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Indexing and Original Records

After much foot dragging and soul searching (no pun intended) I registered to do [Internet Indexing](#). As I reviewed the list of records that are being extracted, I noticed "Marriage Records for Allen County Ohio" and suddenly found myself traveling back in time.

When I first started working at our family history center, one of the first microfilms I order was the Allen County Ohio Marriage Records. This was a great place to start learning to do original research. There was an index for both the brides and the grooms, the writing was legible, and I learned that the records can be disappointing, enlightening, and full of surprises all rolled into one.

The index helped me quickly locate the marriage record for my great grandparents but it only stated that Joseph married Lucina on a specific date and in a particular place. That was it. No parent's names, no ages, no place of residence. Zip, nada, zilch, nothing else. Sigh. However, this was my great grandfather's second marriage and I was surprised to see his daughter's marriage record just a few pages later. She was married seven weeks after her father. Seven month's later, her brother married. Looking at the dates of these three marriages did not bring the reality of how close the marriages were but seeing the proximity of one record to the other did.

Beginning with these marriage records, I gained an appreciation for the record keepers. Over the years I have encountered handwriting worse than mine and handwriting equal to the best calligrapher but each did their job and made it possible for me to find my ancestors. I have gratitude for the indexers who painstakingly read each record and transcribed the names into an alphabetized ledger page. These indexes make it easier for us to find our family and catch a glimpse into their lives. Seeing an ancestor's child-like signature shows that he or she could write their name; a unique skill in a village where most people only placed their "mark" on their record. Seeing a family within the context of their world brings them to life and I am drawn closer to them. Another reason I love looking at the original records is they often contain information that isn't included in extracted records or other people's genealogy files. I wouldn't enjoy doing family history if I couldn't look at these documents.

My part in the Internet Indexing program is minuscule but I hope it will help someone else experience the joy of finding their ancestor and seeing them in a new light as I have. I have been blessed by the efforts of others and want to pay them back by doing the same for someone else. If you have never looked for your family on a census or church record, you are missing half the fun of family history. It's becoming easier to see these records thanks to the [Internet Indexing program on FamilySearch](#) and other genealogy websites.

I hope you will give it a try. You may find more than you expect.

~ Cina Johnson ~

Insights into FamilyInsight: Simple Update

You asked for it, we listened, and now you have a simple way to look for ordinances in the **FamilySearch**TM family tree. The new mode, **Simple Update**, is very similar to using the Search IGI mode so it will be easy for you to use.

For those of you who are only interested in looking for ordinance, you will be happy to hear that within the next few weeks we will release a new version of FamilyInsight that will provide you with a new mode with the look and feel of the Search IGI mode. You can use this mode to search for ordinances within the **FamilySearch** family tree without the additional synchronizing features. We hope you will find this new flexibility helpful.

Just like in the Search IGI mode, you will select a name and search for your person. If the program finds possible matches, you will see them listed. Click on a row to compare the information between your record and the one from **FamilySearch**TM family tree. Since your person may have already had several records combined, you may see several variations of the person's name, birth, death, or other life events on one record. You can select which of these variations, if any, that you want to add to your file. There may also be a spouse and children or parents and siblings in the **FamilySearch**TM record that you can add to your file. Additionally, if there are notes, you can select them so they will be transferred to your file, too. When you use the **Simple Update** mode you can update your file with the information you find in the **FamilySearch**TM family tree without worrying about adding data from your file to the **FamilySearch**TM person; that is only done in the Full Synchronization mode. After clicking the Update icon, your records will receive the **FamilySearch**TM PID (Person Identifier) and you will see the linked icon in the status column by your person. This helps you keep track of who you have searched for and linked.

