WHAT IS ROOTSWEB?

Founded in 1993, this Ancestry-owned database is free to use from any computer. It is an online community geared toward connecting users with others researching the same families. With RootsWeb’s family trees, message boards, mailing lists, and user-created websites, users can collaborate with like-minded researchers to explore their shared family history.

CASS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
GENEALOGY BRANCH

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Tuesday & Thursday  
12:00pm — 6:00pm
Wednesday  
12:00pm — 8:00pm
[CLOSED 5-6]
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10:00am — 5:00pm
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Research Inquiries:
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2017 Security Breach

Hundreds of thousands of RootsWeb users’ email, login information, and passwords were exposed externally. Over 300,000 accounts affiliated with the database’s surname list service, and 55,000 of the user names belonged to both the free RootsWeb site and also to Ancestry were affected. RootsWeb has since enhanced its security.

It is not necessary to have an account to use the website or search the resources. However, RootsWeb accounts are free to create.

www.rootsweb.com

Connect with your family history!

The Genealogy Branch has tons of resources and experienced genealogists to help you research your family history!

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WORLDCONNECT

What is WorldConnect?
This feature is a searchable collection of over 6 million surnames and 787 million individual names from GEDCOM files submitted by users.

GEDCOM Files
The acronym stands for GEnaological Data COMMunication. It’s a type of family tree file that is used by genealogy software programs such as Family Tree Maker or Legacy Family Tree. Most of these software programs allow users to import and export their family tree data as a GEDCOM file.

Searching for People by Name
This type of search is beneficial for users who are doing a general search of the database. Click on search for people by name at the top of the form to view. With this search form, users can search by: first and last names (with phonetic filters), gender, birth year and location, death year and location. Not all blanks must be completed to search. Click on a result to view the related individual page.

Individual Page
This page displays the information the family tree has for the individual, including name, gender, birth and death data, Person ID number, and Tree ID number. Any relatives that are also included in this family tree will be shown in the space below.

Note: Information contained in RootsWeb’s WorldConnect family trees is all user-contributed and may not be accurate.

MESSAGE BOARDS
Clicking on the Message Boards link in the navigation bar directs users to Ancestry’s message boards feature. It contains over 25 million posts and more than 198,000 boards covering a variety of locations, surnames, genealogy topics, and more. An Ancestry account is needed in order to contribute and interact with other members on these boards. Even with a free account, users can search, view, and comment on existing boards and threads, as well as start new ones.

MAILING LISTS
Mailing Lists have been discontinued, but users are still able to search archived messages sent through mailing lists. To Search: click on Search all list archives or type a surname, location, or topic in the Find a List search. Users can also browse lists by surname, location, or topic. This may help users locate mailing lists when they don’t know exactly what they are looking for or are trying to cast a wider net.

HOSTED WEBSITES
RootsWeb hosts a variety of user-created website. Users can browse an index of these sites organized by location, both in the United States and international, websites dedicated to specific family trees, and other miscellaneous topics. Projects like the US GenWeb project and the Obituary Daily Times are hosted websites.