



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXVIII No. 4, Oct - 2012



THIS MONTH – October 16, 2012

“Early European Research “

Presented by: Jim Rader



Jim Rader was the publisher of the quarterly *Rader Ramblings* surname newsletter for 33 issues (1991-2001). He has been a lecturer at the semi-annual Family History Center seminars since the early 1990's. In 1999 Jim started teaching as an adult education instructor in computerized genealogy topics for the Folsom-Cordova Adult Education Center with teaching credentials in Computer Applications and Programming. His genealogy pursuits include the "Guild of One Name Studies" for the surname Rader. He is also the coordinator for the Rader surname study at Family Tree DNA. He has researched all Rader families, with many books in print and two websites: www.rader.com and www.jimrader.com.

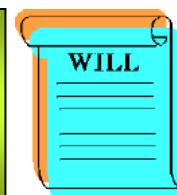


From the September Meeting

"Using Local and Family History Records in Your Research "

Speaker: Dean McLeod

Reporter: Russ Erickson



Dean McLeod, professional genealogist with the Contra Costa History Center in Martinez, presented a good general approach to breaking down your "brick walls". Go back carefully over your initial steps and approach to the ancestor problem. He encouraged the use of Archives, history centers, county histories, voter registrations, tax records, and church records. Check the FULL census records.

If you cannot find the ancestor you seek, come forward a generation for census records and

all other basic steps, then try to move backward again. Do not rely on your computer for everything. Seek information from books on the localities you might search; use libraries, history centers, and local records of any type that might help. Explore all that is out there!

Apologies for an abbreviated set of speaker notes. Our good Newsletter Program Reporter was unable to join us for the day and no one took the usual excellent speaker notes. ■



President's Message

By Dick Finn

Dear Members,

Wow, there is a lot going on at the SRVGS. New Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are starting up including the Family Tree Maker/Ancestry SIG. I am really looking forward to that group. I need help getting some of my charts to do what they used to do in the older versions of Family Tree Maker (FTM). Call me old fashioned. I stayed with the older versions of FTM as long as I could but with my new computer came a new operating system and my old FTM would not work. So now I need to catch-up. If you are having the same problems please join us.

Take advantage of all of the other SIGs we have, including DNA, German, Irish, Legacy, Publishing, etc. We have lots of SIGs to learn from and to contribute your knowledge to. Yes, this can be a two way street. We can learn from the experience of the group members and on the other hand they can learn from us. I have found over the years that many beginning people are using some function in a program that more experienced users have passed over for some reason. Bottom line is that in a SIG we can all learn from each other.

Speaking of contributing we have two leadership positions open. Sande Burns has put a lot of effort into making our society even better, but feels she needs to step back a bit. She has put a great deal of energy into her many positions and we certainly give her a very big thanks! Sande will continue to be our Member Liaison chairperson but will no longer be both the Mini Ed Coordinator and the Community Outreach Chair. Please talk to any of the Board members about what these jobs entail. They can be very fun and interesting positions. I look forward to hearing from you. I also look for your comments and suggestions regarding how we can make the SRVGS even better and more useful to our members and communities.

Dick



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

October 2012

- 2 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of Jan Mangold, Corresponding Secretary.
- 16 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.

November 2012

- 6 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be 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.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

There will be no Legacy SIG in October due to vacations. It will be back in November.

Work is continuing on a Family Tree Maker/Ancestry SIG. New member Susan Rush (gen4you@astound.net) has volunteered to chair this SIG. We've scheduled a first meeting at 1pm on Monday November 12th at the Danville Family History Center. Nine people signed up for the SIG at the September meeting. If you are interested in attending there will be a sign up sheet at the October meeting. If you have questions regarding the FTM/Ancestry SIG you may contact Susan at the email address above.

