GEDCOM: GEnealogical Data COMmunication, a database format developed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, to make it possible to transfer genealogical data between users, computers and large databases. It is supported by most genealogical database applications.

Legacy Family Tree

GEDCOM Items to Import

You can also suppress certain information while importing a GEDCOM file. For example, if you are not interested in address information, you can simply skip it. To customize the import information click **Customize**.

The *Items to Import* window shows you a list of the valid GEDCOM tags that have been found in the file you are going to import. It also shows a list of any unrecognized tags that were found.

From this window, you can remove tags from the *Import these Items* box so they will be skipped during the actual import. You can also map unrecognized tags into standard Legacy fields.

Items to be Imported

During the Analysis pass, Legacy gathers all the recognizable GEDCOM tags and places them in the *Import these Items* box.

Items Not to be Imported

If you find a tag you don't want to have imported, highlight the tag and click **Remove**, or just drag the tag from the *Import these Items* box to the *Items not to be imported* box. You can move all but the first five, basic fields. If you want to only import the five basic fields, Name, Sex, Birth, Death and Marriage, click **Basic 5**. All the other tags will be moved to the *Items not to be imported* box. (You can move any tag item back by highlighting it and clicking **Include**, or by dragging it back to the right window.)

Unrecognized Items

Any tags that are not recognized by Legacy during the Analysis pass are placed in the *Unrecognized Items* box. These are usually odd, non-standard pieces of information that another program supports. If you can recognize the tag, you can map it to a standard field tag in Legacy. Or, you can always have the information placed in the Notes field so you don't lose it.

Defining an Unrecognized Item

The *Unrecognized Items* list contains nonstandard GEDCOM tags that were found in the file you want to import. Often, these tags are slight variations invented by another program that are easily recognizable and can be mapped to a standard tag supported by Legacy. To start the definition process, highlight the tag you want to remap and click **Map to a Recognized Tag** and then choose the GEDCOM tag you want to map it to.

Creating Events from Unrecognized Tags

Some GEDCOM tags are obviously names for events such as GRAD for Graduation. To convert these tags to events and have them placed in the event list for the individual involved, highlight the tag and click **Create an Event for this Tag**. Legacy then prompts you for an event name (up to 30 characters). During the import, all occurrences of this tag will be changed to the defined event name.

Unrecognized tags that have been mapped to existing tags, or mapped to an event name and moved to the **Import these items** list, can now be removed from the **Import these items** list by dragging them back to the **Unrecognized items** list or the **Items not to be imported** list.

Baptism versus Christening

Some genealogy programs export christening information into a GEDCOM file using the BAPM tag instead of CHR. You can have Legacy put this information into the Christening fields during the import rather than having a Baptism event created in the Event List by selecting this option.

Note Options

How Notes Are Formatted in a GEDCOM File

In a GEDCOM file, multiple-line notes are supposed to be broken in the middle of a word at the end of each line. For example, this is how a small note might look in the file:

> **Aunt Mary spent most of her ti**
> **me knitting. When she wasn't kni**
> **tting something, she was cooking.**

In the past, however, most programs would break the lines between words instead of in the middle of words. For example:

> **Aunt Mary spent most of her time**
> **knitting. When she wasn't knitting**
> **something, she was cooking.**

A problem arises if the old style is imported with the new rules. This results in some words being put together without any space between them. For example, the note might look like this:

> **Aunt Mary spent most of her timeknitting. When she wasn't knittingsomething,she was**
> **cooking.**

Or, if the new style is imported with the old rules you end up with spaces in the middle of words:

> **Aunt Mary spent most of her ti me knitting. When she wasn't kni tting something, she was**
> **cooking.**

