

DESCENDANTSEE (TM)

Family Software

by MMS Pty Ltd

Origins of Descendantsee Software

Descendantsee was originally created to replace the tradition Family Book with a version that was viewable via the internet.

The basic concept was to focus on the descendants of a forebear, not the ancestors of an individual.

It was to include a tree type structure supported by a database, family narratives and family images.

Why was the software Created

At the time, software could not be found that was affordable, cross platform, and met the base objectives of linking genealogy aspects, narratives and images.

Features of the Software

Family Database

Details of Descendants and their Spouse including Names, Dates of Birth Death and Marriage

Narratives

Family History, Life Stories and any other information not in the database. Can be linked to specific individuals.

Pictures and Images

These can be uploaded as single photos or complete galleries. Can be linked to specific individuals

Family Business Links

Why not support the businesses of family members by including links to their business.

Family Association

The original software was for keeping membership records for the association. If no formal body, contact details (not visible to the public) can still be used for conveying information to family members. There is also the facility for Newsletters.

Family Database - Key Principles

The Founder

This is the individual, male or female, for whom descendants and their details are to be added.

Adding Descendants

A descendant must have both parents in the database before they can be added.

Privacy

Full details of individuals are not visible to the general public and password protections are in place where required.

Lineage Sequence

The Lineage Sequence devised for this software is what makes this software possible.

The Lineage Sequence

The Lineage Sequence, sometimes referred to as the 'long ID' is a 'string' of characters.

The string has components of two characters for each child in a generation.

For each additional generation, the two characters of the child are added to the string representing the parent.

01 represents the first child of the Founder

0102 represents the second child of the founders first child

030104 .. fourth child of first child of third child of Founder

And so on.

The strings are characters not numbers. The letters 'A' 'F' and 'S' can be used for example .. 0301A4 .. to show the child was adopted.

Lineage Sequence vs Descendant ID

When an record is created in the descendant database a unique record number is generated for each entry that can not be updated. This number becomes the 'Descendant ID'.

The 'Lineage Sequence' is created at the same time by adding the child number to the end of the string for the descendant parent.

eg Parent Lineage Sequence 010402
 Third child Lineage Sequence 01040203

Each record for a spouse has a unique ID number created, but also records the 'Descendant ID' in the spouse details.

Descendant and Spouse ID's cannot be changed. Lineage Sequences can.

The Spouse Concept

In this suite of programs, the term 'Spouse' is principally defined as the other biological parent of a descendant.

There must be an entry for the Spouse of a descendant before a child of that descendant can be entered.

In cases where the other parent's details are not known, or are not to be divulged, an 'Spouse' can be added with surname such as 'Unknown' or 'To be found' and first name such as 'Not Given'.

The records can be later updated if details are found.

The 'Family Tree'

Descendantsee does not have the traditional 'Family Tree'

What it does have is unique reporting structures.

There are similar, but different reports that depend on whether you are a member of the public or have user access to more detailed reports.

Two reports which illustrate what most site visitors would like to see are :-

From the Database Search on the main menu "Lineage Limbs Details (with Spouse).

From the Main Menu "Family Member (with Forebears/Descendants)"

Lineage Limbs Details (with Spouse)

