

## Introducing the Live Roots Project

Ten years ago when GenealogyToday.com was launched, there were far fewer genealogy websites and online databases. Fast forward to the present, and there's an abundance of information, with new resources coming online almost every day of the week. To complicate matters, an increasing number of websites are moving (i.e. to new web addresses) or disappearing altogether. What's the net result? Genealogists have had to become *Internetologists*! [Yes, I know that's not a word, but you get the point]

Combining ten years of experience in the genealogy industry, along with established relationships with data publishers (online and print), and our own information publishing endeavors, a new search experience was developed called Live Roots. Launched in October 2008, Live Roots is more than just a search engine. With a strong emphasis on original sources, Live Roots helps researchers locate resources regardless of whether they are online, in print, or on a variety of other mediums. The catalog is comprised of 70% free and 30% fee-based resources, and clearly identifies when a subscription is required to access an item.

Live Roots offers a unique combination of cataloged resources, from major database providers, established book publishers, microfilm repositories, free websites that host transcriptions, articles, blogs, podcasts and even unexpected items such as postcards and photographs – all incorporated into a single search process. Best of all, Live Roots is a free website designed especially for genealogists. And it is updated daily.

Visitors may also join the Team Roots membership program, launched back in 2001 and now available on Live Roots, to enjoy benefits that include additional search options and project management features. Membership options available include free (basic) and premium; the latter providing you will full access to the subscription databases created by Genealogy Today at a significant discount.

Genealogy Today began developing subscription databases in 2003 by transcribing information from original documents acquired from around the world. While similar to larger subscription sites (e.g. Ancestry.com), these databases focus on information derived from smaller documents published between 1830 and 1930; most including details on fewer than 500 individuals. The databases included in the premium membership are Family Tree Connection, Town Reports Online, Military Roots Project and GenWeekly. If you already subscribe to one or more of these databases, you can access them via Live Roots without any additional payment.

**What's this all mean to you?** It means you can spend your time searching for ancestors instead of trying to figure out where the information you need is located (or has been relocated), which, after all, is why you got involved with this hobby in the first place. None of us ever imagined we'd have to spend a majority of our efforts being Internet sleuths. Now you don't have to! Visit [www.LiveRoots.com](http://www.LiveRoots.com) today.

Live Roots is also available on [Facebook](#) and in [Second Life](#)!

A tailored version of the site called Local Roots may be used within libraries. Ask your librarian if they have signed up for it.

