



Ohana Insights

Tips for using PAF Insight and other tools

Ohana Software

July 2008 / Issue 17

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Continuing Education

If it seems like a long time since you got a newsletter, you are correct. I had a deadline for getting lessons ready for FamilyInsight so the newsletter went to the back burner for a while. I'll leave you to make your own inferences...

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A while ago a reader commented about the amount of time spent on articles for FamilyInsight and/or the new **FamilySearch** (now called **FamilySearch** family tree) since one isn't in production yet and the other isn't available in their area. Another reader said the articles with instructions were difficult to follow. Some of you may even want to tell me these articles are BORING and you never read them! With those comments in mind, I thought I would offer some insights into the purpose of the newsletter.

First and foremost *Ohana Insights* is an educational tool. Whether the article is technical (the Insights and Spotlight sections) or general, I try to provide insight, stimulate thought, or provide encouragement. Without trying to "justify" myself, perhaps the following example will help you understand why I write about a FamilyInsight and **FamilySearch** family tree even though they may not be available to you yet.

When I started attending the monthly Consultant Meetings at our Family History Center, I heard lessons on subjects that I knew I would not need for a LONG time, if ever. Over time, I heard some lessons a second time, understood its relevance to me and thought, "I'll need this for when I begin researching this ancestor." Later, as I attended genealogy conferences, or read magazine articles on these same topics, I found that I remembered bits and pieces from my previous exposé and much of what I heard or read finally made sense. When I finally reached the point in my research that required me to use the information I'd been exposed to, I felt as though I had a good foundation to

build upon.

Hopefully, *Ohana Insights* has given you enough exposure to FamilyInsight and **FamilySearch** family tree that you will feel prepared to use them when they become available to you. Now, how can I make the articles with step-by-step instructions more palatable? I probably should have offered this suggestion before but better now than never. These lessons were meant to be used as a training tool while you are at your computer with the program up and running. This is your opportunity for continuing education without paying tuition! If you enjoy the thrill of learning for the sake of learning; if you want to impress your kids and grandkids; or if you want a hedge against Alzheimer's, try this:

- Sit down at your computer and open your genealogy file.
- Use **Save As** to rename the file. You may want to call it your Play file or your Learning file. You may even call it Get Smart if you want to but name it something new and different so you will not be afraid of making mistakes. The renamed file will be totally separate from your original file and you can mess it up all you want!
- From any issue of *Ohana Insights*, choose an article that interests you.
- Use the renamed file and follow every step of the instructions.

Follow the instructions as you would the directions for putting together a Lego toy or a model airplane. Take it one step at a time. Read then do, read then do and see what you can learn. Build upon what you already know about the program and computers to expand your understanding. Remember, your play file is for experimentation so don't be afraid of messing anything up! You may end up creating a funny looking family, so giggle while you learn. I promise not to rap your knuckles with my ruler for disturbing the class.

~ Cina Johnson ~

Announcement: A New Look



We want our customers and friends to have a preview of our website's new look. The company soon turns 5 and we will be beta testing FamilyInsight shortly, so we decided to give the website a new image, too. We love the changes and hope that you do, too.

Insights into: Get My Ancestors

While working on FamilyInsight, John Vilburn and his team of programmers reached into their creative souls and pulled out an entirely new program called, **Get My Ancestors**. This stand-alone program will allow the user to download family trees from **FamilySearch** family tree (aka, new **FamilySearch**) in a .paf format. That's right, no GEDCOM! Like FamilyInsight, it will be available in both Windows and Mac formats. Although **Get My Ancestors** is in the final stages of testing it has also been certified by **FamilySearch**. If that isn't enough for you, it is FREE!

To give you an idea of how easy the program is to use, you can download 4 generations of your ancestors, including their children and the children's spouses by opening the program and clicking **Start**. When asked, enter your **FamilySearch** family tree username and password then wait. Using the default settings, it took about 6 minutes for **Get My Ancestors** to retrieve 154 individuals on my tree but Diana did the same thing and it took 2 1/2 - 3 hours to get her tree of over 2100 people. I advise you try using the defaults first to get a feel for the size of your file.

There are a few other options for downloading family trees. You may enter an ancestor's **FamilySearch** family tree person identifier and select the number of ancestral and /or descendant generations you want to download. Besides children and their spouses, you may also download grandchildren and their spouse. The more you choose to download the longer it takes. If you want to retrieve many generations, I suggest you start the download before you leave the house for the day or before you go to bed. It took about 6 - 7 hours for me to retrieve 8 generations of ancestors with children, grandchildren and spouses.

