WinFamily 6 NGS Newsmagazine/CIG Digest Jul/Aug 2000

One of the benefits of travel is the opportunity to observe the manner in which people in other countries and cultures perform life's daily chores. Working with a genealogy program developed in a country outside of North America offers a similar experience. WinFamily, originally authored by JamoDat of Denmark, and now being supported and developed by Webhuset AS of Norway, is such a program. The program accomplishes much the same work as we have come to expect in those programs developed on this side of the pond but it requires the North American user spend a little quality time becoming familiar with some slightly different methods and terminology.

I obtained the latest version of the program, 6.01g, by download from the Norwegian web site. Minimum system requirements call for a 486, or better, and Windows 95/98/NT. I installed it on my AMD K6/2 350 with 192 Megs of RAM. Installation is straightforward requiring only that I execute the downloaded file. WinFamily supports 14 different languages so I also installed the French files out of curiosity.

Data Entry:

The initial screen, announcing the program as WinFamily by JamoDat, features a customizable tool bar and a menu bar. The person data button on the toolbar accesses the main data entry screen. (Fig.1)

Fig.1

Two name fields are available for recording the given name and surname. A stylized button selects the sex. A check box identifies living individuals. At the bottom of the screen an index list displays those persons already entered with their birth and death year as well as the ID and reference numbers. Selecting a name and clicking on "***show*** " brings up that individual's entry screen.

Additional data entries utilize five tabbed screens**.** ***Data 1*** has fields for birth, christening, death, and burial plus two user-defined fields. Each of the six fields will record both date and location. The date format is optional, with ten date formats available from the maintenance menu. A pull down arrow next to the location field displays all previously entered locations ensuring consistency in place name recording. The adjacent icon accesses another screen with a text field for recording details concerning the location and four frames for images. It also provides some basic word processing features for text editing. A scrollable field displays all other individuals linked to the location. Once data is entered, the activating icon will change color. The method for adding source information is very similar to the addition of locations. A pull down arrow displays previously entered source titles. The user then has the option of using one of existing sources or creating a new one. The source entry screen, reached using the adjacent icon, is identical to the screen used for location information. The source title is entered in its own field with details entered in the free form text field. Up to four images may be added. Changes to the source text will apply globally to all persons linked to the source. This requires that citation detail be entered in the notes. The scrollable field displays all other individuals linked to the source.

The second data recording page, ***data 2***, has six free form text fields. The first three are alternate name, occupation and reference number. The three remaining fields are user-defined. Data entry is limited to about 100 characters, not much more than the visible portion of each field. Any information beyond that must be entered in notes. Source entry is not available.

The third of the tabbed screens are the ***notes***. The note field will accommodate up to 32K, roughly 7000 words. Notes may be designated as public or private with an option to share up to three common notes. These latter notes are intended to address those issues common to a group of people and are not part of the individual's data but appear as references in the appendices to reports. The note options are selected by clicking on a series of bullets that change color once an entry is made. A pull down arrow next to the shared bullets displays the titles of available common notes. Addresses may also be recorded in the notes with a bullet provided to assign that designation. There is an option in the search feature for finding addresses.

The fourth tab is labeled ***pictures***. (Fig.2) Clicking on this tab will display a list of all pictures attached to the individual with the date and caption. A thumbnail of the highlighted picture appears next to the list.