LINEAGE Ordered by Prime Descendant (Spouse Included) for Generation 0 to 3

LINE SEQUENCE	BIRTH SURNAME	First Name	Othernames	Line	Gen	Child	Born	Died	Desc_ID	Other Parent ID	Married	SPOUSE	Born	Died
00	JONES	Edward		EDWARD	0	6	1840-11-08	1913-07-21	44	0	1874-06-11	BROADSTOCK Louisa Matilda	1857-06-11	1950-12-3
01	JONES	Edward	Henry	EDWARD	1	1	1867-04-02	1876-02-01	57	3				
02	JONES	Caroline	Elizabeth	CAROLINE	1	2	1868-10-29	1953-02-14	58	3	1999-10-19	EVERLEY Edward	1974-10-19	1937-12-2
0201	EVERLY	Edward	William	CAROLINE	2	1	1892-07-09	1894-04-01	326	13				
0202	EVERLY	Roy	James	CAROLINE	2	2	1894-07-22	1963-06-25	327	13				
0203	EVERLY	Keith	Champion	CAROLINE	2	3	1897-10-11	1959-01-13	328	13	1931-04-23	JONES Annie Merle	1910-01-15	1954-07-0
0204	EVERLY	Melvie	Eileen Daisy	CAROLINE	2	4	1900-05-21	1987-09-11	329	13	1932-03-16	SHINDLER Alfred Paul	1905-08-22	1987-09-0
020401	SHINDLER	Glenda	Maureen	CAROLINE	3	1	1925	0000-00-00	332	162	1954	WICKER David	1933-06-08	0000-00-0
020402	SHINDLER	Barbara	Elaine	CAROLINE	3	2	1930	0000-00-00	333	162	1956	ALLAYSTON Donald Walter	1934-04-14	2003-12-1
020403	SHINDLER	Beth	Maxine	CAROLINE	3	3	1931	0000-00-00	334	162	1956	CRUX Gary William	1937-12-16	0000-00-0
0205	EVERLY	Jean		CAROLINE	2	5	1906-05-19	1991-05-10	330	13	1942-09-13	SIMMONS Kenneth Roy	1919-09-13	1996-08-0
020501	SIMMONS	Margaret	Rae	CAROLINE	3	1	1936	0000-00-00	369	163	1966	CRUNCK Rodney John	1943-02-13	0000-00-0
020502	SIMMONS	Kayleen	Jean	CAROLINE	3	2	1939	0000-00-00	370	163	1967	STACK Malcolm Tyler	1944-03-06	0000-00-0
020503	SIMMONS	Barry	Desmond	CAROLINE	3	3	1946	0000-00-00	371	163	1977	LOWEY Susan Ann Gloria	1948-11-30	0000-00-0
0206	EVERLY	Laurel		CAROLINE	2	6	1907-09-20	2014-02-25	331	13	1937-12-04	MADDEN Lloyd Douglas McLauchlan	1908-06-30	1998-01-2
020601	MADDEN	Graham	Edward	CAROLINE	3	1	1930	0000-00-00	374	164	1960	WREN Janice Ann	1942-08-25	0000-00-0
020602	MADDEN	Patricia	Lynette	CAROLINE	3	2	1932	0000-00-00	375	164	1963	BAILEY Alan Henry	1934-07-03	0000-00-0
		Spouse /	Other No 2								0000	PORTION Robin	0000-00-00	0000-00-0
020603	MADDEN	Kenneth	James	CAROLINE	3	3	1933	0000-00-00	376	164	1962	REGINALD Janet Elise	1942-02-07	0000-00-0
020604	MADDEN	Roger	Douglas	CAROLINE	3	4	1941	0000-00-00	377	164	1972	SACHI Lilliana	1954-12-26	0000-00-0

This structure basically goes East-West vs traditional North-South.

Regardless of the number of descendants, it will still print on A4 paper (Landscape).

Click on the the Line Sequence (blue) will bring up the descendant details

Family Member (with Forebears/Descendants)

Click BIRTH NAME ([Blue Link in third column](#)) for further descendant details .
 Click Gen/Child ([red in first column](#)) or Prime ([Green in Last column](#)) to move focus to another descendant.
 Where both parents are descendants, click lineage sequence ([green in last column](#)) to go to other parent link.

FOREBEARS and CHILDREN of DESCENDANT (Spouses Included)

FOREBEARS														
Gen/Child	LINE SEQUENCE	BIRTH NAME	Born	Died	Story	Image	Married	SPOUSE/S	Born	Died	Story	Image	Prime	
0..6	00	JONES Edward	1840	1913	Life Story	Pics	1874	BROADSTOCK Louisa Matilda	1857	1950		Pics		
1..14	14	JONES Rosina Daisy	1891	1995	Historical		1925	WILTON William Attenborough	1888	1953				
FAMILY MEMBER														
	1401	WILTON Sylvia Thelma	1918	1998	Life Story	Pics	1945	PAVEY Kenneth Llewellyn James	1916					
DESCENDANTS														
(1 Other Parent Kenneth PAVEY)														
3..1	140101	PAVEY Judith Claire	1938				1964	WICKER Robert John	1935	2012				
							Spouse Also Descendant		Lineage follows Spouse as Prime Descendant... Link to Follow ==>					060301
3..2	140102	PAVEY Roger Glen	1940				1973	TENNYSON Valda	1950					
3..3	140103	PAVEY Malcolm Lloyd	1941		Background	Pics	1983	PINTO (BORN DE LUCA) Madeline Paula	1952					
3..4	140104	PAVEY Philip Neil	1943				1976	TUCK Gaye Vernise	1956					
3..5	140105	PAVEY Heather Kaye	1945				0000	EVANGEL Geoffrey	0000					
		Spouse /Other No 2					1983	HARPER David	1950					

This unique reporting structure is the culmination of combining several other reports with the ability to change the focus up and down from the Family Member to a Forebear (up) or a child (down).

clicking the 'Birth Name' gives access to more details..

Stories and images can be clicked for access where they exist.