Legacy keeps an internal list of how all genealogy programs export note blocks into GEDCOM files. This allows Legacy to decide how to put the line back together again when the notes are imported. Sometimes a GEDCOM file comes along that came from a program that Legacy never heard of. In this case, Legacy might guess incorrectly as to how the note lines are formatted. If, after importing a GEDCOM file, you find that the notes either have spaces in the middle of some of the words, or that some words don't have a space between them, you can tell Legacy to change the method it is using. You can choose between:

> **Let Legacy decide how lines are broken**
> **Lines are broken in the middle of words**
> **Lines are broken between words**

Optional Text Preceding Notes

When Legacy comes across something in a GEDCOM file that it doesn't recognize, it generates an error message in the Error.log file and then puts the unrecognized items into the General Notes field for the individual or marriage. You can have some optional text added to the beginning of these entries in the notes to make them easier to search for after the import is completed. For example, you might add "ZZZZZ" to the beginning. Later you can then search for "ZZZZZ" in General Notes to find

the individuals and marriages to check these entries to see if you want to keep them or move the information to a different place.

Import Notes into Research Notes

If you are transferring a family file from a previous genealogy program where you have kept research notes in the Notes field, you can have Legacy put these notes into Research Notes instead of General Notes by selecting this option.

Saving Your Settings

If you would like to save a particular import tag list, click **Save List** after you have selected the tags you want to import. Legacy prompts for a file name and then saves the list to disk.

Loading Your Saved Settings

You can load a previously saved import tag list by clicking **Load List** and then selecting the desired list to be loaded.

To reach the *Items to Import* screen, click **Customize** on the *GEDCOM Import* window. (The GEDCOM Import window is reached by choosing **Import From** / **GEDCOM File** from the **File** menu.)

How to Import a GEDCOM File

GEDCOM files are used to transfer genealogical information from one program to another. (See GEDCOM Files for more information.) Legacy imports and exports many different "flavors" of GEDCOM files, recognizing most variations from other programs.

To import a GEDCOM file:
1. From the **File** menu, choose **Import From / Use Import Wizard to Help with any Import**.
2. Select **Any GEDCOM File** and click **Next**. Legacy looks for all GEDCOM files on all drives and displays them in a list for you.
3. In the list, highlight the file to import and click **Next** to continue.
4. If you want to create a new family file to contain the GEDCOM information, select **Create a NEW Family File and add the GEDCOM information to it**. Click **Proceed**. You are prompted for a new file name.
5. If you want to add the information from the GEDCOM file to your existing family file, select **Add the GEDCOM information to the EXISTING Family File**. Click **Proceed**. Legacy prompts you to make a backup copy of it before the import is done (if you have turned on the reminder "Prompt to make a backup before importing into a family file with existing records"). This is a wise practice and is recommended.

   Tip: It is a good idea to import files to a new family file. This lets you check the information to see if you really want it included with your existing information. Once you know you want to keep it, it is an easy matter to import it to your own family file. (See Importing a Legacy File for more information.)

6. Legacy now analyzes the GEDCOM file to make sure it is valid and recognizable. This analysis pass also shows you how many individuals and families are contained in the file. If Legacy finds information that it does not know what to do with, a message is displayed. You can then tell Legacy where to put the information. (See Importing a GEDCOM File for more information.)
7. After the analysis phase, click the **Start the Import** button.
8. The *AutoSource Reminder* screen appears. This feature lets you assign a master source citation to each individual and marriage record that is imported, so that you know its origin.
9. Next, Legacy reads the information from the GEDCOM file and places it in the appropriate family file. Anything that is not recognized is placed in an error file so you can view it and decide what to do.

To continue to the next topic; How to Import a PAF File, click here.
To return to the Tutorial index, click here.

Import GEDCOM File name

Indicate the name of the file you would like to import. First, make sure the correct drive letter is selected. Second, choose the folder that contains the file. Finally, click on the name of the GEDCOM file in the left-hand window and then click the **OK** button.