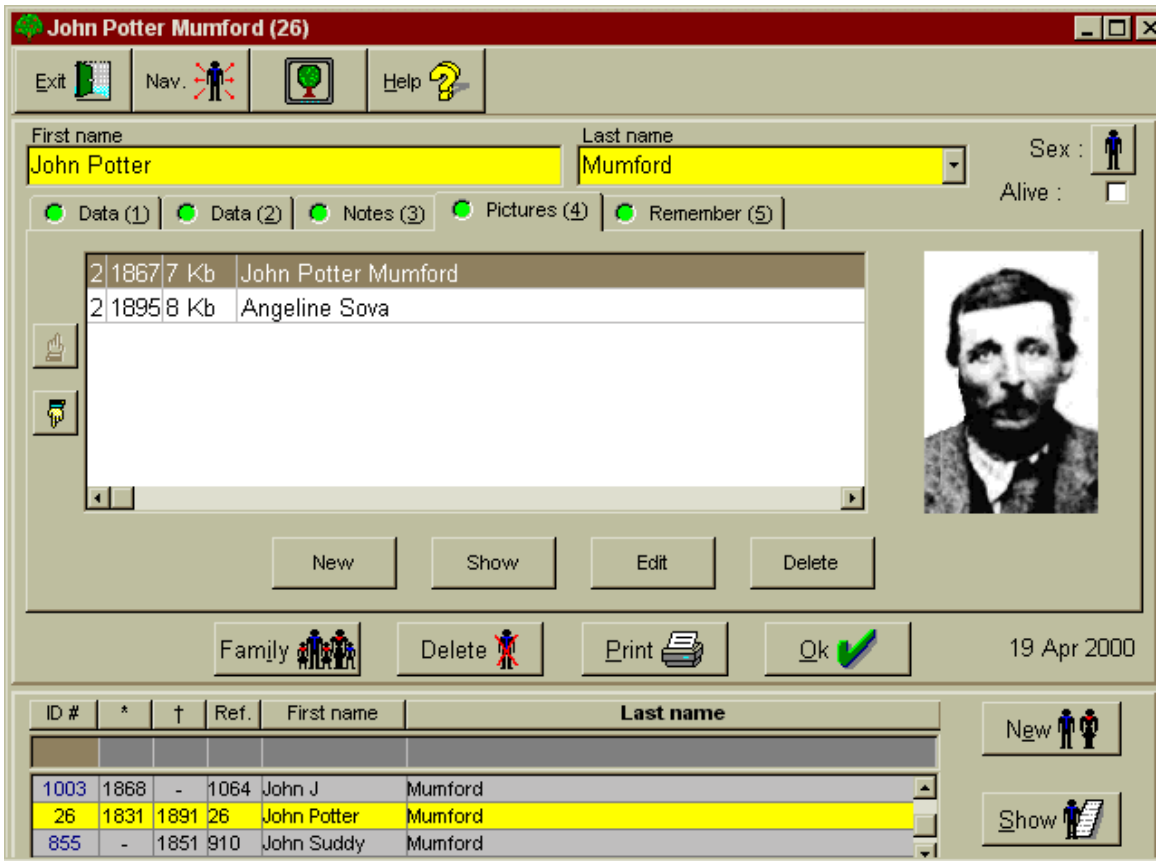

Fig.2

Adding a new picture brings up an overview screen (Fig.3) where all photos presently linked or stored in the user-designated repository may be viewed. Photos stored in the repository may be sorted into twenty user-defined categories. Each picture is identified by category, size, date, and caption. Sorting can be done by year, category, or comment. A filter option allows the user to display photos based on category, year range, and a partial caption. The program supports a number of scanners allowing scanning to be initiated from within the software. A minimal set of editing tools will crop, set brightness and contrast or rotate the image. A gamma editing feature permits pixel adjustments. Photos found in other locations may be linked to the data files or copied to the repository.

The fifth and final tab, ***reminder***, produces a nice yellow screen where any research comment or other reminders can be entered. This field is searchable and printable so if a systemized approach is used it can be utilized as an effective “To Do” list.

The addition of family is accomplished by clicking on the family icon on either the tool bar or the individual data screen. The resulting screen has an index list and four tabbed pages. The index list is different from the one previously described for the individual data entry. It can display everyone, all men, all women, unconnected persons or a filtered list obtained with a two level, Boolean type search function. The first of the four data entry screens, the ***family*** screen, (Fig.4) displays the family in a three-generation layout.


Overview
Ok
Cancel
Help
New
Edit
Delete
View
Filter..
Setup
No sorting
Filter : All
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
Web
1 Kings
2 Mumfords
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
Clarence, age 22
Category : 2 ------ Year :1923
Filename : G:\IMAGES\MUMFORD\CAM22.tif Last changed : 4/7/2000 8:13:50 PM

