



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXVI No. 8 March - 2011



THIS MONTH – March 15, 2011
"Using The NEHGS Website Like a Pro "
Presented by: Lisa B. Lee



The New England Historic Genealogical Society is the country's oldest and largest genealogical society. Founded in 1885, with over 20,000 members, their research library is located in Boston, MA and holds over 12 million records, many of which you won't find anywhere else. They have an ongoing project to digitize their records.

Lisa will enlighten us about the NEHGS organization; benefits of membership; REGIONS included in their databases; TYPES of Databases; COMPREHENSIVE Indices; SEARCH and VIEW Tips; CITATIONS and REFERENCES; SEARCHING vs. BROWSING; ONLINE Genealogist and GENETICS/DNA Research.

Lisa B. Lee, a professional genealogist, is a graduate of the National Institute for Genealogical Studies of the University of Toronto where she obtained her Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies for the U.S., Canadian and Irish Genealogy and Methodology. She is a speaker at many genealogical societies and conferences in the U.S. and Canada. As one of Ancestry.com experts she conducts professional research for clients worldwide.



February Meeting
"Using the new version of Familysearch.org "
Speaker: Janet Broderick Reporter: Lee Schlenker



Most of you know and have worked with Janet at the Family History Center. She has been Director there for two years and volunteered for three years before that. She truly enjoys family and historical research at her "candy store" (aka Family History Library).

One announcement she made before her demonstration was that all the Family History Centers now have Ancestry.com back online and it's free at FHC. Also this year will bring about ordering your film online with your credit card.

Janet started with the fact that the new version format has changed on FamilySearch.org and if you are not comfortable with that new one, you can go back to the old format (just click on the upper most bar [above the screen view] for your preference). You've now got your screen, you may input by name (first and last), event, place, year and relationship. You may also choose from the "category block" just below the "search box" to find an ancestor: by census and lists; birth, death, marriage; probate and court; military; migration or naturalization. There are multiple ►

parameters to choose from. In the “search box” you can choose an “event,” click on the arrow which will give you more parameters from which to choose. When the small arrow appears in a choice box this gives you just one more step to locating an ancestor. They have made this searching pretty simple for us now. When you click and find your person, you can click onto that name and another screen will open on the right side of the same screen. You don’t lose that person or how you found him or her on the search. You can type in parents or grandparents of your ancestor along the way on different screens.

Janet says you need to play with names when searching for someone – less is better. Try to find an ancestor using only the last name and then keep adding info as you go from screen to screen until you find the correct ancestor. You can bring up the siblings when knowing the father’s name. Or you can list an event (with the category box arrows) and an image could appear which you would click onto giving you more screen choices. She calls each “filters” enabling you to search by area, time, census, marriage, probate, collections with only images (marked by a small camera image).

The second part of this new search is the family tree (or ancestral file) which also has more parameters. The “ancestral file record” will pop up with information which perhaps you are searching for and items in blue are links to help you continue your search.

The third part of this new system at the Family History Center is the Library Catalog allowing you to input parameters such as name, place, last name, titles, and other spouse. By changing parameters you can remain on screen and a filter will come up. This is an “auto field” as you type in letters, church records, etc. this field will list them out separately. All other places in the “library” remain on the screen – both above and below. When you find what you’re looking for you may order by your film number if available and have it sent to Danville Family History Center.

She says you may need to refine down some counties, cities, dates - but you need to be *persistent* if you are having difficulties finding your person, place or thing. ►

There is an “interactive guide” within the old site/system which is self-explanatory if you should need it. PAF is not an “interactive guide” as yet. There are Learning Resources to click onto which give you general information about what you will find (states, counties, migratory routes) and it contains links to data places within the new system. So, there are sites within sites. You will eventually be able to set up your own “watch list” and FHC will notify you when your info has been input onto FamilySearch.org. There are Research Courses with videos to learn how to get around your country of origin or certain languages. You must understand that not every single bit of information is indexed, so finding actual documents to look at is still an important factor.

