



Ohana Insights

Tips for using PAF Insight and other tools

Ohana Software

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The Past, the Present, and a Bright Future

Sometime in the late summer or early autumn of 2003 I dropped into our Family History Center and found Paula Vilburn testing software developed by her husband, John. She enthusiastically told me about their new company (it had a Hawaiian name that meant family) and the software would help people clean up their PAF database and search the IGI. She was thrilled with the IGI capabilities. I wished her luck and hurried off as I was busily preparing for a mission.

In January of 2004, my husband and I began serving in the Family and Church History Mission in Salt Lake City where we worked with staff who were heavily involved with the rollout of what is now called the new FamilySearch. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that I would be writing a newsletter for Ohana Software and explaining how Insight will interact with the new FamilySearch. However, here I sit with my past and the future intertwined in the present. I could not be happier. As you read today's edition of Ohana Insight, I hope you agree that our future is bright!

Cina Johnson

Insights into Insight: FamilyInsight and the new FamilySearch

The opening line from "New York, New York" jubilantly exclaims, "Start spreading the news". That fits our mood at Ohana Software as we may finally put into writing upcoming changes to PAF Insight. First, we are changing our name from PAF Insight to **FamilyInsight**. The name change to emphasizes family as the foundation of the work we do. After all, Ohana is Hawaiian for family. It also emphasizes our continued ability to connect to FamilySearch. FamilyInsight takes the program into the next generation by providing you with two-way synchronization with the new FamilySearch.

Second, FamilyInsight will have the capacity to read and write to GEDCOM files without importing

them into PAF first. You can see the quality of the file by opening the GEDCOM into the Edit RINs and Pedigrees mode. You can also open your file and the GEDCOM file in the Compare and Sync mode and update your records directly from the GEDCOM.

Last of all, the Edit Places mode in FamilyInsight will have increased functionality. When you open your file into this mode, the program will scan every place and check it against the place authority database in the new FamilySearch. Using the suggestions for unrecognized places, you can correct, complete and standardize the place entries in your file. You may also mark places as valid if you know they are correct.

As you can imagine, we are excited about the forthcoming improvements to FamilyInsight and its ability to synchronize with the new FamilySearch. I imagine you have some questions so let's see if I can guess what they are.

Why will I want to use FamilyInsight with the new FamilySearch?

I think there are three reasons for using FamilyInsight. First, since you are accustomed to comparing IGI records with the records in your file, you will probably find it easier to continue using this format than the format used by the new FamilySearch.

Second, you can select information found in the new FamilySearch and add it directly to your PAF file as easily as you currently update records from the IGI.

The third reason needs some background. The new FamilySearch combines all temple ordinances for deceased individuals, LDS membership records, and records from both the Ancestral File and the Pedigree Resource File into one massive database. If you or your ancestor's information exists in any of these databases, it now exists in the new FamilySearch.

Now, think of each of these entries as papers within a folder that represents your ancestor. With this analogy in mind, you should now understand the huge change or "paradigm shift" for sharing information. Uploading a GEDCOM of your complete set of records to the new FamilySearch will be redundant. Therefore, the third reason we will use FamilyInsight with the new FamilySearch is for the two-way synchronization of records. Not only will you get information from the new FamilySearch into your PAF file, as you do now, but you will also add information from your file to someone's "folder" in the new FamilySearch!

Will my information be over written by what someone else adds?

N0! Remember how I describe each person's "folder" with "papers" from the various sources? When anyone finds a family member in this system, they can connect the person to their personal family tree. Then, using FamilyInsight, you can add missing pieces of information to their already existing file. You may also "dispute" existing facts by providing alternate information along with sources. Instead of adding a completely new entry (or "piece of paper"), you simply add supplementary information without duplicating or overwriting existing records.

What should I do when I first log onto the new FamilySearch?

You should begin finding matches to your records and tying them to your family tree. As you build

your tree in the new FamilySearch you can also update your records and synchronize your information with existing records.

As you progress, FamilyInsight will detect changes to your family records on new FamilySearch. You can review changes and accept or dispute them as you see fit.

When can we expect to see FamilyInsight?

FamilySearch invited the early web service affiliates to participate in a very limited beta test of their software with a copy of the new FamilySearch. This test is set to begin about October 22nd and the testers have been selected and notified. After this test period of about three weeks, we hope to have a live Beta version available for download from our website. At that point, anyone wanting to participate in the beta may do so ***but only those living in a temple district using the new familysearch will have the full functionality of the program.*** BUT ONLY THOSE LIVING IN A TEMPLE DISTRICT USING THE NEW FAMILYSEARCH WILL HAVE THE FULL FUNCTIONALITY OF THE PROGRAM. Those of us living in other temple districts will be able to test using a GEDCOM and all the other great features we haven't even mentioned. We hope many of you will test these functions for us.

I am not a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. When can I use the new FamilySearch?

The new FamilySearch must be deployed to members in all temple districts before it will be opened for general use. Staggering the initial use of the website allows for better support and education. All of us who are waiting for the new FamilySearch should continue our file cleanup efforts. We should also strive to understand the new model of collaboration made possible by this new program.

Will I be able to reserve names for doing temple work through FamilyInsight?

FamilySearch has not implemented the procedures for 3rd party products, such as FamilyInsight, to reserve names for temple work. When FamilySearch approves the procedures, FamilyInsight will then provide this function.

Will I have to purchase this new program to get FamilyInsight?

No. Updating to FamilyInsight will be like all other updates. If you have a current license for PAF Insight, you will be able to download the update to FamilyInsight. If your license has expired, you may renew at any time and download FamilyInsight.

I hope you enjoyed this glimpse into the future. Keep reading *Ohana Insights* and visiting our website for more information on the beta test and eventual release of FamilyInsight.

