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## Summertime Fun

Another month disappeared in a flash and spring is giving way to early summer. The outdoors beckons us to play, relax, garden, barbecue and celebrate, making it harder to spend time inside doing family history. However, there will be hot afternoons and a few rainy days when you will get the urge to return to your computer and work on your genealogy.

When time precludes the concentrated effort of a major project, why not use it for less demanding tasks. This month's newsletter offers a solution for utilizing those periodic opportunities to work on your family history. Why not take advantage of intermittent indoor time and work on file clean up? If your summer includes a reunion, family gatherings, or on site genealogy research, take advantage of rekindled memories by using Personal Historian and begin writing a personal or family history. The program itself breaks the work of writing into small segments that are perfect for sporadic writing.

I hope you will plan now to include family history in your summer and be amazed at how much you can accomplish with small blocks of time.

I believe we are all grateful for the inventions that enable the worldwide gathering and sharing of family records. I hope each of us will do our part to facilitate this work by making our records computer friendly and available for others.

Cina Johnson

## Insights into Insight: Merge

This is the second in a series of articles on using PAF Insight for file clean up to improve your file prior to searching the IGI.

***I just want to see if ordinances are done for my family so why should I take the time to merge people before searching the IGI?***

When you find duplicate people in your file, you may discover differences between the records. One version may have more information about the birth, parents and siblings while the other has information about the

marriage and children. Combining the information by merging the records provides you with one complete set of facts about the individual. When you search the IGI for this person, you have a much better chance of finding him because all the information about his life and relationships exist in one complete record instead of two or more. Additionally, you only have to search for him once, instead of twice or even three times.

*Sometimes when I compare people for merging, they have the same parents or spouse but the computer shows them as different people. What will happen when I merge the selected pair? Will I end up with two sets of parents?*

Technically, you already duplicated the parents or spouse. When you merge the selected individuals, the record will show him/her as one person with two sets of parents and/or two spouses because **the links to related people remain after merging**. Check the list of possible merges for the father, mother or spouse and merge them. As you merge these people, the duplicated relationships combine to form a single set of parents and a single spouse.

*There are icons in the Merge mode that I do not know how to use. What do the Research, Not-A-Match and Switch icons do?*

As you compare some pairs of individuals, you may not know whether they are the same person. Click the **Research** icon to place a note in their notes field. The note says, **RESEARCH-FOR-MERGE: This individual might be the same as Jane /Doe/ RIN 110**. This is similar to marking records for Research in the Edit RINs and Pedigrees mode as discussed in Issue 2 of *Ohana Insights*.

After more research, you may determine they are the same person and you can merge them. Likewise, you may determine they are not the same person. Click the **Not-A-Match** icon to mark them as different people. Marking the records keeps them from reappearing on the list of possible merges. The record can be marked as Not-A-Match in two different manners controlled by your preferences. To set your preferences, do the following:

- Click **Edit**, select **Preferences**, and click the **Match / Not a Match** tab.
  - **CAUTION:** If you change to another computer, or send these records to someone else, the names will appear on the list of possible merges because the database is not on that computer.
- The other option is, **Put Not A Match message in Notes**.
  - The note looks like this, **NOT-A-MATCH: This individual is not the same as Jane /Doe/ 1845-1913, PAF ID (905b765a-edfl-11d4-8d6e-d8aec2234743)**.
  - Even if you change computers or share your file, PAF Insight sees the notes and prevents them from appearing on the list of possible matches.

The **Switch** icon only appears in the Merge mode and allows you to switch the position of the selected primary and secondary person. Since you can edit information for the Primary person, switching allows you put the secondary person into the primary position and edit their information, too.

### Spotlight on: Personal Historian

When will I learn to NEVER say, "I'll never do such-in-such"? I always end up eating my words! For years I vowed that I would never write a family history but having discovered **Personal Historian** I have taken the

first few tentative steps in that direction. The challenge of organizing my thoughts and the fear caused by the enormity of the project are subsiding as I use this fun program.

When you open Personal Historian, the **Create a Project** dialog walks you through crating a timeline of your life or family. The timeline contains genealogical data from your PAF file and life capsules from Personal Historian that become topics for writing. Enjoy a walk down memory lane as you read the timeline and see how old you were when various toys, games, movies, music, and inventions came on the market. This acts as a brainstorming tool and jogs memories about other things that may not be on the timeline. When this happens, you can manually add new topics to the timeline. You can also delete subjects that do not fit your life.

With your timeline completed, you can begin writing. Pull a topic out of the hat by clicking on the **top hat** icon or select one of your choice by clicking on a timeline topic. A two-paneled window opens. Use the organizer window on the left for jotting down random thoughts on the chosen subject. Use the composition window on the right for writing your story and adding photographs. Memories popped into my head spontaneously so without heed for order I entered them into the organizer window. I added a photograph to the composition window, which triggered further memories to add to my list. When I finished, I organized the thoughts into topics and subtopics, and created a writing outline.

At this point, I realized that if I never actually wrote the story, I had at least preserved some of the information for my posterity and myself. Preserving that small fragment of my life's experience felt good.

You can create numerous projects for yourself, individual ancestors or a family. I experimented by creating a project for my third great grandfather and his family. Even though they were from France, using the British History, Inventions and Epidemics life capsules I realized they lived during dynamic times. Their life capsules included items from the industrial revolutions, epidemics from diseases we no longer think about, and the Napoleonic wars, all of which undoubtedly influenced their lives. The timeline helped me see them in the context of these world events and gave me a greater appreciation of their struggles.

If you need help overcoming writer's block and other fears of composing a personal or family history, try Personal Historian. If you want a broader view of your ancestor's lives, try Personal Historian. If you only have a short time to work, use Personal Historian to get started. And remember, NEVER say never!

## Odds and Ends

**Did you know** that the **TEST** version of PAF Insight creates a folder to cache results from recent IGI searches? When you return to search the IGI for the same person, the program uses the cache to accelerate the search process. If you search for the same person within the cached time frame, you will not see new entries made to the IGI. The default time for holding search results in cache is two days for the home version and zero days for Family History Centers. Setting the cache to zero days effectively turns it off, as it no longer stores searches. You can change the length of time to hold the cache.

If you recently looked for completed temple work and did not find it, emptying the cache and redoing the search may provide you with the information you need. If not, search again in a few more days. Empty the cache folder by clicking on the **Clear Cache** button on the IGI Search tab of the Preference window.

**Did you know** that the TEST version of PAF Insight is Vista compatible?

**Did you know** that the PAF Insight licensing agreement covers all your household computers? Use your license key and username to finalize the installation onto all your computers.

**Did you know** there is a new version of PRFMagnet available on our website? Licensed users may download version 1.1.25 free of charge.

**Did you know** that if you are making a PAF Insight presentation and would like it listed on our calendar you could send an email to [presentations@ohanasoftware.com](mailto:presentations@ohanasoftware.com)? Make sure you include the date, time, place and title of the presentation.

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