## January 2015 Newsletter

The usability of the web-site is a major focus this month.

In the past whenever you requested a new service one of three things would happen:

- 1. The page displaying the results of the request completely replaced the requesting page. This is appropriate when the user no longer needs to see the requesting page, particularly when the original page is used simply to request the results of a report.
- 2. The page displaying the results of the request is opened as a new tab with the same dimensions as the requesting page. Both pages are still available, but only one of the pages can be seen at a time because they both occupy the same space on the screen.
- 3. The page displaying the results is opened as a new window with different dimensions and overlaying only part of the original page. This new window can be dragged around by the mouse and changed in size. There are two issues with these little windows: They can quickly clutter up the screen creating a messy desk, and they may only be displayed if you the user have permitted the browser to open such windows. Typically this permission is withheld because this sort of "popup" window is frequently used by advertising spammers.

This month the site attempts to reduce the clutter and confusion of your screen desk-top by replacing many of the instances of popup windows by explicitly managing the screen space which you have allocated to the web-site. This new implementation works particularly well when you have your browser window occupying the full screen.

This new support currently applies to the main page for displaying information about an individual and the associated page for editing the information about the individual. On the main page there are four buttons displayed to casual visitors, plus an Edit button displayed to authorized registered users. The "Descendant Tree", "Ancestor Tree", and "Relationship Calculator" buttons formerly opened new small windows, now they split the browser window horizontally, squeezing the original page information so it is all still visible in the left side of the window, while the report is displayed in the right side of the window. The display tree graphic button and the "Edit Individual" button are unchanged.



Illustration 1: Individual Page with Descendant Tree in Split Screen

On the Edit Individual page all of the "Details" and "Edit" buttons, as well as the "Merge" and "Grant Access" buttons now split the screen in the same way instead of opening new window. In addition there is a new "Search" button which pops down a list of searches which can be performed for matches in the supporting databases or in Ancestry.ca. These also split the screen. For example clicking on a "Details" button for an event appears as:

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Update Individual         Merge         Search           Identity:         IDIR: [41051         Surname: [Davis           Given Names: [William Gender: [Male]         Gender: [Male]         Content		Location: jor 15 con 4, Metcalle, Middlesex, ON. Notes: ローローズ 以目前 要求 Point Tarmy ビーズ 公式 2011日 正日 注 使 つ で しゅう	Font size  Format
Date:         Location:           Birth:         [27 May 1828]         Ontario, Canada           Christening:          Worked as a:         [1871]           Worked as a:         [1881]         Farmer         Jot           Worked as a:         [1881]         Farmer         Met	S     Ortains     Detains     Detains <t< th=""><th>Citation     Ref Consus of Canada     Add     Citation     Update Event     Clear Notes     Dictures</th><th>Details (Page) flist 7 Middlesex West, subdist D Metcalfe, Cita</th></t<>	Citation     Ref Consus of Canada     Add     Citation     Update Event     Clear Notes     Dictures	Details (Page) flist 7 Middlesex West, subdist D Metcalfe, Cita
Add gyent         Other:           Private: No         •           Vier Ref:         •           Nesser Ref:         •           Ancestor Interest:         Low           Buttons:         •           Edit Barents         Edit Eamilies           Edit Barents         Edit Eamilies           Edit Brenss         Edit Medical Notes           Grant Access         Edit Medical Notes	ef:		

Illustration 2: Edit Dialog with Edit Event in Split Screen

Similarly clicking on the "Edit Families" button displays the Edit Families dialog in the right side of the window.

