

March 2015 Features Update

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Global

The usability of the web-site continues to be a major focus this month.

The static method `User::getUsers`, which is used to obtain a list of registered users who match a set of criteria, is altered so that the 'Auth' parameter must match a complete token in the list of authorizations.

Many pages still reference the page 'genealogy.html' as the top of the page hierarchy when this has been 'genealogy.php' for several years now. This is only an efficiency improvement because the page 'genealogy.html' redirects to 'genealogy.php'.

The page 'contactAuthor.php', which is used to internally queue a message to the owners of the current page, is rewritten to separate the initialization logic from the HTML presentation.

The [History of Scotland](#) page is enhanced to use CE/BCE notation and to add and correct some facts.

Family Tree Enhancements

To make the display of the identification information about an individual more consistent the `LegacyIndiv` method `getName` is enhanced to offer the option of including the locations of birth and death. This greatly simplifies the ancestor and descendant reports and ensures that they are entirely consistent in appearance. Further the character separating the birth and death dates is changed from a hyphen to an M-dash, that is a dash which is as wide as the letter M, which is the industry standard.

To avoid displaying an error to end users which they can do nothing about, if the record for a child contains an invalid reference to a set of parents the record is silently deleted and the issue is reported to the site administrator for action.

The functionality for selecting a list of individuals who match a particular requirement, including the main index of individuals, the selection list for merging individuals, the selection list for determining the relationship between two individuals, and the searches to find matches in the family tree to vital statistics and census records, are all now centralized in the method `LegacyIndiv::getIndivs`. This method now performs name comparisons against the nominal index records, not the given name and surname in the `LegacyIndiv` record. Those two fields are now deprecated and will be removed in a future version of the product to simplify management of the database.

The class `LegacyEvent` adds a method `addCitations` which facilitates merging the citation sets for two events.

The method `LegacyPicture::delete` now supports a string parameter as well as a boolean to permit control of the tag name generated in XML output. This makes this method consistent with the `delete` method of other classes.

The method `Record::save` now supports a string parameter as well as a boolean to permit control of the tag name generated in XML output. This makes this method consistent with the `save` method of derived classes.

In the class `LegacyCitation` shortcut methods that returned information extracted from the associated master source record are removed.

A new method `LegacyCitation::getRecord` is added to ensure that all users of a citation obtain the associated record containing the fact details in a consistent manner.

The method `LegacyCitation::getName` is altered to make it more consistent with the `getName` method of other classes by returning a descriptive string for the citation.

The script `updateSource.php`, which applies changes to a `LegacySource` record, always set the main repository to “(unpublished)”.

Clicking on the “Edit Pictures” button when editing an event now opens the dialog in the other half of the browser window.

The “Edit Event” dialog now displays a “Close” button if errors are identified while creating the dialog. This button just closes the frame.

The names and birth and death dates of children on the page describing an individual are now printed using the `LegacyIndiv::getName` method for consistency in appearance.

If a casual visitor attempts to view an individual whose information is private either because an owner has flagged the individual as private or because the birth and death dates are private, the page now presents more explicit instructions on how to access the individual.

The screenshot shows a web page for a private individual, James Desmond Hanlon. At the top left, there are navigation links: [Genealogy](#), [Canada](#), [Ontario](#), [Services](#), [Nominal Index](#), [Surnames Starting with 'H'](#), and [Surname 'Hanlon'](#). To the right of these links is a pink-bordered box containing the text "This Space for Rent" and a "Contact" link. Further right is a "contribute" button. Below the navigation links is the name "James Desmond Hanlon (Private-)" with a "? Help" link. Underneath, it states "Information on this individual is Private" and provides instructions: "If you wish to see the private information on this individual [register as a new user](#) or [sign on as an already registered user](#)." At the bottom left, there is a "Contact Author" link and the same navigation links as above. To the right of this is a "Like" button showing "39 people like this. Sign Up to see what your friends like." and a small family tree icon.

Illustration 1: Explicit Instructions to Casual Visitors on Viewing a Private Individual

If a signed on registered user views such an individual the page appears as:

The screenshot shows the same web page for James Desmond Hanlon, but for a signed-on user. The navigation links and the pink-bordered "This Space for Rent" box with the "Contact" link are present. However, the "contribute" button is replaced by a "services@james" button. The main heading "James Desmond Hanlon (Private-)" and the "Information on this individual is Private" message are the same. The instruction text is different: "If you wish to see the private information on this individual [contact the users who already have access](#) to request that they grant you access." The "Contact Author" link and navigation links are also present. The "Like" button and family tree icon are also visible.

Illustration 2: Explicit Instruction to Signed On User About Accessing a Private Individual

If you attempt to update the individual by clicking on the “Update” button of an Edit Individual while the right half of the window is being used to edit an event or the family information, the request is now ignored with a popup that warns the user that the edits in the right half must be completed first. Similarly if you try to edit a second event while editing an event you will be warned. Also if you are editing a member of a family you will be warned if you attempt to update and close the edit family dialog. This makes the behavior of editing much safer and easier to understand.

