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Progress

Have you ever watched a baby learn to roll over? At first, they just wiggle and squirm and suddenly find themselves on their tummies. Some remain content to thrash around until they accidentally roll over again but others endeavor to discover how to roll over at will. These children study cause and effect until they LEARN how to roll over. They learn to lift their legs, drop them to the side, twist their ground-side shoulder to the back so their arm is out of the way, then they straighten their hips and legs just enough to roll over. Every time they are put on their backs they repeat the steps, gradually becoming more adept and fluid at the maneuver. Maybe these children grow up to be inventors, scientists and computer programmers because they can see cause and effect and LEARN how to do things.

The improvements to the latest version of FamilyInsight reflect a response to your feedback as well as LEARNING that has occurred as the programmers experiment with new ideas and study cause and effect. There may have been some serendipity that provided a key to solving some issues but they still had to apply that key in the right manner to get the desired result on demand.

Please, do not be surprised by the frequent updates or be misled into thinking that the program is full of bugs. Many of the "fixes" are in response to a very small group of users that experience a problem. Recently, one person reported a problem when loading her file into FamilyInsight. Prior to opening FamilyInsight, the user had been entering new family names in PAF and somehow the file became corrupted. This type of corruption is so rare that it had never been encountered by either PAF Insight or FamilyInsight and it crashed the program. John worked on the PAF file to find the cause of the crash and figured out a way to fix it. The fix was incorporated into this new version of FamilyInsight. We all benefit from this attention to detail and response to "the one".

As the year goes on, we will continue to change the program. FamilySearch family tree continues to evolve and we have to respond to those changes, as was the case with their November update. Additionally, when the FamilySearch department says we can add new capabilities, we immediately begin to develop them. These changes require new testing, which can lead to breakthroughs, flashes of inspiration and improvements to our program, which are reflected in new releases.

We cannot stop a baby from learning to roll over, sit up, crawl, walk or run. Neither can we keep a good programmer from having a vision and working to make it a reality. I hope John and his development staff will continue to dream, work and learn so we can continue to enjoy the fulfillment of those dreams. That is what I call progress.

~ Cina Johnson ~

Insights into Insight: Latest and Greatest Updates

If you have not downloaded the newest version (2009.1.5.0 or later) of FamilyInsight, you are in for a treat! We have added:

- A German language option
- The same filters as you have in the Search IGI mode
- An icon to indicate the status of synchronized records
- Additional options for synchronizing to make it easier and reduce the need to resynchronize

In the December issue of *Ohana Insights*, I mentioned that we are assembling translation teams. At that time, FamilyInsight was available in English and French Canadian. The newest version of FamilyInsight now includes the option to install the program in German. Please read Issue 22 of *Ohana Insights* to learn how you can become a part of a translation team for FamilyInsight.

You asked for filters in the Sync with FamilySearch family tree mode like we offer in the Search IGI mode and me listened. If you are only interested in searching for and synchronizing records for people that need ordinances, you can do that. If you have records that are marked Cleared or Submitted, you can select that filter and look for those people in FamilySearch family tree. The number of filters is controlled by your options in PAF. If you turn off the LDS ordinance feature in PAF, you will only have two filters in FamilyInsight. If you have the LDS ordinance feature turned on in PAF, you will have eleven filter options in FamilyInsight.

Icons. Symbols. Pictures that are worth a thousand words. I was on the phone with John Vilburn when I first saw the new icons. He asked me what I thought and off the top of my head I did not do well with "interpreting" their meaning. I am sure he was disappointed. I DID discover that if I held my mouse over the icon I got a tool tip explaining what the icon meant. Maybe I gained a few points for discovering that. When I looked at the icons again, a light bulb went off! It was as plain as day. Here is the interpretation thereof.

- The two chain links symbolize the two databases; your record (on the LEFT) and the FamilySearch family tree records (on the RIGHT).
- When both links are blue/gray, it indicates that the record has been synchronized.

PAF Insight and FamilyInsight use pink highlighting to indicate differences. The program makes no judgment about the data but simply highlights differences between the records on the right and the left. Building upon the use of pink to indicate there is a difference the following applies.

