STRUCTURE OF THE THAME DATABASE

DATABASE TABLES

The Thame Database of the 17th Century consists of 30 separate tables and there are six different types of table. To preserve the originality of the documents the data that is contained in the tables is "as transcribed" and has not been adjusted in any way to conform to modern English usage.

- ♦ **Base Tables.** A Base Table contains information about each named person in a specific document or series of linked documents. Each named person forms a separate record in the table.

- ♦ **Supplementary Tables.** A Supplementary Table contains information about persons, (such as parents or relatives) who are mentioned in the documents in addition to the named persons recorded in the Base Table. Each named person forms a separate record in the table with a link to the **Base Table**.

- ♦ **Special Tables.** The Special Tables are used to prevent repetitive data being recorded in Base or Supplementary Tables. They contain data such as Property Details and Inventory value and contain a link to persons who are named in Base or Supplementary Tables.

- ♦ **Codes Tables.** A Codes Table contains a list of records and a code for each record which forms the basis to allow matching of similar records.

- ♦ **Source Table.** The Source Table holds information such as location and class about the original documents.

- ♦ **Spine Table**. The Spine Table is used to collect data from the Base and Supplementary tables into a single table, thus enabling searches of the whole database with a single query.

PRIMARY DATA

The Primary Data is provided for each named person and all the fields exist in each of the Base and Supplementary Table. Every field must contain an entry and so to permit searching with wild card characters, a space (" ") is placed in a field where no data is available.

The Primary Data fields are:

- **SC** — Identity code of the source document (from the Sources Table)
- **ID** — The unique number identifier for each record.
- **Title** — The title of the person or prefix to the name. (i.e. Sir, Mr, Widow)
- **Fname** — The first name of the person.
- **Sname** — The surname of the person.
- **Status** — The status of the person or suffix to the name. (i.e. Esquire, Jnr, Elder)
- **Occup** — The occupation of the person.
- **Role** — The function performed by the person and recorded in the original document.
- **Year** — The year of the record occurrence.

SECONDARY DATA

The original documents often contain information about a person in addition to the "Primary Data". This "Secondary Data" may give details such as; valuations or amount of tax paid or could be the contents of a legacy or debt. Secondary Data varies in content between documents and so it is contained in fields that are specific to the particular table, although for convenience, where data is similar then the same field name is used. Where it is not envisaged that a search of the data would be useful it is included only for information and is always contained in the "Comments" field of each table. See the worked examples for a more detailed explanation.

SEARCH STRUCTURE

On "Front end Start up" the Primary Data is automatically copied from the Base and Supplementary tables into the table known as the Spine Table. At the same time the respective codes are accessed in the Codes tables and copied to the records in the Spine Table. The Secondary Data is not copied and remains in the Base or Supplementary Table to be retrieved as and when it is required.

Searches are carried out from the select screen by entering search criteria into the "Sname", "Fname", "Occup" and "Title" fields in the Spine Table Query. The query search is carried out using the Codes and not the raw data thus the results, in addition to those specifically requested, may contain records that are of a similar nature.

LIMITING SEARCHES

There are currently over 30,000 records held in the Spine Table and so it is beneficial to restrict a search pattern, in terms of time and of number of data records that may be retrieved. To return all occurrences of a selection the * must be selected in all the other fields (except years).

Surname. Searches on the Sname field are limited by selecting a name from a pull down list or by typing in the desired name. The search will return all persons with that name plus other persons with similar names.

First Name. Searches on the Fname field are limited by typing in the particular name or by using a combination of letters and the * as a wild card to represent any letter.

Occupation. Searches on the Occup field are limited by selecting an occupation from a pull down list or by typing in an occupation. The search will return all persons with that occupation plus persons with similar occupations.

Title. Searches on the Title or Prefix field are limited by typing in the particular title or by using the * as a wild card to represent any letter.

