



- President
Sandy Peterson
- Vice President
Marilyn Riesbol
- Secretary
Brenda Brownlee
- Treasurer
Shirley Brady
- Membership
Maureen Morrow
- Public Relations
Open
- Director
Open
- Committees
Website
Dan Ardoin
Newsletter
Mike Farris
- Website
www.smvgs.org

- eMail
Roots@smvgs.org
- Call: 805-922-3130
SMV Historical Museum
- Member Meetings
Jan-Jun, Sep-Nov
3rd Thursday monthly
2-4pm
Family History Center
908 Sierra Madre,
Santa Maria

NEXT MEETING
2-4pm January 18
Family History Center

Next Board Meeting
Feb. 7, 2018, 1:00pm
FHC

Library Docent
By appointment

A Message from Our President

Happy 2018! To me, everyday could be the start of a new year, so I don't get into the whole New Year's resolutions push. Having said that, I have a few new habits I want to establish in the next twelve months. One idea that is sticking out in my mind right now is in regard to sharing some parts of my family history more consistently with my family. Besides, this year marks the 30th anniversary of my first genealogical experience,

I was recently "invited" (not personally) by an ad sent out by Amy Johnson Crow to share something about an ancestor every week for the next 52 weeks. It goes along with the saying of eating an elephant - one bite at a time. I like that thought of breaking down the task and dividing it up equally so it can actually be accomplished. Her invitation is called "52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks." It's all about sharing the treasures we've found and, as she states, "Those discoveries don't do much good sitting in your file cabinet or on your computer." Because writing a full-blown book can be an incredibly overwhelming project for many of us to complete, this plan can be accomplished a little each week. After you sign up at amyjohnsoncrow.com, she will send out prompts to you each week. I've decided to add an ancestor photo or story to my Ancestry.com tree and FamilySearch.org each week. That will be my way of sharing with others my treasures that I've collected over the past 30 years.

What can you do to eat "your" elephant this year? How can you make a connection with your living family members using the treasures that you've collected through the years? Let's discuss with each other the ways we are sharing our finds and also encourage each other.

Have a wonderful 2018!

Sandy Peterson



Resolutions

THIS YEAR, I WILL

- WAKE UP AND BE AWESOME.
- TRY, TRY, TRY.
- DREAM BIG.
- LIVE LIFE COLORFULLY.
- RELAX.
- CREATE EVERY DAY.
- CHOOSE HAPPY.
- DANCE IN THE RAIN.
- STAY WEIRD.
- CHASE ADVENTURE.
- DO WHAT I LOVE.
- THINK OUTSIDE THE LINES.

Believe I can.





A Message from Our Editor

It's election time again. The club is in need of someone to be president. As a past president, I can tell you, it is not a difficult nor time consuming job. I spent only a couple of hours a month working the position. The job requires only as much effort as you want to bring to it.

On the other hand, there are opportunities to do many new and exciting things with the club. We are in the information age with endless things that can be done. DNA genealogy is taking off like a Vandenberg rocket launch. Genie is providing a new and fun way to communicate with the members. The Historical Society has just extended a hand to work with us. Their local obit database may be unmatched by any local society in the country in terms of both quality and quantity. They want to set up a genealogy research area that will supplement what is available through FHC with a concentration on local families. And this year is our 50th Anniversary; what an exciting year to be president!!

As the new president, you can get as involved as you want. You will have a core of people who have been on the Board and associated with the club for many years. I can tell you from experience as a past president, there is no shortage of members who want to help the president. But someone needs to step up.

—Mike Farris, editor

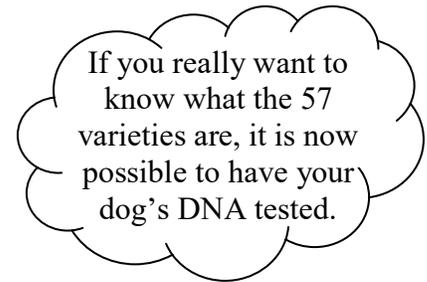
Tip of the Month: Counties

Can't find those records when you absolutely positively without a doubt know that your ancestor was born or married or died in that county? Maybe the problem is with the county. Borders of counties changed often in the past. Santa Barbara county is a good example. Territory which at one time was in Santa Barbara County is now in Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura Counties.

- Territory in Santa Barbara County from 1850 to 1851, was in San Luis Obispo County 1851 from 1851 to 1852 when it was returned to Santa Barbara County.
- Territory in Santa Barbara County from 1850 to 1854, was in San Luis Obispo County from 1854 to 1872 when it was returned to Santa Barbara County.
- Territory was in San Luis Obispo County from 1850 to 1872 when it was added to Santa Barbara County.

Look at today's Site of the Month.

Genie Says



If you really want to know what the 57 varieties are, it is now possible to have your dog's DNA tested.



Site of the Month

This is an interesting cite: www.counties.org

It gives the history of California's counties from 1850, when we became a state to the present. It has maps of the counties in 10-year increments from 1850 to 1900 and one of the present structure. Of course, there is much more information as well.



To get to the page about the history of California's counties: in the menu under the title bar, on the left, in the "California's Counties" drop down, click on "County History," then click on "The Creation of our 58 Counties" in the center of the screen. It will take you to a list of counties. Click on any one of them, and you will see a thumbnail history of how that county has changed.

Cite of the Month

anonymous

Every family has one weird relative.
If you don't know who it is, then it's probably you.