User-Defined GEDCOM Tags

Below are two lists of tags that may be found in GEDCOM files that you might encounter. These tags are not part of the GEDCOM 5.5 standard. They have been created and used by various genealogy programs in order to handle pieces of information that are not accounted for in the GEDCOM 5.5 specification. Adding new tags is allowed in GEDCOM files. Any new tag is supposed to begin with an underscore character (_). Other programs that import GEDCOM files containing these new tag may or may not recognize them. New tags that do not begin with an underscore have also been created and used by many genealogy programs. This is against the "rules" but is very common. Again, other programs that import GEDCOM files with these "illegal" tags may or may not recognize them.

Legacy also uses many tags that start with an underscore to handle information that isn't defined in the GEDCOM 5.5 specification. See Custom GEDCOM Tags for a list of these tags.

In the following lists, use this key to identify the programs using the tags:

AQ = Ancestral Quest
BKW = Brother's Keeper (Windows)
FamHer = Family Heritage
FO = Family Origins
FTM = Family Tree Maker (DOS)
FTW = Family Tree Maker (Windows)
Gen = Generations
Leg = Legacy
PAF = Personal Ancestral File
Reunion = Reunion for the MAC
RootsIII = Roots III
RM = RootsMagic
TMG = The Master Genealogist

Program-defined Tags

These are tags that are not defined in the GEDCOM 5.5 specification. All program-defined tags should begin with an underscore (_).

Tag Program Description
_ADPN   BKW6, PAF5   Adopted name
_AKA   AQ3, PAF4, PAF5 used for the "also know as" name
_AKAN   BKW6, PAF5   Also known as
_BIRN   BKW6, PAF5   Birth name
_BRTM   BKW6   Brit Mila (Circumcise on the eighth day after the birth of a Jewish boy.)
_CENN   BKW6   Census name
_CONF_FLAG   PAF5   Confidential Flag
_COML   BKW6   Common law Marriage
_CORR   FO7   Correspondence entry
_CURN   BKW6, PAF5   Current know as

