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Website: roots@smvgs.org
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Regular Member Meetings:
Jan-May, Sep-Nov
3rd Thursday monthly
2-4pm

Next Meeting:
Virtual Meeting
November 6, 10am
See President's Message for details

**Program: Michael Strauss
Presentation**

Board Meeting:
11:00am, November 19, 2021
Email on.line@gte.net for the location or
Zoom link.

President's Message November 2021



Hello SMVGS
Members and Friends,

There's a lot going on this month as we head into the holiday season. 🍷🎄🌲 We will hold the

November meeting this week, on Saturday, Nov. 6th, as we join with SLOCGS, virtually, to hear from accredited genealogist Michael Strauss. You're able to choose between meeting in-person at the SM Family History Center (908 Sierra Madre, SM) to watch via Zoom on the big screens, or to watch from home, also via Zoom. The program begins at 10:00am, but it is customary to "join" the Zoom webcast about 10 minutes early. We'll be hearing from Michael Strauss, A.G. He will present two classes to our group, with a 30-minute break in the middle allowing for SLOCGS to have a 15-minute break, plus a 15-minute business meeting. See the flyer included with this newsletter for class titles, presenter biography, etc. We're grateful that SLOCGS has invited us to attend these two noteworthy presentations. Contact Susan at susancox16@gmail.com to receive the link on Nov. 4th. *(The wearing of masks is required in the Family History Center, and throughout the church building, at this time.)*



Last month, we had Miles Meyer virtually present to us from Florida about "The Family History Guide." It's an educational website created to teach the use of several family history websites and databases. Miles' information regarding The Family History Guide (www.thefhguide.com) was both interesting and valuable. For those who were not able to attend or watch via Zoom, the YouTube link of the recording is available here: <https://youtu.be/y74FvkSLfYU>. Overall, it was a great meeting. There were two guests and eight members who attended. Virtual vs. in-person attendance was dead-even at five and five. We hope you'll take time to watch Miles' recorded presentation. Be sure to take notes!



We thoroughly enjoyed preparing for and setting up our display at the Santa Maria Public Library last month. Annually, our society hopes to be the first to reserve the display case for the month of October, which has been declared Family History month in many cities. It's estimated that there are 80 million+ people researching their family histories. "Thanks" to those who set up and took down the cherished items!



President's Message (continued from page 1)

“**SAVE THE DATE**” items to add to your calendar:

- 1) November – We’re choosing a nominating committee this month. Watch for an email with instructions to participate.
- 2) December 9th – Luncheon, 11:30am, iHop conference room. Share a 5-minute genealogy story.
- 3) March 3rd-5th - RootsTech Connect 2022, to be held virtually.
- 4) May 2022 - SLOCGS is planning a trip to Salt Lake City, Utah...and we’re invited! Contact Susan for more information at susancox16@gmail.com.

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families! This is a great time to show ancestors’ photos and tell ancestors’ stories, plus to be grateful for the stories and photos that you do possess.

Sandy Peterson
SMVGS President
On.line@gte.net

PS. Here is an interesting article by Sheila Benedict about one benefit of family trips this holiday season, from the Santa Ynez Valley Star:
<https://www.santaynezvalleystar.com/genealogy-tips-family-visits-can-bring-up-new-facts-on-your-history/>

PSS. Maureen Taylor, The Photo Detective, is an expert when it comes to solving old photos’ dates and places mysteries. Her website includes links to her blog, podcast, and more: <https://maurentaylor.com>



Visit Our Website: Go to www.smvgs.org to see the updates. Calendar items, past newsletters, contact information, research links, and more can be found on our website.