- When the right link (FamilySearch side) is pink, something about that person's records has changed in FamilySearch family tree.
- When the left link (your file's side) is pink, something in your file has changed.

- When both the right and the left links are pink, something has changed with both your file and the FamilySearch file.

The symbols alert you to changes but you do NOT need to do anything unless you WANT to. If I synchronize my great grandmother's records then find her obituary and enter that into my PAF notes, the next time I open FamilyInsight, the left-hand link of the chain will be pink. Do I need to resynchronize the records? No. I will see the pink chain link on the left, remember that I added her obituary and decide whether or not to add it to FamilySearch family tree by resynchronizing the records. Even if I want to add the obituary, I am not compelled to do it now.

If I open FamilyInsight and see that one of my records has pink on the right link, I will know that something is new on their record in FamilySearch. Do I need to resynchronize the records? Not unless I am interested in seeing what has changed. If I am actively researching that family line, I will probably want to resynchronize the records but if I am working on another family line or some other project, I will resynchronize some other time. To sync or not to sync, that is YOUR choice.

This new version of FamilyInsight makes great improvements on the synchronizing process. In previous versions, if you wanted to get the sealing information for a couple, you had to synchronize one person with the marriage data set to Ignore then synchronize their spouse with the marriage record set to Match with MRIN #. NOW, FamilyInsight provides you with the Match with MRIN # even if the spouse has not been synchronized. The same holds true for synchronizing a child. You can select the Match with MRIN # for the parents even if they haven't been synchronized. With the Match with MRIN # option, you can synchronize the child and get their sealing information without having to stop and sync the parents. ALSO, when you select Match with MRIN # for either the parents or for the marriage of a couple, the PID for the parents or spouse is added to their record in your file.

As you use this new version, you will find that synchronizing is much easier. Let's give the programmers a round of applause!

Spotlight on: MythBusters – FamilySearch Family Tree Style

User groups and local training classes have helped many of us become more confident when using the FamilySearch family tree but sometimes they inadvertently perpetuate misinformation. I am guilty of this as well. Recently, John questioned something I'd written, and the ensuing discussion lead to an hour of experimentation so we could separate fact from fiction. I learned a lot!

Just prior to that event, a caller asked me a question about FamilySearch family tree and our understanding of the particular function was very different. I promised to find the answer and get back to him, which I did. These two discussions emphasized my need to verify facts before believing or repeating everything I hear and read.

Where did I find the factual answers? I went to source! I logged into FamilySearch family tree, clicked on the link, "Learn How to Use FamilySearch" and opened "*A User's Guide to the New FamilySearch (November 2008)*"! CAREFUL experimentation with John also provided me with answers. [NOTE: Sometimes, you have to work with another person, as John and I did, because the system works differently when someone else modifies your records than it does when you change

your own records. If you experiment, make sure you and the person you work with delete any misleading information you entered while experimenting.] Other resources are the knowledgebase documents located in the Help Center and the training videos created by FamilySearch. I pick up new pointers each time I watch them.

Here are questions I researched and the answers I found.

~ I have heard that once someone puts a dispute onto a record, it remains there forever. Is that true? ~

Answer: Yes and no.

Explanation: If you dispute an ancestor's birth date and place (or some other life event) and the original contributor(s) change their record to agree with your assertion, you will no longer see the bad data or the dispute. However, if another person adds their opinion *and it is the same as what was previously disputed and corrected*, the dispute will automatically appear on the newly entered record. This helps alert the "newcomer" to the fact that new evidence exists so they can learn what is now accepted as fact.

Advice: You may want to leave the incorrect information in FamilySearch if it is an error that is widely circulated throughout your family. Seeing the dispute symbol will help point family members who are less knowledgeable to the correct information. [*"A User's Guide to the New FamilySearch (November 2008)"* p. 101]

~ I keep hearing that if someone adds a dispute, the person that entered the original data cannot change it until the dispute has been removed. Is this correct? ~

Answer: Again, the answer is both yes and no and it depends upon what was disputed.

Explanation for disputes on relationships: Disputes on relationships prohibit the contributor from unlinking the people until the dispute has been removed.

