hard-drive or flash-drive that can be taken with you in an emergency, you'd do just that. With the recent, devastating fires that are still blazing, take the time while we are safe to make a plan to preserve, and to actually digitally store, them. I would suggest, if you have oodles of family photos, choose at least one photo per ancestor to save as a digital file. That might seem like a more viable project.

Of course, photos are not the top priority in a fire, but I've heard people say that, after a tragedy such as losing a home to fire, the owners wish they could have saved a few of their family photos. Sadly, some of the ashes scattered on our yards and cars on the Central Coast are the ashes of many homes and family heirlooms. Let's be grateful for what we have, and let's be proactive in saving some family history for the future. That way, we can remember the "Paulina" in our families.

Best wishes for your New Year,

Sandy Peterson



# GENIE



Vol 0 Iss 03

Newsletter of the Santa Maria Valley Genealogy Society

December 2017

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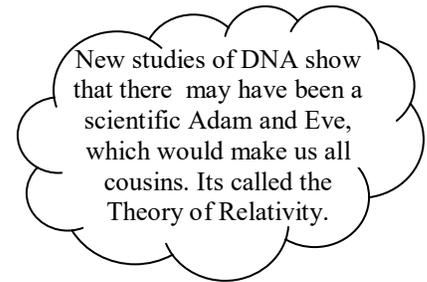
## A Message from Our Editor

The newsletter’s design and content are a work in progress. Last month I tried a cartoon, but I wasn’t really happy with it. As you can see to the right, I am experimenting with “Genie Says” instead. I have to admit, I am into word-play. I have always thought that that English is a marvelous tool; people should consider using it to communicate.

I am still looking for regular contributors and someone to answer the myriad of questions I expect Genie to be getting some day. I am also looking for genealogy web sites that you think everyone should know about.

—Mike Farris, editor

## Genie Says



New studies of DNA show that there may have been a scientific Adam and Eve, which would make us all cousins. Its called the Theory of Relativity.



## Tip of the Month: Standardize

As you collect material, you have to store it and retrieve it. This comes down to giving pictures, obituaries, biographies, and a million other things a title that can be related back to the specific person.

Typically everyone in a family tree is given an identifying number. All of the family tree tools do it. I use MS Excel for my family trees and assign an identifying number to each person. For example, let’s say that Maurice is the third child of the fourth child of the patriarch of the Foxen family, William Benjamin Foxen, and is identified as 1.4.3.

I have a photograph, a marriage license, and a death certificate for him. I scan them, but the scanner assigns an arbitrary and meaningless filename to each scan. I have a directory for each of these items: photographs, marriage licenses, and death certificates. There are thousands of names in the Foxen family tree. In fact, I have a separate worksheet for Foxen, Cota, Osuna, etc. I might get away with naming a marriage license “Maurice Foxen,” but what about William Foxen? There could be 30 William Foxens. I need a standard that will identify exactly whose marriage license this is. And the standard needs to support other things as well: hardcopies, artifacts, web site references. The list is endless. My standard is to use the person’s identifying number, together with his name and worksheet (as a sanity check) for everything. So the scan of my Foxen relative’s marriage license is “Foxen,Maurice(foxen 1-4-3).jpg”. And his death certificate, big surprise, is “Foxen,Maurice(foxen 1-4-3).jpg”. And his photograph is “Foxen,Maurice(foxen 1-4-3).jpg”. Of course, the items are identified by location: marriage license in the marriage license directory, etc. If there is more than one of an item, I add a suffix: “Foxen,Maurice(foxen 1-4-3)-2.jpg”.

That’s my naming standard, and its pretty simple to use. Besides the computer, it works on file folders, artifact tags, anything.

Bandini,Juan(ortega 1-1-3-7-6).jpg

Ontiveros,Juan(cota 1-3-6-1 osuna 1-1-1).jpg

Patterson,John(foxen 1-8-7).jpg

## Site of the Month

The Janaway Genealogy Bookstore, <http://www.janawaygenealogy.com/>, was the publisher of our book, “California Central Coast Pioneer Families.” The site features, according to its own headline, over 20,000 genealogy books. Jim Skidmore, the owner of the company, was a policeman in Santa Maria for a number of years. The company is located in Santa Maria. They have published various books for the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society including “This is Our Valley” and “The Purple Cow.” This is a great site to start with if you are interested in finding books about genealogy or if you are thinking of publishing a book about your own family history. I found four pages like this when I clicked “Census Records.”

<a href="#">J-</a>	Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Virginia	\$28.95
<a href="#">VA001</a>		
<a href="#">9786-C</a>	Irish Found in South Carolina 1850 Census	\$27.00
<a href="#">151-C</a>	Louisiana Census Records. Volume I: Avoyelles and St. Landry Parishes, 1810 and 1820	\$19.50
<a href="#">152-C</a>	Louisiana Census Records. Volume II: Iberville, Natchitoches, Pointe Coupee, and Rapides Parishes, 1	\$30.00
<a href="#">3275-G</a>	State Census Records	\$18.95
<a href="#">5786-G</a>	Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920	\$65.00
<a href="#">100-C</a>	Surnames in the United States Census of 1790	\$31.50
<a href="#">1790-C</a>	Index to the 1820 Census of Virginia	\$39.95
<a href="#">1797-C</a>	Index to the 1800 Census of Pennsylvania	\$45.00
<a href="#">2345-C</a>	American Population Before the Federal Census of 1790	\$25.00
<a href="#">3640-C</a>	1800 Census of Delaware	\$24.50

## Cite of the Month

Some family trees have beautiful leaves, and some have just a bunch of nuts. Remember, it is the nuts that make the tree worth shaking. – Unknown