

**THE FUN PART OF FAMILY HISTORY  
USING YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WITH  
FORUMS AND MESSAGE BOARDS**

By Dick Grigg

- A. Getting an EMAIL address is the key to being able to do Family History Research on the Internet. The following is a review of how to obtain an EMAIL Address whether you have access to a computer or not.
1. **EMAIL ADDRESS: Everyone needs an EMAIL ADDRESS whether you have a computer or not. You can get your EMAIL ADDRESS by going to a computer that is on line. (1) At someone's place (2) At the FHC (3) At a City or County Library**
    - a. **Online refers to a computer connection to the Internet. Made possible through the use of an ISP (Internet Service Provider and Web Browser.) The most popular local ISP is Farmers Mutual Telephone Co. fmtc out of Fruitland.**
    - b. **Once the computer is Online you could choose any number of carriers to obtain your email address.**
  2. **At our FHC we can get you an email address through "Yahoo Mail" in the following manner: Click on "Internet Explorer" Icon which will bring up the familysearch.org Home page, then insert "yahoo.com" into the browser address window and press Enter. This will bring up the yahoo.com home page. Click on "mail" and this will bring up the "Welcome to Yahoo Mail" and it will bring up a screen so you can sign in if you already have an ID number. If you are a new user, then Click on "New User" and it will bring up the Sign up Screen.**

**Sign up for your Yahoo! ID with Mail**  
**Get a Yahoo! ID and password for free access to Yahoo! Mail and all other personalized Yahoo! services. COMPLETE THE INFORMATION ASKED FOR AND IT WILL CONFIRM YOUR ID AND EMAIL ADDRESS.**
- B. **QUERY AND MESSAGE BOARDS USING GENFORUM.COM AS AN EXAMPLE**  
The Forum Finder is useful for discovering message boards (forums) on GenForum. It does not search for specific messages. To find a particular forum, enter any of the following search criteria into the text field below (The search is not case-sensitive):
1. To find Surname forums, simply enter the surname  
Examples: "Smith", "Van Buren"
  2. To find U.S. State forums, enter the full state name or it's postal abbreviation Examples: "California", "WI"
  3. To find U.S. State County forums, enter only the county name  
Examples: "Alameda", "Waukesha"
  4. To find International Country forums, enter the full country name  
Examples: "Ireland", "New Zealand"
  5. To find International Country Region forums, enter the region or city name: Examples: "Dublin", "Yucatan"
  6. To find General Topic forums, enter the subject matter  
Examples: "World War I", "adoption"
- C. **TRY IT NOW!**
1. **Queries are requests for information about a specific ancestor, couple, or family. Besides accepting queries, most sites allow you to search the queries left by others. Also, you can respond to any query that you might find which is pertinent to your search.**
  2. **Some of the Query and Message Boards that I have used are: genforum.com; rootsweb.com; and Ancestry.com.**
  3. **In order to try one of these sites Go to the present Internet Server Site and click on the site to Highlight it, then type in one of these message board sites such as: genforum.com, Click "Go"**
  4. **This brings up the screen: Genealogy.com Genforum. On the right hand side of the screen is the Forum Finder box. Type in the Surname of the person you want to search for. I typed in grigg and clicked on "Find"**

5. This brings up “GRIGG FAMILY GENEALOGY FORUM”, You see three boxes
  - a. Search this forum: I typed in the name of “Moses Grigg” and clicked “ Go”
  - b. It brings up: “Your Search returned 7 results:
  - c. Your search returned 7 results. Below are the results of your search ranked by date:
    - (1) Re: Father of Moses Grigg - Dick Grigg 9/16/00
    - (2) Re: Father of Moses Grigg - Ernest Stanley 9/15/00
    - (3) Father of Moses Grigg - Dick Grigg 9/15/00
    - (4) Re: Moses GRIGG (1807-1858) - Dick Grigg 9/15/00
    - (5) Grigg/Gregg of Stokes Co., NC - Ruby 1/10/00
    - (6) Re: Jesse Grigg to Cleveland Co,NC, 1797,father Abner - karla lois 5/31/99
    - (7) Moses GRIGG (1807-1858) - Jane Poore 4/16/99
  - d. The second box has: “Jump to Forum” Here you can put in another surname and go to another forum.
  - e. The third box has: Shows how many messages posted. If you know the number of a message you can insert it here and go right to it.
6. Now go to the U.S. STATE FORUM: Let’s try Virginia since a lot of my ancestors came from Virginia. Virginia brings up one match, “VIRGINIA GENEALOGY FORUM, STATE” Click on this and it brings up the VIRGINIA GENEALOGY FORUM MESSAGE LISTINGS SCREEN which shows over 23,000 messages listed. I can narrow it down by inserting key words into the “Search This Forum” window. So I type in “Moses Grigg” and Click on Go. It brings up four matching messages, two of them by myself. You can read the message by clicking on the title, and then you can respond to it if you want.
7. U.S. STATE COUNTY FORUM: Let’s try “Lunenburg” a Virginia County and the county where Moses Grigg was supposed to have been born it. This results in one match: LUNENBURG COUNTY, VIRGINIA GENEALOGY FORUM. Click on it and it brings up the LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA GENEALOGY FORUM showing over 350 messages listed. Here again you can narrow it down by inserting key words into the “Search This Forum” window. This time I just put in the name “grigg” without a given name. And it brings up only 1 match, posted by myself.
8. GENERAL TOPIC FORUM: Let’s use “Quaker” as a topic. This brings up “QUAKER GENEALOGY FORUM, GENERAL” Click on this and it brings up the QUAKER FORUM with over 2400 messages posted. Narrow it down by inserting “New Garden” in the Search this Forum window. And this brings up 33 messages relating to the New Garden Monthly Meeting of the Quakers. This is the MM that Moses Grigg belonged to.

**NOW TRY SOME OF YOUR OWN NAMES, PLACES AND TOPICS USING THE FORUMS TO GET INFORMATION ON YOUR ANCESTORS. GOOD LUCK, DICK GRIGG**