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_DATE_TYPE  PAF5
_DATE2        AQ3            used for second date in a date range
_DESC_FLAG    PAF5
_DETS        FTM, FTW       ???
_ELEC        FTW8           ???
_EMAIL       BKW6, FO9, PAF   The email address of the individual
_EYEC        BKW6           Eye color
_EYES        Gen            Eyes color
_EXCM        FTM            Excommunicated
_EVENT_DEFN   PAF5            Event sentence definition
_FA1 to 13   FTM, FTW        definitions for facts
_FARN        BKW6, PAF5      Farm name
_FKAN        BKW6           Formally known as
_FNRL        BKW6           Funeral
_FREL        FTW            Relationship to Father
_GERN        BKW6, PAF5      German name
_HEBN        BKW6           Hebrew name
_HAIR        BKW6           Hair color
_HEIG        BKW6           Height
_HUSB        AQ3            used to indicate a child status within a family
_INDN        BKW6           Indian name  Indiansk navn
_INTE        BKW6           Interred  Where ashes are stored if cremated or put a body in a tomb
_ITALIC      AQ3            indicates source title to be in italics
_MARN        BKW6           Married name
_MARNM       AQ3, PAF5        Used for married name
_MASTER      AQ3             indicates source is to appear in Master listing
_MBON        BKW6           Marriage Bond  Marriage Bond
_MEDC        PAF5
_MEND        FTW            Marriage Ending Status
_MDCL        FTM, FTW       Medical entry
_MILT        FTM7           Military Services
_MISN        FTM            Mission
_MREL        FTW            Relationship to Mother
_MSTAT       FTW            Marriage Beginning Status
_NAME        FO, PAF5        used for name in the address group of tags
_NLIV        BKW6           Not living
_NMAR        BKW6           Never married (person)
_NMR         BKW6           Not married
_OTHN        BKW6           Other name
_PAREN       AQ3             indicatres source facts are to be enclosed in parentheses
_PLACE_TYPE   PAF5
_PRMN        BKW6           Permanent number
_PRIM        AQ3, PAF5       indicates preferred image
_PRIM        FO7            In the OBJE record to indicate if this is the primary photo for this person.
_PRIMARY     AQ3             Indicated primary family for adopted child
_PRIMARY     PAF5            Indicated primary family for adopted child
_QUAY                      Quality
_RELN        BKW6           Religious name
_SCBK        AQ3, FO7, PAF5   In the OBJE record to indicate if the multimedia object should be in the
scrapbook.
_SCHEMA      FTW 5.0         heads a section defining tags - subordinate to the "0 HEAD" tag.
_SENM        PAF5           Event sentence definition for a Male
_SENDOM      PAF5            Event sentence definition for a Male (Date Only)
_SENPOM      PAF5            Event sentence definition for a Male (Place Only)
_SENDPM      PAF5            Event sentence definition for a Male (Date and Place)
_SENF        PAF5           Event sentence definition for a Female
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_SENDOF     PAF5          Event sentence definition for a Female (Date Only)
_SENPOF     PAF5          Event sentence definition for a Female (Place Only)
_SENDPF     PAF5          Event sentence definition for a Female (Date and Place)
_SENU       PAF5        Event sentence definition for a Unknown Gender
_SENDOU     PAF5          Event sentence definition for a Unknown Gender (Date Only)
_SENPOU     PAF5          Event sentence definition for a Unknown Gender (Place Only)
_SENDPU     PAF5          Event sentence definition for a Unknown Gender (Date and Place)
_SEPR       BKW6 & FTM & FTW Separated
_SLDN       BKW6        Soldier name
_SHON       BKW6        Short name
_SSHOW      AQ3, PAF5      indicates if image is included in slideshow
_SUBQ       RM      Subsequent source citation format
_TODO       FO7          To-do item
_TYPE       AQ3, FO7, PAF5   In the OBJE record to indicate the type of the object.
_UID        PAF5          special individual ID code inserted for later file comparisons
_UNKN       FTW8          special individual ID code inserted for later file comparisons
_VERB       AQ11
_YART       BKW6          Yartzeit
_WEIG       BKW6          Weight
_WIFE       AQ3          used to indicate a child status within a family
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Tags Not Specified in GEDCOM 5.5
(Unspecified tag should start with an underscore but many do not.)

