

## SECRETS OF GEDCOM

### The GEDCOM Standard Release 5.5

GEDCOM is an acronym for Genealogical Data COMmunications. This is the form that you can use to send your family information to another individual and they are able to import this information into their family genealogy program. Regardless which program you use or they use, GEDCOM allows you to exchange this information.

GEDCOM tags each line with a universal label/code so any other program using this file knows the type of data this line is. There are 130 codes for each line.

### Importing into Family Tree Maker

To Import a new file into Family Tree Maker, do the following steps:

1. Go to **File** then **Open** and
2. On the bottom of the *Open Family File Screen* is the **Type of file** box. Click on the **Down Arrow** and highlight *GEDCOM (\*.COM)*. All \*GED files you have will appear. If your GED file is not here, search and find the GEDCOM file you wish to open (Import).
3. When the file you wish to Import is on the name or title box, **Highlight** and press **Open**.
4. You now have an additional family file in Family Tree Maker.

### Exporting out of Family Tree Maker

Exporting is also very simple. To Export, do the following:

1. Go to **File** then **Export File**, move to the left and click on **Entire File**
2. On the bottom of the *New Family File Screen* is the **Type of file** box. Click on the **Down Arrow** and highlight *GEDCOM (\*.COM)*. All \*GED files you have will appear.
3. Type the name of the file you are exporting. (sometimes it is easier if you add a number such as 1 or 2 to the file name to separate it from your original file).
4. Remember *When you export, you are exporting a copy only and the original file is not changed.*

### Importing into Legacy

1. Go to **File** then to **Import from** and move to the left and click on **GEDCOM file**.
2. The *Import GEDCOM file* screen is open.
3. Highlight the file you wish to import. And press **Open**.
4. You now have the choice to **Create a New File** or **Add the GEDCOM information to an existing file**. (Make sure you have a backup before adding a file.) Check your preference and press **Proceed**.
5. The *Enter a Name for the New Family File* screen appears. In the **File Name** box, type in the name of your new file. Click **Open**.
6. The *GEDCOM Import Into Family File: (and your family name)* appears.
7. Check the appropriate boxes and press **Start the Import**. You now have a new family file in Legacy or a file added to you present file.

## Export from Legacy

1. Go to **File** then **Export** to and move to the right and click on **GEDCOM**.
2. The *GEDCOM Export Screen* opens. On top is the **Produce file for:** press the **GEDCOM 5.5 only**. Notice you have other choices also. You might need to use them later.
3. Legacy gives you lots of options of what you want to export. Check the appropriate boxes.
4. On the bottom of the screen you can click on **Record Selection Box** check what you want to export or leave as it is to export *All Records in the Entire Family File*.
5. Press the **Select File Name and Start Export** Button
6. The Export GEDCOM file screen appears. At the **File Name** box type in the name of your GEDCOM file and **enter**. You now have a GEDCOM file! *When you export, you are exporting a copy only and the original file is not changed.*

0 @F135@ FAM  
1 HUSB @I0296@  
1 WIFE @I0933@  
1 CHIL @I0283@  
2 \_FREL Natural  
2 \_MREL Natural  
1 MARR  
2 DATE BET. 1736 - 1768

0 @I0283@ INDI  
1 NAME Warner /Ford/  
1 SEX M  
1 BIRT  
2 DATE ABT. 1750  
2 PLAC Stafford County, Virginia  
1 DEAT  
2 DATE ABT. 1835  
2 PLAC Port Royal, Henry Co., Kentucky  
1 BURI  
2 PLAC Port Royal, Henry Co., Kentucky  
1 \_MILT  
2 DATE 22 OCT 1782  
2 PLAC See notes  
1 FAMS @F024@  
1 FAMC @F135@  
1 NOTE @NI0283@



The GEDCOM we are working with here is 21 people and 7 families.

To get a copy 1, of all the GEDCOM labels, 2, a copy of this handout and 3, a copy of the printed out GEDCOM of the Ford-Seaton Family, go to Columbine's New Website at <http://www.columbinegenealogy.com>