Result from clicking Family Member's Name

Sylvia Thelma WILTON and Prime Forebears

FULL RECORD	PRIME_DESCENDANT	PRIME_PARENT	PARENT_SPOUSE	FIRST SPOUSE	SECOND SPOUSE	THIRD SPOUSE
Prime ID:	46	45	4	5		
Birth Surname:	WILTON	JONES	WILTON	PAVEY		
Firstname:	Sylvia	Rosina	William	Kenneth		
Othernames:	Thelma	Daisy	Attenborough	Llewellyn James		
Birthdate:	1918-07-19	1891-08-13	1888-09-30	1916-07-25		
Birthplace:	Port Pirie SA	Wandearah SA	Telowie SA	Port Pirie SA		
Spousal Surname:	PAVEY	WILTON	WILTON	PAVEY		
Gender:	F	F				
Prime Line:	ROSINA	ROSINA				
Prime Line No:	14	14				
Multiple Lines:	N	N				
Spouse Also link ID:						
Prime Generation	2	1				
Prime Child:	1	14				
Prime Parent ID	45	44				
Prime Parent Spouse ID:	4	3				
Spouses / Espoused:	1	1	1925-07-22	1945-05-19		
Date Died:	1998-04-26	1995-05-26	1953-08-21	2016-05-28		
Place Died:	Adelaide SA	Adelaide SA	Telowie SA	Payneham SA		
Where Interred:	Port Pirie SA	Port Germein SA	Port Germein SA			
Occupations:				Headmaster Teacher		
Notes:						
Lineage Sequence:	1401	14				
Spouse Lineage Seq:						
Birth Sources:	GenealogySA Birth			GenealogySA Birth		
Death Sources:	GenealogySA Newspaper Deaths			GenealogySA - Newspaper Death		
Cemetery Sources:						
Marriage Sources:				Himself		
Other Sources:						

Narratives

Narratives can come in different forms including :-

An obituary

A single life story

Details that are not part of the sources in the database

Family Anecdotes

Links to another website

A complete scanned version of a published book

A means to do your own book, chapter by chapter

They can be stand alone or linked to a Family Member. The preferred format is PDF but can be any format viewable in a browser

Images / Pictures / Photos

Images can come in different forms including:-

A single photograph as an image (eg Jpeg, Png)

Multiple images wrapped up in a PDF (or similar)

Complete Galleries

Videos in a format viewable in a browser

Links to another website

They can be stand alone or linked to a Family Member.

The preferred format is PDF but can be any format viewable in a browser.

Family Businesses

Many Family Members are involved in business enterprises either as owners or employees.

Descendantsee has facility to link the family website to the enterprise website.

If they do not have a website 'Advert Page' can be linked to a Narrative or an Image.

Family Associations

If a Family has a formal or informal Association,

Descendantsee :-

Has a facility to keep membership records

Keep Contact Details (not accessible to the public)

Issue Newsletters

Publicise Functions and Gatherings on line

Has information sources such as recent Births, Engagements, Marriages, Deaths, Anniversaries and Milestones

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Family Software

Technical / System Aspects

by MMS Pty Ltd

Systems Requirements

An objective for creating this software was to utilise 'Free' elements where possible.

The key components were Apache web server, Linux operating system, PHP programming language and SQLite database. All common components on the Internet.

The Web Server and Operating System are not critical. The software has been tested on Windows and Android platforms

Web Server

The web server can be on a single PC, a network or hosted website

Operating System

Can be anything that can utilise PHP language and SQLite database which are critical elements

User Classifications

Each hosted site and each family within that site can have classes of users with different privileges.

General Public

The general public would not normally require a user name and password, but there is a facility in place should that be required. The general public have restricted access such as full details of a person, and reports.

Approved Viewer

A user name and password gives viewer privileges to view more detail than the public, but cannot insert update or delete information.

Maintainer

A maintainer can insert, update but not delete records.

Administrator

An administrator can insert, update and delete records.

System Administrator

A system administrator basically has control of everything including the name of the family, branches, users and passwords.

Prime Descendant Concept

Inter-Family relationships are inevitable.

A child of that relationship in a conventional tree would be entered twice, once under each parent.

Larger families have inter-relationships of inter-relationships and so on. A child could be listed 2,4,8,16 etc times.

A requirement to only have to enter a child once from inter-relationships is facilitated by the 'Prime Descendant' concept.

The Prime Descendant is the parent with the Lineage Sequence of least value.

e.g. 060301 is less than 140101

The child would be entered with the Prime Descendant as the descendant parent (e.g. 060301), and the reporting structures take care of the rest.

The Group Concept

Groups can be created within a website that link to families.

A simple example:-

Domain ... robinsonsmith.com

Robinson Group

Robinson Family

Harvey Family

Giles Family

Hill Family

Smith Group

Smith Family

Bertram Family

Cox Family

Johns Family

Data from each family can be updated into an index searchable for the family of individuals.

Branches

The first family which prompted this software had reunions at times with hundreds of descendants. They liked to classify, on name tags, which 'branch' or child they are a descendant of.

Branches have a lineage sequence such as 01, 02, 03 being the first, second third child of the founder.

It is possible to use this facility in different ways :-

Eg call the family name of the family say 'FamiliesOfDavid', and use the branch facility to delineate which family eg Smith, Jones, Roberts.

Eg call the Family name Buffalo and the Branches names the family names on the passenger list of the ship that arrived in 1836.