



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

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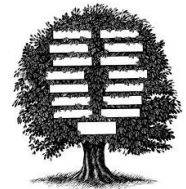
Vol. XXVIII No. 5, Nov - 2012



THIS MONTH – November 20, 2012

“Family Tree in Family Search “

Presented by: Virginia Kysh



Virginia will be speaking about *Family Tree* in Familysearch. She has been teaching this to the staff at the Antioch FHC and is looking forward to sharing her knowledge with us.

Virginia has been a genealogist for forty some years and describes it as a wonderful experience. She is the Assistant Director of the Antioch Family History Center and a member of Find a Grave for four years. Virginia has been a speaker at many seminars and groups for the past sixteen years.

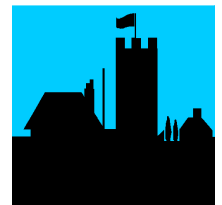


From the October Meeting

"Early European Research"

Speaker: Jim Rader

Reporter: Lee Schlenker



Jim Rader has been researching his surname of Rader for nearly 20 years; he has “been there, done that” many times over in his research. He told us some of what to expect when researching early European ancestors. There was quite a lot! He had fun and funny stories to tell us about folks he relied on for some help. His theory – if you called each and every one of them, put them together, you might find the ancestor and his/her origin.

He tells us beginning with the country of arrival of an immigrant ancestor really wasn't so much help as to where that ancestor originated from before arriving. His focus was on Germany (known by many *different* names from the 1400's to the 1900's). He also found that his name was spelled several different ways (Roeder, Rotter, Rader) along his search. The country folk just stayed on the land and tilled the soil; using the

phonetic spelling of their surname. Whereas the city folk were more learned, having availability to education, and would add a letter to the surname (just to show their education).

His most interesting fact was finding out the timeline of early Europe. Through multiple atlases and maps he traced how the many wars shaped early Europe, how wars corresponded with migrations from country to country and how the country's name changed with each substantial war. An example: his map of 1492-1783 showed European mass migration into England. The Thirty Year War (1618-1648) was a religious war trying to change Catholics to Protestants. People fled their most recent country during wars. Many cities' names changed along with the country's name change; many cities stayed very similar in spelling even if the country changed. He took us through the Hapsburg Empire and the Austrian ►

Empire, the *Bloodlands* with the terrible extermination of Jews as well as other Europeans from 1933 to 1941. Jim had composed a one minute video of how the European countries changed each 100 years. It was interesting to watch how a country's borders and cities changed each time.

To help formulate the timeline Jim used both paper aids and a computer. Kinko's was used to read the fine print with a blow-up of the map, but you might need a large work table, a map rack to store them, and it's still hard to just zoom in on the actual place you're researching. Scanning, photo editing programs, Snipping Tool (a software program which can cut out your area of research), all done on your computer. If you are able to zoom in on an old map you will probably see mountains, hills, streams and smaller cities. All could be important to your search. Jim told us that many maps have been torn from old books by antique dealers, copied and then sold for profit. These original maps may not come into circulation until the collector dies. Some of the websites: <http://www.printsellers.com/> Maps of Europe; www.oldmapsonline.org Historical Maps Search Portal; www.clockwk.com Centennia Historical Atlas; <http://www.printsellers.com/> Lahaina Printsellers Antique Maps.

Much of Jim's papers as well as books were in the Old German script and hard to decipher. So, Jim used freelance translators: GenealogyPro at \$275.00 which gave him 3 pages of websites only; Bloodhound (Matt Pinkston) at \$40.00/hr. (which Jim had good luck with); Kayla Rush (based in Indiana) at 15¢/hr. He says you need to make it a small job to build a relationship with each individual translator. Both of you need to have a comfortable working relationship. Jim has used a translator in Utah to help translate a book he located containing many "Rotter" families. He has spent close to \$3,000 in the past three years trying to find ancestors in Europe. He has discovered the Schmalkalden German book of 323 pages but isn't too sure if he will have it translated. (You do the math!) At the present time Jim has two German translators working for him full-time.

Also be aware that the "rich" often wanted their genealogy written down before passing on. People who claimed to have a PhD in Genealogy

went into wealthy neighborhoods and solicited the wealthy to write down their family line –for a price. Often these wealthy people didn't want any "bad" things written about their heritage or ancestors so they would simply omit the "bad" things. Some of these old histories may not always be accurate. Be forewarned!

Things to take into account: If you order a European printed genealogy make sure it's readable since most old German script can be very hard to decipher; Googlebooks is a good source for your search; you can always use DNA testing results. And when you are ready – self-publish your own book!