An October 2020 article titled “Is RootsWeb Still Active?” might interest you:

<https://www.dataminingdna.com/is-rootsweb-still-active-will-ancestry-shut-it-down/>



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From Shirley Bradey

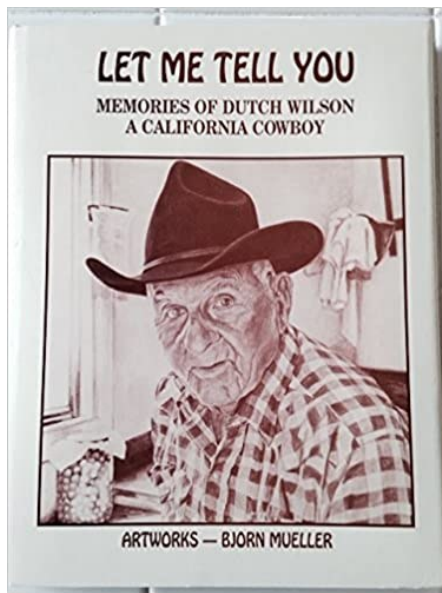
A relative sent me a link to an interview with Professor Douglas Chong, director of the Hawaii Chinese History Center in Honolulu. Here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Zi7z_aR7OQ

I found the story told by Douglas Chong very interesting. It helps explain the strong ties between the the Chinese & Hawaiians. The synergism of these two racial groups is very apparent in Hawaii. There is an interesting discussion about the Puntis and the Hakka. When I was growing up I was told to remember that were Puntis and have told my grandkids to remember that. I hope you find it interesting to read about different cultures.

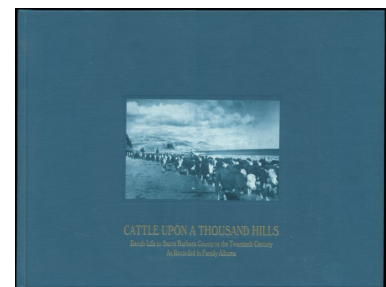
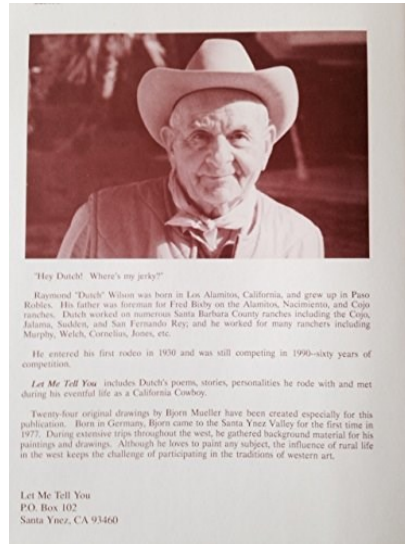
From Deanna Baker

A Local History Book has been added to the SMVGS reference shelf at the SMPL

Let Me Tell You, Memories of Dutch Wilson, A California Cowboy, has been donated to our society. It is a delightful book which describes the life of Raymond “Dutch” Everett Wilson, and his two brothers, Lawrence “Link” Vestal Wilson and Elmer “Ell” Elliott Wilson. It depicts life growing up on Nacimiento Ranch, Paso Robles Ranch, Cojo Ranch as well as Jalama and Sudden Ranch in the Lompoc, Los Prietos Ranch, and Rancho San Fernando Rey in Santa Ynez, and several others in the Los Alamos area. Dutch’s wife, Mary Wilson made a name for herself as a local schoolteacher in Los Alamos. The names of many prominent families in the Santa Maria, Santa Ynez, Los Alamos area who participated in The Figueroa Club, and Rancheros Visitadores, are mentioned by name. The book has numerous pictures of local people and a Genealogy of the Wilson – Elliott Families.



ed. note.: Dutch Wilson was a local cowboy and known to be something of a character, at least in his later years. I attended Los Alamos Elementary School, and his wife, Mary, was my teacher from 3rd through 8th grades. In addition to *Let Me Tell You*, Dutch Wilson also wrote *Cattle Upon a Thousand Hills*, a pictorial book of cowboy life in the local valleys. I own a copy and am willing to lend it to a member for a short time.



The Santa Maria Family History Center hours are:
Tuesday – Thursday, 10:00am – 2:00pm
Tuesday & Wednesday, 6:30pm – 8:30pm
1st & 3rd Sundays, 1:30pm - 4:30pm
908 Sierra Madre, Santa Maria, CA
ca_santamaria@familyhistorymail.org
805-928-4722
The FHC costs nothing to use and is open to the public.
Masks must be worn in the FHC at this time.

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