

Using and Modifying Tag Sentence

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Some TMG Basics

- A Person is an ID Number
- Everything Else is Added With Tags

Tag Entry

Tag type



Birth



Principal

10



Arthur James KNOWLES, (1895-1955)

Primary name

Date:

15 Feb 1895

Place style

U.S. Standard Place

Sort date:

15 Feb 1895

Addressee

Detail

City

County

State

North Waltham

Basingstoke

Hampshire

Country

England

Postal

Phone

LatLong

Temple

Memo

1901 Census: Age-6,
birthplace-Hants-North
Waltham
1901 Census: Age-16,
birthplace-North Waltham,
Whitchurch, Hants



1 more witness

▲	Ann PRIOR (21)	05 Apr 1870	16 Jan 1936	Informant	▲
▼					▼



8 citations

12 DPM

▲	42	Birth A.J. Knowles	Basingstoke/Dummer/	3	3	3	▲
▼	513	Infantry Records	#26397 22 May 1919:	3	2		▼
▼	-80	Cemetery Visit	(Photo C-45)	3	1		▼

Sentence

OK

Cancel

Help

Tags and Sentences

- Tags in TMG have one or two people entered as Principals, and any number may be entered as Witnesses.
- Each of those people has an associated Sentence Structure, which controls how information from the Tag appears when a narrative report is created for that person. That person can be said to be the "subject" of that Sentence.
- The Sentence may direct that information from the Date, Place, and/or Memo fields of the Tag be included in the narrative. It may also output the name or other information about the subject.
- When there are other people entered in the Tag their names or other information may also be output.

Sentence Structures

- Sentence Structures are templates that control how the data in the various fields in tags - names, dates, place information, or the text of memos - will be assembled into finished text when narrative reports are generated.
- Each Tag Type (Birth, Anecdote, Census, Marriage, College, and so forth) has its own Sentence Structure to generate text appropriate for the event being recorded.
- Sentence Structures are only used by narrative reports: the **Individual Narrative**, **Ahnentafel**, **Descendant Indented Narrative**, and **Journal** reports. All other reports and charts use different methods to assemble the data into the report format.

Why Change Sentence Structure?

- The text created by the existing Sentence Structures are not satisfactory for some reason, i.e. you simply want to be able to include the Memo field in the output of a standard Tag Type that doesn't include it by default.
- You prefer that the description of a certain kind of event flow in a different way; the narrative for a particular person could be improved by rearranging the text.
- You have come across a type of event that is not a good fit in any existing Tag Type.

How to Change Sentence Structure

- Create a Custom (i.e. new) Tag Type
- Change an existing Tag Globally
- Change an existing Tag Locally

Reasons to Change (1)

- To add a Variable to a standard Tag Type (i.e. add the Memo to the standard birth Tag Type so you can include details about the birth event), **change the Sentence Structure of that Tag Type globally.**
- To change the way a specific type of event is described (i.e. change the wording for all Census tags), **change the Sentence Structure of that Tag Type globally.**
- If you have records of a type of event that doesn't fit well in an existing Tag Type:
 - If the type of event is found rarely, the best solution is generally to use an existing Tag Type (perhaps a very general tag type, like Note or Anecdote, and record the details in the memo; or use a Tag Type designed for similar events and **change the Sentence Structure of that Tag Type locally** to better reflect your event.
 - if there are a number of events of this type, it may be better to **create a custom Tag Type.**

Reasons to Change (2)

- If you find that the narrative for a particular person in your Project could be improved by rearranging the output of some Tags, the best choice is often to **locally change the Sentence Structure** of some of the Sentences of that person's Tags. *While improvement can sometimes be made by changing the global Sentences for the Tag Types, often improving the narrative for one person with global changes makes it worse for others.*
- If you find that you make the same type of local changes for several, but not all cases for a particular Tag Type, you may want to consider creating "Roles" for the Tag Type. This allows you to have several different Sentence Structures available, and you can easily select the appropriate one for the person. This is especially useful when events recorded in a single Tag include people with distinctly different roles in the event, each best described with a different Sentence Structure.