Fig.3

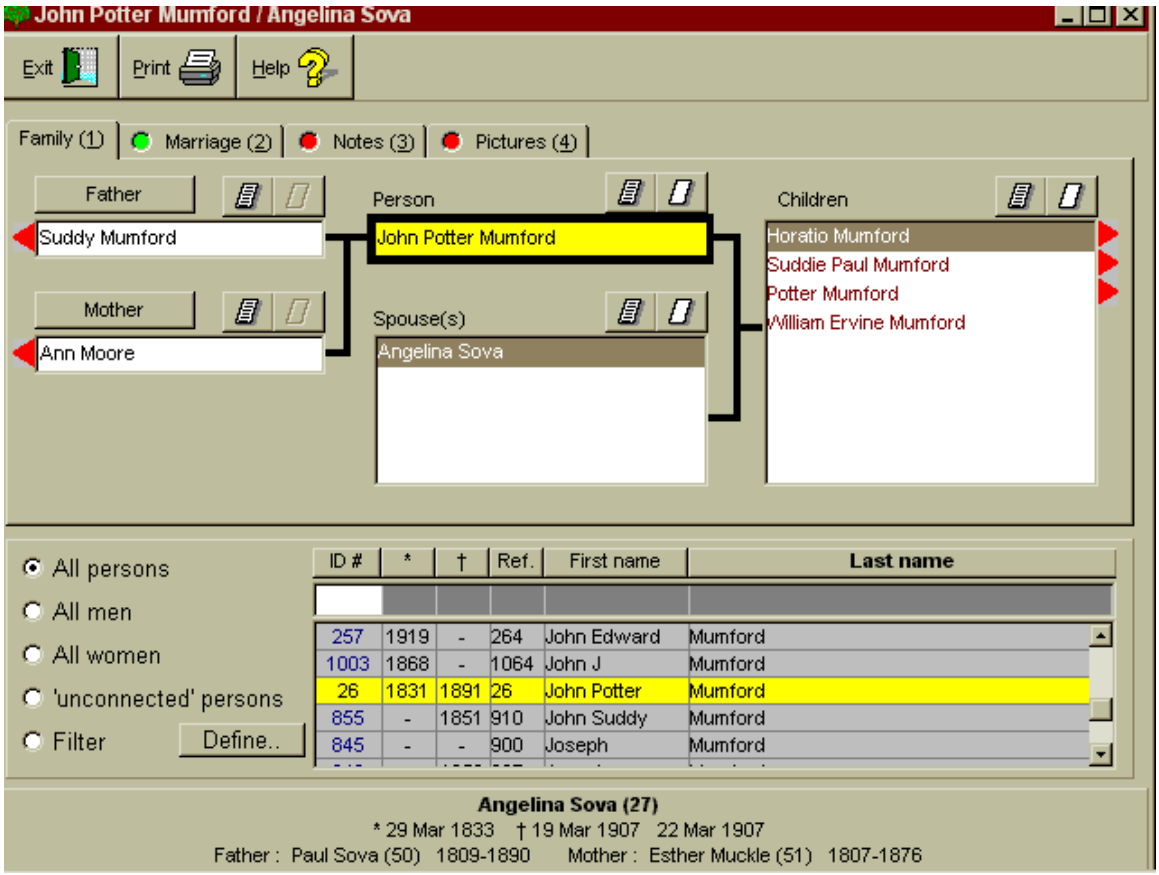
John Potter Mumford / Angelina Sova
Exit
Print
Help
Family (1)
Marriage (2)
Notes (3)
Pictures (4)
Father
Suddy Mumford
Mother
Ann Moore
Person
John Potter Mumford
Spouse(s)
Angelina Sova
Children
Horatio Mumford
Suddie Paul Mumford
Potter Mumford
William Ervine Mumford
All persons
All men
All women
'unconnected' persons
Filter
Define..
ID #
*
†
Ref.
First name
Last name
257 1919 - 264 John Edward Mumford
1003 1868 - 1064 John J Mumford
26 1831 1891 26 John Potter Mumford
855 - 1851 910 John Suddy Mumford
845 - - 900 Joseph Mumford
Angelina Sova (27)
* 29 Mar 1833 † 19 Mar 1907 22 Mar 1907
Father : Paul Sova (50) 1809-1890 Mother : Esther Muckle (51) 1807-1876

Fig 4

Clicking on the icons next to the parents, father, mother, and children will display that person's data or produce an entry screen for adding a new person. Tabs above the father and mother allow the setting of a natural or adoptive relationship to the focal person (proband). Screen two, the ***marriage*** screen, has fields for the start and end of the marriage and one user definable field. It also allows the user to define the type of relationship to reflect today's trends. The addition of location names and sources are handled in the same manner as the individual's data. The two other tabbed screens, ***notes*** and ***pictures***, are similar to those in the individual data screen.

Reports and Charts:

The reporting capabilities of this program, while similar to those of other programs, are implemented in a slightly different manner. Among the reports (Fig.5) provided are an

