

Getting Started with Evidentia for Legacy Users

Class Syllabus

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Introductions

In the 25 years I've spent researching my family history, I became aware that there wasn't genealogy software on the market to solve my research challenges.

Listening to the community discussions and blogs, I knew I wasn't the only one facing these challenges.

I needed to:

- **Remember how I formed conclusions** – I needed a tool that would allow me to analyze evidence, form conclusions, and keep them within the same software.
- **Squeeze more information out of my sources** – Even though I had sources referencing multiple people and events, if I wanted to attach information to every person or event at one time, my options were limited. I knew I wasn't getting as much as I could out of my sources and I couldn't afford to lose such valuable material.
- **See everything on one screen** – I loved my genealogy software but, like most genealogy database software, it focuses on people and events. These options don't present all my evidence in one, concise and organized way to facilitate analysis.
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As a software developer of 25+ years, I knew I could come up with a way to offer the genealogy community what we needed – a more effective way to organize and analyze evidence that complemented existing genealogy software.

In 2012, Evidentia was born.

Identify a Source

The screenshot shows a web interface for identifying a source. At the top, there are buttons for '+ NEW SOURCE', 'COPY SOURCE', 'DELETE SOURCE', and 'ATTACH FILE TO SOURCE'. A 'Details' toggle is in the top right. The main form has four numbered steps: 1. Source Title: 'Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841-1910 - NEHGS'. 2. Classification: 'Derived Record'. 3. Citation Title: 'Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841-1910 - Charles H Thompson - Marriage'. 4. Citation Listing: A modal window titled 'Create Citation - Local Records: Vital-Records Register' is open, showing fields for 'Jurisdiction (State, County)', 'Specific Volume', 'Repository', 'Repository Location', 'Jurisdiction (County, State)', and 'Section'. It also has preview sections for 'Preview Source Listing', 'Preview Citation Listing', and 'Preview Short Listing'. A 'TEMPLATE' button is highlighted with an arrow pointing to the 'Citation Listing' field. At the bottom of the modal are 'SAVE CITATION' and 'CANCEL' buttons.

NEW SOURCE COPY SOURCE DELETE SOURCE ATTACH FILE TO SOURCE

Details

1 Source Title
Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841-1910 - NEHGS

2 Classification
Derived Record

3 Citation Title
Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841-1910 - Charles H Thompson - Marriage

4 Citation Listing

TEMPLATE

Create Citation - Local Records: Vital-Records Register

Jurisdiction (State, County)
e.g. New Hampshire, Gilmanton County

Specific Volume
e.g. vol. 17

Repository
e.g. National Hall of Records

Repository Location
e.g. Santa Fe, NM

Jurisdiction (County, State)
e.g. Gilmanton County, New Hampshire

Section

Preview Source Listing
<[Jurisdiction (State, County)]. ><[Specific Volume].*>< [Repository].>< [Repository Location].>

Preview Citation Listing
<[Jurisdiction (County, State)]. ><[Specific Volume].*>< [Section].>< [Page].>< [Item of Interest].>< [Repository].>< [Repository Location].>

Preview Short Listing
Not Available

SAVE CITATION CANCEL

1. Create a label for your source
2. Classify your source
3. Create a listing for your citation (and source)
4. Review your citation titles

Catalogue a Claim

Marriages and baptisms at South Hampton, NH - David & Rachel Thompson

MINI-EDITOR + ADD CLAIM ROW

This record claims that...	Classification	This claim provides evidence for...
David Thompson and Rachel Brown were married by Rev. Nathaniel Noyes on Dec 1, 1784 in South Hampton church	Primary	Marriage of Rachel Brown (ca 1767) and Thompson, David (ca 1756) Spousal Relationship between Thompson, David (ca 1756) and Rachel Brown (ca 1767)

Tag Claim

The claim that David Thompson and Rachel Brown were married by Rev. Nathaniel Noyes on Dec 1, 1784 in South Hampton church provides evidence for...

Select a claim type

ADD TAGS

- Marriage of Brown, Rachel (ca 1767) and Thompson, David (ca 1756)
- Spousal Relationship between Thompson, David (ca 1756) and Brown, Rachel (ca 1767)

1. Record Relevant Information
2. Classify the Information
3. Tag the Information as Evidence

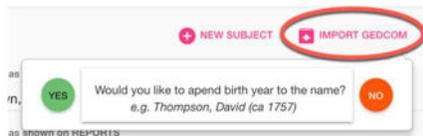
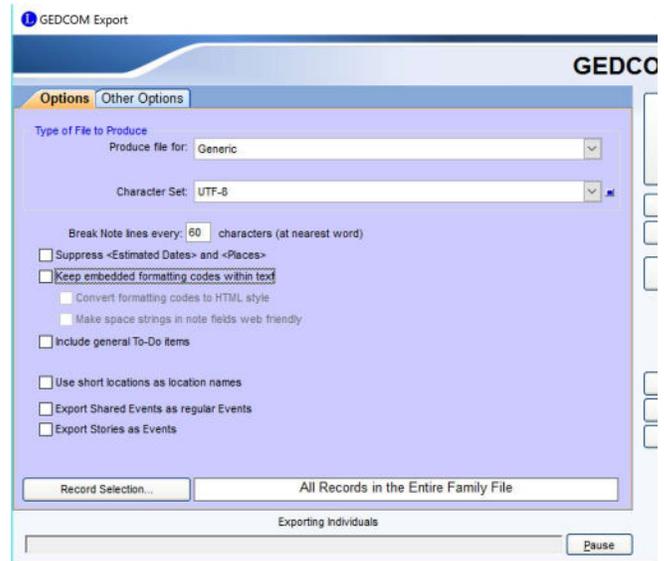
Importing Subjects from Legacy Family Tree

Sharing a list of Subjects from Legacy Family Tree requires exporting that list to a GEDCOM file.