This Space for Rent
Contact

Edit John Hanna (about 1820 - 1900)

Update Individual Please complete the following windows: **Edit Occupation Event for John Hanna**

Identity:

IDIR: 37

Surname: Hanna

Given Names: John

Gender: Male

Events

Date:	Location:	Preferred:		
Birth: About 1820	Ireland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
Christening:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
Worked as a:			<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
1861	Teacher	Adelaide, Middlesex, ON, CA		
1871	Farmer	lot 8 con 3 SER, Adelaide, Middlesex, ON, CA	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
1877	Farmer	Adelaide, Middlesex, ON, CA	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
1881	School Teacher	Strathroy, Middlesex, ON, CA	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
1891	Primary School Teach	Sarnia, Lambton, ON, CA	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
Death: 1900	Lambton Co, ON, CA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
Buried:	Lakeview Cemetery, 1016 Colborne Rd, Sarnia, Lambton, ON, CA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="Details"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>

Other:

Private: No Never Married:

User Ref: Ancestral Ref:

Ancestor Interest: Low Descendant Interest: Low

Buttons:

<input type="button" value="Edit General Notes"/>	<input type="button" value="Edit Families"/>
<input type="button" value="Add Parents"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Address"/>
<input type="button" value="Edit Pictures"/>	<input type="button" value="Edit Medical Notes"/>
<input type="button" value="Edit Research Notes"/>	

Edit Occupation Event for John Hanna

Event Type: Occupation

Date: 1871

Occupation: Farmer

Location: lot 8 con 3 SER, Adelaide, Middlesex, ON, CA

Notes:

Order: 1

Citations:

Edit Citation	Source Name	Details (Page)	Delete Citation
<input type="button" value="Edit Citation"/>	1871 Census of Canada	dist 8 Middlesex North, subdist A Adelaide	<input type="button" value="Delete Citation"/>

Illustration 3: Warn User When Attempting to Update Individual While Subordinate Edit Is Incomplete

When adding a new child the Edit Individual dialog now includes the relationship to parent fields.

The functionality for merging two individuals has been enhanced so that all of the citations for events are merged.

When granting access to a family to another registered user the output is enhanced so that the birth and death dates of all identified family members is displayed. This uses the common LegacyIndiv::getName method. In displaying generations the qualifier “great” is used for the third and subsequent generations. Each family member in the report is now presented as a color-coded hyperlink to the main display page for that individual.

Grant Access to James Henry Plain (16 Jan 1848—30 Dec 1930)

[? Help](#)

Granting access to self idir=5455 James Henry Plain (16 Jan 1848—30 Dec 1930) to services@jamescobban.net.

Granting access to wife of James Henry Plain (16 Jan 1848—30 Dec 1930) idir=68080 [Maria Motherofrobertplain \(between 1848 and 1855—\)](#) to services@jamescobban.net.

Granting access to son idir=68081 [Robert Plain \(about 1873—\)](#) to services@jamescobban.net.

Granting access to wife of Robert Plain (about 1873—) idir=68082 [Rose Chandler \(about 1876—\)](#) to services@jamescobban.net.

Granting access to daughter idir=1629 [Elizabeth "Lizzie" Plain \(30 Nov 1872—17 Nov 1905\)](#) to services@jamescobban.net.

Granting access to husband of Elizabeth "Lizzie" Plain (30 Nov 1872—17 Nov 1905) idir=844 [William McRae \(20 Apr 1865—21 Dec 1959\)](#) to services@jamescobban.net.

Granting access to grand-daughter idir=7338 [Ada "Ethel" McRae \(22 Jul 1893—\)](#) to services@jamescobban.net.

Granting access to grand-daughter idir=7339 [Jessie Pearl McRae \(16 Dec 1894—17 Jul 1988\)](#) to services@jamescobban.net.

Granting access to husband of Jessie Pearl McRae (16 Dec 1894—17 Jul 1988) idir=7344 [Robert Osborne Little \(15 Jun 1898—6 Sep 1989\)](#) to services@jamescobban.net.

Granting access to great-grand-daughter idir=7351 [Dorothy Iona Little \(1918—\)](#) to services@jamescobban.net.

Granting access to great-grand-son idir=7354 [William Andrew Little \(1920—\)](#) to services@jamescobban.net.

Granting access to great-grand-son idir=7348 [Byron Ellwood Little \(6 Mar 1922—\)](#) to services@jamescobban.net.

Granting access to wife of Byron Ellwood Little (6 Mar 1922—) idir=7423 [Joyce Lynne Schell \(22 Feb 1928—Sep 1997\)](#) to services@jamescobban.net.

Granting access to great-great-grand-daughter idir=7424 [Doreen Lynne Little \(16 Dec 1946—\)](#) to services@jamescobban.net.