Here's a tip on downloading your Ancestry family tree to a Gedcom file on your computer: ►

1. Log in to your personal Ancestry.com account
2. Click where it says "Tree Pages" to get a pull-down menu and select "Tree Settings"
3. Click on "Download your Gedcom File"
4. A pre-filled-out destination file name dialog will appear (you should be saving to the Family Tree Maker folder if you have FTM installed). It will take a minute or two depending on the size of your family tree.
5. Now you should have a newly-produced Gedcom file of your Ancestry Family Tree. If you have more than one Family Tree, this needs to be done for each.

Don't forget the wonderful resource of Danville Family History Center volunteers. Many countries have expert help available for you. They're open Tues. Night, Wednesday Day/Evening & Thursday day. You can find a list of all the areas they cover like, England, Scandinavia, US Southern States, and more. We have the SIGS and volunteers listed at <http://srvgensoc.org/srvgs-member-resources.pdf>.

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



DNA - This Special Interest Group will meet **Thursday October 11th, 10 am (second Thursday) at the Family History Center** on Stone Valley Road.

They will discuss DNA Surname projects. 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.

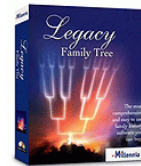


GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday October 24th at 11 am** (the fourth

Wednesday) at the home of Carol Huvane in Walnut Creek. e-mail tomcarhuvane@aol.com. At this meeting, they will also have their **annual Oktoberfest luncheon**. 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 October 10th** (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. **This group will NOT meet in October.** 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 sharonlclay@comcast.net, or 925-462-4518.



PUBLISHING – The publishing group will meet **Thursday October 18th 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 monthly 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



CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

9 October 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. Susan G Johnston will speak about The Records behind the World War I draft Registration Cards.

16 October Tuesday 6:15 pm The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical society will hold one of it regular meetings in the Cedar Room of the Santa Clara Central Park library, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. "Truth in Church Records" will be presented by Richard Ferman. Visit www.scchgs.org for further information.

20 October Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The 18th annual Family History Fall Seminar, "Digging for Your Roots" will be presented at the Concord FHC, 3700 Concord Blvd. in Concord. The donation fee is \$15 per person to get a Syllabus if you register before September 30. The registration fee is \$7 for the seminar only. Phone Jackie Hein 925-827-4729 for further information.

26 October Friday 8:30 am to 4 pm The California Genealogical Society and New England Historic Genealogical Societies are sponsoring a Seminar at the Berkeley Marina, 199 Seawall Drive in Berkeley. Two lecture series of four lectures each, will give listeners a choice of hearing either of two nationally known speakers, Rhonda McClure or David Lambert. Rhonda specializes in New England Research and computerized genealogy. David specializes in New England, Atlantic, Canadian, British and Military research. For details visit www.Californiaancestors.org or phone (510) 663-1358.

Genealogical Society of Vallejo-Benicia will hold a regular meeting in the auditorium on the second floor at 734 Marin Street in Vallejo. Allan Dolgow will speak about his genealogy journey to Russia, Israel, Canada, India and the USA. Their regular meeting date is the first Thursday of the month.

3 November Saturday 1 to 4 pm The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical society will hold a member meeting in the Redwood Room of the Santa Clara Central Park library, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. It will be a Veterans Remembrance Symposium. A representative of the Sons of the American Revolution will give a lecture followed by a member of the Sons of Union Veterans speaking about his Ancestor's life. Then United Veterans Council members will discuss their wartime experiences with a focus on the Vietnam war. Veterans in the audience will be invited to reflect on their remembrances.

3 November Saturday 9 am to 3 pm The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will sponsor a Seminar at the Menlo Park LDS Church, 141405 Valparaiso in Menlo Park. Tom Jones, Co-editor of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly and a genealogical educator will give four lectures. Visit www.smcgs.orag for details and registration form.

SOCIETY NEWS VIA EMAIL

Ileen Peterson is the coordinator for the sending of group emails. This extends our group communication ability beyond the monthly newsletter. Ileen keeps an email address list of members. She will distribute messages at least once a month. Members wishing to share news may send it to Ileen. If it is deemed appropriate, it will be distributed. Members always have the option to Opt-Out of the email distribution. Notify Ileen Peterson at:

ileenpierce@gmail.com

1 November Thursday 1 to 3 pm The ►

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

October is Family History Month. It follows that it is filled with numerous learning opportunities. Let's get started!!

