

July 2015 Features Update

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Global

The major focus this month was on fixing flaws in the user interface rather than on significant new functionality.

There is a new category of tools on the top level page: Video Tutorials. Clicking on this takes you to a list of video tutorials on the more effective use of the site.

The navigation trail displayed in the header and footer of each page has an option added to define items that do not have an associated link address.

The page is now defined with explicit <header>, <main>, and <footer> sections as defined by HTML5 to support assistance technologies.

All PHP include files are now referenced using paths based on the PHP `include_path`. Some include file references formerly used absolute file names. This makes the implementation more portable.

All references to the script `getRecordXml.php` are consolidated in a single instance at the top level which in addition to the existing support for tables in the family tree and census portions of the database now also supports the `Births`, `Marriage`, `Deaths`, `Counties`, `Townships`, `Users`, and `Blogs` tables.

The script `Users.php`, which is used by a designated administrator to manage the table of registered users, now uses the class `User` for all manipulation of the database instead of direct SQL statements. The ability for the administrator to manually correct usernames and email addresses is added. A debug trace is displayed if the debug option is passed to the script.

The width of the border around the advertisement in the header is set to an explicit value to avoid different browser interpretations of “thick” that caused Chrome, for example, to not be able to fit the advertisement in the available space.

If a guest, that is a user who has not signed on as a registered user, clicks on the “Contact Author” link at the bottom of the page the only way that the Author, that is an administrator or a registered user who is an owner of the page, can reply is by e-mail. To simplify this the created blog post contains a “mailto” link. This “mailto” now has a default subject and body text extracted from the blog post so the Author no longer needs to manually copy this information before replying to the message.

The browser functionality to widen a displayed column in a table by 50% when the right button of the mouse is clicked on the column header is moved to the common library.

Family Tree Enhancements

There was a performance problem due to a missing index on the table of `LegacyEvents` which meant that it took over a second to obtain the list of events associated with a particular individual.

The static method `LegacyIndiv::getIndivs` now extracts the birth and death dates from the table of `LegacyEvents` and appends them as additional columns.

In preparation for the removal of the field ``birthsd`` from `LegacyIndiv` the field is now referenced only if there is no preferred birth instance in the table of `LegacyEvents` even for sorting individuals by birth date.

A new method `LegacyEvent::setAssociatedRecord` is added to deal with the situation where the record with which the event is associated did not exist when the instance of `LegacyEvent` was created.

The functionality of `LegacyCitation::getName` is enhanced so it can be used by the script `legacyIndiv.php` to obtain a unique key for merging equivalent citations in the footnote table. Functionality is also added to `LegacyCitation::getCitations` so that if it is called to find all the citations to the primary name, `LegacyCitation::STYPE_NAME`, and the 'namenote' field of the individual is not empty, a special instance of `LegacyCitation` is added to the beginning of the returned list that makes the 'namenote' look like a citation. This eliminates the need for the script `legacyIndiv.php` to include a significant amount of special code just to add a footnote reference including the 'namenote' information.

The script `LegacyLocations.php`, which displays a list of locations matching a pattern, now has a 'close' button added so it can be invoked in a half window.

The script `getIndivNamesXml.php` is changed to use `LegacyIndiv::getIndivs` instead of raw SQL to get the list of matching individuals. This required significant enhancement to `LegacyIndiv::getIndivs`.

The script `LegacyNames.php`, which is used to display all of the individuals in the family tree with the same surname has a couple of enhancements. It can now be invoked using the numeric key of the record in the table `tblNR` for the surname. Also a long text field is added to the record in `tblNR`. The script `LegacyNames.php` accordingly now permits any registered user to add descriptive information about the family. Furthermore the ability to post blog messages for the family is added.

Individuals with the Surname 'Corsaut' [7 Help](#)

Notes About the Corsaut Family

Unfortunately in most handwriting the lower case letter "u" looks exactly like the lower case letter "n". For this surname in particular many transcribers have read the surname as "Corsant".

[Edit Surname Record](#)

Surnames with the Same Soundex 'C623'
31 individuals match your request.

