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Synchronizing My Heart and My Mind

I don't know if you have this problem, but sometimes I wish it was as easy to synchronize my heart and mind as it is to synchronize records. I learned about **FamilySearch** family tree in January of 2004 and since that time I have developed a great love for and understanding of this new system and I strive to help others catch that same vision.

When I teach classes I often stress that having more than one opinion in FamilySearch can be good and that you do not necessarily want to get rid of all alternative names, dates and places as these can help others find the records of their ancestors. After all, if one person found evidence that grandpa Arnold was named Arron, others will undoubtedly find the same record. Therefore, having the records combined in **FamilySearch** will help them find their ancestor in the system and learn the correct name.

So, why is it that I sometimes find myself getting a bit hot under the collar when I see one of my ancestor's with a "misspelled" name? Why do I get frustrated when I see the birthplace listed as one town and I "know" they were born someplace else? Am I annoyed because I really want accurate records or am I actually suffering from the malady of pride and intolerance? Am I reacting poorly because I traded total control of "my records" for sharing and cooperation and sometimes finding out *I* was wrong?

I do not, in any way, suggest that we settle for incorrect or even mediocre records but I find that sometimes I simply must put my pride in check and strive for greater love and respect for others. After all, they are most likely my relatives and what good is turning my heart to my fathers if I hold a grudge against my cousins? Besides, I look at some of my early temple and Ancestral File submissions and think, "how dumb" until I remember that the submission was made when I was learning. I bet I'm not the only one that is embarrassed by some of their earlier work so I'm thrilled that **FamilySearch** family tree allows us "repent" by providing a way to amend the previously "untouchable" temple records and update other submissions.

It is humbling to find that my head and heart aren't always in sync but I am working on it as I work to synchronize my records. I wonder which will be done first?

~ Cina Johnson ~

Insights into FamilyInsight – THE BETA IS AVAILABLE!



If you have not been to our website recently, you may not be aware that the open Beta for FamilyInsight is underway. The purpose of an open beta is to find lingering problems with the program. Computers may be identical when they come out of the box but once each individual adds software and selects their preferences, the computers become increasingly different. Therefore, allowing more people to participate in an open beta test, provides us with a diversity of computers and users and increases the possibility of finding bugs.

A program bug is something that doesn't work correctly, like clicking on the search button and no search begins. We appreciate those of you who want to use FamilyInsight and request that if you find something that you do not think works properly, please send an email to support@ohanasoftware.com. When you write, we need to know what kind of operating system you use (Mac Panther, Tiger or Leopard or Windows 2000, XP or Vista), the FamilyInsight version you are using, and the specific step-by-step instructions on what you did and what happened. We will follow your instructions and see if we can duplicate the bug. Once we duplicate the bug, we can begin to fix it.

Now for some questions and answers.

~ If I download and install FamilyInsight, will it overwrite my PAF Insight so I can't use it any more?

No, you will be able to use both programs. There will be a link from the Tools menu of PAF to both PAF Insight and FamilyInsight. If you do not have PAF Insight, you needn't download it because FamilyInsight has the same modes as PAF Insight plus it has the mode for synchronizing records with **FamilySearch** family tree.

~ Now that I have FamilyInsight can I register with the new FamilySearch family tree?

You can only register on **FamilySearch** family tree if you are LDS and live in a temple district that is using this system. As temple districts switch from TempleReady to **FamilySearch** family tree, you will be able to register and use this new mode in FamilyInsight.

~ I've been using FamilyInsight for a few days and every time I want to search the IGI or use Edit Places and Sync with FamilySearch family tree, it makes me enter the username and password. Why isn't it remembering them?

As a security measure, **FamilySearch** does not want the username and password stored by the programs that interface with it. Naturally, we obey their wishes and no longer retain the username and password within the program.

~ I installed FamilyInsight and opened the Sync with FamilySearch family tree, but I am unsure what to do once I get there. How am I suppose to learn to use it?

Click the **Guide Me** icon in the upper left side of the tool bar. If you do this when you FIRST open the Sync with **FamilySearch** mode, it will tell you to select a name and click **Guide Me** again for the next step. After selecting a name, the **Guide Me** instructions tell you to click the Search button to look for matches in **FamilySearch** family tree. **Guide Me** is a simple and effective way of learning how to use the program.

The program also comes with lessons. Click **Help** and select **Help** from the options menu. The link to the lessons is in the upper right window of the Help screen. We greatly expanded the **Getting Started** lesson by including information that pertains to all the modes, such as the Menu bar and Tool bar options. This lesson also tells you more about the changes to the program. I recommend you read this

first and keep it handy for reference. For more detailed instructions and explanations on the Sync with **FamilySearch** family tree mode, please read Lesson 9. The lesson ends with a **Quick Guide** that provides you with the most basic steps you take to use synchronize your records.

~ Is it just my imagination or is the process of synchronizing records more time consuming than updating records from the IGI.

Yes and no. There are more steps in the Sync with **FamilySearch** family tree mode but you are accomplishing a lot more, too.

First, **FamilySearch** family tree is a vastly larger database than the IGI so it takes longer to cull through the records to find possible matches.