Tag Program Description
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ADR3    ???          Third address line
AKA     FO, FTM, Leg, PAF Also Known as
ANCE    ???          Ancestor
ANUL    Reunion        Annulment
ARVL    FTW5          Arrival
ASSO    FamHer        Association to a parent
ATTR    FTW5, TMG      Attribute
AUTH    Reunion        Author
BIC     TMG          Born in Covenant
BLESS   Reunion        Blessing
BLSL    FTW5          Blessing LDS
CANC    TMG          Cancel Sealing
CEME    FTW5          Cemetery
CIRC    Gen          Circumcision
CITN    Reunion, Gen      Citizenship
CLAW    Reunion        Common Law
CLER    Reunion, Gen      Clergy
CNTC    Reunion        ???
CODI    TMG          Codicil
COLO    FTW5, Gen, Reunion   Skin color
COMML   FTW5          Comment
COMP    Reunion        ???
COYN    FTW5          County
CPLR    Reunion, Gen      Compiler
CRIM    TMG          Criminal
CSTA    Reunion        Child Status
CUTOFFYR FTW5          Cutoff year
DATV    Reunion        ???
DAU     FTW5          Daughter
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DEGR    Reunion         Degree
DESC    Reunion         Description
DESR    TMG             Description
DETA    Reunion         Source Detail
DETS    Gen             ???
DPRT    FTW5            Departure
DWEL    FTW5            Dwelling
EARL    Reunion         ???
EDTN    Reunion, Gen    Edition
EDTR    Reunion         Editor
EMAL    Gen             Email address
ENMPL   TMG             Employment
EXCO    FO, Gen, TMG    Excommunicated
EYES    Reunion         Eyes
FATH    FTW5            Father
FAX     Gen, RM    Fax phone number
FEMA    FTW5            Female
FILN    Reunion, Gen    File number
FMT     FTW5            Date format
FOST    FTW5            Foster child
FRND    Gen             Friends
HAIR    Gen, Reunion    Hair color
HEAL    Reunion         Medical
HEIG    Gen, Reunion    Height
HIST    Reunion         Research notes
HISTID  FTW5            History ID#
HISTB   Reunion         ???
HOBB    Gen, Reunion    Hobbies
HONO    Gen, Reunion    Honors
HOSP    Gen             Hospitalization
IDNO    Ancestral Quest    Reference number
ILLN    Gen             Illness
ILLE    FTW5            Illegitimate
INFO    FTW5            Information
INTE    Reunion         Interviewer
INTV    Reunion         Interviewed
ISA     FTW5            Is a kind of...
ISSU    Reunion         Issue (Children)
LABL    FTW3-5          Defines label for given fact, under the _SCHEMA
LDS     FTW5            LDS
LOCA    Gen             Source locality
LVG     FTW5            Living
LVNG    Gen             Living
MALE    FTW5            Male
MILA    Gen             Military Award
MILD    Gen             Military Discharge
MILF    Reunion, Gen    Served in Military
MILI    Reunion         Military
MILT    Gen             Military Services
MISC    FTW5, Gen       Miscellaneous
MIDSC   TMG             Miscellaneous  diverse
MISN    Gen             Mission
MOTH    FTW5            Mother
MOVE    Gen             Move
MSTAT   Mac Gene        Death status
NAMG    Gen             Naming
```

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NAMM    Reunion          Name ???
NAMR    FTW5, Gen, Reunion   Religious Name
NAMS    FO, TMG, Reunion    Name Sake
NATI    Reunion          Nationality
NMAR    FTW5             Number of Marriages
NOTP    WinFamily        Private note
NULL    TMG              Nullify LDS
NUMB    FTW5, RootsIII, TMG  Number
OWNR    Reunion          Owner
ORDI    ???              Ordinance
ORDL    FTW5             Ordination LDS
ORIG    ???              Origin
PART    Gen              Partners
PASL    TMG              Passenger
PERI    Reunion          Periodical ???
PPFX    RM        Place Prefix for event definition
PRES    TMG              Presumed cancelled
PRTY    FTW7             ???
PUBL    Reunion          Publication
PURC    Reunion, Gen     Land Purchase
RACE    FTW, Gen, Reunion   Race
RATI    ??               Ratification
REAS    FO7              Reason (sub-tag to _CORR)
REBA    TMG              Re-baptized
RECO    Reunion          Recorder
REGI    Reunion, Gen     Register
REMA    FTW5             Remarks
RESE    TMG              Resealed
RESIR   Reunion          Residence
RESP    FO7              Response (for Correspondence)
REST    TMG              Restored
RFN     ???              Record Number
RIN     ???              Record Number
RPLY    FO7              Reply Status for Correspondence [Y|N]
SCHEMA  FTW5             Schema (see _SCHEMA)
SENT    RM        Sentence for event definition
SEPA    Reunion, Gen     Separation
SIBL    FTW5             Sibling
SLGP    FTW5             Sealing to Parent
SON     FTW5             Son
STAKE   FTW5             Stake
STAL    TMG              Stake LDS
STLB    Gen              Stillborn
STIL    FTW5, TMG        Stillborn
SUBM    FamHer           Association to a parent
SUBN    ???              ???
TOWN    FTW5             Town
UMAR    Reunion          Unmarried
UNIT    FTW5             Unit
URL     Reunion          URL
VOIL    TMG              Void living
VOL     Reunion, Gen     Volume
WEIG    Gen, Reunion     Weight
WWW     RM        Internet Address
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