There are other things that you can do in the **Simple Update** mode. You will notice one new button on the **FamilySearch**TM side (right side) of the Details window. It is called "View/Change Summary". Since person's record may contain several variations of their name or life events (birth or death date and place), **FamilySearch**TM family tree has a option called Summary View where you can select which combination of information you feel is most complete. If their name appears as, John Michael Jones, Johnathan M Jones and Johnathan Michael Jones, the summary view will allow you to select which of the names you feel is best for this person. You generally select the most complete name, in this case, Johnathan Michael Jones. You can do the same for life events, such as birth or death information. Select the most correct date and place for the summary view. You can now make these selections within FamilyInsight by clicking "View/Change Summary" and selecting what you feel is the most correct set of information. Your selections will appear in the **FamilySearch**TM family tree under the Summary View.

Another new feature is the TR (TempleReadyTM) icon. If you (or a friend) have a new.familysearch log in but you live in a temple district that does not use **FamilySearch**TM family tree yet, you can use **Simple Update** to create a TempleReadyTM GEDCOM file. Use this mode to search for ordinances in the **FamilySearch**TM family tree. If you do not find the ordinances for your person, click the **TR** icon. Their name will be placed in a holding file and "TR" will be added to the temple status column. When

you finish searching for people to submit for temple work, click "**File**" and select "**Export TempleReady List**". Select the place where you want to save the file (such as your flash drive) and name the file. Take the file to your family history center and run it through temple ready. NOTE: this is ONLY for people living in a temple district that still uses TempleReady™ for processing names.

Those of you who are just getting access to the **FamilySearch**™ family tree may find the **Simple Update** mode a good way to begin the transition from searching the IGI to searching in the much larger database. You can begin to see what the combined records look like and continue to update your records with ordinance information without becoming involved with the combining, separating and two-way synchronization of records. As you gain understanding and confidence, you and start using the Full Synchronization mode.

I continue to recommend that before you search for your family you use the other clean up modes, especially the Edit Places mode. Once you have ensured that the **FamilySearch**™ family tree recognizes your place name and you are ready to begin searching for your family, give the **Simple Update** mode a try.

Spotlight on: Backing Up Your Records

Back in the days of cavemen, perhaps the only certainty was death. Then governments came along and there became two certainties in life; death and taxes. Now that we have computers there are three certainties in life; death, taxes and **LOSS OF DATA**. This means there are only two kinds of people; those that have lost everything on their computer and those that will. Depressing, isn't it.

There is no getting around death and taxes but you CAN do something about losing data. You need to backup your information so that if or I should say when you have a computer crash, theft, fire, flood or some other digital catastrophe, you will be able to retrieve the information. You have options in backing up your files but you need to understand the consequences. First, back up FREQUENTLY or be willing to LOSE everything you have done from the last backup until you lose the data. If you only want to back up once a month, be willing to lose a month's worth of work. If you don't want to lose much work, back up every day. Second, backup your work onto an external hard drive, a flash drive or a CD.

The best option for backing up your files, because it holds the most and has the least possibility of failure, is to spend the money to purchase an external hard drive. These devices cost between \$65.00 and \$99.00 for 250-500 Gigabyte hard drives. You can get more portable models or drives with much large storage capacity but they cost more money. External hard drives are large enough that you can backup everything on your computer and restore everything should you need to.

The next best option is to back up your most important files to a flash drive, or maybe to two or three flash drives. You can purchase a 2 GB flash drive for \$10.00. Eight gig flash drives cost between \$30.00 and \$40.00. Flash drives are small and portable but they will not hold everything on your computer. They will probably hold all your PAF files and many of your photographs. After evaluating what you need to backup and how much will fit onto a flash drive, you may decide that the cost of an external hard drive can be justified in comparison to purchasing multiple flash drives. Ultimately, you have to balance what is crucial to save with your budget.

The least effective way to backup your files is with a CD. I dislike CDs because most people do not understand how to burn the data onto the CD. They do not hold as much data as a flash drive, either. However, for preserving certain files, a CD is wonderful because you can send it to someone else. Burn a CD of your PAF records. Burn some CDs of your pictures (consider using [Heritage Collector Suite](#) or [Passage Express](#) so you can include more information about each picture) and mail them to family

members. It is vital that you get the most critically important data out of your home. If you are hit by a natural disaster, you have a backup. You may want to do this once or twice a year to ensure changes are preserved, too.