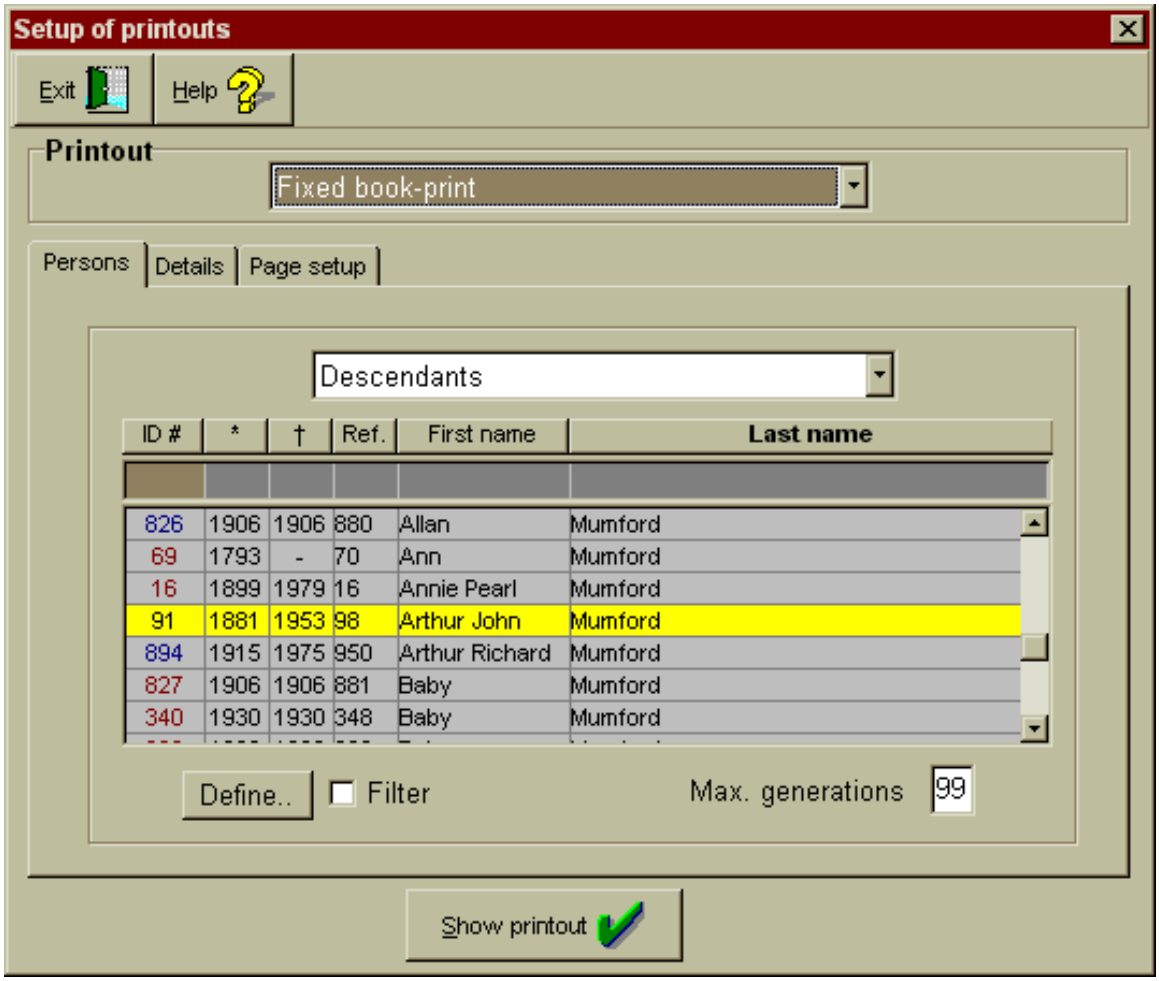

Fig.5

index of persons, a list of all data associated with each person, and a similar report displaying one person's data per page. A worksheet, showing all data fields with the recorded data, has additional room for notes. Blank versions may be printed for research purposes. Other reports include; a missing data audit report, a family group sheet, a report linking places with individuals, a list of persons with identical names and a photo report called mosaic which, given the ability to display selected individuals, could be

considered a scrapbook. Three additional reports, labeled shared data, take the form of appendices to the other reports. They list places, common notes and sources. An interesting little wrinkle is that both a basic individual report and a family group sheet may be viewed or printed from their respective data entry screens.

Report options are selected from a series of three tabbed screens. Non-applicable choices are grayed out. Sorting options include given name, surname, reference number, generation, ID number, birth date, or ancestor number. Indices are optional as are the headers, date of report and starting page number, which may be defined. Margins can be set and mirrored. Wherever applicable the data content can be selected. Reports may be focused on an individual, a family group, all persons, a defined group, ancestors or descendants. Some may be output to an RTF file in addition to the printer. All reports can be viewed prior to printing.

A book type report in the form of an NEHGS register report can also be prepared. The user selects the data to be included, the number of generations or, optionally, applies a filter to the descendants of the focal person. As with most of the other reports an index can be included with the other printing options mentioned above. This report can be output in RTF format for use with a word processor. The most interesting of the reports is the one marked self defined. The manual devotes a chapter to its use. The user has the options of defining every aspect of the report from the title and placement of the data to the contents themselves. Examples are provided to aid in its use.

The tree charts are created using five tabbed screens. The first tab, ***type***, has options for selecting ancestral, descendant, combination, all persons and blood relative trees or ancestral and descendant fan charts called suns. (Fig.6, Fig.7, Fig.8) The output may be directed to the screen or printer. A paginated format for use in a book is another option. The focal individual can be selected from an index list. The number of generations is selectable except in the case of the all persons and blood relative trees. The tab labeled ***general*** provides more options for the charts' contents and form as well as the location for photos. The chart origin may be set to the left, right, top or bottom. Captions can be entered and the box contents selected. The next two screens, ***screen*** and ***printer***, provide the options for selecting box shape and the colors to be used for those boxes and the tree's texts when the chart is sent to either the screen or the printer. The final tab***,*** ***bookform***, allows the user to set the margins for charts destined for a book. The fan charts are 360 degrees and can only be output to the printer although a print preview is shown prior to printing.