There are millions of records now online but there are many, many more to be input. Since you get so much information through this website, Janet suggests why not give back to this website by volunteering to do some of the indexing portion. You can click onto “Indexing” and get an overview of how it works. You will need to sign in on FamilySearch.org - then you can choose what you would like to index. The document for indexing will drop down for your choosing. You can work at home and at your own leisure. When you’re done send it back to the FHC. If you choose to be a “beta tester” after you have signed in, there is a place for you too, with the how-to to complete their survey. New-bees are very welcome since they keep ideas fresh.

Janet’s final words were, “Information continues to be added all the time. So what you don’t find in one week or one month, go back and try again the next month or two. It just might be there!” Remember the Family History Center hours (in your handbook) and if you need help Janet or her counterpart will be more than happy to instruct and aid you. ■





President's Message

By Sherri Hedman

The nominating Committee is currently contacting members for help with offices and committees. We are confident you will step up because you realize member participation is what makes this group so great! And please be assured, you will have lots of assistance.

While I appreciate the long tradition of our president writing a monthly message for this newsletter, it is not a job requirement. Therefore, I have decided, instead, to fill this space with exciting or challenging genealogical material--unless I have something specific to say. *Exciting:* we will sometimes run a **Guest Column** written by members, (or others); Barbara Dittig has volunteered to write an article for us! *Challenging:* Ed's **Brick Wall** Column launched last month. Each of us has a brick wall, so why not write up yours and contact Bob Venter to put it in the newsletter, for a chance at a break through?

Sherri

From Our Nominating Committee

As you are all aware, our Society does not run itself. When you include Officers, Committees, assistants, and SIG leaders, we have over thirty individuals helping us to run what is, for the most part, a smoothly functioning organization. Many of our members have been helping for years. However, every year we have some openings. These could be for existing jobs or for new initiatives, i.e., a member observing what we do, or don't do, and then, with approval, launching a revised or completely new activity. Your participation and your ideas will make us a better society.

Much of the work of the Nominating Committee for the year 2011-12, which starts June 1, has already been done. Some jobs remain unfilled and we need your help:

- Nominating Committee: It currently ►

consists of Ed Mason and Elaine Franke. We need a third member. It could be anyone and the main responsibility would be to assist in finding people to do the Jobs listed below. The Committee expects to disband by mid May, if not earlier.

- Programs Assistant: The current officer member is Second V.P., Elaine Franke. Rae Atwood assists her as part of the Programs Committee. Both Elaine & Rae are expected to remain in place for 2011-12. Our need is for a second assistant - to learn from them and to help find qualified speakers. Elaine is currently writing up some guidelines for the Committee.
- Mini-Ed: This is the 15 minutes in our program that occurs right before the break. It typically is one of our members presenting a topic of interest. A recent Mini-Ed was Tom Draeger talking about Civil War History. We have had many such presentations since the start of Mini-Ed 3 or 4 years ago. We are currently considering alternating these sessions with a 15-minute Q&A, thus cutting the number of Mini-Eds in half. The Mini-Ed Coordinator will function as the go-to point for people wishing to make presentations.

There are other activities that we can involve you in, depending on your availability and your interests. We would particularly like to have our newer members participate in some way. You can discuss your options with the Nominating Committee or any of our Officers.

Do You have Something to Contribute?

Your SRVGS Newsletter is always in need of new material. Do you have an interesting story to relate? Some discovery that you want to share with others? Maybe an unusual experience that could help others in their own research. Anything you think will be of interest to the group. If so, we would be happy to include it in one of our newsletters. Anything in length from a half page to a page and a half of type written text would be ideal. Just write it up and forward it to the newsletter editor (rjventer@comcast.net). ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

March 2011

- 1 **Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting was held at the home of Tom Draeger, Treasurer, in Walnut Creek.
- 15 **Tuesday – 10:00 am.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/2 miles

April 2011

- 5 **Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** A Board Meeting is scheduled to be held at the home of Kathy Javdani in Danville.
- 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



THE MASTER GENEALOGIST INTEREST GROUP

This is a genealogy software users group for PC's with their focus on the use of The Master Genealogist. They will meet on March 15 at the home of Barbara Johnson in Danville. This group typically meets about 12:30 pm at someone's home after a General meeting. **Plan to bring a sandwich for your lunch.** Barbara Johnson is the contact person for the group. For further information, contact Barbara by Phone 837-2153 or e-mail bcj616@earthlink.net



MacGen – MACINTOSH GENEALOGY GROUP

The MacGen group will meet Wednesday, March 16th, at ►

10:30 am in the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. Our SIG specializes in the uses of the Macintosh by genealogists. The topic this month will be "Importing and Exporting Data in Reunion".