Advice: You should do all you can to contact the contributor about unlinking the people. If you cannot contact them, apply the dispute. If you are eventually contacted by the contributor, work with them to determine the best information, remove the dispute and correct what is wrong.

Explanation for disputes on life events, names, etc: Disputes concerning life event dates and places, the spelling of names or places, or names in general (Ann Maria verses Maria Ann or John Q Adams verses John Quincy Adams) can be changed by the original submitter without the dispute being removed. If the submitter changes the data and the dispute no longer applies, the dispute symbol and comment will be hidden unless someone else enters the same data.

Advice: From page 16 of *"A User's Guide to the New FamilySearch (November 2008)"* we read, "A user who enters a dispute should include a detailed explanation so that everyone can see why he or she believes the information is incorrect. The dispute can then start a discussion among contributors, which will ideally lead to the most correct information being identified and preserved and incorrect information being removed."

~ I have heard that if someone combines records improperly, I cannot separate them. Do I need to dispute all the wrong information when my ancestor was improperly combined? ~

Answer: First, if you find someone improperly combined records, you can and should separate them. Once you separate the records you can evaluate the remaining data and either add your own assertions or dispute information that is still inaccurate or misleading.

Explanation: When two or more people's records are inappropriately combined, the information for each person is probably correct and it is only "wrong" because of being combined. Rather than disputing, use the separate feature of FamilyInsight to separate the records into the proper people. If your person's record still contains some erroneous data after separating the records, you may dispute that.

That covers what I learned about disputes. Here is what I found out concerning reserving names for temple work or releasing the names for others. The answers come from "*A User's Guide to the New FamilySearch (November 2008)*" I listed the page numbers at the end of each section. I also added emphasis to a few words by typing them in CAPS.

~ When I reserve a name then release it to the temple, there is no indication that it has been released. What stops someone else from releasing it to the temple, too? ~

Answer: I quote from page 147.

Making Sure Ordinances Get Done

You have several options for making sure that your ancestors' temple ordinances get done.

- You can reserve the ordinances and do them yourself. For more information, see "Prepare to Do Temple Ordinances for Your Ancestors" on page 139.
- You can decide to NOT reserve the ordinances. FamilySearch will allow you AND other users to do them. If you have relatives who use the Internet, this is probably the best way for them to help with ordinances.
- You can reserve the ordinances and THEN request that the temple provide the proxies for you. FamilySearch will make these ordinances available for OTHER Church members to do. Either another user will select and perform the ordinances, OR the temples will give them to temple patrons who do not bring their own family names.

As I read the second and third bullet points, it seems that they have the same effect. If you do not reserve a name, the temple or someone else can select the name and do the work. If you reserve a name then release it, other people or a temple can do the work. Either way, someone else has the option to reserve the name and perform the work.

The FamilySearch and Member Services groups of the Family and Church History Department have worked diligently to provide us with the necessary training to use FamilySearch family tree. We should take full advantage of their efforts in our behalf. When in doubt, read the instructions!

Odds and Ends

Heritage Collector Suite Bonus Sale has been extended to Jan 15th. To take advantage of receiving the FREE Bonus Pack, you must purchase Heritage Collector by Jan 15th. The free bonus package includes the following:

- Storybook Module – \$9.95 value for Free
- Easier Scanning Interactive Tutorial – \$9.95 value for Free
- Using Sound Interactive Tutorial – \$9.95 value for Free

To learn more about Heritage Collector Suite and the Bonus Pack go to:

<http://www.ohanasoftware.com/?sec=learnmore/heritagecollector>

Calendar

2009 SANTA CLARITA VALLEY FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Saturday, January 24, 2009

24443 McBean Parkway – Valencia, California

Registration: 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Opening Keynote: 9:00-10:10 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: Tom Underhill

[Schedule & Registration Form:](#)

St. George Family History Expo 2009

February 27-28, 2009

The Dixie Center – 1835 Convention Center Drive

St. George, Utah

[Click here for more details.](#)

Conference on Computerized Family History and Genealogy

Theme: Building a Lasting Legacy

Friday and Saturday, March 13 and 14, 2009

BYU Conference Center

770 E University Parkway

Provo, Utah 84602-1522

[Click here for more details.](#)

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