



Ohana Insights

Tips for using PAF Insight and other tools

Ohana Software

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In this issue:

- [Connecting and Sharing](#)
- [Insights into: The Future of PAF](#)
- [Spotlight on: OpenOffice](#)
- [Quick Tips: Finding and Bookmarking our Website](#)
- [Odds and Ends](#)

Connecting and Sharing

Recently, I got a letter from a previously unknown second cousin. I did not even have her mother listed in my records so this contact was a great surprise to me. Because of the sparse and conflicting data about our great grandfather we have both hit a brick wall. We hope that by pooling our information and know-how that we can create a crack in the wall and eventually have a breakthrough.

The best part of this experience has been the spirit of unselfish sharing. I had information she did not have. She had information I did not have. Through our independent research we both found some of the same information. Since connecting we have each freely given the other copies of vital records, pictures and stories about the family. We have grown closer to each other and to these ancestors as we have exchanged this precious data. I feel blessed as we each give and receive. It also comforts me to know that someone else has this information who appreciates it as much as I do. Sharing also means that it can survive if something should happen to either of our copies. I am grateful that we live in a time when sharing is the norm and technology makes it so easy.

Another key element of this happy exchange is remaining open minded about differences of opinions concerning our ancestors, where they came from, who they married, and who the parents are. On numerous occasions my grandmother emphatically stated that her father came from London yet neither of us have found any census records in or around London that look like Joseph (or Frederick or James) and his parents John and Mary Berry. Karen, however, has found a census record from York that MAY be him. Therefore, we have to consider the possibility that although he may have lived in London before he came to America, perhaps he was born elsewhere. Proving or disproving the York connection has yet to be accomplished but it's worth pursuing. The more open we are to other ideas the greater the possibility of finding the truth, even if it means we have to abandon long held beliefs about our

ancestry.

I end with a plug for the new FamilySearch. Karen found me through an old submission to the Ancestral File. Had I moved since I updated my contact information about 15 years ago, she would have had no way of finding me. The new FamilySearch will make it even easier to connect with long lost or previously unknown relatives because we can update our contact information as often as needed. Please do not miss out on these great opportunities by failing to claim your records or by forgetting to keep your contact information up to date in the new FamilySearch. May you each have the same good fortune as I have had.

~ Cina Johnson ~

Insights into: The Future of PAF

There seems to be a lot of discussion going around about the future of PAF. Although it is true that FamilySearch has no plans to update the PAF5 program, it does not mean that PAF is suddenly "going away" The truth is, PAF5 is a good, stable program with more than adequate features for many people, and I would venture to say, for most people! I believe that an old adage applies to PAF5, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Yes, I realize there are other reasons for not updating PAF but it is also true that the program works!

It is also important to remember that FamilySearch continues to offer PAF, free of charge, on their website. Worldwide Support (the support group for FamilySearch) still trains their missionaries on PAF5 so they can provide you with the support you need when you have problems or questions. Therefore, if you like PAF5, by all means, continue using it. If you feel pressured into changing software, you can put that to rest. If you worry about learning a new program, forget about it. PAF will be around for a long time and Insight will be there for you, too.

Spotlight on: OpenOffice

It's amazing what you find when you explore and try new things. For instance, when you click on the John's Picks tab on our website, you will learn that he recommends three programs that have nothing to do with Family History. One of them, OpenOffice, (the official name is OpenOffice.org) is an absolutely FREE suite of office software comparable to Microsoft Office. You can use OpenOffice for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases, etc. The program even has the ability to open, read and edit documents created in other programs. I have successfully opened Word Perfect and Microsoft Word documents in OpenOffice Writer. I have also used OpenOffice Impress to show PowerPoint presentations at our Family History Center and opened Excel spreadsheets, containing my research log, using Open Office Calc.

With an adventurous spirit I decided to use OpenOffice for writing this month's newsletter. You won't see any difference but I now have first hand experience with using the program for real work and so far, it has been easy. I took the time to read some help documents to discover the breath of the program's capabilities and was impressed. I learned that by clicking the

Gallery icon on the Tool bar, (the icon that looks like a picture frame) you can add backgrounds, patterns, specialized bullet points and decorative dividing lines to your documents. But for the most part, I did what most people do; I opened a blank page and started typing. The learning curve for basic work was negligible.

Here is just one quick pro and con. On the plus side, I really like the way Writer allows me to manipulate pictures and add captions. There are more options than Microsoft Word (at least more apparent) and it was easy to do. I do not need these features for the newsletter but I use them for the lessons we create for PAF/FamilyInsight as well as for personal projects. On the minus side, their help documents are more technical than I am comfortable with. In some cases, I felt they assumed I knew what some functions were used for so there was no explanation about the function, only the steps for using it. On the plus side, if you never use help documents, this won't bother you at all!

I hope you will give OpenOffice a try, especially if you do not have any office suite or you are planning to get a new computer and do not want to pay for an office suite for the new computer. If you do not like it, you are not out one single penny. As the ad for Life cereal would say, "Try it, you'll like it!"

You can download OpenOffice by going to, <http://www.openoffice.org> and clicking on "I want to download OpenOffice.org"

Quick Tips: Finding and Bookmarking our Website

For those of you who have problems surfing the web and finding websites, here are a few tips to getting to our site. If you have the current version of PAF Insight (version 2007.9.1) the easiest way to find us is from PAF Insight itself. Open the program, click on "Help", then click the www.ohanasoftware.com link in the options list. You will go directly to our Home page.

Another way to get to our website is to do a search. Many of you have a Google, Yahoo, or similar search feature on your Internet Explorer or Firefox window. Simply type PAF Insight into the search box and click Search or Go. This takes you to a list of possible websites. Generally, our site tops the list. Look for PAF Insight - Essential tools for the PAF User and click on it to get to our website.

Once you are there, you can add our website to your Favorites or your Bookmark list. Other web browsers may call it something else, so if you do not see either of these options, look for something with the same connotation; a list of websites you frequently visit.

- To bookmark a page or add it to your favorites list, click on the appropriate icon.
- At the top of the menu, click on Add to Favorites or Bookmark This Page, or something similar.
- A window appears with the website name. You can keep the default name or rename it by clicking in the box and entering the name you prefer.
- Click OK.

The next time you want to go to that website, click Favorites or Bookmarks and click on the website name in your list. Bingo, you are there! Taking the time to bookmark a page saves a lot of time later on.

Odds and Ends

FamilyInsight beta continues

The limited beta test of FamilyInsight continues. FamilyInsight will perform two way synchronization between your PAF file and the new FamilySearch. While we still don't have a projected release date, we are working hard to make it as soon as possible. FamilyInsight will be a part of our regular update program for current PAF Insight customers.

Link to World Vital Records discount for Ohana Software customers --

[WorldVitalRecords Discount link](#)

2008 Conference on Family History and Genealogy

July 29-August 1, 2008

Brigham Young University - Conference Center

Provo, Utah

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

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