



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXV No. 5 November - 2019

This Month's Presentation:

November 19, 2019

JEWISH RESEARCH

Presented by: Jeremy Frankel

Jeremy Frankel was born in London and spent fourteen years working as a cartographer and surveyor. His spare time was spent helping to restore some of the 1000 miles of abandoned canals to fully working order. A trip to America in 1987 to study American canals literally changed his life and a year later he moved to live, firstly in New York. Since 1993 he has made his home in northern California.

Jeremy is a professional genealogist engaged in research for over 35 years. His skills include expertise with internet resources and the specialized Bay Area archives and libraries which contain world-wide information.

He has been the President of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society for the last eighteen years. Jeremy has lectured throughout the S.F. Bay Area and regularly helps clients who have encountered impasses in their research.

It was during family Passover service in London in 1985 that led Jeremy to begin his search for family roots. He has since tracked his family back to Poland and Lithuania and connected with relatives all over the world. He has a broad knowledge of U.K. documentation and draws upon his associations with experts in Eastern European Jewish ancestry. ■

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Notes on Last Month's Presentation:

THE WITCHCRAFT CRISIS OF 1692

Presented by: Gay Scott

Reported by: Russ Erickson

Gay Scott's 7th great grandmother was caught up in the witchcraft hysteria in 1692. Her husband died, leaving her with 3 small children. She bought an indentured servant to help run the farm. There is indication of early emotional involvement leading to a second, abusive marriage. Witches were discussed in Mideast Mesopotamia in Sumerian writing in the 7th century BC. Two passages on witches and wizards and their killing (stone and burn) occur in the Bible. In 1484, Pope Innocent VIII ratified the Inquisition ad burning witches. From 1500 to 1800, tens of thousands in western countries were burned. In England, until the 1600s, then hanged later. A "witch finder general", Matthew Hopkins, self appointed, caused the deaths of 300 females.

Puritans in early New England were under many stresses--Indian warfare, poor diets, little funds, and the rigidity of the religion. Salem Town and Salem Village became centers of witch trials and accusation and hysteria in the 1690s. The reverend Samuel Parris became a center, starting with his slave, Tituba with "voodoo" and predictions for young ladies. 2, then several girls developed strange behaviors, with body contortion, barking sounds, and possible seizures. Diagnosis "bewitched" by a doctor. Tituba and 3 ladies, including Osborne, Gay Scott's ancestor, were accused as witches by the girls, and taken to local trial without being able to contest their accusers nor having lawyers. Given guilty, they were sent to Boston for further trial. 7th GGM Osborne died there in a damp cell, chained for 9 weeks. Over the next year, many, mostly women but not all, were accused. Even John Alden Jr was, though he, likely with help, escaped jail and he claimed the girls involved turned their symptoms on and off at will for attention. One male "witch" was pressed to death with rocks when he refused to confess. A water trial was often used--tied up, if you floated, you were a witch; if drowned, not! Cotton Mather, a renowned preacher, fostered the hysteria. Increase Mather, his father, stopped it a year later with sermons in 1693 after 150 accused and



(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

Gay Scott

over 20 killed. Children were left without parents. In 1697, Massachusetts paid restitution.

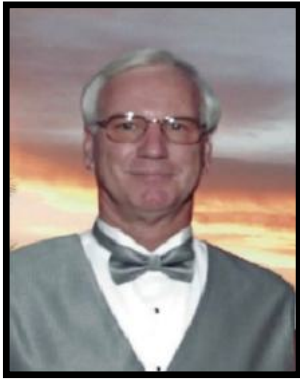
What caused it? Partially boredom seeking attention, oppressive Puritan religion, epilepsy, and now thought initiated by ergot poisoning due to a fungus from damp rye grain. ■



President's Message

By Steve Watty

New SRVGS Website Rolled Out



The new society website is now “live” and ready for our members and the public. The website can be reached at <https://srvgensoc.org>, the same address used for the old website.

This fresh new look helps consolidate the communication activities, membership tracking, expands our “Events” listings and offers a dedicated membership area. The initial login and password information for access to the membership area was sent to all current society members in an earlier blast email. Any member missing this information should contact the webmaster or myself.

