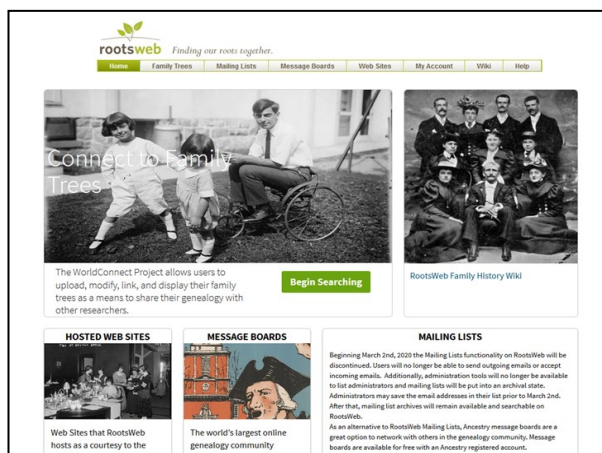## WHAT IS ROOTSWEB?

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.

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.**

CASS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY GENEALOGY BRANCH

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askgenealogy@casscolibrary.org

Hours

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Tuesday & Thursday
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Wednesday
12:00pm — 8:00pm
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Research Inquiries:
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CCPL Genealogy's Guide To:

ROOTSWEB

www.rootsweb.com

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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 GEnealogical 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.*

Searching for GEDCOMs by Name/Tree ID

This type of search is helpful if you want to go directly to a family tree and you already know its Tree ID or GEDCOM Name.

VIEWING FAMILY TREES

From the WorldConnect Individual Page you have various options for viewing the information in the family tree. These can be accessed using the navigation bar at the top of the page.

Descendancy

Arranges descendants of a specified individual or couple vertically, often including birth and death data of each individual.

Pedigree (Text)

A horizontal family tree that lists names and nothing else. All names can be clicked on to view the corresponding Individual Page.

Pedigree (Table)

A horizontal family tree that lists names and birth, death, and marriage data for all individuals. All names can be clicked on to view the corresponding Individual Page.

Registry

Similar to a Descendancy, but more narrative about the birth, marriage, and death data for each descendant in the direct line moving forward in time.

Ahnentafel

German for "ancestor table." Similar to a Registry, but starts with the individual selected and moves backward in time.

Index

A list of all individuals included in the tree alphabetically by surname.

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.