If I haven't covered enough of Jim's talk, you can find him at: jim@rader.org or www.rader.org.

Other books:

- Historical Atlas of Early Modern World 1492-1783 (old boundary lines)
- Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas of Eastern Europe: revised & updated by Dennis P. Hupchick and Harold Cox
- Germanic Genealogy by Edward R. Brant et al (worldwide sources and migration) ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

A warm WELCOME to our newest members!

Garl & Carol Satterthwaite

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President's Message

By Dick Finn

There are lots of things for all of us to take advantage of as members of the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society. Look at all of the SIGS we have. Take a look in this newsletter for meeting times and locations. The newest SIG is the Family Tree Maker/Ancestry SIG. It will meet for the first time on Monday November 12 from one to three at the Alamo FHC. I know some of us will be there with our questions about the differences between the old and new versions of FTM.

As most of you know all of the SIGs are open to people just starting out in genealogy to those who have been doing it for many years (many, many in some cases!). Try a new SIG out and bring a friend!

The Heritage Happenings (HH) events went very well with ours at the Danville Library and those in Livermore, Dublin, and Pleasanton organized by L-AGS. Sande Burns and her crew did a wonderful job at Danville.

So good in fact that we have already been signed up to do Heritage Happenings at both the Danville and San Ramon libraries in October of 2013. Beside organizing HH Sande also gave her introduction to genealogy class at Danville. Her popular class will be given again at both Danville and San Ramon in October of 2013.

There are a couple of SRVGS leadership positions open. We are looking for a Mini Ed Coordinator and a Community Outreach Chair. Please talk to any Board member if you would like to know more about these important tasks. Also, talk to a friend and perhaps volunteer as co-chairs.

Christmas Cookie Exchange!

Plan to attend our society's annual **Christmas Cookie Exchange** held every year at the home of Francie Lloyd. It will be held on Tuesday, Dec 4, at 10:00am. All society members are invited. Bring enough cookies to share and plan on bringing a good variety home with you.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

November 2012

- 6 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of Kathy Javdani in Danville.
- 20 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. From the I-680 Freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 1/2 miles.

December 2012

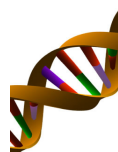
- 4 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. to noon** All members are welcome. Plan to attend the pre-Christmas **cookie exchange at the home of Frances Lloyd** in Danville. Bring a couple of dozen or a plate of your favorite cookies to share with the group. In exchange they will be able to sample them and take some home to the family.

Our Society will not hold a general meeting during the month of December. Enjoy the Holiday season, **attend the cookie exchange** and look forward to meeting again in January, 2013. The next Board meeting is to be held on Tuesday January 8, 2013 (Note: This is the *Second* Tuesday!) at a home location to be announced.

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Note: SRVGS Special Interest Groups will not meet during the month of December.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups for November:



DNA - This Special Interest Group will meet on **Thursday November 8th, 10 am (second Thursday) at the Family History Center** on Stone Valley Road. Bob Venter is the contact person for ►

the group. Please contact him to express your interest in the group. You may contact him via e-mail, rjventer@comcast.net or phone (925)454-9919. Bob has a Venter family web site, <http://www.venter.org>, from which you may view family DNA information and from which he wants to gather information for the Venter Surname Study.



GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday November 28th at 10 am (the fourth Wednesday)** at the home of Bob and Fran Schweitzer in Walnut Creek. The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact her via e-mail, shodegard@att.net or phone 932-6796 for more information.



IRISH - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday November 14th (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am.**, at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is the contact person for this group. You may contact Patty via e-mail, russpat@comcast.net or phone 229-0889.



LEGACY SOFTWARE – This is a genealogy software users group. Their regular meeting date is **Monday, November 26th**. The Legacy group otherwise will typically meet on the Fourth Monday from **1-3 PM** at the FHC in Alamo. If anyone is interested in joining this group, contact Sharon Clay at sharonclay@comcast.net, or 925-462-4518.



