

PEDITREE

A Family History Program

Addendum: Islands and
CSV Import

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Introduction

Since printing the current *Getting Started Guide* version 3 and *User's Manual* version 2.2, two new facilities have been added to PediTree:

- Relationship Islands (PediTree version 3.323)
- CSV Import (PediTree version 3.326)

The two articles following describe and illustrate these facilities.

Acknowledgements

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Relationship Islands

Relationship Islands

A Relationship Island (or island for short) is a group of individuals all related together by marriage – otherwise called blood relations. If you are recording the history of one particular family, then the intention will be to identify all the ancestors, descendants and siblings and link them together. The result should be a single island. In practice, there may be some likely relatives mentioned in wills or marriage documents for whom you have no information about relationships to the rest of the family. Pending a research breakthrough, they will remain unattached in your records, so will be in separate island(s). Any adopted children are not blood relations – not related by marriage to members of the family – so will also be separate islands.

More formally, PediTree uses Person and Marriage records to build families; an island is all those Person records linked together by Marriage records. In this context, Marriage records don't necessarily imply a legal marriage, merely the linkage between one or two parents and their children.

Using Islands

How can the Islands facility help you? For a start, it will show you how many islands exist in your database. If you are researching a single family then you might hope to have only one island; the actual number might be a surprise. This analysis might help to uncover some forgotten records that need further work. On the other hand, a database of a one-name study is likely to have many islands, as it is very unlikely that all the collected individuals can be linked into a single family.

Let's look at an example. In PediTree, you can generate an Islands display from your database by choosing **List > Islands** from the main menu. Here is the result for a family database. The list top left shows the islands found in descending order of the number of Person records. The first entry is selected (ticked), so the lower list shows all the Person and Marriage records for that island. (I have scrambled the names to protect the privacy of the owner of this database.) This first island has the majority (99%) of the Person and Marriage records in this database, which looks pretty good. Islands 2–5 are small groups of

Island#	#INDI	#FAM	1st INDI
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	2855	829	1
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	6	2	2562
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	5	1	436
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	5	1	1557
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	2	1	1910
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	1	1	1581
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	1	1	1672
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	1	1	2637
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	1	0	344
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	1	0	437
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	1	0	642
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	1	0	644
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	1	0	646
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	1	0	1014
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	1	0	1770

Record List for Selected Island(s)

Kptlq NBOTPO *P0001 (31 Aug 1874-24 Feb 1952)
 Fmjabcliu CSVDF *P0002 (11 Dec 1873-1947)
 Nbschslu Mbqoh NBOTPO *P0003 (10 Apr 1907-03 Jan 19
 Jltcbmb Nbsz Csvdf NBOTPO (Fnmh) *P0004 (24 Feb 19
 Dbultsfol Bmlyboesb Qpof NBOTPO (Slob) *P0005 (25 Feb
 Ifmfo Cbolk NBOTPO *P0006 (02 Dec 1913)
 Kndfrie Rmfuhwef NBOTPO *P0007 (08 Nov 1916-27 Jun 1

Selected Islands

Selection: 1 Islands
 2855 Persons
 829 Marriages

Buttons: All, Invert, Clear, Make List, Delete, GEDCOM Export (Version 4 Pedigree, Version 5.5), Include linked records, OK, Find Person, Help, Close

least one of these contains children adopted by the main family), the rest (22 total) are single individuals. By contrast, the Islands display for a sample one-name study database had 10,394 islands with only 6% of the records in the first (largest) island.

You can select as many islands as you wish by clicking on the check-boxes: the lower list shows all the records in the selected islands. You can move the divider between island-list and record-list, by dragging the division with the mouse. The display top right summarises the selection, showing the number of islands and the total Person and Marriage records. Three buttons provide the means to set (**All**), **Invert** or **Clear** all the check-marks; Invert means change checked to not-checked and vice versa.

The Record List in the Islands display has few facilities: clicking on an entry makes this the current (Person or Marriage) record, which means you can use the buttons on the speed-bar to find it in an index or display the relevant Family display. For more facilities, click the **Make List** button to produce a separate List display with Detail box. This List display is temporary, but has the usual context (right-click) pop-up menu allowing you to Mark a person; Save the list as text; Edit the record; Print the Detail box; Draw a Report.

Export GEDCOM

Continuing the possibilities for a selection of one or more islands, you can export the selection as a GEDCOM file. The choices here are to export Version 4 Pedigree, or Version 5.5 (if your database design is suitable). You can also choose whether to include linked records or not. If you choose to include linked records, then the output will include, for example, Source and Census records that are linked to the Person and Marriage records in the selected islands. In addition, you will get any adopted children (Person records) that are linked to Marriage records in the selected islands.