Spotlight on: WorldVitalRecords.com

By special arrangement with **WorldVitalRecords.com - Fastest Growing Genealogy Resource on the Web**, our customers can purchase a two year subscription for the price of one, plus get an extra \$10 off. That means Ohana Software customers can get two years of WorldVitalRecords.com for

\$39.95.

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

Paul Allen and his team at WorldVitalRecords.com knew that if they built it, the records, databases and subscribers would come. They were right. They already have access to thousands of databases, including exclusive access to Everton's online library with its 3.6 million name database of pedigree files and family group sheets. During one week in September they added 1,000 databases plus 109,000 records from the NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) concerning the relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II, and 19 volumes from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin with essays on early settlers which add color and understanding for their life's story. Last week they added a large portion of the 1790-1920 US Census. At present, you can browse the census images as only the 1790 census is indexed. They hope to provide indexes in the future.

This fast growing site may not have information you seek today, but as you can see, next week, next month or next year you might find exactly what you need. For example, you may want to periodically check The **NewspaperARCHIVE Collection** and the **SmallTownPapers Collection** because old newspapers reported on the daily lives and events of your ancestors. The articles may not immediately appear of genealogical worth but beginning with an obituary and followed by an article about a family reunion held in 1950, Paula Vilburn pieced together another section of a friend's family tree that was previously unknown to them.

I wanted to know more about the website and how to use it and began my education by finding the **About Us** [link](#) at the very bottom of their home page. I was impressed by Paul Allen's statement,

Our goal is to help you find what you are looking for whether or not we have the answers on our site. We also want to connect you with experts who can guide you every step of the way.

If the answer is on familysearch.org, we will point you there. If the answer is on census.gov, we will point you there. If the answer is found on print.google.com, we will direct you there. If the experts belong to our German Genealogy group web site, then we'll invite you to visit with them.

He went on to say, "We add new databases to our web site every day, but soon we will also launch a feature that will help you find answers on millions of genealogy web pages all over the world." This tells me their business philosophy includes service and education as well as gathering records collections of genealogical value.

Next, I looked at the links to other parts of their website and clicked on **News**. I learned about different database launches, awards received, and the process of getting information ready for our use. It helped me get a feel for the company and an appreciation of the work involved in providing searchable records. I also found a helpful article called, [Explanation of Searching Strategies at WorldVitalRecords.com](#) by Amanda Forson. If you invest time and money for a subscription website, you should learn to use it to its fullest potential. If you are new to online genealogy research, I recommend this article.

As with many genealogy websites, you can enter a person's name and begin a search from the home page. You can also click on **Advanced** for a more focused search. The advanced search page comes with a short tutorial for using the advanced search features. I found that you could do a place search so I entered "Luzerne, Pennsylvania" and got several hits. There were some county histories, colonial records, and even a list of early members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who came from Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. I look forward to returning often and finding more records from this area.

Continuing with my orientation to the website, I searched the **View all Databases** page. This page presents a list of database types including Birth, Marriage, Death; International Parish Register Collection; Newspapers; Reference and Finding Aids; and Databases by Location to name a few. Each heading contains a sampling of database and a link to the complete list. Additionally, under the **Databases by Location** heading, you see links to each US state and International Databases. As the name implies, WorldVitalRecords.com has international records and no extra charge.

Once you click **View all Databases in this Category**, you see two columns: **Database Title** and **Category**. You can sort the databases by either category. I used this for Rhode Island records and found groups of records for Birth, Marriage and Death; Military; Census; Family Histories; and Reference Materials. By sorting the records this way, you can quickly focus your search on the records you need. Once you select a source, you can do an advanced search for the person or place you are researching. Make your selection from the list of hits. You can also open the document to browse the contents one page at a time.

When I finally started looking at documents, I found useful features similar to other sites such as a Basic and Enhanced Viewer. If you cannot read the page easily or find what you need with one viewer, try the other. Printing the whole page or only a small section was easy. I selected a section of a newspaper page using the **Highlight** button. Then I clicked **Printer Friendly** where my selection appeared. To print the page I simply had to click File > Print. My page printed complete with the name of the collection and the newspaper name. The webpage clearly lists the town, state and date the article appeared.

I found the website user friendly and well organized and I look forward to searching for records about my family. We hope you will take the time to check out the website, too. As an added bonus, newly added databases may be searched for about two weeks even if you do not have a membership! If you want to subscribe, remember, you can get a \$10 discount off the two years for the prices of one sale membership by clicking and going to the link for **World Vital Records discount** for Ohana Software customers --
[WorldVitalRecords Discount link](#)

Odds and Ends

Calendar Items:

October 27, 2007 - 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

2007 Community Genealogy Fair

The Branches of the Future Are Rooted in the Past

Hosted By: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

9800 Foothills Canyon Blvd
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126
[Click here](#) to register, reserve lunch, learn more

October 27, 2007

Chico Genealogy conference
Hosted By: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Chico California Stake
Chico, California

Nov 3, 2007 - 8:30 am until 3:00 pm

2007 Milwaukie Oregon Family History Fair
"Opening The Door to Your Family History"
Lunch is provided
Milwaukie Family History Center
8331 SE Cason Rd
Gladstone, Clackamas, Oregon
For further information email Sue LeBlanc at: dsleblanc@aol.com

Nov 17, 2007 - 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

2007 Buttercup Family History Fair
"Just Do it" "We are waiting"
Buttercup Family History Center
1600 E Buttercup Dr.
Sandy, Utah
More information will be posted later

As another reminder:

- The latest version of PAF Insight is 2007.9.1.
- Problems finding our website? Problem solved. With the recent version, you can go directly to our website from PAF Insight by clicking on Help and selecting www.ohanasoftware.com.

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