 The California Genealogical Society, <http://www.californiaancestors.org/>, has an action-packed line-up of activities.

1. The **First Saturday Free Intro Class** with Lavinia Schwarz will meet on Saturday, Oct. 6th from 1-3:00. Register on-line.
2. Also on the 6th from 9-1, Bill O'Neil will lead a workshop entitled **Build a Book and Learn Repair Techniques. Register on-line.**
3. Join Bill for the class **Secrets from the Grave** on Thurs. Oct. 11th from 10:30 - 12 noon.
4. Bill will lead another workshop called **Create Your Own Document Box** on Thurs. Oct. 18th from 9 am - 1 pm. Register on-line.
5. The **San Francisco Special Interest Group** will meet on Sat. Oct. 20th from 10 - 11 am.
6. Also on the 20th the class **Legacy Panning: What Happens to Your Research When You Are Gone** with Patricia Burrow will be held from 1 - 3 pm. Register on-line.
7. On Tues Oct. 23rd the **RootsMagic Special Interest Group** will meet from 6:30 - 8:15 pm.
8. **NE HGS Comes West** on Fri. and Sat. Oct. 26th and 27th at *His Lordships* at the Berkeley Marina. Register on-line. Further details to all these activities consult the society's website.

 The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, <http://www.scchgs.org/main/classes.htm>, has two ►

classes scheduled for October.

Part 2: Organization will be presented on Friday, Oct 12 from 1 - 4:30 pm. This class will explain what a "source" is and how to document it. It will also explore the organization of your genealogy materials and different genealogy reports to help analyze your findings. Register on-line or at 408-615-2986. Registration closes on Oct 7.

Part 3: Census Records/Internet is scheduled for Saturday, Oct 27th, from 1 - 4:30 pm. Registration for this part closes on Oct 22nd. The session will examine the US census from 1790 through 1940. The session will also explore message boards, genealogy websites, such as Rootsweb, Ancestry and Family Search, and the different types of information available, free and paid, as well as their accuracy. Register on-line or at 404-615-2986. ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

A warm WELCOME to our newest members!

Gerald Hill
667 Las Barrancas Drive
Danville CA 94526
925-837-9702

Chris Myers
165 Timberline Court
Danville CA 94526
925-683-9140
crmyers165@gmail.com

Geri Willinger
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Walnut Creek CA 94598
925-935-6842
gegwillinger@yahoo.com

Jean Wondra
594 Cambrian Way
Danville CA 94526
925-718-5251
jean@fridayfarm.com

Facing Up to the Long-term Future of Your Genealogy Society

by Dick Eastman

Condensed from his article of March 7, 2012.

I travel a lot, and I spend a lot of time with officers and members of many genealogy societies. Most everywhere I go, I hear stories of societies that are shrinking in size or struggling to maintain their existence. Even amongst all this "doom and gloom," I do hear a few rare stories of genealogy societies that are thriving. Why do the majority of societies flounder while a handful succeed?

I hear all sorts of "reasons" why societies are shrinking these days. Common excuses include, "It's competition from the Internet" or, "It's the economy" or, "People just aren't interested anymore."

To be sure, competition and economic difficulties and even lack of interest exist everywhere. However, these factors affect all societies. The question persists: why is it that some societies thrive while others are shrinking?

I think the answer is a combination of many factors. However, some of the causes and perhaps even a few of the solutions become obvious when we look at history. Indeed, in recent years, even those of us alive today have seen similar declines and occasional reversals in a number of businesses. Perhaps the answer to the future growth of your genealogy society may be found by first looking back at the history of similar problems in other fields.

