

Tracking Classmates....

Free Online Search Engines Help Find Missing People

Reunions magazine has the following suggestions for trying to track down missing friends using the free online services that are available:

SUPER PHONE BOOKS

Switchboard <http://www.switchboard.com>

You provide a last name. Because Switchboard requires only a last name, you can do nationwide searches for uncommon last names. This won't help with the Smiths on your list but will definitely simplify finding the Schwarzeneggers.

InfoSpace <http://www.infospace.com>

You provide a last name. You can select "Metro Area" if you know the person lives near a city.

AnyWho <http://www.anywho.com>

You provide last name and state. When someone moves they may keep their old phone number and you can search for that phone number and find the current address.

NEEDLES IN HAYSTACKS

Intelius <http://www.intelius.com>

You provide a last name. Intelius helps distinguish between different people with similar names, i.e. separates the 50-ish John Smiths from the 20-ish John Smiths. It helps track people who have moved. If you have an old address for Jane Smith, Intelius will tell you the latest state Jane lived in. Use almost any detail you have for someone to narrow down to a state then go to your Super Phone Book.

Peoplefinders <http://www.peoplefinders.com>

You provide a last name; can also search by date of birth. With reasonable accurate last name and ballpark age, Peoplefinders can give you the town and state. Then you can go to a Super Phone Book. Peoplefinders can show many former addresses dating back over 20 years which can help track people who have moved.

Tip: When Peoplefinders displays a list of names, click on a name to see several previous addresses associated with that person. You can do this for free, even though the display is part of the Peoplefinders order system.

US Search <http://www.ussearch.com>

You provide a last name and approximate age. Also searches by birthdate, maiden name and a range of ages. Provides similar info as Peoplefinders but lists twice as many entries for each search.

E-MAIL PHONE BOOK

MESA <http://mesa.rrzn.uni-hannover.de>

You provide first and last name. It is sort of a phone book for email addresses. It actually uses seven other databases of email addresses to find what you are looking for.

IF ALL ELSE FAILS

Google <http://www.google.com>

You provide any name information and you receive references to name. Try several variations on the person's name and enclose the name in quotation marks.

The following are search suggestions given to us from another VF classmate:

<http://probate.cuyahogacounty.us/ml/pa.urd/mliw1000.display>

Real good for finding the married names---enter in the female's last and first name--see who they married--before you leave that page--put in the same female--with married last name, first name--and see if they remarried for a second, third time, etc.

<http://www.skipease.com/>

Pretty good for finding people anywhere by just first and last name because it will search all states--and give you "more info" which could give other clues where they might be.

<http://www.daplus.us/?Partner> <http://www.mamma.com/>

Probably the best one to start with. I suggest you just put in the person's first and last name--leave the city blank (because "parma" might actually be listed as cleveland), then just put in "ohio" in the state name and see what comes up.

There will be a section under it for "more listings"--keep going if you don't find it on the first screen.

Also--on the bottom all the way down--there may be some listings from "high schools" that sometime may give you another tip--although not always correct.

Will just take some practice--try to locate some yourself first. Just starting off is pretty easy---gets a little tougher when you start to find "james smith", "cathy jones", etc.