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Committees
Website: Dan Ardoin
Newsletter: Mike Farris

Website
www.smvgs.org

eMail
Roots@smvgs.org

Contact Us at the
SM Public Library

Member Meetings
Jan-Jun, Sep-Nov
3rd Thursday monthly
2-4pm
Preceded at 1pm
by the Board Meeting
Family History Center
908 Sierra Madre,
Santa Maria

NEXT MEETING
2:00pm Apr. 18, 2019
Family History Center

Next Board Meeting
Apr. 18, 2019, 1:00pm
Family History Center

Library Docent
By appointment

President's Message April 2019

Using Indexes 101



If you don't find what you are looking for at first, perhaps you need to review some pointers.

- Remember an index is a list of names or topics in alphabetical order. So, consider all alternate spellings, i.e., Gardner, Gardiner, Gardener, etc.
- Names could be split, i.e., look for DeWitt in the Ds and the Ws, O'Mally in the Os and the Ms.
- Double check what you put in the search box (right names in right boxes?). Some names could be transposed, i.e., James Thomas or Thomas James.
- The Mc and Mac names can be at the front or the end of the "M" section.
- The person may be in the record under a different last name (step-father, new husband, etc.).
- Use wildcards to expand your searches.
- Is the index complete, or is it "in-process"? Sometimes addendums can be added after the initial index was published.
- Do you know how the original records were organized and preserved?
- If you feel certain a person should be in the record, but is not in the index, you may have to do a manual search.
- If the person has an unusual first name, you may want to search by the one name only.
- Sometimes only important persons are included in the index.
- If a record is covering several years, there may be a new index for each year.
- A monthly periodical may have an index for each month or just one at the end of the year.
- In handwritten records, the letters may be difficult to distinguish when transcribed, i.e., F and T, S and L.

Per Genealogy.com:

Remember courthouse indexes were created before computers, electronic databases, and digitization of records. As a result, those indexes may be different from more modern ones that a person is used to. A few things worth remembering when using courthouse indexes to records:

- Indexes to courthouse records are not always strictly alphabetical. Sometimes they are indexed by only the first letter of the last name, i.e., all of the names starting with C are together but not necessarily alphabetical.
- Not every party in a lawsuit appears in the defendant or plaintiff index.
- Not every grantor or grantee on a deed will appear in the index.
- Some records, such as land records, may have two indexes: one for buyer (grantee), one for seller (grantor)
- Indexes are not every name indexes.
- Indexes can be incorrect or missing.
- Courthouses may have indexes to records that were not filmed by the Family History Library.

Remember to cite your source; for example, if the index covers marriage records, you will need to cite the location of the record you are interested in: book number, page number, certificate number, and date of the event. And, if you are scanning a book, remember to scan the title page, publisher information and date published. Lastly, Control+F, or Command+F on a Mac, is the keyboard shortcut for the Find command to **search a text**. This will bring up a **search** box that may allow you to **locate** the surname you are searching for. Good luck with your continued search.

Deanna Baker



Bulletin Board

The Bulletin Board contains announcements, help requests, family names that you are researching and odds-and-ends that anyone wants to submit. There are no hard-and-fast rules: if you have something you want everyone to know about, post it on the Bulletin Board.

We'd love to help you research your family history or scan your photos!

Santa Maria Family History Center

908 Sierra Madre Ave.
Santa Maria, CA 93454
805-928-4722

Hours:

Mon, 10 am - 2 pm
Tue & Wed, 10 am - 2 pm & 7 pm - 9 pm

Genie Says

When my last owner demanded that I give him his family tree, I put a giant sequoia in his front yard because he rubbed me the wrong way.



Mary Alice Dell writes a genealogy piece for the Hill Country Weekly in Boerne, Texas. This month is the first of a three-part article she wrote. The May and June Genie will have the second and third parts.

Family Historian Sept 2018
Mary Alice Dell

Don't Ignore the Collaterals

Who are the collaterals? Basically they are your relatives who were other than direct line. Knowing who the siblings, aunts, uncles, and cousins were often solves problems when we hit that brick wall in tracing our ancestors back in time. We often are so anxious to find each new generation of grandparents and the greats that we fail to get all the information about each generation.

For example, do you have the names and vital information of all your four grandparent's siblings? How about those of your eight great grandparents? If not, you have not done a thorough job of building your family tree. That is about the generation level that many of us begin having trouble discovering the earlier ancestors.

How do you find this sibling information? Basically the same way you followed your direct line, by using census, birth, marriage, and death records. Unlike current generations where adult children leave home and scatter over many states, siblings and other family members in the past tended to move in groups to new communities.

There was also a lot of chain migration. One or two sons or daughters would move to a new area and later would be joined by other family members. Often senior members of the family would ultimately join the adventurers. If you can't find the death record of an ancestor in a place where he lived most of his life, look for his children in their new locations. Mom and Dad often moved in their senior years to be with family. This is particularly true when one of the seniors passed away. If you find a death record for a senior family member, but can't find the grave, he or she may have been returned to their former home for burial beside their spouse.

(part 2 in May)

Cite of the Month

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present."
— **Bill Keane**

Site of the Month

Interested in books with a genealogy twist?