There will be a discussion of how to protect the confidentiality of living relatives in your exports. If you have a Mac lap top, please bring it as you will be able to follow along with the examples.

Bill George, Special Interest Group Coordinator, is the contact person for this group. E-mail williamcgeorge@Gmail.com or phone: (510) 538-2449. You may also refer to the web site at <http://www.macgen.org>.



ENGLISH - We now have an English Research Group meeting on Thursday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will be led by Suzanne Johnston, and interested members will work on research in England and Wales. If you are interested in getting some help with your English research, gather the materials you have about your line leading to your current research project, and bring it on a Thursday morning. It will be an open research time every Thursday morning. Please join them if you are interested in English research. Phone 552-5920 or e-mail Suzanne Johnston: gjohnston3@comcast.net



GERMAN – The German Group will meet Wednesday, March 23rd (The fourth Wednesday). They will be having a German lunch at D.J.'s. Bistro at 11:30 am in Concord. Anyone wishing to join them please contact Helen Odegard as she has to call for a reservation. The contact person for this group is Helen Odegard. If you are interested in joining the group please contact her at 932-6796 or e-mail shodegard@att.net for more information.



IRISH – This special interest group will meet March 9th and April 13th (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 the group. Phone (925) 229-0889 or e-mail russpat@comcast.net ►



PUBLISHING – A few members that are sharing their interest in publishing their genealogy and family history data, will meet on March 17th (the third Thursday) at 10:00 am. at the home of Francie Lloyd in Danville. Members are welcome to attend. For further information, contact Frances Lloyd at 837-9382 or e-mail frances_lloyd@comcast.net



SOUTHERN – The Southern Interest Group will meet again at 10 am on March 10th and April 14th (the Second Thursday of the month) at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. Jo Ann Garlington and Nancy Alexander are the co-chairmen. If you have questions before the meeting call or e-mail either Jo Ann Garlington (925) 689-2458, Chiefjoret@gmail.com or Nancy Alexander at (925) 820-1593, lxnancy@aol.com



SCANDINAVIAN – Members with this special interest may set aside a Wednesday afternoon between 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, to be at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. A few members are usually there to provide help to do research for Swedish, Norwegian and Danish genealogical information. It might be best to call to make sure they are there. For further information, please call (925) 552-5920 or e-mail Linda Bailey: baileylin-da100@Gmail.com. ■

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

The German Research Special Interest Group (SIG) is doing well and is meeting all over Contra Costa and Alameda counties on the fourth Wednesday of the month. I attended a recent meeting in February 2011, at Bob Venter's home with a well attended meeting of ten people. SIG Leader Helen Odegard (shodegard@att.net) organizes the meetings. If you have an interest in German Genealogy, I encourage you to try this group. ►

SIG leaders, you need to contact Vern Segelke monthly (v.m.seg3@sbcglobal.net), and he will update our newsletter with your upcoming SIG meeting and where it will be held. Also, on our web site, there is a web page, listing all the SIG topics and their schedules at <http://srvgensoc.org/sig.htm>.

If any of you have an interest in a particular subject and you'd like to expand your knowledge, I'd encourage you to start your own SIG. You would choose where to have the meetings... in your home or possibly at the Danville Family History Center. Then announce the meeting every month by telling Verne Segelke about it. Just try not to choose an area already covered by an SIG and try to find a non-conflicting time. Possible subject areas might be Genealogy Research Record Types, DNA testing or the Roots Magic genealogy program. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 8 **March Tuesday 7:30 pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society (LAGS) will have their regular meeting at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. The topic will be "Clues Leading to Ancestral Villages" presented by Patrick Loft.
- 9 **March Wednesday 10 am** The East Bay Genealogy Society will have one of its regular meetings at the Oakland Regional Family History Center Conference Room, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA. The Speaker will be John Gleed. It would be an unusual family indeed that had NO Black Sheep. These colorful characters do spice things up. John Gleed was born in London, England and came to California with his family in 1941. He has been interested in genealogy for thirty years and has been a Patron Server at the Menlo Park Family History Center for the past sixteen years.
- 15 **March Tuesday 6:30 pm.** In the Cedar Room of the Santa Clara Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Road; The Santa Clara Historical and Genealogical ►

Society will host the following presentation. Librarian Mary Hanel will demonstrate how to use the Library's genealogy, literature, and historical newspaper databases. This will be her annual presentation about; 'What's New at the Library for Genealogists'. Databases to be demonstrated will include Ancestry Library Edition, Heritage Quest Online, San Jose Mercury News Historical Archive (1886-1922), Literary Reference Center, and Biography Collection.

