



- President**  
Sandy Peterson
- Vice President**  
Stephanie Bishop
- Secretary**  
Deanna Baker
- Treasurer/Membership**  
Shirley Brady
- Publicity**  
Marilyn Riesbol  
Deanna Baker
- Program Director**  
Stephanie Bishop
- Committees**  
**Website:** Bryce Peterson  
**Genie:** Mike Farris

**Website:** [www.smvgs.org](http://www.smvgs.org)  
**eMail:** [ca\\_santamaria@familyhistorymail.org](mailto:ca_santamaria@familyhistorymail.org)

Contact us at the  
SM Public Library

**Regular Member Meetings:**  
 Jan-May, Sep-Nov  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday monthly  
 2-4pm

**Next Meeting:**  
 July 8, 2021  
 Maramonte Park  
 620 Sunrise Dr., Santa Maria

**Program:** bring your lunch and  
 and share a short genealogy  
 experience.

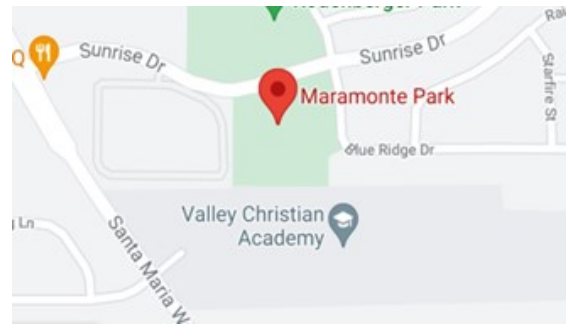
**Next Board Meeting:**  
 10:00am, August 20, 2021

**Library Docent**  
 By appointment

## President's Message July 2021

Hello SMVGS Members and Friends,

Our July lunch gathering is nearly here! It is scheduled for Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am at Maramonte Park, 620 Sunrise Dr., Santa Maria.



Please bring your lunch and bring a short genealogy experience to share. We'll have water and a sweet treat to share with everyone! It's always nice to see our members at these informal gatherings – and especially since we've only been meeting virtually for many months.

The Santa Maria Public Library and our society co-sponsored a free, virtual Beginning Genealogy presentation. Deanna Baker and Sandy Peterson spoke about why people are drawn to do family history research, as well as how to start and where some of the best resources can be found. Eleven people attended the virtual event, which we enjoyed presenting. Let your friends and family, who may have missed the presentation, know that the SMPL planned on recording the event for others to watch in the future. Contact the SMPL at 805-925-0994 for more information.

August 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am is when our SMVGS Board will meet next. For meeting location or for a Zoom link, please send an email to [roots@smvgs.org](mailto:roots@smvgs.org).

Our next General Meeting is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. The location and program are still to be determined, though there is a good chance that we will be meeting back at the Santa Maria Family History Center. We'll have an update in the August newsletter.

Visit our updated website, type [www.smvgs.org](http://www.smvgs.org) into an internet search engine, such as Google. Calendar items, past newsletters, contact information, research links, and more can be found on our website.

Hope to see you at our lunch meeting in the park!

Sandy Peterson  
 SMVGS President  
 On.line@gte.net





ed note: I came across this story on the familytree.com website and thought that I would share it with you...just in case you were wondering.

### HOW TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE RELATED TO A PRESIDENT

The United States doesn't have a royal family. Instead, it has the First Family: the President of the United States, the First Lady, and their children. This could make some American genealogists wonder if they are related to a President. Here is some advice on how to find out if you are related to a current or former President.

#### Work on Your Own Family Tree

Family Tree Magazine points out that the first thing to do is get your own family tree in order. There is a temptation for people to start with a former President and his family tree – and to try and work back to their own. The problem with this tactic is that you can't connect the dots if you don't know who your relatives and ancestors are.

#### Not All Former Presidents Had Children

George Washington, the very first President of the United States, did not have any children that were biologically his. You cannot be directly genetically related to George Washington himself. However, it is possible that you might be related to Martha Washington. She and George raised the children that Martha had from a previous marriage.

George Washington wasn't the only former President who did not have any biological children of his own. The other four are: James Polk, Warren Harding, James Buchanan, and Andrew Jackson.

#### You Could Be Related to More than One President

If you find that you are related to one former President – it could mean you are also related to another one as well. John Adams was the second President of the United States. His son, John Quincy Adams, was the sixth President of the United States. Another example is George H.W. Bush, the 41st President, and his son George W. Bush, the 43rd President.

#### Try Some Online Resource

Norris Taylor, a Los Angeles family historian, traced his lineage to 13 presidents. You can view his online Presidential Gallery and try to make some connections to your family tree.

Archives.gov has information about Presidential Libraries and Museums. Those resources can include family heirlooms, photographs, and multimedia resources.

Familypedia has information about the genealogical relationships of Presidents of the United States. Maybe your family tree connects to a distant cousin of a former President.

#### Keep Your Expectations Realistic

There are people who begin doing genealogy because they want to prove they are related to a famous person. Sometimes, the old family story about being a descendant of royalty, or of a former President, turn out not to be true. Try not to get disappointed. Your family tree has its own value – even if there isn't a Presidential branch connected to it.

#### 4th of July Trivia Questions:

Which of these presidents died on the 4th of July: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and/or James Monroe?  
Which of these people was NOT born on the 4th of July: Tom Cruise, Abigail Van Buren (Dear Abbie), Neil Simon, or Stephen Foster?

#### The Santa Maria Family History Center

hours are:  
Tuesday – Thursday, 10:00am – 2:00pm  
Tuesday & Wednesday, 6:30pm – 8:30pm  
908 Sierra Madre, Santa Maria, CA  
www.smvgs.org  
ca\_santamaria@familyhistorymail.org  
805-928-4722  
The FHC is free and open to the public.

#### Visit the Research Library at The Santa Maria Valley Historical Society Museum

Tuesday - Saturday  
11:00am to 4:pm  
616 South Broadway, Santa Maria, CA  
santamariahistory.com  
smvshmuseum@outlook.com  
805-922-3130