



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXV No. 4 October - 2019

This Month's Presentation:

October 15, 2019

THE WITCHCRAFT CRISIS OF 1692

Presented by: Gay Scott

Join us for a Halloween meeting looking into what happened in the Salem Witch Trials. Our own Gay Scott will delve into witchcraft roots from Mesopotamia to Europe and England leading up to the witchcraft crisis of 1692 in Salem, Massachusetts. Gay's 7xgreat-grandmother was accused of being a witch in Salem in 1692.



Gay Scott has a love of history and is a member of the Mt. Diablo Chapter DAR, the Anne Hutchinson Chapter Colonial Dames of the 17th. Century, San Francisco Chapter Magna Charta Dames and

Barons and the Associated Daughters of Early American Witches. She is married with two children and three grandchildren. She told her two grandsons that now they could be members of the Sons of Witches, but they didn't seem too interested. ■

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
SRVGS CALENDAR	3
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	4
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
EDUCATION	4
FAMILY HISTORY CENTER INFORMATION	8
LAST MONTH'S PRESENTATION SUMMARY	2
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
SPECIAL PARKING NOTICE	7
UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS	8

Notes on Last Month's Presentation:

Finding the Unknown for the Adopted or Divorced

Presented by: Sarah Clift

Reported by: Russ Erickson

Focus: on the adoption paper trail in California. Obtain a "Consent for Contact" form from CDSS (California Department of Social Services) or the original adoption agency. Obtain information with birth date, place, and adoptive parental names, register on adoption reunion websites, search the California birth index (CABI) (1905-1995). Both the birth parent and adoptee must fill out forms for contact information: form AD904. Signatures must be notarized. For other states, Google a request for non-identifying information. It is easier to find a birth parent than an adoptee. Submit DNA to all DNA internet sites to find possible matches between parent and child. Use state birth and marriage (1949 to 1980 - 90s) indices, seek ages of birth parents, occupations, possible military, school connections; check year books. Check Reunion registers: adopted.com, adoption state registry, FindMyFamily.org, etc. For European adoptions, seek a knowledgeable genealogist in that country for help. If not found initially, research adoption reunion registries from time to time. Check all usual genealogy resources and newspapers. always check any possible connections with DNA results.

Test with all DNA companies, especially Ancestry (over 23 million on file) and 23andme with over 10 million. Seek sales to keep DNA cost down. Transfers of data can be made from Family Tree and My Heritage DNA sources. Obtain screen shots of any DNA matches as the birth parent or adoptee can pull them from the internet without warning. Use DNA tools such as "Shared cM Project" or "Autocluster". Y-DNA can be helpful for males to find birth parent. Note that DNA testing covers only .02% or 700,000 of our 3 billion DNA segments, since we have, as Homo sapiens, 99.9% of DNA similar with the remaining 0.1% defining us as individuals. DNA match downloads are zip files which should not be unzipped until download is in your files. "DNA Painter" can be used for possible DNA cM (centimorgan) matches. Keep an open mind and do not try to contact a possible family ancestor or birth child for 24 hours to calm your mind prior ►



(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

Sarah Clift

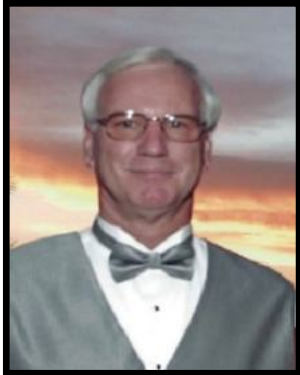
to contact. Use a message via a DNA message site, stating that you MIGHT be related and that you were adopted, giving birth date and place. Sort the DNA match and look for common ancestors. "Genetic Affairs.com" and "GenMatch" might help. In your paper trail prior to contact, use newspapers, Facebook, whitepages.com, Papi.com, FamilyTreenow.com and check any informants on death records to find living people. Google obituaries by year, name, and place if known. Combine your DNA and paper trails!

For unknown paternity, obtain any maternal information the mother is willing to provide, seek matching DNA groups on the paternal side. DNAadoption.com has message templates to send to a possible birth parent. If a question, offer to pay for a DNA test if you only have a paper trail. Americanadoptioncongress.org has information. ■



President's Message

By Steve Watty



Rummaging around this last week in an old box of prized personal items saved from my early years, I came across some forgotten photographs stored in the garage. These rediscovered photographs covered my Boy Scout years through my Viet Nam service. If a photo-

graph is a glimpse into the past, these sure did the trick and brought back cherished memories of times and places seldom recalled, boyhood friends many since passed, but a special point-in-time captured by the magic of the early Kodak lens.

