



WANTED:

Volunteers: Help us preserve and share the history of our valley.

Members: Invite your friends and family to join us, even if they live out of the area!

Donations Needed: 2 Surge 4' protectors, forever stamps, stories & photos. Vietnam photos, speakers & artifacts.

Contact Shelley: 805-922-3130

Board

Brooke Bradley, President
Dave Cross, Vice President
Tami Jo Halliburton, Secretary
Sharon Frizzell, Treasurer
Jason Blanco, Member
Ed Hazard, Member
Bob Nelson, Member
Pam Paxton, Member
Roy Reed, Member
Manny Semiatin, Member
Shelley Klein, Curator

Hours of Operation

Sunday and Monday: Closed
Tuesday—Saturday
11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Closed major holidays.

Address

616 S. Broadway Street
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Contact

Phone: 805-922-3130
smvhsmuseum@outlook.com

Website:

<https://santamariahistory.com>

Volunteers: JOIN US

Charla Jerry Lana Judy
Jason Mike Manny
Aushie Julie

EVENTS: *cut this out, put it on your calendar and in your phone*

March 27th: Board Meeting 4 pm

April 24th: Board Meeting 4 pm

April 26th at 9 am: Ceremony at corner E. Main and N. Broadway, marking 55 yrs. ago Alvin Newton was killed in the **Bradley Hotel Fire**.

****April 26th 11 am:** Docent visit to **San Ramon Chapel**, marking 150th Anniversary. Suggested donation for the Preservation Committee.

May TBA: 75th year of SM Little League Possible talk

May 17th: Friends of Santa Maria Valley Railroad Gala

May 22rd: Board Meeting 4 pm

May 31st: Museum Closed, Elk's Parade

June 19th: Board Meeting 4 pm

****FIRE WORKS FUND RAISER:** June 27 – July 4, volunteers needed

****July 9 – 13th:** Santa Barbara County Fair, exhibit TBA, volunteers needed.

Julv 12th: 100th Pioneer Picnic at Pioneer Park

San Ramon Chapel History 150 years and Tour: Sat. April 26th @ 11 am
Please RSVP the museum for a count, and if directions are needed.

Excerpts from Rancho Tinaquaic and The Chapel of San Ramon by John R. Wickenden

In 1837, William Benjamin Foxen obtained a Mexican land grant for Rancho Tinaquaic. In 1860, Frederick Wickenden married Ramona, the daughter of "Don Julian" W. B. Foxen and Eduarda Del Carmen Osuna. Frederick built his house, with the help of local Indians, three miles from the Foxen's adobe. In 1875, on a hilly prominence on the north end of their property, the site was purchased by the Wickenden's and donated to build the Chapel of San Ramon church. The money for the building came from Frederick selling his sheep. As 1875 was a dry year, Frederick drove his sheep north to the Salinas Valley where he found feed and grass. Driving them to Redwood City, he sold them for \$1 each. He purchased redwood lumber and shipped it to Port Harford, near Avila Beach. The chapel was built from this lumbar, with Frederick Wickenden, Thomas Foxen, and Chris Lawson doing much of the work. Benjamin Foxen's body was moved to the new church's cemetery where one can see his tombstone, a marble shaft meant to replicate the broken mast of a ship. In 1880, the original "Wickenden Adobe" was remodeled and enlarged with the redwood siding lumber to protect the adobe bricks. The house still stands today and is currently owned and enjoyed by descendants of Frederick & Ramona Wickenden.



Needs: Framing of Jeff Jones Silver Certificate from 1904 World's Fair (21.5 x 25.5), And other items of interest. **Wish list of items on Amazon ([email me for the link](#))** such as cotton matting for pictures, sleeves for documents, envelopes, newer surge protectors etc.