The statistics option creates bar charts plotting such items as number of children, age at marriage, age at death, month of birth, death, etc. The charts may be created for ancestors, descendants, focus lists, or all persons. An index list is available for selecting a focal individual if required. Timelines displaying the ancestors of the selected person can also be created.

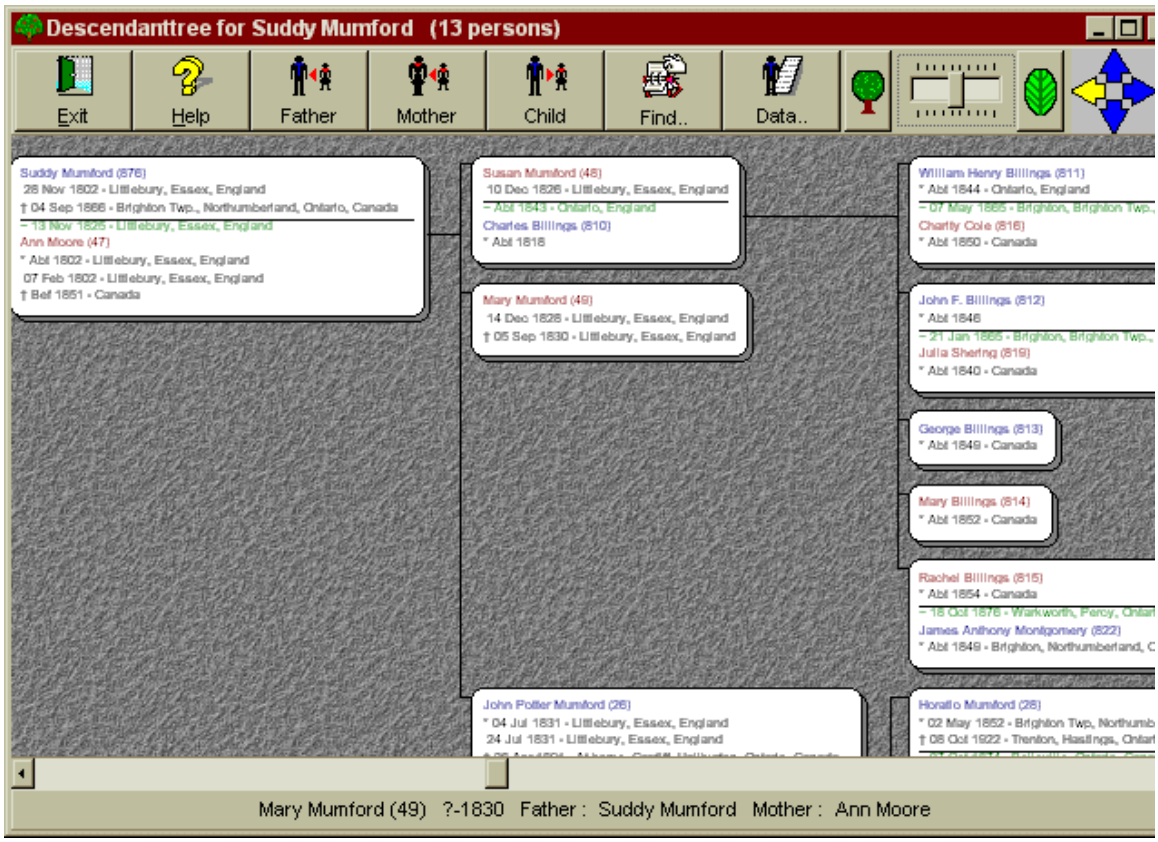
Descendanttree for Suddy Mumford (13 persons)
Exit
Help
Father
Mother
Child
Find..
Data..
Suddy Mumford (876)
26 Nov 1802 - Littlebury, Essex, England
† 04 Sep 1866 - Brighton Twp., Northumberland, Ontario, Canada
– 13 Nov 1825 - Littlebury, Essex, England
Ann Moore (47)
* Abt 1802 - Littlebury, Essex, England
07 Feb 1802 - Littlebury, Essex, England
† Bef 1851 - Canada
Susan Mumford (48)
10 Dec 1826 - Littlebury, Essex, England
– Abt 1843 - Ontario, England
Charles Billings (810)
* Abt 1818
Mary Mumford (49)
14 Dec 1828 - Littlebury, Essex, England
† 05 Sep 1830 - Littlebury, Essex, England
William Henry Billings (811)
* Abt 1844 - Ontario, England
– 07 May 1865 - Brighton, Brighton Twp.,
Charity Cole (816)
* Abt 1850 - Canada
John F. Billings (812)
* Abt 1846
– 21 Jan 1865 - Brighton, Brighton Twp.,
Julia Sherling (819)
* Abt 1840 - Canada
George Billings (813)
* Abt 1849 - Canada
Mary Billings (814)
* Abt 1852 - Canada
Rachel Billings (815)
* Abt 1854 - Canada
– 18 Oct 1876 - Warkworth, Percy, Ontari
James Anthony Montgomery (822)
* Abt 1849 - Brighton, Northumberland, C
John Potter Mumford (26)
* 04 Jul 1831 - Littlebury, Essex, England
24 Jul 1831 - Littlebury, Essex, England
Horatio Mumford (28)
* 02 May 1852 - Brighton Twp, Northumb
† 08 Oct 1922 - Trenton, Hastings, Ontari
Mary Mumford (49) ?-1830 Father : Suddy Mumford Mother : Ann Moore