The secure membership area currently consists of the member’s profile page, a society membership listing, financial information, a link to our handbook and, where allowed, speaker handouts. Also included within the membership area is the Surname database. Members can include their ancestral surnames they are researching. This could be used as “cousin bait” providing a possible connection to others researching the same surname. The Surname List is visible to the membership and general public. A message link within the website allows anyone to contact the member that posted the surname. The message link is masked by the system, so the member has the option to reply or not to any message received.

I wish to personally thank fellow society members that helped with the design, input and testing of the new website. Special thanks go out to Bob Venter, Bill George, Julie and Jerry Basel, Ted Shapas, Wayne Mortensen and Karen Olynger. Many productive hours were spent by this group on this activity and the society should be thankful for their dedication.

Please take some time to review the ►

website. It is designed to be the “go to” depository of society and local genealogical information. We plan to enhance the website in the future with additional resources, links and general information useful to the society and the general public. Your comments and ideas on how we can make the site even better would be appreciated. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

November 2019

- 5 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was 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.

December 2019

- 3 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** There will be no Society meetings in December. In place of our Board meeting on Dec. 3, the Society will hold it’s annual **Holiday Cookie Exchange** at the home of Francie Lloyd. All are welcome.. ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

Let’s all extend a warm Welcome to our newest members

**Vicki Cunniffe
Terry Richards
Leslie Steuben**

Please look for them at our meetings and welcome them to our Society.

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.

Note: the German Sig (Nov 20th) & Irish/Scottish SIG (Dec 4th) are the only meetings not maintaining their normal schedule.



FamilySearch - Monday, November 11th (the 2nd Monday).

Learn the many aspects of this free, comprehensive genealogy web site. **Bill George** is the SIG Leader at: williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



DNA - Monday November 18th (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 November 20th, (the 3rd Wednesday this month only) **10 am – 12 pm, at a members home.** Please contact

Cathy Tanaka at cathytanaka622@gmail.com if you plan to attend the meeting.



Publishing – Thursday November 21st (the 3rd Thursday) **from 10 am – 12 pm, at the home of Francie Lloyd in Dan-**

ville. 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.



Legacy Family Tree – Monday, November 25th (the 4th Monday). **Sharon Clay** is the SIG Leader and can be contacted at: sharonclay@comcast.net



Irish/Scottish Research – Wednesday December 4th 10 am – 12pm, at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is SIG

Leader. You November contact Patty at: russpat@comcast.net. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

November is a wonderful month to give thanks for our families and to enjoy all the opportunities to learn more about them.



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

- On Sat., Nov. 2nd the **Intro to Genealogy** class, part 3; *Vital Records (Birth, Marriage, and Death)*, will meet from 10:15-12:15.
- Also on the 2nd from 1-3:30 the **DNA Study Group** for those who have submitted a DNA sample to 23andMe or to MyHeritage will meet from 1:3:30
- On Sat. Nov. 9th from 1-3, Jeremy Frankel will explore **Following the Paper Trail in England: From 1837 to 1937.**
- On Sat Nov. 16th from 10-4 **The Mayflower Descendants SIG** will focus on Mayflower ancestry and how to join the Society of California Mayflower Descendants.
- Also on Sat., Nov. 16th from 1-3 there will be a session on **Creating and Maintaining a Family Tree on ►**



(Photo by: Bob Venter)

German SIG Celebrates Their Fifteenth Annual Oktoberfest

Continuing their annual tradition, the group met at the home of Carol Huvane for a delicious pot-luck German dinner consisting of sausage, red cabbage, lensengericht (lentil dish), hot potato salad, apple sauce, lentil soup and, of course, German beer with cheesecake for dessert. Pictured above: (left to right) Sue Hanck, Helen Odegard, Dorothy Baker, Barbara Shapas, Murry Eiland, Carol Huvane, Astrid Eiland, Cathy Tanaka, Ken Hensley. (Not shown: Bob Venter, taking photo.)