100th Anniversary of G. A. Hancock purchasing the Santa Maria Valley Railroad



The Santa Maria Valley Railroad kicked off the 100th Anniversary Year of being purchased by G. A. Hancock with a presentation at the SMVRR Office. A reception followed at the SMVHS Museum. Speaking was Breena McGovern, the great-

great granddaughter of Hancock. The Friends of the SMVRR and our Museum are hoping to have an Exhibit at the Santa Barbara County Fair this year. Interested in helping, please contact Shelley at 805-922-3130.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWS

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Spring 2025

Artifact Spotlight

Jerry Olivera found this matchbox and donated it to the museum. The Rusconi Café at its original spot, owned by Filippine Rusconi from Ticino Switzerland. In Jan. 30, 1945, a P-38 crashed into the restaurant and killed the proprietor, Mrs. Rusconi, the cook John Doff, and the pilot. In October of 1945, they re-opened at 506. S. Broadway (now vacant, once the Valley Farmer). Clifford "Bud" and Ethel Shaw bought Rusconi's and renamed it "Bud Shaw Barbecue Restaurant." Eventually, "Bud" was dropped and Shaw's restaurant was born. It relocated to its current location at 714 S. Broadway in the 1950s.



Guest Exhibit – Allan Hancock



Now through April, we have our tribute to **Allan Hancock**. We will display Little League in May. We continue to ask for photos and artifacts to add to our collection. Please email or bring in any photos or artifacts that we can scan, archive and return to you, if you want them back.

Jason, our photo expert, works on **Wednesdays and Saturdays**.

News

Donation: We received money for two map files for our maps and large photos. Thank you! **HELP!** We need more pictures and stories about **veterans** so that we can include them in our Military Exhibit. We are planning a presentation about local **Vietnam War Veterans**. Please share, and let us know if you can help present. 805 922-3130

Do you have three hours to spare?

1. **Docents**, we have a dedicated Tuesday Docent and would like more! Would you like to learn more about our history and share it?
2. **Pictures and stories** about local pioneer **schools** for a future book.
3. **Vietnam War Veteran** pictures, stories, speakers and artifacts for our future exhibit.
4. **Like Maps?** We need help with sorting, organizing and entering data for our maps.
5. **Like Books?** We need help with sorting, organizing and entering data for our books.
6. **Betteravia?** Help with putting together a small booklet about Betteravia and the Sugar Factory.

Pioneer Spotlight: Dr. Henry Clay Bagby



Dr. Bagby came from Missouri to Santa Maria in 1883. He started a lively practice in the Ayres & Dobson Drug Store. He helped both people and animals as both a surgeon and a dentist. Dr. Bagby had an active social life attending farewell, anniversary and birthday parties. He was so popular there was a newspaper article where he visited the father of his future bride and spoke about marriage only to find out he was speaking to the scarecrow in the garden! Miss Laura May Morris married Dr. Bagby in 1885. Their son Landon was born in 1889. Dr. Bagby was active in the Knights of Pythias, the Masonic Lodge of Guadalupe and the Rotary Club. He was also active in politics as the secretary for the Democratic Campaign club in 1884 and ran for coroner in 1886, but lost. In 1912 he ran for Assembly of the 59th District and defeated C. L. Preisker in 1914. He was also elected multiple terms to the school board. Dr. Bagby, on a trip to San Jose, opened a new office and moved there. After a year, he moved back to Santa Maria and worked in the Jones building on N. Broadway. As a roaming dentist, he would visit Los Alamos working

out of the Depot Hotel. At the museum, we have a dentist drill and the story of a child running from him, the dentist, from the year 1906. Dr. Bagby was competitive in the hobby of wing shot and was finally defeated by L. M. Kaiser when he lost by two quail out on Fesler's field west of town. In 1886, he went shooting pigeons on Morris Bros. Ranch when he came face to face with a California lion. This did not frighten him enough to stop his love of shooting. It was a railroad crossing car accident, on his way to hunt ducks near Hueneme that killed Dr. Bagby in 1927.