The print photographs were in various stages of distress, some torn, some faded and most devoid of any attempt to identify the subject matter, i.e.; date taken, location and any other persons captured during that all-important moment. I used this opportunity to digitize the photos, store the digitized media to my hard drive, a copy to a flash drive cycled through my safe deposit box and a copy out to the cloud in my Dropbox account. Now I believe the digital copies should be safe and available for future generations but what about the original prints.

There are rules and options to safely store and secure our prized photographs gathered over the years. The National Archives & Records Administration suggests the following:

1. Store pictures in an area with higher than 15% relative humidity and less than 65% relative humidity.
2. The lower the temperature the better, store photos in an area that consistently stays below 75 degrees F. The attic, basement or garage are not good places for photos. Also keep photo storage off the floor in case of flood damage.
3. Storing photos in a dark location actually helps preserve them, because it keeps the ink or pigments from fading. Light in general, but ►

especially UV and fluorescent lights break down images with time.

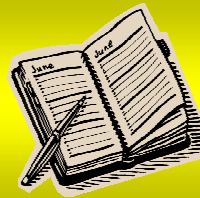
4. Insects and rodents love paper, so keep pictures out of areas which contain these pests.

5. When handling photos, you should have clean, dry and non-lotioned hands.

6. When organizing and storing your photos look for archival quality boxes and dividers. They should be photo safe, acid, lignin and PVC free. Use an archival safe pen if writing on the photograph.

Obviously, I broke just about every rule for storing this small sample of early photographs. The garage with large temperature variations, an occasional pest and storage in a recycled cardboard box was not the best environment. I learned from this experience and will now follow the rules mentioned above for these and other prized photographs found though out the house and in my offsite storage.

Where and how are your photographs stored? ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

October 2019

- 1 Tuesday - 10:00 am** A Board meeting was held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 15 Tuesday - 10:00 am** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

November 2019

- 5 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 19 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

NOTE: For San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society Special Interest Group contact information refer to your Society Handbook. For schedules, visit our web site at: <http://www.srvgensoc.org/sig.html>.

Please **note** some activities take place early in the month, before our newsletter is issued. Be sure to check with the SIG coordinator if you have a particular interest.



Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday October 9th (the 2nd Wednesday) 10 am – 12pm, at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is SIG leader. Contact Patty at russpat@comcast.net.



FamilySearch - Monday, October 14th (the 2nd Monday). Learn the many aspects of this free, comprehensive genealogy web site. **Bill George** is the SIG leader. Contact Bill at: williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Publishing – Thursday October 17th (the 3rd Thursday) from 10 am – 12 pm, at the home of Francie Lloyd in Danville. This informal Group shares advice, encouragement, and suggestions to preserve their genealogy project, big or small. Members share their projects as they progress to a hoped for completion. Society members interested in attending should let **Francie Lloyd**, the SIG Leader, know they plan to attend, at frances_lloyd@comcast.net.



DNA - Monday October 21st (the 3rd Monday) 1:00 - 3:00 pm, at the Danville Family History Center. This SIG assumes a basic knowledge of Genealogical DNA testing and therefore is only open to those who have completed the SRVGS Intro to DNA class or an approved equivalent. Mark McLaren is SIG Leader. You may contact Mark at greatscot@earthlink.net. ►



German Research – Wednesday October 23rd, (the 4th Wednesday) This month the group will meet at 11:00 am at the home of

Carol Huvane to celebrate Oktoberfest, a **pot-luck feast provided by members**. Please contact Cathy Tanaka at cathytanaka622@gmail.com if you plan to attend the festivities.



Legacy Family Tree – Monday, October 28th (the 4th Monday). The group discusses how the Legacy genealogy program works and is for beginners as well as experienced Legacy users. **Sharon Clay** is the SIG Leader and can be contacted at: sharonclay@comcast.net ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

October can be spooky, but it can also be full of great surprises. So let's learn more.