Fig.6

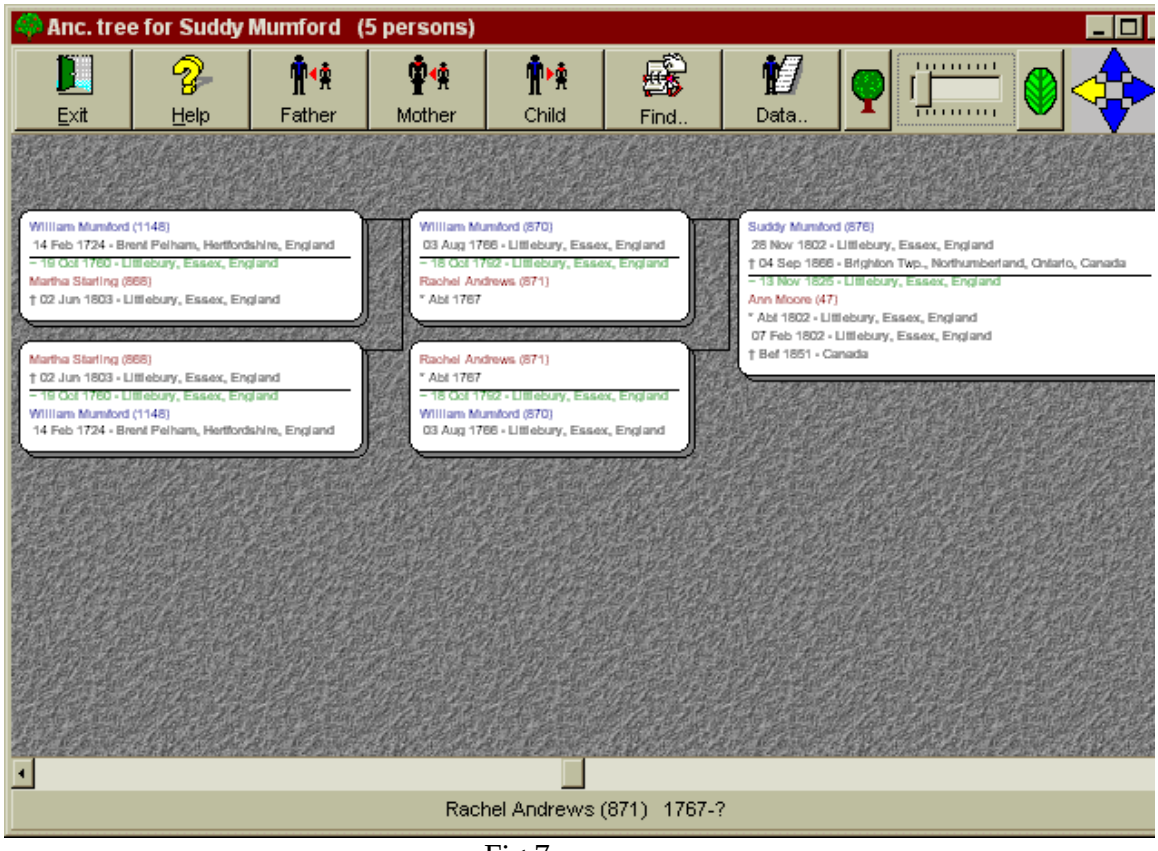
Anc. tree for Suddy Mumford (5 persons)
Exit
Help
Father
Mother
Child
Find..
Data..
William Mumford (1148)
14 Feb 1724 - Brent Pelham, Hertfordshire, England
– 19 Oct 1760 - Littlebury, Essex, England
Martha Starling (868)
† 02 Jun 1803 - Littlebury, Essex, England
William Mumford (870)
03 Aug 1766 - Littlebury, Essex, England
– 18 Oct 1792 - Littlebury, Essex, England
Rachel Andrews (871)
* Abt 1767
Suddy Mumford (876)
26 Nov 1802 - Littlebury, Essex, England
† 04 Sep 1866 - Brighton Twp., Northumberland, Ontario, Canada
– 13 Nov 1825 - Littlebury, Essex, England
Ann Moore (47)
* Abt 1802 - Littlebury, Essex, England
07 Feb 1802 - Littlebury, Essex, England
† Bef 1851 - Canada
Martha Starling (868)
† 02 Jun 1803 - Littlebury, Essex, England
– 19 Oct 1760 - Littlebury, Essex, England
William Mumford (1148)
14 Feb 1724 - Brent Pelham, Hertfordshire, England
Rachel Andrews (871)
* Abt 1767
– 18 Oct 1792 - Littlebury, Essex, England
William Mumford (870)
03 Aug 1766 - Littlebury, Essex, England
Rachel Andrews (871) 1767-?