Year. The search path defaults to the earliest and latest years that are available on the database. A search may be limited to particular years by replacing the earliest and latest years with the required years.

SEARCH RESULTS

The results are displayed on the screen, as individual records. The Primary Data is returned in date order and users may utilise the finger pointers to scroll through the records one by one.
The Secondary Data is accessed from the search results screen on request by using the (?). The data is displayed against the individual person record, thus linking the Spine Table record back to the original Base and/or Supplementary Tables.

PRINTING

Facility is provided to print the results of a search in report format and also to print the details of the documents.
Where available:
    The "Preview Document" button will provide a print preview report of the results of a search.
    The "Copy Document" button will go to a print preview of a particular document.
    The "Printer" button will print the particular screen in view.

WORKED EXAMPLE ONE

John Smith a carpenter from New Thame in his will dated 29 Feb 1643 left his son Andrew £25. The will was witnessed by Mr William Gates and Mary Jones who were also appointed overseers and given 10 pence each for their troubles. The document is stored in the Oxfordshire Archives under reference PEC 23/3/43.

Base Table –

Primary Data:

SC	ID	Title	Fname	Sname	Status	Occup	Role	Year
PEC	24	.	John	Smith	.	carpenter	will	1643

Secondary Data:

Day	Month	Location	Reference
29	02	New Thame	PEC 23/3/43

Supplementary Table

Primary Data

SC		ID	Title	Fname	Sname	Status	Occup	Role	Year
PECSup	01	.	Andrew	Smith	.	.	.	legatee	1643
PECSup	02	Mr	William	Gates	.	.	.	overseer	1643
PECSup	03	.	George	Jones	.	.	.	overseer	1643

Secondary Data

SourceID	Relationship	Comment
PEC 24	son of	£25
PEC 24	.	10d for his pains
PEC 24	.	10d for his pains

Source Table

Data

SC	Location	Description
PEC	Oxfordshire Archives	Probate record

WORKED EXAMPLE TWO

Davey Jones a tailor of Old Thame in the Deeds for 10 Bell Lane bought the property for £5 on 29 Feb 1643 and sold the same on 25 December 1676 for £25. The previous owners of the property were given in the purchase document as Mr. George West and Sir Thomas Smith and it was sold to Sir Peter Wimsey Knight. The sale document was witnessed by Mr William Gates and Mary Jones daughter of Davey Jones. The documents are kept in the Oxfordshire Archives under reference Par/2/Ae/a &. Par/2/Ae/b

Base Table

Primary Data:

SC	ID	Title	Fname	Sname	Status	Occup	Role	Year
PLDSup	102	.	Davey	Jones	.	Tailor	buyer	1643
PLDSup	103	Mr	George	West	.	.	prev. owner	1643
PLDSup	104	Sir	Thomas	Smith	.	.	prev.owner	1643
PLDSup	105	.	Davey	Jones	.	Tailor	seller	1676
PLDSup	106	Sir	Peter	Wimsey	Knight	.	buyer	1676
PLDSup	107	Mr	William	Gates	.	.	witness	1676
PLDSup	108	.	Mary	Jones	.	.	witness	1676

Base Table

Secondary Data:

Location	Comment	SpecialSC	ID	Relation	RelFname	RelSname
Old Thame	bought for £5	PLD	56			
.		PLD	56			
.		PLD	56			
Old Thame	sold for £25	PLD	57			
.	bought for £25	PLD	57			
.		PLD	57			
.		PLD	57	daughter of	Davey	Jones

Special Table

Data

SC	ID	Reference	Document	Address	Day	Month	Year
PLD	56	Par/2/Ae/a.	Sale Deed	10 Bell Lane Thame	29	02	1643
PLD	57	Par/2/Ae/b.	Sale Deed.	10 Bell Lane Thame	25	12	1676

Source Table

Data

SC	Location	Description
PLD	Oxfordshire Archives	Property Deeds - Private deposits

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