PUBLISHING – The publishing group will meet **Thursday November 15th at 10:00 am** (the third Thursday of the month) at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville. Publishing a book about your family's story need not be a mysterious process. The Publishing Group invites you to regular meetings where you will learn the ins and outs of publishing. This informal group of members will offer advice, encouragement, suggestions and guide you to publishing sources as you develop your book. Members that are interested in joining should let Francie know ahead of time that they plan to attend. For further information, contact Francie at 837-9382 or e-mail, frances_lloyd@comcast.net



FAMILY TREE MAKER/ ANCESTRY – Several members have shown an interest in being a part of this group and having it continue and prosper. Their first meeting will be **Monday November 12th, at 10 am** at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. They will be covering the features & benefits of Family Tree Maker which syncs with Ancestry.com. Come join the conversation and bring your questions as to how Family Tree Maker compares to other software. Future meetings will then be scheduled. Susan Rush has volunteered to be the coordinator for this group. You may contact her at gen4you@astound.net or 674-0929. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 13 November Tuesday 7:30 pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society (www.L-AGS.org) will have their regular meeting at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Traci Parent will speak about "Life and Death in the Mount Diablo Coal Field." This subject has been researched over three decades by Black Diamond Mines Supervising Naturalist, Traci Parent. Visit <http://www.L-AGS.org/> for further information.
- 14 November Wednesday 7 pm** A Macintosh Genealogy (MacGen) group will meet at The Oakland Family Search Library, 4766 Lincoln Avenue in Oakland. Reunion 10 has been out for 6 months now. November's meeting will feature two of Reunion's main tools, the Find command and the List View. The Find command can easily search your extensive database for just about anything you care to look for. One feature of Find, is the ability to find two people and automatically create a chart that shows how they are related. It is very slick. The list command is used when you want more complex, customized reports. Visit www.macgen.org for further details. ►

17 **November Saturday 10:30 am** The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will hold a regular member meeting at the Grace Lutheran Church Hall, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. Woody LaBounty will be their guest speaker. The topic will be: "Carville by the Sea." "Carville-by-the-Sea," one of the quirkiest and least-remembered communities in San Francisco's history, flowered as an 1890s beach retreat on the sand dunes south of Golden Gate Park. Prominent bohemians, judges, lady bicyclists, and sand-bath-prescribing physicians transformed old transit cars into cottages and clubhouses, mansions and churches. Woody LaBounty is the founder of the Western Neighborhoods Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the history of western San Francisco. Visit www.smcgs.org for further information.

20 **April 2013 Saturday** – Sonoma County Genealogical Society presents their Spring Seminar featuring Barbara Renick. For more information go to <http://www.scgs.org>.

4 **May 2013 Saturday** – San Mateo County Genealogical Society presents their Spring Seminar featuring D. Joshua Taylor. For more information go to <http://www.smcgs.org>. ■

EDUCATION

By: *Kathy Javdani*

In November, as the holiday season gets underway, we'll still have opportunities to learn new information and hone our skills.



The California Genealogical Society, <http://www.californiaancestors.org> continues to offer a variety of sessions.

- Their month begins on Saturday, Nov. 3rd with two offerings.
 - The **French-Canadian Special Interest** meets from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Dick Finn 925-447-9652
 e-mail: president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Russ Erickson 925-229-0889

2nd V.P. Program:
 Rae Atwood 925-376-7527

3rd V.P. Membership:
 Ed Mason 925-838-7848

Recording Secretary:
 Mary Tom 925-376-2756

Corresponding Secretary:
 Jan Mangold 925-820-5901

Treasurer: Vern Segelke 925-838-8570

Parliamentarian:
 Virginia Rood 925-937-8659

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter 925-454-9919
 e-mail: rjventer@comcast.net

Calendar Coordinator:
 Vern Segelke 925-838-8570
 e-mail: v.m.seg3@sbcglobal.net

Mailing: Lucy Carver 925-837-3146

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

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

INDIVIDUAL HELP

Do you need individual help in overcoming a "brick wall" in your research? Go to the SRVGS web site at: <http://srvgensoc.org/>, click on RESOURCES, then click on INDIVIDUAL HELP FOR SRVGS MEMBERS.

Want to help someone who is having research problems in your area of knowledge? Call Harry Baggett at 925-837-7960 to have your name added to the SRVGS Individual Help list.

Harry Baggett trvrl@sbcglobal.net

- Then, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Kim Cotton will lead a class entitled **Genealogy: An Introduction. Register online.**
- **The San Francisco Special Interest Group** will meet on Saturday, Nov. 17th from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Finally, on Tuesday, Nov. 20th the **Roots-Magic Special Interest Group** will meet from 6:30 – 8:15 p.m.



Again this month without leaving home you can enjoy the free webinars offered by Southern California Genealogy Society <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com>. On Nov. 3rd at 10 a.m. Roy Chan will lead the webinar entitled **Immigrant Voices – Angel Island Immigration.**



Planning for 2013? On Jan. 19th from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Concord Family History Center Bonnie Mallson will lead the class: **New or Returning Genealogists in the Digital Age.** ■

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