Fig.7

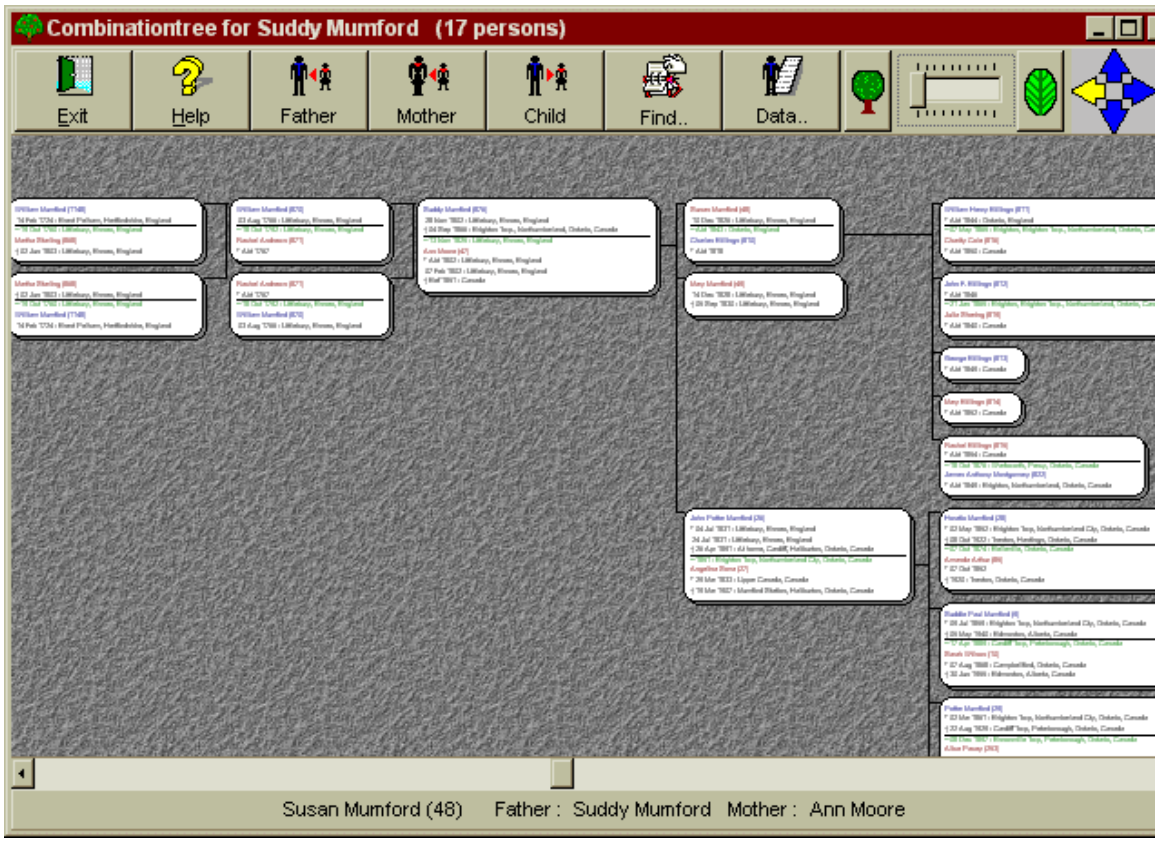

Fig.8

Tools:

The data entry screen has a neat little tool icon titled ***Nav***. Clicking on this reveals a series of linked bullets that represent the individual, the spouse, children, parents, and siblings. A text box provides the details of the person on which the cursor is resting. Clicking on one will produce that person's data screen. Another icon on the data entry screen produces a descendant tree for the direct line ancestor of the individual.