FamilySearch.org. This meeting will be at the Oakland Family Search Library.

- On Sat., 23rd from 1-3, Craig Siulinski will facilitate the quarterly meeting of the **Eastern Europe SIG**.
- On Sat. Dec. 7th from 10:15 to 12:15, the **Intro to Genealogy** class will focus on Organizing Your Genealogy Work.
- Also on Dec. 7th from 1-3:30 the **DNA Study Group** will meet.

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



In November 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 excluding Thanksgiving week with Jane Lindsay. No appointment needed.
- **Swedish research** – every Thursday excluding Thanksgiving from 10-4 with Beryl and Wade Olofson. No appointment needed.
- On Nov. 13th from 7-8 the **MacUsers Workshop** will meet.

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. Nov. 2nd at 10 Christine Woodcock will share **Mastering the Library and Archives Canada Website**.
- On Wed., Nov. 20th at 6 Seena Kenney will discuss **Immigration & Naturalization**.
- On Sat., Dec. 7th at 10 Julie Goucher will explain **European Surnames and How They Can Help in Genealogical Research**.

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., Nov. 12th at 8 Central, Jeanne Lazalere Bloom will share **Chicago Research: Planning is the Key to Success**. Register ►

at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8608035148477810689>



The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), www.Americanancestors.org/education/ online 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., Nov. 21st from 3-4 EDT Alice Kane and Sarah Dery will discuss **How American Ancestors Can Help: Expert Assistance for Family Historians**.

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. Nov. 5th at 5 Helen Smith will explore **Trove: An Australian and Beyond Genealogical Treasure**.
- On Wed., Nov. 6th at 11 will present **Understanding Ethnicity Estimates**.
- On Wed., the 13th at 5 Rick Sayre will explore **Soldier's Homes (1865-1930) Caring for Our Veterans**. ►

- On Tues. the 19th at 5 Paula Stuart Warren will examine **Native American Research: Things You May Not Know.**
- On Wed., the 20th at 11 James M. Beidler will share **A la Karte: Borders, Maps and Gazetteers for German Genealogists.**
- On Friday the 22nd at 11 Sharon Monson will explain **No Will? No Problem.**
- On Tues. Dec. 3rd at 5 Paul Milner will share **Buried Treasures: What's in the English Parish Chest.**



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://lisalouisecooks.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 Mon. Nov. 11th at 7:00 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ag.soc.org, will meet at the Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct, Pleasanton. Dawn Kosmakos will discuss **Meet Your DNA Match.**
- On Thurs. Nov. 14th from 7-9 the Contra Costa Genealogical Society will meet at the LDS Building at 1360 Alberta Way, Concord Carolyn Williams will present **Preserving Family Photos, Stories and Documents.** ►

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Steve Watty
president@srvgensoc.org

1st Vice President:
Ted Shapas

2nd V.P. Programs:
Wayne Mortensen
Karen Olynger
programs@srvgensoc.org

3rd V.P. Membership:
Jerry & Julia Basel
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Secretary:
Russ Erickson

Corresponding Secretary:
Barbara Shapas
corsec@srvgensoc.org

Treasurer: Mark McLaren
treasurer@srvgensoc.org

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter
webmaster@srvgensoc.org

Calendar Coordinator:
Bill George

Education Coordinator:
Kathy Javdani

Mailing: Ileen Peterson
Mary Tom

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

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

Webmaster: Bob Venter
webmaster@srvgensoc.org

- On Fri. Nov. 15th at 10 the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, www.mdgs.webs.com will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Janice Sellers (webinar) will discuss **Finding and Using Newspapers in Your Genealogical Research.** ■

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

By: Kathy Javdani

- ⇒ From Feb. 26th – 28th **RootsTech 2020** will be held in Salt Lake City. The schedule is posted online. Register at: www.rootstech.org/salt-lake
- ⇒ **Echoes of Our Ancestors**, NGS Family History Conference, Salt Lake City, 20-23 May 2020. <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/> ■



SRVGS is on Facebook!

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

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 **November 27, 2019**

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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