In the main Legacy menu bar, select **Files->Export->GEDCOM export**. The screen to the right will be displayed.

Be sure to select the UTF-8 character set, especially if you have foreign names with special characters.

Evidentia will ignore any extra fields. If you want to keep GEDCOM file small, unselect all the check boxes.



Select the *Import GEDCOM* button on the *Subjects* tab of the *List Manager* screen, follow the prompts, and your Legacy subjects will now be displayed in the Evidentia Subject List.

We imported our file of 600-700 subjects from Legacy into Evidentia with no performance impact to Evidentia. As noted in the chapter on managing subjects, however, you will not want to import thousands of names.

If you have thousands of names in Legacy, you can limit what you export using the **“Record Selection”** dialogue on *GEDCOM Export* screen.

We imported our file of 600-700 subjects into Evidentia with no performance impact to Evidentia. However, you will not want to import thousands of names, as it will impact the performance of Evidentia.

Analyze Evidence

Proof of the Birth of Thompson, David (ca 1756)		
Subject Thompson, David (ca 1756)	Claim Type Birth	CONCLUSION DATE CALCULATOR PROOF
Evidence	Classification	Analysis
The <i>Cemetery - McCoy</i> - David Thompson claims that on Nov 20, 1842 it was believed that David Thompson died "in the 86 year of his age".	Direct	The implication was that David was must have been born between between between Nov 21, 1755 and Nov 20, 1756 ✓
The <i>Pension Declarations - Revolutionary - Strafford, NH</i> - David Thompson claims that as of July 18 1820 David Thompson was age 63.	Direct	The nature of the listing implies that David himself applied for this pension. The implication for his birth is that David was born between between Jul 19, 1756 and Jul 18, 1757 ✓
The <i>Vital Records, NH - Death - Levi B Thompson</i> claims that David Thompson was born in Salsbury, Mass.	Direct	Currently this is the only evidence indicating a possible birth place for David Thompson. The evidence is direct, however the information is secondary, being provided in the death record of his youngest son, Levi. It reasonable to assume David shared that information with his son, but it is not known who provided that information on Levi's death record. By itself this data is inconclusive ✓

1. Review the evidence
2. Classify the evidence
3. Write the analysis
4. Write your Conclusion

Summary Conclusion

The current working hypothesis is that David Thompson was born between Nov 21, 1755 and Nov 20, 1756, possibly in Salisbury, MA.

The census data between 1790 and 1840 provides at best a range of possible birth dates. (The 1800 US Census Records for Gilmanton, Strafford County, NH are among a set of missing township records for Strafford County.) The most reliable source appears to be the pension application information, which is likely to have been provided by David himself. However that data is a transcript of original records appearing in a magazine. The calculated dates based on the age on the gravestone provide a date range as narrow as the pension application, but less reliable. Taking the intersection of latest start date and the earliest end date between the two narrowest date ranges, we end up with a range between July and November of 1756. However a broader range of Nov 21, 1755 and Nov 20, 1756 cannot be ruled out.

Since none of the data is conflicting this range seems reasonable, if not conclusive. I present is as a current working hypothesis until better source data can be found.

Sharing Evidence with Legacy Family Tree

Evidentia is not designed as a batch-processing program, which is to say that it is not meant to process large volumes of data all at once. You will not be importing all your data from another program into Evidentia, nor will you dump ALL your Evidentia data into a single file all at once.

A GEDCOM file generated by Evidentia is based on a single subject (person), and will export that subject, any associated sources, and the analysis and conclusions that have been written for research questions tied to that subject.

Unfortunately, GEDCOM has not defined a standard way to export citations, analysis data, or conclusions statements. The format was developed at a time when most data was just single fields, and there was not as much emphasis on citations. The result? Almost every genealogy software program stores (and expects) citation data in different fields.

Nevertheless, it is possible to share this kind of data via GEDCOM – it just requires a little finesse.

For more on the challenges of sharing citations and analysis data via GEDCOM, check out the article at <http://evidentiasoftware.com/citations-and-the-gedcom/>

Export Claim Analysis to:

- Citation Note (recommended)
- Citation Data
- Event/Fact Note
- Separate Event/Fact per Claim
- Person Note

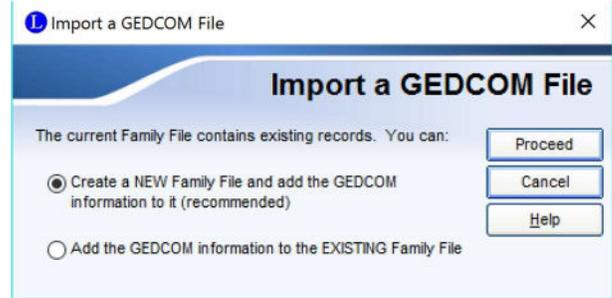
Export Proof Conclusion to:

- Event/Fact Note (recommended)
- Person Note
- Master Note

Importing a GEDCOM generated by Evidentia into Legacy Family Tree is a simple matter. From the main Legacy menu bar, select **Files->Import->GEDCOM file** and follow the prompts.

Legacy will ask if you want to import GEDCOM into a new database or merge it into the existing database.

We recommend importing GEDCOM into a new database, as a temporary step.



Once the data is imported, the new database will be displayed. You are now ready to review the imported data and merge it into your existing database.

The 6-step process defined below will provide the smoothest experience to insure the integrity of your data.

Merging Evidentia Data into Legacy

- Step 1 – Backup your Data
- Step 2 – Review the Person Data
- Step 3 – Review the Source Data
- Step 4 – Copy the Data into Your Main Database
- Step 5 – Merge the People
- Step 6 – Merge the Sources