Julie's Genealogy & History Hub

"There are so many books out there with a genealogical and/or historical twist that genealogists and mystery-lovers can enjoy, I decided to create a page to keep track of the books I have come across."

<http://genealogy.julietarr.com/blog/genealogical-fiction/>



April Santa Maria Family History Center Activities

These are the activities and classes we have planned for April. We hope to see you soon!

Please RSVP by email for the classes that you plan to attend. RSVPs a few days ahead of time are ideal. This will help our staff with planning and preparation.

Wed, 10 Apr, 9:00-10:00am, "Understanding Censuses," St George Family Discovery Center webcast, James Orman.

Thu, 11 Apr, 12:00pm-1:30pm, "Ancestry.com Website - Part 1", St George Family Discovery Center webcast, Sheryl Sullivan.

Thu, 11 Apr, 2:00pm-3:00pm, "The Knowles Collection-Connecting Jewish Families," BYU Family History Library webinar*, Todd Knowles.

Sat, 13 Apr, 10:00am-11:15am, "Using FamilySearch.org," Sandy Peterson.

Sat, 13 Apr, 1:00pm-2:30pm, "Sharing Family History Through Books, Stories & Charts," Los Angeles FS Library webcast. PLEASE CALL 805-478-2328 ON FRIDAY TO CONFIRM THAT THIS WEBINAR WILL BE SHOWN.

Tue, 16 Apr, 7:00pm-8:15pm, "Adding Memories to FamilyTree," Sandy Peterson.

Thu, 18 Apr, 12:00pm-1:30pm, "Ancestry.com Website - Part 2", St George Family Discovery Center webcast, Sheryl Sullivan.

Thu, 18 Apr, 2:00pm-4:00pm, "Review of RootsTech 2019," SM Valley Genealogical Society General Meeting, open to the public. All are invited; there is no cost.

Sun, 21 Apr, FHC closed, HAVE A BLESSED EASTER!

Wed, 24 Apr, 9:00am-10:00am, "Geneanet (a FamilySearch Partner,)" St George FDC webcast, James Orman.

RSVP info: Please email ca_santamaria@ldsmail.net to reserve your seat for each class. Another option is to contact 805-478-2328, though, sending an email is best.

FYI: BYU FHL webinars may be viewed from home. Live webinars can be found at: <https://sites.lib.byu.edu/familyhistory/> (Click webinar schedule.) Search past webinar titles at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7hqNOQt-2AfeVEpDuc7sCA> Also, some RootsTech classes from Feb 2019 in SLC were recorded and can be watched at home. Go to <https://www.rootstech.org/>.

Reserve your seat for the up-coming Two-Day Course webcasts from Los Angeles Family Search Center: Intermediate Courses, 21 & 22 May, 8:30am - 4:30PM, and Advanced Courses, 18 & 19 June, 8:30am - 4:30pm. Please reserve your seat in advance. These classes are free and open to the public. Helpful (optional) handouts can be purchased on a flash drive for \$5.00.



Would you like to learn how to SCAN YOUR ANCESTOR PHOTOS so you can add them to FamilySearch.org? Call to make an appointment at the FHC, 805-478-2328, or email ca_santamaria@ldsmail.net.

FREE Family History Webinars

Genealogy Education Where You Are

Coming in 2019 ... to YOUR computer! Free!

What is a webinar?

An online seminar/class that you watch from your computer. You can also type your questions for the presenter to answer during the live presentation.

What do I need?

Internet connection and speakers.

What is the cost?

There is no charge to register and view the live webinar. If you cannot make the live event, downloads of the recording are just \$9.95 each or yearly memberships give you access to everything.

April 2019

- **One Touch Genealogy Research: How to Handle a Record Just Once** by Thomas MacEntee. 4/2
- **An Introduction to DNA Painter** by Jonny Perl. 4/3
- **Plain Folk – Researching Amish and Mennonite Families** by Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG. 4/10
- **Transcribing Documents: There is More Than Meets the Eye!** by LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, JD, LLM, CG. 4/16
- **Boost Your Germanic Research: Understand Historical Jurisdictions** by Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CG. 4/17
- **Comparing the Genealogy Giants: Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast and MyHeritage – 2019 edition** by Sunny Morton. 4/24
- **How I Built My Own Brick Wall** by Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG, CGL. 4/26
- **English Parish Records: More than Hatch, Match and Dispatch** by Helen Smith. 4/30

May 2019

- **How to Use Autosomal DNA to Resolve Historical Paternity Cases** by Ugo A. Perego, PhD, MSc. 5/1
- **Surprise Webinar** by....5/8
- **The 10 Most Useful Databases for Eastern European Research** by Lisa Alzo. 5/15
- **Valid and Unsound Assumptions: What Was She Thinking?** by Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, CG. 5/21
- **Google Drive: an Office in the Cloud** by DearMYRTLE and Russ Worthington. 5/22
- **Compiling a Military Service Record** by Craig R. Scott, MA, CG, FUGA. 5/24
- **Tools for Translating and Transcribing Genealogy Records** by Thomas MacEntee. 5/29