Once you have selected your options, then click the **OK** button in the **GEDCOM Export** box. You will then get the usual Windows File Save dialogue so that you can choose a filename and folder for the export.

Splitting a Database

One possible use for GEDCOM export of a selection of islands would be to split a database. For example, you might want to export a database of your spouses's family only. In order to do this, it would be necessary to make the spouses's family into a separate island, rather being included in the whole database. Here's one way to do this:-

- 1 Bring the family of the spouse to be exported to the centre of the family display
- 2 Right-click and Mark the spouse whose family is to be exported.
- 3 In Edit (Update) mode, right-click and Detach this spouse.

Islands

- 4 Choose **List > Islands** and note that an extra island is now present. Select this alone and confirm that it contains the spouse in question.
- 5 With this selection, Export GEDCOM, including linked records. This is the wanted family.
- 6 Right-click on the empty spouse position in the Family display and Place the marked spouse, thus restoring the temporarily-broken family.

Alternatively, after step 5, you might decide to delete the exported island, which is another possibility, to be described below.

For example, after steps 1–4 above on the database that produced the first example display, the top section of the island-list looks like this example.

You will see that the main island of 2855 Person records has been split into two of 1977 & 878. The second one is the spouse's family to be exported.

You could, of course, make two exports, one of each islands 1 & 2, both with linked records. This would provide two new separate databases

for future work, if that is what was wanted.

Island#	#INDI	#FAM	1st INDI
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	1977	557	1
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	878	272	229
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	6	2	2562
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	5	1	436
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	5	1	1557
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	2	1	1910
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	1	1	1581
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	1	1	1672
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	1	1	2637

Another possible use of GEDCOM export of selected islands would be to provide an enquirer with the relevant section of a one-name study. To do this, you might need to find the island that includes a particular individual. The **Find Person** button brings up a box for entry of the RIN of a person in the database. By default, it is filled with the RIN of the current Person record, so you can use PediTree's normal techniques to locate the person of interest and click on them before using the **Find Person** button. Once the RIN is entered, then a double-click or a press of the Enter key will locate the relevant island and highlight it in the Island display. You have then only to make sure this island is the only one checked and the selection will include the required Person record with all its relatives. If the highlighted island is checked, then the Person record found will be highlighted in the Record List.

Deleting Islands

The final option, mentioned previously, is to delete the records in selected island(s). This powerful option could *potentially damage your database* if used by accident, so you are strongly advised to have a current back-up before using it! You have been warned! If you are in Edit (Update) mode and have one or more islands selected, then the **Delete** button will be enabled; clicking it will start the deletion process. You get two

further opportunities to confirm that you really want to delete the selected records. Click **Yes** to both and all the Person and Marriage records in the selected islands will be deleted, as will any links to them from other records.

An interesting use of this mass-deletion facility came to light during evaluation of the Islands facility. A user had mistakenly imported a GEDCOM file into the wrong database, without making a back-up first. As the import had not been linked into existing records, it appeared as a number of separate islands that could be identified and deleted. This removed the offending extra Person and Marriage records, making recovery from the mistake much easier.

CSV Import into PediTree

CSV Files

CSV stands for Comma Separated Values. The term is used to describe a type of text file that can be used to transfer information to and from so-called flat file databases. In PediTree's case this means a single record-type, such as Source. A commonly-used form of flat-file database is a spreadsheet, which is often used for transcriptions of family history information, such as church registers or monumental inscriptions. PediTree can export a Table as a CSV file.

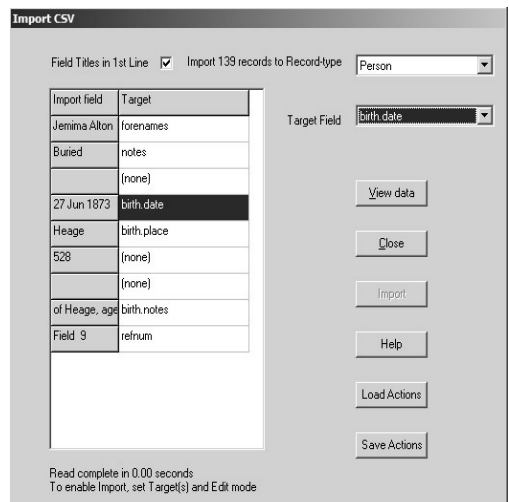
Here is an example of a CSV file:-

```
forenames,surname,Birth date,Birth place,Birth notes
Ann,Allen,c. 1725,,
Lydia,Cambridge,26 Jul 1782,London,"year uncertain,
inferred from age in census"
```

This has a heading and two records of five fields. You will see from the heading and first record that the fields are separated by commas, hence the name of this type of file. The first record has two empty fields, but the comma-separators are still there. The second record has the last field in quotes "...", because the text contains a comma and also a new line. Some CSV files have all fields in quotes, not just those containing commas. Not all files have a heading, as in our example.