Here is the first question to ponder: *What happened to all the railroads in North America?*

In the 1800s the railroad industry in the U.S. was a growth business. In some ways it was like today's Internet businesses. Consumers couldn't get enough of the railroads' "product:" convenient and easy travel. Today, the railroad companies are a shell of what they once were. Why? Because automobiles and trucks came along and ran the railroads into the ground. Senior managers at railroad companies seemed to believe "we are in the railroad business." In fact, they were really in the *transportation* business, but few executives ►

realized that.

Let's fast-forward a few years and look at another business: **newspapers**. Again, newspapers used to be multi-million dollar businesses that most everyone respected. The newspaper business was almost an exact repeat of the railroad business. New competition arose from radio, television, the Internet, and a host of small electronic devices. Generally speaking, the new competition has been cheaper, faster, and much more flexible, able to change quickly to meet customers' demands. The result was predictable: Customers abandoned those companies where management said, "We are in the newspaper business." Yet a few forward-thinking managers said, "We are in the news and information business," and they survived by adopting the methods of their new competitors.

Let's look at a third example, although one with a very different ending. **Apple** started in the computer business 30 years ago at about the same time as did Microsoft and a few dozen other personal computer companies. Some built hardware; a few created software. A very few, including Apple, tried to do both. In fact, Apple floundered for a few years as the company's managers tried to become the best and most successful computer company. By most standards of measurement, the Apple executives failed. Sales were down and continued to drop every year. At one time, Apple was close to bankruptcy.

Apple's board of directors then re-hired Steve Jobs. He was a founder of the company but later left to pursue other opportunities. Newly-re-hired Steve Jobs was given one objective: turn the company around. Apple is now more profitable than any other company.

How is this possible? There are a number of reasons, but the biggest seems to be that Apple stopped being a computer company years ago. Instead, Apple is now the world's leading **PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY COMPANY**. Apple failed as a personal computer company, but it became wildly successful as a personal technology company.

The railroad moguls of days past said, "We're in the railroad business!" when they should have been saying, "We're in the ►

transportation business.” Newspaper managers used to say they ran newspaper companies when they should have been managing news and entertainment companies. Steve Jobs and Apple got this right by saying, “We’re not a personal computer company; we’re a technology company.”

So what does this mean for your genealogy society? Are they societies, or are they providers of genealogy information and education and other services?

First, let's stop calling them "societies." That is a very narrow term. Perhaps we should call them "genealogy organizations" or invent some other term that better describes the myriad of services possible. Such services can include:

- Education
- Publishing
- Travel services to local and distant repositories
- Lobbying services
- Entertainment

Probably not all genealogy organizations need to perform all of these activities, but I will suggest that most organizations need to perform at least several of the above.

Most societies already perform educational activities for members and sometimes for non-members. All we can do is to expand this. Perhaps societies should be holding classes and information sessions for the general public.

Publishing is performed by many societies today although often is limited to small booklets that are published only on paper and are not well advertised nationwide. Yet today's technology allows for electronic publishing at far lower costs than older methods of printing books. Shouldn't we be placing all genealogy publications online and making them available to anyone and everyone worldwide for a modest fee?

Travel services can be a major service for members. How many of your organization's members have ever visited the state historical society's library? Or a nearby university's archives?

Lobbying is perhaps one of the greatest needs of genealogy organizations today. We are under constant pressure from well-meaning, ►

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 trvlrl@sbcglobal.net

but ignorant, legislators to limit access to the very records we depend upon. Genealogy organizations need to make sure that legislators understand that identity theft is not a factor when looking at death records from many years ago.

As proven recently by the television networks, genealogy is also "entertainment." Yes, we are in the entertainment business, whether we realize it or not. Let's entertain our members and especially let's entertain our potential future members!

The above list only "scratches the surface." I am sure you and your associates can create a longer list of worthwhile activities. We need to exist, thrive, and even grow in a high tech world of instant communications and collaboration.

My prediction: many genealogy societies will continue to shrink and will eventually die. Genealogy "organizations" with a broad outlook and a willingness to experiment with new methods of delivering services will expand and become influencers within the genealogy world. Where will you and your society fit into all of this? ■

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