- 19 March Saturday 10:30 am** The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will have one of its regular meetings at The Grace Lutheran Church Hall, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. Kay Speaks will talk about Passenger List Annotations. For more information, go to <http://www.smccgs.org>
- 22 March Tuesday 1 to 3 pm** The Sacramento German Genealogical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Lusk Drive and St. Marks Way in Sacramento. Joan Gunn, SGGS member (now working toward certification), will be the speaker. The topic will be "Deciphering German Town Names". After working through basic deciphering from different styles of records, we will be led into a deciphering puzzle based on a record showing five marriages and six different towns.
- 26 March Saturday (4th Saturday) 1:30 pm** Mac Genealogy enthusiasts from all over Alameda and Contra Costa Counties will get together for this meeting at the Oakland Regional Family History Center Conference Room, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA. The topic for this month's meeting is "Reunion's Useful 'Find' Feature". Bill George leads the MacGen group and can be contacted by e-mail williamcgeorge@gmail.com, phone 510-538-2449 or a web site at <http://www.macgen.org>
- 9 April Saturday 9 am to 3:45 pm** The Sacramento Genealogy Society is sponsoring a spring seminar featuring Geoff ►

Rasmussen. It will be held at the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, 11427, Fair Oaks Blvd. Pre-registration is required. The fee for non-members is \$27. For registration form and further information, go to www.rootcellar.org

6 thru 10 April Wednesday through Sunday- The New England Regional Genealogical Conference will be held in Springfield, MA. For further information go to <http://nergc.org>

16 April Saturday 9 am to 4 pm A seminar will be sponsored by the Sonoma County Genealogical Society. This will be their 19th annual spring seminar. Christine Rose will be the featured speaker. It will be held at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, off Hwy 101 at River Road in Santa Rosa. For further details and registration information, go to www.SCGS.org/calendar.html The registration fee for a non-member is \$30. Pre-registration prior to April 1 is recommended.

11 thru 14 May Wednesday through Saturday The National Genealogical Society Family History Conference will be held in Charleston, SC. For further information, go to www.ngsgenealogy.org Early registration discount is available until March 11. ■

EDUCATION

 **18 March Friday 9 am to 1 pm.** Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist, at the National Archives, Pacific Region, in San Bruno, will present a workshop. The subject will be "Census Records Research." The fees are \$15 payable in advance. To register and reserve a space, contact her at (650) 238-3488. The address is 1000 Commodore Drive in San Bruno. She will also present a workshop about "Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records" on Friday, April 15.

 **19 March Saturday 1 to 4 pm** A workshop will be held by the California Genealogical Society (CGS). The subject will ►

be "Celtic Roots, Scotland and Ireland Research" with Cath Trindle. Their location is 201 Broadway in Oakland, lower level suite LL2. **Pre-registration is required.** This workshop will be limited to the first 40 registrants. This workshop is free to members or \$20 to non-members, which may be applied to membership. For further information and the ability to register online, go to <http://californiaancestors.org>



30 April Saturday 9 am to 3:15 pm

The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will host a seminar at the Menlo Park LDS church, 1105 Valparaiso. The theme is "Finding and Using Free Online Genealogy Resources". There will be three lectures and a problem solving workshop with Susan Goss Johnston. She is a graduate of the National Institute on Genealogical Research, Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis course at Stamford University's Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research, and the National Archives' course, going to the Source. For more information and the registration form go to http://www.smcgcs.org/temporary/spring_2011_seminar.pdf ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

Please extend a Warm Welcome to our newest members!