CSV Import

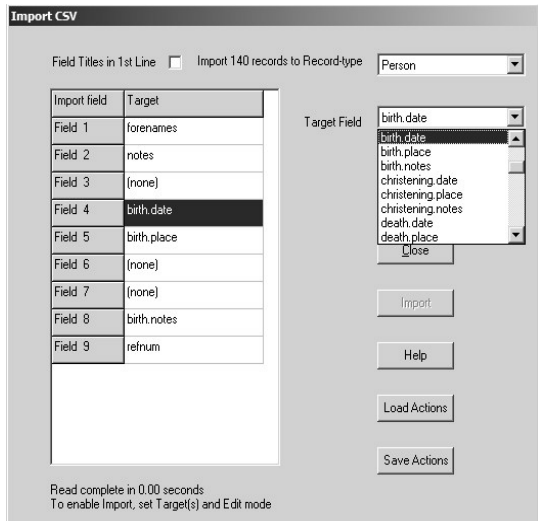
Importing a CSV file into PediTree is similar in some ways to GEDCOM import. After choosing **Import > CSV** from the File menu, you can choose the file to import from a standard Windows File Open dialogue. Having done that, a CSV Import display appears, as shown here. The list shows the fields of the chosen CSV file, with the target PediTree field for each, that is, the field into which it will be imported. Initially, all the target fields show as '(none)', meaning the import will be ignored. To proceed, you need to choose first the target record-type, then the target field for



each incoming field that you wish to import.

In this example, there are no headings in the CSV file, so the field-names are taken from the first record, as is apparent. To correct this, click on the **Field Titles in 1st Line** box to remove the check-mark. The fields will then be named 'Field 1' and so on and the number of records to be imported is increased by one, as in the next illustration.

Both record-type and target field are chosen from drop-down lists, by clicking on the down-arrow to the right of their list boxes. After you have chosen the record-type, the **Target Field** drop-down list is populated with the possible fields. All fields for that record-type are shown, including those within groups, but excluding link-fields such as source. You cannot import into link-fields. The example here shows the **Target Field** list dropped down, also the revised field names.



Click on each import field in turn to choose the appropriate target. To assist you, you can display the information in the chosen import field by clicking the **View data** button.

Once you have made your choices, you can save them by clicking on the **Save Actions** button. A standard Windows File Open dialogue allows you to choose a filename for this, which will have the extension .CSA. You can then reload these choices at a future time (by clicking the **Load Actions** button), rather than having to make your selections all over again. The information saved includes the setting of the **Field Titles in 1st Line** box, the record-type and all target fields.

It only remains to click the **Import** button. This is disabled until you have chosen at least one target field and are in Edit (update) mode. If the target record-type already has records, then you will be asked to confirm that you have a back-up of your database before proceeding. A program failure during import could corrupt your database: you have been warned! PediTree saves your import settings in file default.csa, then imports your chosen CSV file into your database. CSV Import is very fast and a completion message will say if any errors have been detected. Clicking a **Finish** button will close the CSV Import display and update PediTree's indexes.

CSV Import

If any errors were detected then the Diagnostic display will open to show them. Here is an example entry, which identifies the affected record both in the database and in the imported file:-

```
CSV Import Error in Person RIN 18, group birth, field date: invalid month  
05 MAG 1938  
Data line 23: 05 MAG 1938
```

Using CSV Import

That concludes the description of the CSV import process, which is much less complicated than that for GEDCOM files. So what can you use it for? Not for transferring lineage-linked information, for which GEDCOM is the appropriate choice. As indicated above, CSV import cannot handle links between records, only unlinked records of a single record-type. It might be used to copy source records from one PediTree database to another, using a suitable Table to export the records in CSV form. More commonly, it may be used to import information transcribed or downloaded from elsewhere. Examples of which this author is aware are monumental inscriptions transcribed into a spreadsheet and BMD records downloaded from the Web. For example, you can download records of Births, Marriages or Deaths from the website FreeBMD <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/> in a form that can be copied and pasted into a spreadsheet. After a little manipulation, the records can be saved as a CSV file and imported as source-records into PediTree.