October starts with the California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.CaliforniaAncestors.org. For all the following activities, register online:

- On Sat., Oct. 5th from 10:15-12:15 **Intro to Genealogy class, part 2, Using the Census** presented by Dick Rees.
- On Thurs., Oct. 10th from 6:30-8 Trish Hackett Nicola will share **Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files: A Treasure Trove of Original Documents** at Oakland Family Search Library. \$10 for CGS members. \$20 for non-members.
- On Sat. Oct. 12th from 1-3, Trish Hackett Nicola will **repeat** her Thurs. presentation at CGS.
- On Tues. Oct. 15th from 10-4 there will be a **Field Trip To Sutro Library** for CGS members only.
- On Sat. Oct. Oct. 19th from 1-4 at the Oakland Family Search Library Steward Blandon Traiman will present **Excel for Genealogists**. ►

- In addition on Sat., the 19th from 10 – 12:00 the **San Francisco SIG** will meet.
- Also on the 19th the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1-4.
- On Sat., Oct. 26th from 9:30-1 Bill O'Neil will lead a **Workshop: Build a Book and Learn Book Repair Techniques**.
- On Sat., Nov. 2nd the **Intro to Genealogy class, part 3 -Vital Records (Birth, Marriage, and Death)**, will meet from 10:15-12:15.

For more upcoming events in the Bay Area check the Sutro Library "Bay Area Genealogy Calendar" at library.ca.gov/sutro/genealogy/calendar.



In October the Oakland Family Search Library, [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland California FamilySearch Library](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_FamilySearch_Library), offers the following support: (See website for registration details.) Pre-register for classes at fhcoakland@gmail.com or at 510-531-3905.

- **Chinese research** help – every Tuesday from 1-9. Call to schedule an appointment.
- **French Canadian Research** – every Wednesday from 6-9 with Jane Lindsay. No appointment needed.
- **Swedish research** – every Thursday from 10-4 with Beryl and Wade Olofson. No appointment needed.
- On Wed. Oct. 2nd from 11-12 Sue Severson will lead the **Roots Magic Beginner Class Part 1**.
- On Fri. Oct. 4th from 10:30-12 the **Family Search Basics Class Part 4- Finding and Merging Duplicates** will meet.
- Also on Oct. 4th from 1-3:30 SFBAJGS will have a special presentation by Joel Weintraub on **Crowdsourcing the Path to the 1950 Census**.
- On Wed. Oct. 9th from 11-12 Sue Severson will lead the **Roots Magic** ►

Beginner Class Part 2.

- On Wed., the 9th from 7-8 the **Mac Users Workshop** will meet.
- On Sun. the 20th from 12:30-4:30 Dr. Judith Beriwitz at the SFBAJewish GS will discuss **Geni.com: A Collaborative Workplace for Your Family Tree**.
- On Wed., the 23rd from 6 -8 Alvis Ward will lead the **African American Research Workshop**.

You can check the Family Search website <https://familysearch.org> for tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and webinars. June's numerous webinars are listed at [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family History Library Classes and Webinars](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars)

Enjoy learning from home?



The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS), www.scsgsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html continues to offer free webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting:

- On Sat., Oct. 5th at 10, Daniel Horowitz will present **So You Really Want to Research Your Jewish Ancestors?**
- On Wed., Oct. 16th at 6, Peggy Clemens Lauritzen will discuss **Faith of Our Fathers' United States Church Records**.
- On Sat. Nov. 2nd at 10, Kathryn Lake Hogan will share **Mastering the Library and Archives Canada Website**.

SCGS also offers the following webinars at their website for free to the public.

- **Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides National Archives Website** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **Neither Filmed or Scanned: NARA Treasurers Await** by Kerry Bartels
- **Military Records at the National Archives** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **The Many Facets of the National Archives Website** by Kerry Bartels ►

with downloadable notes.

- **How to Get the Most Out of a Genealogy Conference** by George Morgan.
- **National Archives Website Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.



The Illinois State Genealogical Society, <https://ilgensoc.org>, continues its webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public.

- On Tues., Oct. 8th at 8 Central, Lisa Oberg will present **Researching Your Illinois Catholic Ancestors**. Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/263291072938975155>



The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), <https://www.americanancestors.org/education/learning-resources/watch> has a growing Online Learning Center that offers educational resources for both guest users and NEHGS members. It contains subject guides on a variety of genealogical topics, informative videos, webinars, online courses, and more. If you have questions or feedback, contact Online Education

- On Thurs., Oct. 17th from 3-4 EDT Rhonda R. McClure will discuss **Going Offline: Researching at Libraries, Archives, and Other Repositories**.
- On Thurs., Oct. 24th from 3-4 EDT Anne Meringolo and Trenton Carls will present **Finding Family History in Library Catalogs**.

Unable to attend the live broadcast? A recording of the free events will be posted to the NEHGS website the following day.



The National Archives -, www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/events offers a Genealogy Tutorial, Genealogy Research topics and a variety of charts and forms.



Ancestry.com offers online courses; Some are FREE, while others require a subscription.