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	Genealogy: Canada: Ontario: Services: Nominal Index : Surnames Starting with 'D': Surname 'Davis': William Davis: Contact	! jcobban	Edit Families for William Davis
		? Help	Families           Date         Husband         Wife         Pref         Actions
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	Update Individual Merge Search		1 May 1889 William Davis Susana Jane Bryant Edit Family Delete Family
			Actions: Add Family Order Families by Date
	Identity: IDR: 41051 Sumame: Davis		Husband Name: [William Davis Edit Husband Married Surname: Davis
	Given Names: William Details		Actions: Select Existing Husband Create New Husband Detach Husband
	Gender: Male		Wife Name: Mary Ann Dean Edit Wife
A	Events Date: Location: Preferred:		Name:Married Surname: Davis
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	Worked as a: 1871 Farmer   Jot 15 con 4, Metcalfe, Middlesex, ON, CA	Delete	Actions: Add Event Order Events by Date
	Worked as a: 1881 Farmer Metcalfe, Middlesex, ON, CA Details	Delete	Information
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<b>%</b>	Worked as a: 1901 Farmer for 15 con 4 Gore, Metcalfe, Middlesex, O	Delete	Name Rule: Replace Wife's Surname with Husband's Surname -
	Lived: 1911 Metcalfe St, Strathroy, Middlesex, ON, CA Details	Delete	Notes:
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ET IIII	Buried: Details	Delete	
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$(\bigcirc)$	Private: No - Never Married:		Children
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An	Buttons:		Letitia M. Davis About 1859 Edit Child Detach Child
	Edit General Notes Edit Parents Edit Families		Susanna M. Davis About 1863 Edit Child Detach Child Helena T. Davis About 1866 Edit Child Detach Child
	Edit Pictures Add Address		Lewis T. Davis 22 May 1870 Edit Child Detach Child
	Edit Research Notes Edit Medical Notes		William Edward Davis 8 Oct 1873 Edit Child Detach Child
	Grant Access		Actions: Add Existing Child Add New Child Order Children by Birth Date
		)))	Update Family Close

Illustration 3: Edit Individual with Edit Families Dialog in Split Screen

Clicking on the "Grant Access" button to authorize another user to contribute to your family tree also opens in the split screen:

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	Edit William Davis (27 May 1828 - )		<u>? Help</u>	Grant Access to William Davis (27 May 1828-)	<u>? Help</u>
	dentity:			Adam21 Aleena Wilton Allisonwrs75 al_134	
	Given Names: William Gender: Male -	Details		Grant Access	
A	Events Date: Location: P Birth: [27 May 1828 Ontario, Canada	referred:	Delete	Contact Author Genealogy: Canada: Ontario: Services: Nominal Index: Surnames Starting with 'D': Surname 'Davis':	
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<b>*</b>	Worked as a:         [1881         Farmer         Metcalfe, Middlesex, ON, CA           Worked as a:         From 1889 To 1£ Farmer         Metcalfe, Middlesex, ON, CA           Worked as a:         [1901         Farmer         for 15 con 4 Gore, Metcalfe, Middlesex, O	Details Details Details	Delete Delete		
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	Other:         Private:         No         Never Married:           User Ref:         Ancestral Ref:         Ancestral Ref:         Ancestral Ref:           Ancestor Interest:         [.ow]         •         •				
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Illustration 4: Edit Individual with Grant Access in Split Screen

The new "Search" button simplifies performing a quick search of either the supporting documents tables on the site itself or of Ancestry.ca, for records which match the individual. When you click on this button three new buttons appear in a drop-down menu.



Illustration 5: Search Popdown Menu

The "Census Search" button performs a consolidated search of the 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921 Census of Canada transcription tables for individuals with similar names and birth years. There is also a new option at the top of the Censuses of Canada page to permit you to manually enter such a query. The "Vital Stats Search" button will eventually perform a consolidated search of the Birth, Marriage, and Death registration tables. At the moment it searches only the Birth registration tables while I add additional information to the other two tables to permit them to be searched in a similar manner. The "Ancestry Search" button requests a search of Ancestry.ca. If you

are not a subscriber to Ancestry this will only show you what types of information is available.

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Illustration 6: Edit Individual with Census Search in Split Screen