One final method of backing up your files is with an online service. I did a Google search for "online storage backup" and got several hints. I started at the top of the list and looked at 4 different vendors. Several places offer 2 gigabytes (GB or gig for short) of storage for free. You can buy a 2 gigabyte flash drive for about \$10.00 so free is good. However, 2 gigabytes of storage will only allow you to backup your most important work.

If you want to store all your files, you will undoubtedly need more than 2 gig of storage space. Each of these service providers have options that require a nominal fee from \$4.95 to 6.99 per month with some discounts if you pay for a year in advance. The one feature I was the most interested in was automatic updates. Your files are tagged and whenever you change the file, they are backed up. Some services also offer archiving of older versions so you can change a file and still go back to an older version if needed. There are some very sophisticated options that make life easier for you but you will need to do your homework to decide what features are right for you.

These are questions I would ask before using an online backup service:

- Do I need to have file sharing from one computer to another?
- What is the cost to backup several computers?
- Can I access the files from anywhere?
- Since the data will be online, can I select what files I do NOT want upload?
- Can I set the system to automatically backup files?

Online storage may not be right for you but it's a great alternative if your computer and your files are your life. You may want to use both an external hard drive and online storage to fully protect yourself. You can store sensitive information on your external hard drive and frequently used files online so they will be automatically backed up each day or even several times a day.

As I said before, there is no getting around death and taxes but you CAN do something to lessen the heartache of losing data. Backup, backup, backup. Find a method that works for you and DO IT. Then continue to do it regularly so that when you experience that crash you can say, "At least I have a backup of my files".

Ohana Insights Blog

We started the Ohana Insights Blog in April. Some of the articles are in this newsletter but you may be interested in other articles such as, "Are Your Ordinances Showing Up?", "When should I update to FamilyInsight from PAF Insight?" and "Free FHC Training Webinars Now Available". To read these, please go to <http://ohanasoftware.wordpress.com>. or visit our website at www.ohanasoftware.com and follow the link to the Ohana Insights Blog.

Odds and Ends

The current version of FamilyInsight is **2009.5.16** If you have a current key and did not get this as an automatic update or by clicking on Check for updates under the Help menu, you may download it from our website at, www.ohanasoftware.com/?sec=downloads&page=FamilyInsight .

We want to assure you that we will be providing a method for you to reserve names and print a Family Ordinance Request or "F.O.R." from within FamilyInsight. When you ask? "Soonest" we're done.

Calendar

June 4th & 5th 2009

Colorado FamilyInsight Seminar

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints meetinghouse

8150 S Colorado Boulevard

Centennial, Colorado

Class will be taught twice

June 4th at 7:00 PM

June 5th at 9:30 AM

This is a **FREE** workshop by the Colorado Area Family History Centers

June 12th-13th, 2009

Colorado Family History Expo 2009

Embassy Suites and Conference Center

4705 Clydesdale Parkway

Loveland, Colorado 80538

FamilyInsight classes

Drop by the Ohana Software booth and say hello!

FamilyInsight class on Friday the 12th at 4:30 and Saturday the 13th at 2:30

[Click here](#) for more information.

July 28th-31st, 2009

41st Annual BYU Conference on Family History and Genealogy

BYU Conference Center

770 E University Parkway

Provo, Utah 84602-1522

[Click here for more info](#)

August 28th-29th, 2009

Salt Lake City, Utah Family History Expo 2009

South Towne Exposition Center

9575 South State Street

Sandy, Utah 84070

FamilyInsight and other genealogy classes.

Ohana Software Representatives will be present

[Click here](#) for more information.

October 16th-17th, 2009

California Family History Expo 2009

Redding Convention Center

747 Auditorium Drive

Redding, California 96001

FamilyInsight and other genealogy classes.

Ohana Software Representatives will be present

[Click here](#) for more information.