Ada Elizabeth Corsaut (26 Dec 1901—)	Ann Corsaut (about 1849—)	Charles Corsaut (about 1845—)	Christopher Corsaut (1796—1880)
David Corsaut (about 1840—)	Ebenezer Corsaut (about 1834—)	Elisabeth Corsaut (about 1829—)	Elizabeth Corsaut (about 1864—)
Ella Lillian Corsaut (2 Nov 1910—)	Eva Corsaut (Apr 1908—)	Hannah Amelia Corsaut (29 Dec 1874—)	Hannah I. Corsaut (4 Dec 1898—)
Henry A. Corsaut (9 Jul 1867—)	Isabella Corsaut (19 Jan 1873—)	James Corsaut (11 Jun 1800—20 Apr 1883)	James Corsaut (about 1838—)
James Corsaut (about 1858—1931)	James Corsaut (between 1915 and 1925—)	James Henry Corsaut (13 Dec 1912—)	John Corsaut (4 Mar 1826—12 Sep 1917)
John Corsaut (7 Jan 1863—)	Maria Isabella Corsaut (30 Nov 1873—)	Mary Emma Corsaut (25 Nov 1860—19 Dec 1952)	Robert B. Corsaut (about 1869—29 Mar 1880)
Robert John Corsaut (6 May 1903—)	Sarah Jane Corsaut (11 Oct 1856—)	Stephen Andrew Corsaut (about 1841—22 Feb 1905)	Thomas Corsaut (about 1867—)
Thomas Andrew Corsaut (19 Mar 1879—)	Thomas N. Corsaut (25 Oct 1896—)	William Corsaut (about 1843—)	

[Rich-text editor with "enter message"]

Path:

[Post Blog](#)

[Contact Author](#) [41 people like this. Be the first of your friends.](#)

Illustration 1: Displaying Descriptive Information about a Surname

Click on the "Edit Surname Record" button to create or edit information about a surname.

[Contact](#)

Individuals with the Surname 'Corsaut' [7 Help](#)

Edit the Corsaut Family Record

IDNR: 3806
Surname: Corsaut
SOUNDEX Code: C623

Notes:

[Rich-text editor containing the same text as in Illustration 1]

Path:

[Update Surname Record](#)

Surnames with the Same Soundex 'C623'
31 individuals match your request.

Ada Elizabeth Corsaut (26 Dec 1901—)	Ann Corsaut (about 1849—)	Charles Corsaut (about 1845—)	Christopher Corsaut (1796—1880)
David Corsaut (about 1840—)	Ebenezer Corsaut (about 1834—)	Elisabeth Corsaut (about 1829—)	Elizabeth Corsaut (about 1864—)
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[Rich-text editor with "enter message"]

Path:

[Post Blog](#)

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Genealogy: Canada: Ontario: Services: Nominal Index: Surnames Starting with 'C':

Illustration 2: Editing Descriptive Information about a Surname

The information is entered in a rich-text editor, so you can use highlight text, insert hyper-links, and include images. It does not make sense to permit the user to change the surname or SOUNDEX code.

The order of information displayed in the main page on an individual about either the main individual or a spouse is changed for clarity and simplification. The order of display is now:

1. The name of the individual, with all of its citations, including the special citation for a name note.
2. The names of parents of the individual. This information formerly followed the birth event.
3. Information on alternate names by which the individual is known in the sources. This was formerly presented in a separate paragraph before the main paragraph.
4. All of the events, normally in chronological order starting with birth.



Illustration 3: Order of Information Display Changed for Individual

If you are signed on as a registered user, the popup containing information about a specific location that appears if you hold the mouse over a location name now contains a button that permits you to edit the description of the location. As a registered subscriber you can change any information about a location, including the spelling and capitalization of the name, the geographic coordinates, the boundary of administrative areas such as townships, counties, and states, and the descriptive text.