- You can READ about it at: <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy> ►

- And at: <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy/courses>
- Also at: <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy/courses/skills>



Legacy offers numerous free webinars every month. Go to FamilyTreeWebinars.com to register. June's webinars include:

- On Tues., Oct. 1st at 7 Blaine Bettinger will explore **The Stories Behind the Segments**.
- On Wed., the 2nd at 11 Diahann Southard will share **A Day Out With Your DNA**.
- On Wed. the 9th at 5 Gena Philibert-Ortega will present **50 Records that Document Female Ancestors**.
- On Tues. the 15th at 5 Claire Bettage will discuss **Civil Law Records in Genealogical Research: Notarial Records**.
- On Wed. the 16th at 11 Melanie D. Holtz will explore **Civil Registration: Going Beyond the Basics**
- On Tues. the 22nd at 11 Judy Russell will explain **Privacy: How to Protect Your Information Online**.
- On Wed. the 23rd at 11 Geoff Rasmussen will share **Top Tech Tips for the Technologist and the Genealogist: 2019 edition**.
- On Fri. the 25th at 11 Michael Strauss will examine **Decoding Secret Societies: Finding Your Female Fraternal Ancestors**.
- On Wed. Oct 30th at 11 Denise May Levenick will present **Seven Steps to Manage Digital Files**.
- On Tues. Nov. 5th at 5 Helen Smith will explore **Trove: An Australian and Beyond Genealogical Treasure**.

Here are some other webinars and podcasts that are online:

- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio <http://extremegenes.com/>
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast: <http://genealogyguys.com/>
- Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems <http://lusalouisecooks.com/podcasts/> ►

- Genealogy Boot Camp:
http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/thomas%20jay%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm



The DAR Library at www.dar.org offers two different types of programming. The Library Lecture Series features authors discussing their historical work and the Genealogy 101 series offers presentations on a variety of genealogical topics led by the professional genealogists on staff at the DAR or by other experienced genealogists. Both series are held throughout the month on Saturdays and are free to the public. See the upcoming schedule here: www.dar.org/libraryevents

Save the date:

- On Sat. Oct. 5th at 11 the Solano County Genealogical Society, www.scgsca.org will meet at the Fairfield Adult Recreation Center, 1200 Civic Center Dr., Fairfield. Melinda Kadshuba will share **Genealogy 911: Protecting Your Genealogy from Disaster**.
- On Mon. Oct. 14th at 7:30 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will meet at the Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct, Pleasanton. Sean Conley will explore **Irish Genealogy Resources**.
- On Fri. Oct. 18th at 10 the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, www.mdgs.webs.com will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Speaker to be announced. ■

Special Parking Notice

During our General Meetings at the Alamo LDS Church the availability of parking spaces in the front of the church has become limited in recent months. As an alternative, additional parking is now available in the rear of the church. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this additional parking. ■



SRVGS is on Facebook!

Click on the icon or go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/srvgensoc>

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Steve Watty
president@srvgensoc.org

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Karen Olynger
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3rd V.P. Membership:
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Calendar Coordinator:
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Education Coordinator:
Kathy Javdani
srvgs@srvgensoc.org

Mailing: Ileen Peterson
Mary Tom

Deadline to put information in the Newsletter is the Last Thursday of the month.

Members are encouraged to submit articles for the Newsletter by mail or email to the Coordinator.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

By: Kathy Javdani

- ⇒ On Sat. Oct. 12th from 9-3:30 the CCCGS Fall Seminar will take place at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center at 233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. Angie Bush will share four presentations on how to combine DNA evidence and traditional genealogy to unlock family mysteries. Register at: cccgs.net/cpage.php?pt=21
- ⇒ From Oct. 14th – 18th the **2019 British Institute** will be held at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake City. Visit: <https://Isbgfh.org/cpage.php?pt=56>
- ⇒ On Oct. 23rd from 10-4 EST NARA will present the **2019 Virtual Genealogy Fair**. It is free with no registration required. Watch live on YouTube. Schedule and handouts are available at: www.archives.gov/calender/genealogy-fair. ■

Danville Family History Center

2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo

Phone: 925-552-5920

Monday: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Tuesday: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
and 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Closed on Holidays, the month of August and Thanksgiving week.

FHC Director:

Chris Engstrom: cechocolatego@prodigy.net

Subscription Sites Available For Free at FHC:

- Ancestry.com
- Fold3.com
- Heritage Quest
- MyHeritage.com
- Origins.net
- ProQuest Obituary Listings
- Godfrey Memorial Lib
- Newspaper Archive
- World Vital Records
- Findmypast (UK)

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