Illustration 4: Enhancement of Report on Granting Access to a Family

The list of individuals referencing a particular location now includes the birth and death dates of the individuals.

Census Database Enhancements

The tabular form for editing the information recorded about the sub-districts or enumeration divisions of a census district is enhanced. If the user right clicks on a column header, the column width is increased by 50% which allows viewing unusually wide field values, particularly for the sub-district name column. This complements the existing use of left button click to hide a column. When a new value is entered in a column where values repeat down the column now clears the error flag in all changed rows. In the 1861 census the population column is now auto-corrected to correspond to the number of pages column if it was not explicitly set by an administrator.

The query page to display the sub-district table for a particular district is redesigned so that all text strings, including province names, are contained in the HTML page, rather than some being in the Javascript program. This supports internationalization. This technique will eventually be spread throughout the site in order to support alternate language access.

The URL and description for the Library and Archives Canada 1851 census finding aid are updated to match the new behavior of that site.

Vital Statistics Enhancements

The enhanced functionality of `LegacyIndiv::getName` and `LegacyIndiv::getIndivs` are exploited in all vital statistics registration scripts. In the latter case this avoids creating an explicit SQL request.

The method `Death::setField` now permits the intuitive synonyms ``d_deathdate`` and ``d_deathplace`` for the fields ``d_date`` and ``d_place``. This makes the class `Death` behave the same way the class `Birth` does.

The page header and footer for displaying the details of a Death Registration has an added link to the summary of transcriptions for the township. The page now searches for citations to the registration from both the old and new location for death events, and fills in the hyperlink to the individual. This prevents inadvertently adding duplicate citations to the registration.

Bug Fixes

- Eliminate duplicate matching individuals from loose name matches in the method `LegacyIndiv::getIndivs`.
- The method `District::getDistricts` returned null rather than an array when the limit parameter was not specified.
- The method `District::getSubDistricts` did not return the counts because the interface in class `SubDistrict` had been changed.
- In class `District` methods of the class `SubDistrict` were invoked without the class definition being included.
- In static method `SubDistrict::getSubDistricts` the value of the 'fcount' return parameter was not set correctly.
- Class `LegacyName` referenced deprecated name fields in `LegacyFamily`. These fields are no longer reliably maintained.
- The `LegacyName` constructor did not ensure that 'Order' was set to -1 for married name records.
- `LegacySource::setField` put the new value into an undefined field 'fldname' instead of the field name passed as the first parameter.
- The script for editing an event now merely closes the edit dialog if the user has not yet selected an event type.
- A design error arose in the script `getIndivNamesXml.php` because in some cases the 'idir' parameter was used to exclude a particular individual and in other cases it was used to implicitly provide name, gender, and birth date information to limit the search. To eliminate the resulting incorrect output the 'idir' parameter now is used only to exclude, and the given name, surname, gender, and birth year information required to limit the response must always be passed explicitly.
- Adding a birth citation did not set the sex of the implicitly created birth registration record.
- Many more fields are initialized when adding a death citation implicitly creates a death registration record.
- The PHP variable `$individ` was not initialized when adding a death citation which resulted in bad XML in the response.
- The script `editIndivid.php` formerly accessed the deprecated husband and wife name fields in the `LegacyFamily` record.
- The script `editIndivid.js`, which performs the dynamic functionality of editing an individual, did not pass the IDCR value in the feedback parameters to `editMarriages.js`. This caused `editMarriages.js` to erroneously add a new child record to the display.
- When an edit individual page was resized only the visible half-window frames were resized.

- Edit Individual did not pass the debug flag to the dialogs for editing a Marriage or a set of Parents.
- The temple identifier was not initialized when creating a new LDS sacrament event.
- It is now valid to add a child to a family which is not yet saved in the database and therefore does not have an IDMR value.
- The page FamilyTree/index.html, which is the old entry point to the Cobban family, still contained references to the old generated HTML pages, rather than the new pages built from the database on the fly. Also the reference numbers were wrong.
- Add an alert in `commonMarriage.js` for a bad return value from function `addChildToPage`.
- In `commonMarriage.js` the value of field 'birthsd' was not passed to function `addChildToPage`. This meant that the reorder children feature did not work for newly created children.
- In `commonMarriage.js` the debug flag is now passed to the `editIndivid.php` script when updating a family member.
- In `chooseIndivid.js` the value of field 'birthsd' was not passed to function `addChildToPage`. This meant that the reorder children feature did not work for existing individuals added as children.
- The script `chooseIndivid.php` now accepts a Sex parameter to limit the response by gender.
- The script `chooseIndivid.php` rejected a maximum birth year in the 1700s.
- The script `orderMarriagesByDateXml.php` ordered the marriages by the husband's marriage order when asked to order by the wife's order.
- In `BirthRegResponse.php` the variable `$birthDate` was not created if it was not set.