Screen Annotation of Family History Source

Dan R. Olsen Jr.

BYU – Computer Science

Current Approach

- Careful (or not so careful) handwritten or typed notes
- Notes are always an extraction of the original information
  - Some information not copied
  - Errors in copying
- Family History Databases discard much of the source information

Example

Pedigree Chart

FamilySearch™ Ancestral File v4.19

Download GEDCOM

William SALISBURY
2
B: 12 May 1622
, Denbighshire, Wales
D: 24 Jun 1675
Swansea, Bristol, Ma
M: 1659
Boston, Suffolk, Mass

John SALISBURY
4
B: ? 1587
Wales, Wales
D:
(unknown)
M: 1621
Of Swansea, Bristol,
Massachusetts

Family

John SALISBURY
8
B: 1561
Of, Llewenny, Denbighshire,
Wales
D: 1613
M: 1586
Swansea, Wales

➡

Family

Mrs John SALISBURY
9
B: 1565
Swansea, Wales

➡

Family

Mrs John SALISBURY
5
B: 1610
Of Swansea, Bristol, Mass

10

Family

1
William SALISBURY
B: 14 Aug 1659

The Problem

♦ Getting and archiving source information in a way that is convenient for users yet provides lots of context for future review.

♦ Captured information must be human-usable and universally independent of any source application.
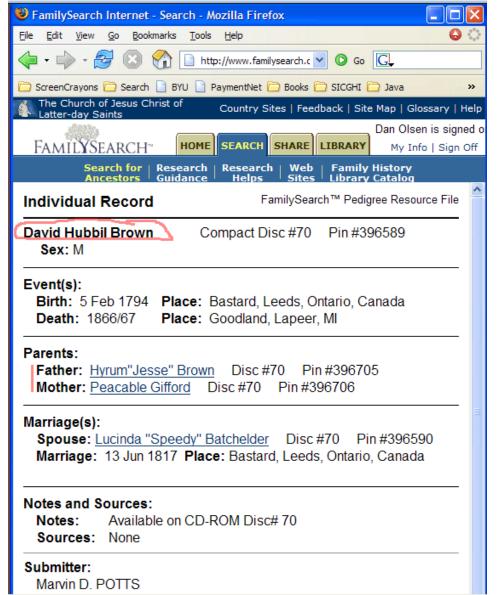
The Approach

- An increasing amount of family history information is digital

- Capture an entire screen image of information
- User highlights important information with digital ink
- Highlights allow summaries and automatic extraction
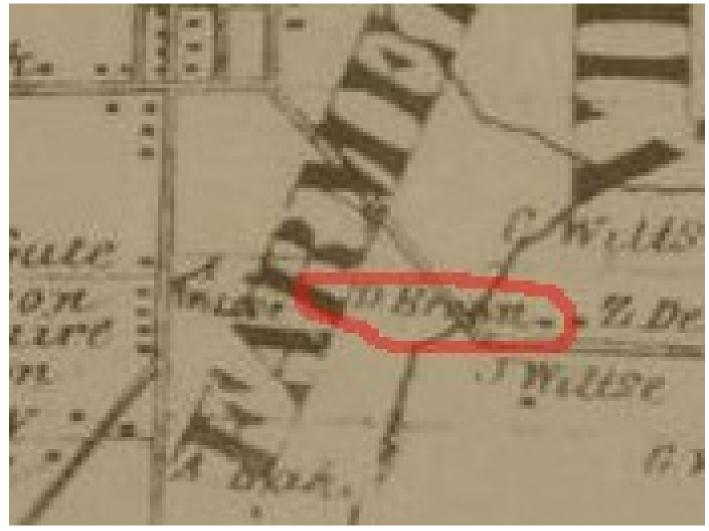
Annotating a source

Annotating a source

Search Results
Number of matched records = 4910

Last Name	First Name	County	Township	Town	Occu
Brown	A.	Leeds	Yonge		
Brown	A.H.	Leeds	Crosby South	Elgin	
Brown	A.W.	Leeds	Bastard		
Brown	B.	Leeds	Bastard		
Brown	B.C.	Leeds	Elizabethtown		
Brown	C.	Leeds	Crosby South		
Brown	C.	Leeds	Bastard		
Brown	D.	Leeds	Yonge		

1817 Census, David + wife

http://www.rootsweb.com/~onleedsg/docs/bast_census_1817.htm?o_xid=0039580444&o_lid=0039580444&o_xt=39580

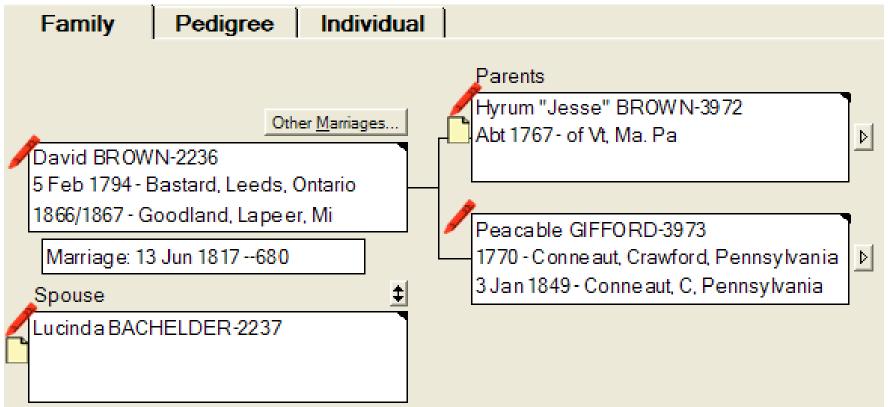**Bastard Twp, Census, 1817** Brown, David H.

Annotating a source

Demo

- ♦ Screen Crayons – Live

PAF mockup

Character Recognition on screen captures can perform automatic extraction of information

Space Requirements

- Average Screen Note – 500 Kbytes
- Names in Ancestral File – 36 Million
- Upper bound on notes per name – 10

- Total space to store notes – 180 Terabytes

- Price - $180,000

Summary

- Sources are easy to capture from any digital source

- Image annotations are easily summarized and reused.

- Using annotated images as a universal source is cost effective with today's technology

Questions?