Geri Willinger

3551 Whitehaven Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
925-935-6842
gegwillinger@yahoo.com

Catherine Phillips-Olsen

50 Robert Road
Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-6025
orindadoc@comcast.net

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Sherri Hedman 925-275-8123

e-mail: president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. (Vacant)

2nd V.P. Program:

Elaine Franke 925-831-1989

3rd V.P. Membership:

Ed Mason 925-838-7848

Recording Secretary:

Carol Huvane 925-947-5669

Corresponding Secretary:

Kathy Javdani 925-736-5464

Treasurer: Tom Draeger 925-9375161

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

MY BIGGEST BRICK WALL

By: Ed Mason

At the last meeting when I asked for a show of hands on who had a brick wall, nearly everyone raised his or her hand. We would like you to write about **your** brick wall. Others may or may not be interested in your family members, but they will be interested in your research methods and they may be able to offer suggestions on the steps that can help you make that breakthrough.

We now have a procedure to enable you to submit an article. Bob Venter has agreed to be the **Brick Wall Article Coordinator**, in addition to being our Newsletter Editor and our Webmaster. Bob can be reached at rjventer@comcast.net or 925-454-9919. Make a reservation with Bob for your article and then email it to him at least a week before the month in which your article will be placed.

Until we get other participants I will have to keep writing the Brick Wall articles myself. One of our members commented that they are getting to know my genealogy better than their own. **It is up to you to put a stop to that.**

This month I will tell you about a small breakthrough on the brick wall that I wrote about last month, my third great grandfather, Daniel Perry, 1780 MA – 1858 MI.

I have found over two hundred descendants of Daniel, but none of them are aware of his origins. As I mentioned last month, I have found one male descendant still named Perry, Pat Perry of Michigan, and we had his DNA submitted to Family Tree DNA. None of the matches that we received were named Perry. So, this month I intensified my search for another male Perry descendant. I found one. This was my mini breakthrough.

Fayette Perry was a great grandson of Daniel. The 1910 ►

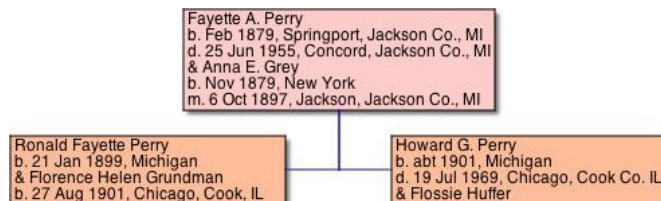


Figure 1: Fayette Perry & Sons

and 1920 Censuses showed that Fayette had two sons. (See Figure 1)

Neither Ronald nor Howard could be found in the 1930 census or in the Social Security Death Index. In the WWI Draft Registrations, I discovered that Ronald's middle initial of F stood for Fayette. Last summer, my collaborator, Pat Perry, had been to the library in Jackson County, Michigan and had made copies of several pages of handwritten notes prepared by a now deceased local genealogist. (See Figure 2)

It appeared that Ronald F had a son named Ronald F. There was a good chance that he would still be alive. So then I started looking at the living people sites that I have used quite frequently. Unfortunately there were several Ronald F Perrys in Illinois and Michigan. Then I spotted the Jackson genealogist's notes about inquiries made after ►

