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Committees

Website: Bryce Peterson
Genie: Mike Farris

Website: www.smvgs.org

eMail: ca_santamaria@familyhistorymail.org

Contact us at the
SM Public Library

Regular Member Meetings:

Jan-May, Sep-Nov
3rd Thursday monthly
2-4pm

Next Meeting:

September 16, 2:15pm
Family History Center
908 Sierra Madre, Santa Maria

Program: Cindy Ransick
discusses the Historical Museum

Next Board Meeting:

11:30am, October 14, 2021

Library Docent

By appointment

President's Message September 2021



Hello SMVGS Members and Friends,

It's been eighteen long months since we've been able to meet at the FHC! September 16th at 2:15pm is the date of our next General Meeting. We'll be meeting at the **Santa Maria Family History Center**, 908 Sierra Madre, Santa Maria, CA. It will be wonderful to see you there and for us to hear from our special guest speaker, Cindy Ransick. She is the director of the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society Museum here in town. We look forward to hearing from her about the book she authored called Ladies of Our Valley. The wearing of masks is required in the FHC at this time.



I had a fun experience yesterday while perusing a local antique store in Old Orcutt. I found several old books that would be of interest to my daughter and, as I was hoping, I discovered a small basket containing a few old photos. Wanting to see if the photos were labeled in anyway, I set the books down and studied each photo, front and back. All were black and white or sepia-tone images ranging from about 5" x 7" to a bit larger. Two of the photos stood out to me, one of a boy that I thought could have been photographed in about 1900. The other photo is of a baby girl sitting in a chair looking like an actual doll. She could have been about 9 months old, I believe. Both of these \$1.00 photos had a name handwritten on the back, so this meant there was a possibility of finding a living relative who may be interested in the photo. This is one of my favorite things to research! Late last night (when I should have been finishing this newsletter), I signed into Ancestry.com to search for the name of the boy, who appeared to be about 5 or 6 years old, with long, dark curls, and a white ruffled collar. Embossed on the front of the photo mat was "Purcell, I.T." I had no idea what "I.T." meant. Maybe it was a Canadian location, I thought. After typing in the boy's name, Dale Piatt, along with his mother's name Myra (also written on the back), I found him listed on a US census in Indian Territory, which later became the state of Oklahoma. Dale was born in 1893! His father was Amaziah Piatt and his mother was Myra Duff. Though Dale was not named on any Member Trees at Ancestry, he had been added to FamilySearch.org along with his family. What a great feeling to be on the right trail! Today, I scanned his photo and uploaded it to FamilySearch, plus I sent an email to a person who had contributed vital information for him and his family. The second photo, I have yet to research, but the little girl, who looks like a living doll, is named Gladys Kelly Walker. She lived in Michigan when the photo was taken. I hope to find a relative who will cherish this adorable photo of Gladys wearing a full, white dress and smiling a sweet little smile.





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September 2021

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Page 2 of 2

President's Message (continued from page 1)

Our SMVGS Board will meet next on October 14th at 11:30am. For the meeting location, or for a Zoom link, please send an email to roots@smvgs.org. All are invited to attend. We'll be discussing our next few months of meeting programs plus the nominating committee, which needs to be chosen in November.

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.



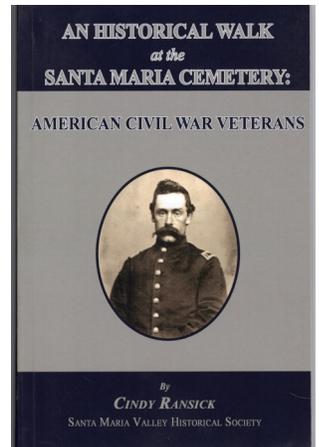
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quick "save the date" items to add to your calendar are: 1) On November 6th a virtual genealogy seminar will be presented by Michael Strauss, 2) RootsTech Connect 2022 will be held virtually on March 3-5, and 3) SLOGGS is planning a trip to Salt Lake City, Utah in May 2022...and we're invited.

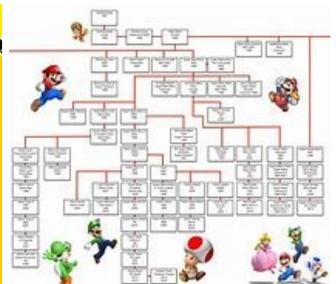
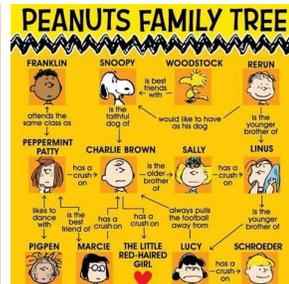
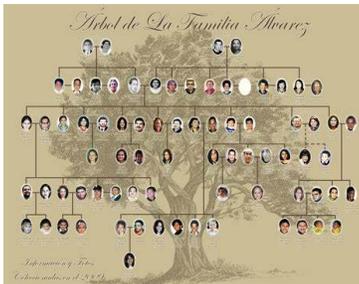
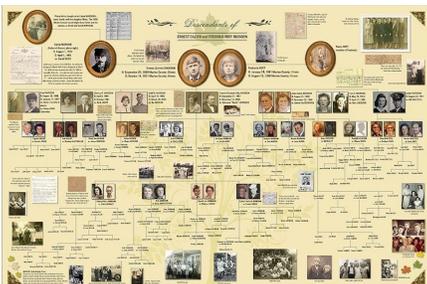
Sandy Peterson
SMVGS President

ed note: Just an observation

Sandy mentioned that we, the Santa Maria Valley Genealogy Society, will have a display of military-themed items at the Santa Maria Library from October 5th thru October 28th. By coincidence, Cindy Ransick, the Santa Maris Valley Historical Museum curator and our guest speaker for September, wrote a book on Civil War veterans buried in the Santa Maria Cemetery.



Working at the museum has taught me that everyone has his own way of sharing information. That is certainly true of genealogy. Sometimes it is fun just to explore what others have done. At the museum we have a dozen or so family histories. It is interesting to see how each person has chosen to preserve his. It is also interesting to explore websites that have family trees, sites you might not think of. Here are some samples from random sites I found by googling "genealogy family trees." These sites have names like: fcdn.gamer-network.net and photolip.com.



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.

As of 6 Aug 2021, masks must be worn in the FHC.

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