A monthly perpetual calendar displays a month with icons representing database events. The text entries can be shown and printed out. The calendar also has a calculator to determine the missing value if any two of the following are known: the interval, the starting date and the end date. Common ancestors (Fig.9) can be identified with a tool that uses two indexes. Selecting a person from each index will display, if a common ancestor exists, the individuals in each line. Descendant charts may be prepared and printed from the results.

The picture icon on the tool bar or selecting mosaic from the picture pull down menu displays the overview screen with the contents of the designated picture repository or linked images. This is the same screen used to add photos to an individual, family, source, etc. A validation report, based on user-selected criteria, checks for a number of possible errors or anomalies within the database and may be printed or output in RTF format.

Fig.9

The search tool uses a two level Boolean form to search for any specified text in user-selected data fields. All persons fitting the criteria are displayed with the RIN number. Selecting and clicking on the person will bring up their data entry screen. The report results may also be printed.

The last of the tool items is a manual merge. The user first creates an index list based on a choice of several options, such as common names or the contents of a name field. Two candidates are selected from the list and the data entries for both compared on a split screen. If further information is needed the data entry screens and the family screens may be retrieved. Once a merge is completed the redundant individual is manually deleted.

Import/Export:

WinFamily supports a limited version of GEDCOM 5.5. The data entry screen has two user-definable fields that will accommodate a date and location. The user has a choice of bar-mitzvah, bat-mitzvah, adult christening, confirmation, graduation and immigration. Three general event user-definable fields are available with the GEDCOM choices being nationality, religion, social security number, phone number, title, and education. One user-definable field is available in the family page. GEDCOM choices are engagement, banns, marriage contract, marriage settlement or license. A report listing the unidentified tags is available after the import procedure is completed and may be printed or saved to file.

When exporting data the user has the same choice of GEDCOM tags for the user-definable fields as were available on import. It is also possible to define those individuals

to be exported. The choices are a combination of ancestors or descendants of a person , a family or all individuals. This feature could be used to split a database. There are options for using Unicode or Ansi characters and the file may be output in RTF or text format.

Web pages:

Web page construction is quick and easy. Options allow the user to select those individuals to be included. They may be descendants, ancestors, families, everyone, or just a single person. It is also possible to create a filtered list using a two level Boolean type filter. Data to be included is selectable and an option is available to include an ancestral tree for each person. When defining the page the user's e-mail address and website URL can be inserted, the number of persons for each web page selected (determines file sizes) and pictures included with the size user-defined. Other options include; a table of contents, title, sort selection, and the limiting of data for living persons. Backgrounds can be colored or include pictures. Colors can be set for the blocks displaying the data and for the text and links.

The program will create a directory for the files and can start the user's browser after the files are created. The finished home page asks the reader to select, by alphabet, the name or the location of an individual. It then presents an index of those people matching the criteria. Selecting a person will display the data for that person, the names of the parents and 4-generation ancestral chart. If sources are present, a hypertext link will produce that information. Note: If a background picture is used it must fill one screen otherwise it will appear tiled.

Summary:

The program is not difficult to use but it did require I spend some time becoming familiar with some different concepts. After a little experimenting and a few peeks at the manual, I found myself buzzing around in it as though I had used it for years.

The program offers the user a great many useful features but its primary strength lies in the charting abilities. The multitude of options makes it possible to create some very nice charts. The printout designer lets the user's imagination run wild when creating reports. On the negative side, the limited data fields, especially those able to list dates, locations and sources, while adequate for genealogical purposes, are very limiting for the family historian. These limited fields are also responsible for the limited GEDCOM capabilities. I found the import procedure failed to read much of the source documentation and all the citations in my test GEDCOM. Fortunately, all the unrecognized data can be printed to an RTF file and then copied using cut and paste. The developers of the program have recognized these GEDCOM shortcomings and will be addressing the problem in a future upgrade. A final note: The French language files converted all program text and the help files to French. It does not translate imported data.

Availability:

The program may be downloaded from the WinFamily home page at www.winfamily.com. Technical support and a user's forum are also available at the same

web site. Mailing address is Webhuset AS, Postboks 45- Laksevåg, 5847 Bergen, Norway. Phone +47 55946503, Fax +47 55946501. Price is $US50 or EURO50.

Report Card:

Program	WinFamily 6.01g
Platform	Win 95/98/NT
Date of Report	April 2000
Scorecard #	5
Planning tools	4.5
Data Recording	3
Analytical tools	6.3
Source documentation	3.6
Reports	5.5
Charts	5.6
Publishing	6.1
Multimedia	5.4
Internet	5.8
Portability	5.3
Additional Tools	5.7
Convenience Items	4.9

X level **	I
TOTAL Percentage	51.4

* Includes exclusive items

** Computer experience level required to utilize most advance features.
Code, B beginner
, I intermediate
, A advanced