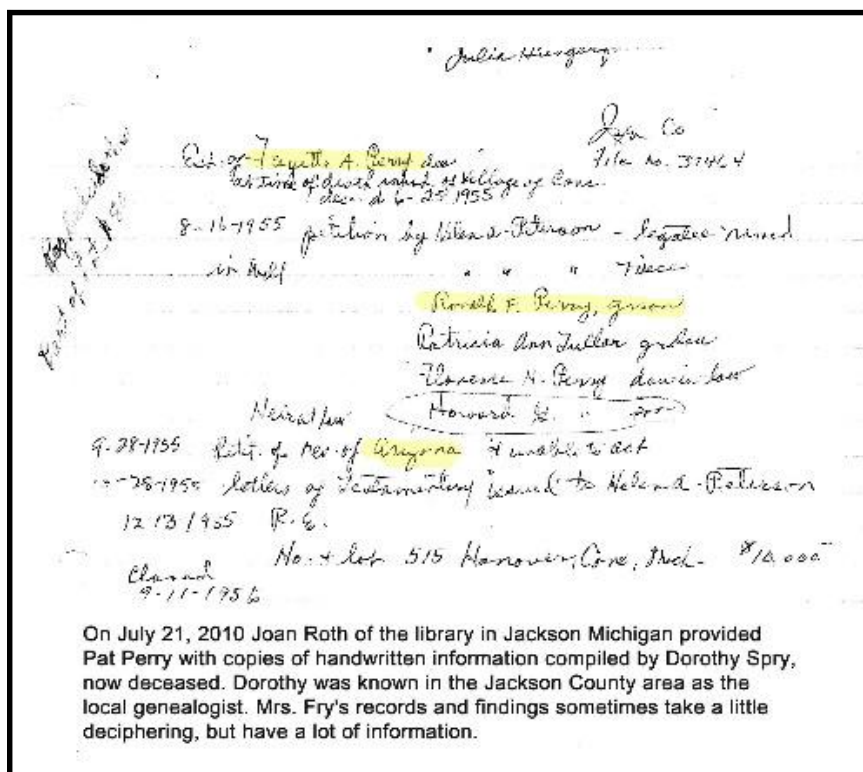


Figure 2: Fayette & Ronald Perry



Sign In – My Intelius
View My Reports

<< Return to Home

	Name	Age	Previous Cities	DOB	Phone	Address	Avg. Income	Avg. Home Value	Relatives
1	Ronald F Perry	80	Tubac, AZ Arivaca, AZ Tucson, AZ Tumacacori, AZ	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pamela Perry Pamela A Perry Mary Ann Perry
2	Ronald F Perry		Tubac, AZ			✓	✓	✓	

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Figure 3: Perry, Ronald on Intelius



Back To AnyWho

HOME FIND A PERSON MOBILE APPS ADVERTISE WITH US

Looking for someone? Search by name or number

Sign In Sign In Register

yp **CLICK LESS. LIVE MORE.™**

Find a Business Find a Person By Name By Address By Phone Number Maps & Directions

First Name perry tubac AZ FIND

Open Popular Categories The new YELLOWPAGES.COM™

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Ronald F Perry Add to Address Book | Print

2340 Camino Shangrila, Tubac, AZ
520-398-2687

Find more Information from Intelius

More Information for Ronald F Perry

Email and Other Phone Lookup

Figure 4: Perry, Ronald on AT&T

the death of Fayette. One was from Arizona. There was only one Ronald F in Arizona listed on Intelius. Actually the same person was listed twice. (See Figure 3)

The next step was to go to AT&T's Anywho where I was able to find a phone number. (See Figure 4)

I called him up, explaining, "We may be cousins." He confirmed that Ronald Fayette Perry was his father. Ronald Jr. lives about 50 miles south of Tucson and about 15 miles north of the border at Nogales. His computer capabilities or his connection were such that I have to get a package off to him in the mail. He sounded very cooperative. I'm hoping to gain more family information, more pictures and, eventually, his cooperation on a DNA test. If his DNA does not match up with Pat's, there will undoubtedly be some hand wringing, but it is possible that his may produce some matches named Perry and possible connections to trees with Perrys from the old country, presumed to be England. The search goes on. ■

News from the Danville Stake Family History Center

By Janet Broderick

We are very pleased to announce that the Family History Library version of Ancestry.com is now available for free at the Family History Centers. This is a wonderful addition to the great list of subscription sites we already had. This version includes the "Family Trees" as well as general historical searches.

Many thanks to Jim Stanton for donating the Texas Death Index 1903-1940 fiche. There are 292 fiches that go from A-Z. Each fiche entry includes: Last name, first name(s), county and death date. Thanks, Jim!! This is a great addition to our records collection!!

We have new zip drives that we don't need anymore. If you would like one or more, ►

please stop by the FHC!!

The FHC is open every week with some exceptions. We are closed on major US holidays, including President's Day & Martin Luther King Day. Probably the best way to know if it is a "major US holiday" is: if the US Post Office is closed, the FHC will be as well!! Note that we are also closed the full week of Thanksgiving and the last 3 weeks of December and we have reduced hours during August. If you have any questions of when the FHC is closed, please call during our normal, published times. ■



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**San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-0305**

FIRST CLASS MAIL