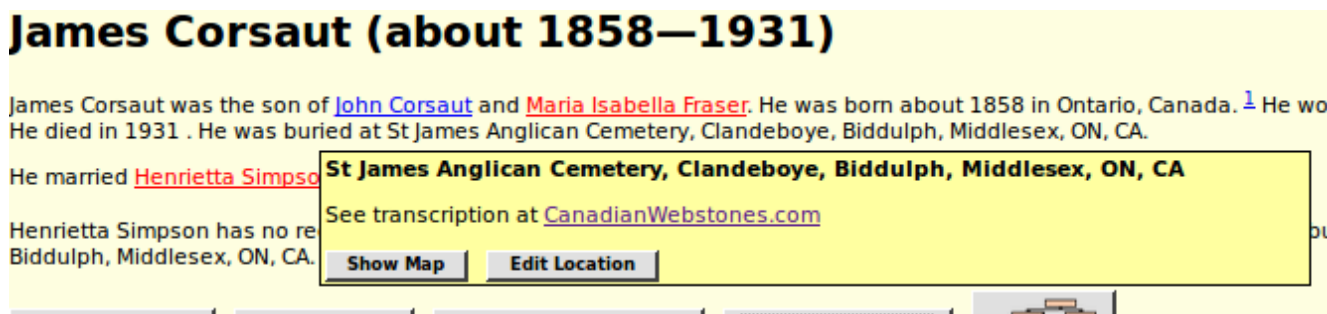


Illustration 4: Location Popup for Registered Subscribers

Census Database Enhancements

The script `CensusUpdateStatus.php`, which summarizes the progress of the transcription effort for a particular census and province, is enhanced to add support for the 1831 census of Quebec, correct the ordering of censuses as implemented by the forward and backward hyper-links, and to popup a description of where those links will take you if you click on them.

On all censuses if you enter a “+” in the family number column it will now search back over empty rows to find the last valid family number instead of setting the field to '1' when the preceding line was blank. If you do a right button mouse click on the header of any column the width of that column is increased by 50%, permitting you to see longer values. In the 1851 and 1861 census years if the sex changes and the individual was born in the past 12 months, the sex is adjusted in the born this year column.

Vital Statistics Enhancements

The minimum column widths are explicitly set for the fields in the response to a query of the Wesleyan Methodist Baptisms table, so the text in each field will not be wrapped to try and squeeze as much into the width of the page as possible.

The only other changes to vital statistics support this month are fixes for implementation errors.

Bug Fixes

- There was an unclosed tag in the diagnostic output from the constructor for class `Marriage` which resulted in invalid XML output.
- The constructor for class `Blog` is corrected to accept a key value that is a numeric string as well as integers.
- Diagnostic output from class `County` is redirected to `$warn` to maintain valid HTML.
- The constructor for class `User` is corrected to accept an id value that is a numeric string.
- The static method `User::getUsers` is altered to require the parameter to be passed by reference so the count can be returned, and to support searching for users based upon the `Options` value.
- In class `LegacyIndiv` the internal pointer to the associated record was not set in basic events if they already existed as records in `tblER`.
- In method `LegacyIndiv::getName` remove a reference to the obsolete field 'birthd'.
- `LegacyIndiv::getWhere` constructed a bad expression for IDIR exclusion and for unusual given name expressions.
- `LegacyIndiv::getWhere` constructed a bad expression for OR expressions.
- The browser script `Users.js`, which implements the dynamic functionality of the administrator script for managing users previously issued an incorrect error message if the script `deleteUserXml.php` was not found on the server.
- There was an extra semicolon in the text generated by the browser script `locationCommon.js`.
- In the script `getIndividualsByLocation.php` the parameters created to combine fields by 'or' was wrong.
- In the script `LegacyNames.php` the header link to the nominal index searched for the surname '\$surname' instead of the surname being displayed in the page.
- In `legacyIndiv.php` when the implementation of location popups was changed to expand at page build time the descriptive text was accidentally omitted.
- In `legacyIndiv.php` the expansion failed if an invalid birth or death location identifier was present in the database.
- In `legacyIndiv.php` there was a syntax error in the header and footer page hierarchies if the surname contained a quote.
- In `BirthRegDetail.php`, the script that displays an individual birth registration, the search for potential matches in the family tree would not work as expected if the given names contained any special characters.
- When a marriage registration is deleted from the list presented by `MarriageRegResponse.php` the HTML of the page is updated instead of refreshing the

whole page from the server.

- The forward and backward links on the page `MarriageRegDetail.php` were missing the domain name field.