I think of the files we download with Get My Ancestors as tools rather than a final product. The people that have not been combined in **FamilySearch** family tree appear as duplicates in this PAF file. By studying the records before I use FamilyInsight to synchronize and combine records, I should be able to combine them with greater accuracy. I can also read notes to learn about my ancestors. You will undoubtedly think of other uses for the files you download with Get My Ancestors.

Please remember that when you registered with **FamilySearch** family tree, you agreed to the conditions of use, which includes the following,

Please remember to follow the **Conditions of Use** that you agree to when you registered with FamilySearch family tree. Part of the agreement states, "You may view, download, and print material from this site only for your personal, noncommercial use..." Personal use does include sharing the information with family. Keep in mind that FamilySearch family tree will become accessible to the public and everyone will be able to access the material through this website. You will be able to direct others to FamilySearch family tree so they can see their family tree and contribute information they have. The more people that input information to FamilySearch family tree, the more valuable it becomes.

NOTE: We will let you know when Get My Ancestors becomes available.

Spotlight on: Printing a Family Ordinance Request (FOR) from FamilySearch family tree

For now, there are a few things that **FamilySearch** will not let us do from FamilyInsight. One of those is select names for ordinance work. Therefore, I thought I would share this experience that Noelani had when their temple converted from TempleReady to **FamilySearch** family tree. After her story, I will tell you where you can learn what Noelani learned.

" When we first started using **FamilySearch** family tree in our area, I was both nervous and excited. Nervous because it was new and excited because we would not have to go through TempleReady any more. The thought of doing it right from home was cool!

We got members in our ward signed on and they were also excited to see the information that was there already. We were helping members find names to be done, and then we would print out a Family Ordinance Request (FOR) and take it to the temple to have cards printed. Well, that was OK for one or two names but as we worked on our files there were more and more names and more and more individual FORs printed.

The sweet sisters in the temple office were working hard to learn the new system and soon became overwhelmed because each FOR created its own set of papers. If there was only one name per FOR and someone had 10 family names to print, each FOR created one pink, blue and/or one yellow sheet per name. They were waisting paper and time by having to cut 20 sheets of paper for 10 people. Bless them all.

Then we found that if we choose "Print Later" while we were selecting names, then we could then print them all on one FOR. That helped the temple office save paper and time and the sister's nerves. But then there was the problem of sending your family names with the youth of the ward on their temple baptism night, and hoping the cards got back to YOU instead of going into the temple file for others to do.

Miracle of miracles, we found that you can just select the baptism and confirmation boxes for our family names that had been reserved. That way you get cards for the baptism and confirmation only. When those have been completed and recorded in **FamilySearch** family tree, you can print out an additional FOR for the remaining ordinances that needed to be completed by you.

The Lord is truly blessing us with the technical knowledge that is available today."

You can learn how to print a FOR with more than one name and how to select only the ordinances you need by watching a short training video available in **FamilySearch** family tree.

- To find the video overview, login to **FamilySearch** family tree.
- On the **Home Page**, click, **Learn How to Use FamilySearch**.
- On the **Overviews** list, select, **Doing Temple Ordinances for Your Ancestors**.
- The overview takes about 10 minutes and some of the pages contain audio instructions.
- Page 9 has links to download written instructions for the following:
 - Doing Temple Ordinances for Your Ancestors (Chapter 7 for the User's Guide) - 13 pages

- Quick Start Guide: How to Submit Names Using the new **FamilySearch** - 5 pages
- A User's Guide to the New **FamilySearch** - 138 pages
 - Click the title of the guide you want to read.
 - You may print or save the guide from the viewer window.
- If you do not want to look at a written guide, continue with the overview.

Thank you, Noelani, for sharing this experience with us. Now we will be better prepared to print a **FOR** properly.

Odds and Ends

Index Available - I have created an index to the back issues of *Ohana Insights*. The index includes the issue number, month/year, the name of the articles and some of the subheadings in the article if applicable. To find the index and the back issues of the newsletter, go to our website at www.ohanasoftware.com and click on the Newsletter tab. Click on the PDF link by the Index. The index will be updated monthly.

Link to **World Vital Records discount** for Ohana Software customers --
[WorldVitalRecords Discount link](#)

CALENDAR

2008 Conference on Family History and Genealogy

July 29-August 1, 2008

Brigham Young University - Conference Center

Provo, Utah

Diana and Cina will present a class on Thursday Aug. 31 at 5:15 P.M. in room 2265.

Please drop by our booth, too, and let us show you what's new.

Registration & Information available at <http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgen/>

Mesa Arizona Family History Expo 2008

November 14-15, 2008

Mesa Convention Center - 263 N Center St, Mesa, Arizona

John Vilburn will be teaching FamilyInsight classes

Learn more: [Click here](#)

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