



BOOK REVIEW

Finding Family: My Search for Roots and the Secrets in My DNA

By Richard Hill

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (August 17, 2012) 261 pages, softcover. Also available as a Kindle ebook. ISBN 1475190832

Many WMGS members have met Richard Hill personally. He has lived in Kent County for many years and has been a presenter at a WMGS membership meeting. He discussed his search for his biological parents, how traditional genealogical research helped him locate a sibling, and how DNA evidence identified his father.

Many encouraged him to write a book about his experiences and *Finding My Family: My Search for Roots and the Secrets in My DNA*, was the result.

You don't have to be an adoptee to enjoy reading this fascinating story. Richard includes his genealogical triumphs and his mistakes. Every family historian will certainly relate as he overcomes mistakes, returns to untaken paths, and makes brilliant, and sometimes not so brilliant deductions. It is also an excellent introduction into understanding the basics of DNA research.

This is a very personal book. It's sad, funny and heart warming. All of us seeking our roots will recognize his Ah Ha! moments as well as the sad disappointment when a terrific clue turns out to be nothing more than a red herring.

Richard was a teenager in the 1960s when he accidentally discovered he was adopted, and that sudden discovery is where the book begins. It is not a story of a child who dislikes his adoptive parents. He loved his a great deal. At the same time, he wanted to know more about his biological roots.

Growing up, college, relationships and parenthood took precedence until the 1980s, when he began his search in earnest. For over twenty years he searched for his biological family. It is a compelling odyssey. Like every genealogist's personal history mystery, readers are drawn in to his search for clues and wait impatiently for the solution to the genealogical puzzle.

Mr. Hill's story also shows the power of genetic genealogy, especially for adoptees and birth parents. It also emphasizes that DNA alone is not a magic potion that will answer all our questions about brick wall ancestors. Genetic genealogy is only another a tool. It is at its best when combined with a well-researched paper trail. In the case of adoptees with no hope of a paper trail, DNA might provide clues that will help point you toward the paper trail.

For more information about DNA testing, to view a video about the book, or to purchase it, go to Mr. Hill's website at www.DNA-Testing-Adviser.com.

Once you start reading this book, it's hard to put it down.

Bobbi Schirado