Second, when you mark records as a match they will be combined in **FamilySearch** family tree. You do not have to do the combining in **FamilySearch** because it will be taken care of through the Synchronizing process. It is faster to do that with FamilyInsight than to do it in **FamilySearch**.

Third, when you synchronize records you are updating both your file and the **FamilySearch** family tree as needed. Another great time saver.

Lastly, once your records are synchronized, you will be able to tell when you need to synchronize them again because they will be marked in the Status column.

~ Do you have any helpful hints or cautions for me before I start using the Beta version of FamilyInsight?

I have several suggestions.

- 1) Whenever you are going to make significant changes to your file, make a backup before you begin. That goes for using the Beta version of FamilyInsight to synchronize records or adding new data to your PAF file. Make a Backup!
- 2) Use the **Guide Me** button to access help in any mode of FamilyInsight.
- 3) Become familiar with **FamilySearch** family tree by taking their training and using the program for a while before using FamilyInsight. The better you understand the new system, the better you will understand what FamilyInsight is doing to help you.
- 4) In the Sync with **FamilySearch** mode, rather than starting at the top of your names list and selecting a bunch of names to synchronize, I suggest you select families and synchronize the parents before you synchronize the children. This is the same methodology you use in **FamilySearch** and I think it works best to emulate that in FamilyInsight, too. You can search and sync from the top of your list to the bottom, but your records in **FamilySearch** will be updated in the same random order.
- 5) To help you keep track of your synchronizing, you can download a helpful chart from our [website](#) under the heading, **Progress Tracking Sheets for Working with FamilySearch family tree**. You can download instructions for using this tracking system, too.

Thank you again for your patience while waiting for the open beta. We hope you enjoy FamilyInsight.

Spotlight on: [FamilySearch Wiki](#)

If you never heard of the term Wiki, today is your lucky day. It is the Hawaiian word for "fast" but in today's world, Wikis are collaborative websites created for sharing information often on a specific topic. [Wikipedia](#) is a well-known online encyclopedia.

The "**FamilySearch Wiki**" is a large, on-line library where you can find thousands of articles and

how-to instructions about doing family history." [https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page]. If you are familiar with the **Research Guidance** section of www.familysearch.org, **FamilySearch** Wiki will be its replacement. What you will see today is only the beginning of what is envisioned for this site.

If you have a question about how to start doing family history, go to **FamilySearch** Wiki, from the index on the right, click "Find articles by topic" and choose "Beginners". From this page you may choose for a myriad of articles, including help with documentation, organization, genealogical proof standards (the minimum requirements for your work to be credible), burning a CD, and Rookie Mistakes. Perhaps we should all review this article!

Rather than trying to teach you how to use this site, I will direct you to the site's training video. Go to: https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page. From the index on the right, click on "Learn how to get started on this site" and select Quick Start – Overview 1. Let the training video load before clicking on the start arrow. This will take a few minutes but it will allow the video to run smoothly. Watch and learn then use the Wiki to learn even more.

Quick Tip – Slow Down and Proceed with Caution



We received an email with the following caution, "Please be careful of Match Merging names [in PAF or PAF Insight and in combining names in **FamilySearch** family tree]. It can be a good tool or a very dangerous one. I have at least 10 John Jones in my file. Some families have 2 or 3 sons with the same name (John Jones) but they are different sons; the first two died as infants." She went on to say that someone she knew "match merged names without checking to see if they were the same person or if they had different parents, different birth dates, different death dates or different spouses." This action incorrectly combined over 2000 names. The email ended with this reminder, "There are millions of Mary Smiths - James Jeffery's - Thomas Williams and Robert Roberts but they are different people... ***It takes very careful comparing.***" (Emphasis added)

I concur. Marilyn isn't alone in her concerns over merging and combining records. Whether you are merging names in your own file or combining names in **FamilySearch** family tree for **all the world to see**, proceed with caution. I offer the following advice:

NEVER, EVER combine records without **THOROUGHLY** comparing **ALL** the data to insure they are actually the same person.

No matter how good your intentions, if you are unfamiliar with the family line, leave it alone and let someone who has done the research do the combining.

If you feel rushed, **STOP** - that's when mistakes are made.

Remember:

DISCRETION is the better part of valor.

It is better to be SAFE than SORRY.

When in doubt – DON'T.

Error on the side of CAUTION. It is better to wait than to proceed when you are unsure. You can always study the family information and come back at another time to combine the records with greater accuracy and confidence.

If you find that you or someone else made a mistake while combining names, you can use the **Separate** feature of FamilyInsight to easily correct the problem. I will write about that feature next month.

Odds and Ends

In Memory of Art Lassagne

Art Lassagne, the founder of Gold Bug and publisher of AniMap, passed away recently. While reading [Holly Hansen's tribute to Art](#), I was struck by the way life leads us from one passion to another and then another. In the case of Art Lassagne, US researchers are better off because of his life's journey.

The Gold Bug began "as a resource for treasure hunters and prospectors". This evolved into an interest in "research and early map reproductions." Eventually, he teamed up with AniMap creator, Adrian Ettlinger, and published the AniMap software. Everyone at Ohana Software extends their condolences to his wife and family.

To learn more about AniMap, see issues 5 and 14 of "[Ohana Insights](#)".

CALANDAR

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: [by clicking here](#)