Warnings from Terry

- It is easy to get carried away with the excitement of creating new Tag Types or adding Roles to existing ones. I see little point in having dozens of Tag Types, or Roles, each of which is used only a time or two. Better, I think, to locally modify Sentences until you are sure you see a need for custom Tag Types or Roles.
- Experimenting with global changes to Sentences is relatively safe, at least until you start "polishing" the narratives of selected people, because you can simply change them again. Doing so is a good way to learn about how Sentence Structures work.
- It is probably wise to keep the impulse to change Sentences locally under some control until one gets a sense of the type of output you prefer, and you become familiar with how Sentence Structures work. Otherwise it is possible to end up with lots of local Sentences that one later wants to change, and those changes have to be made one-by-one.

Add a Custom Tag Type

- Reasons
 - None of the default Tag Types does what you want (i.e. the Tag sentence must be changed).
 - Use a unique Tag Type Name to make it easier to find (i.e. Land Grant or LivedTogether).
 - You anticipate having a number of these events.

Type will be shown as Custom for those that you have added.

Custom Tag Type

- Lee Hoffmann: “The most common reason to add a Custom Tag Type is to make a tag uniquely address a specific set of circumstances that occurs frequently in your data. You can write a sentence that is appropriate - write it once and forget it - and you can assign a label that distinguishes the event from other similar events.”

Add a Custom Tag Type

- F4, + sign or Add Menu

The screenshot displays a genealogy software interface. The main window shows details for a person named Arthur James Knowles (1895-1955). A 'Tag Type List' dialog box is open, showing a list of tag types on the left and configuration options on the right. The 'Address' tag type is selected. The dialog box includes fields for Filter, Type, Tag Group, Abbreviation, GEDCOM, and Default Style. It also has buttons for Add, Edit, Delete, Copy, Translate, Import, and Export. The 'Sentence' field contains the text: '<As of [D],> [P] <and [PO]> lived at [L]'. The 'Witness Sentence' field contains the text: '<As of [D],> [W] was living with [P] <and [PO]> at <[L]>'. The 'Add' button is highlighted with a blue arrow.

File Edit View Add Web Report Window Tools Help

Thomas Rush Sturges STURGES

AG N LDS A WV

Details

Person Family Tree

Type	Name	Type
Name	Arthur James KNOWLES (10) (1895-1955)	Reference
Father	James Albert KNOWLES (20) (1867-1946)	Children
Mother	Ann PRIOR (21) (1870-1936)	Age

Tag Type List

1 Mjmore imported on 08 Feb 2004 14:24:53 selected: 175 Active

Address

Filter: All groups

Type: Standard

Tag Group: Address

Abbreviation: add.

GEDCOM: ADDR

Default Style: Use Data Set default s

Sentence :
<As of [D],> [P] <and [PO]> lived at [L]

Witness Sentence :
<As of [D],> [W] was living with [P] <and [PO]> at <[L]>

Show LDS tag types
 Show deactivated tag types

Select Close Help

Birth 15 Feb
Baptism 14 Apr
Census 31 Mar
Census 02 Apr
* Occupation 02 Apr
* Mil-Svc
* Milit-Beg 05 Nov
Milit-End 22 May
* Single 14 Apr
* Descriptn 14 Apr
* Immigratr 17 Apr
* Residence 29 Sep
Residence 10 Nov
* Religion 10 Nov
Occupation 10 Nov
* MARRIAGE 10 Nov
* Son-Bio 10 Jun
Residence 21 Dec
* Occupation 21 Dec
* Dau-Bio 21 Dec
* Dau-Bio 24 Jun
Residence 20 Aug
Milit-Beg 16 Jul
Will 17 Jul
Residence
Occupation
Residence 08 Apr 1942 working at Jenkins Mfg
Residence 08 Apr 1942 328 Simcoe St London Middlesex County Ontario Canada

Reference 10
Children 3
Age De
ace-Hants-North Waltham
s, Rector
mpshott, Basingstoke, Hampshire,
e, England
ew six digit numbers. Prior to that
transferred to Reserve. ||Enlisted
equence of Demobilization||
1920, destined to the Director of
erwood
My Wife: Mrs. Emily Knowles, 328
da

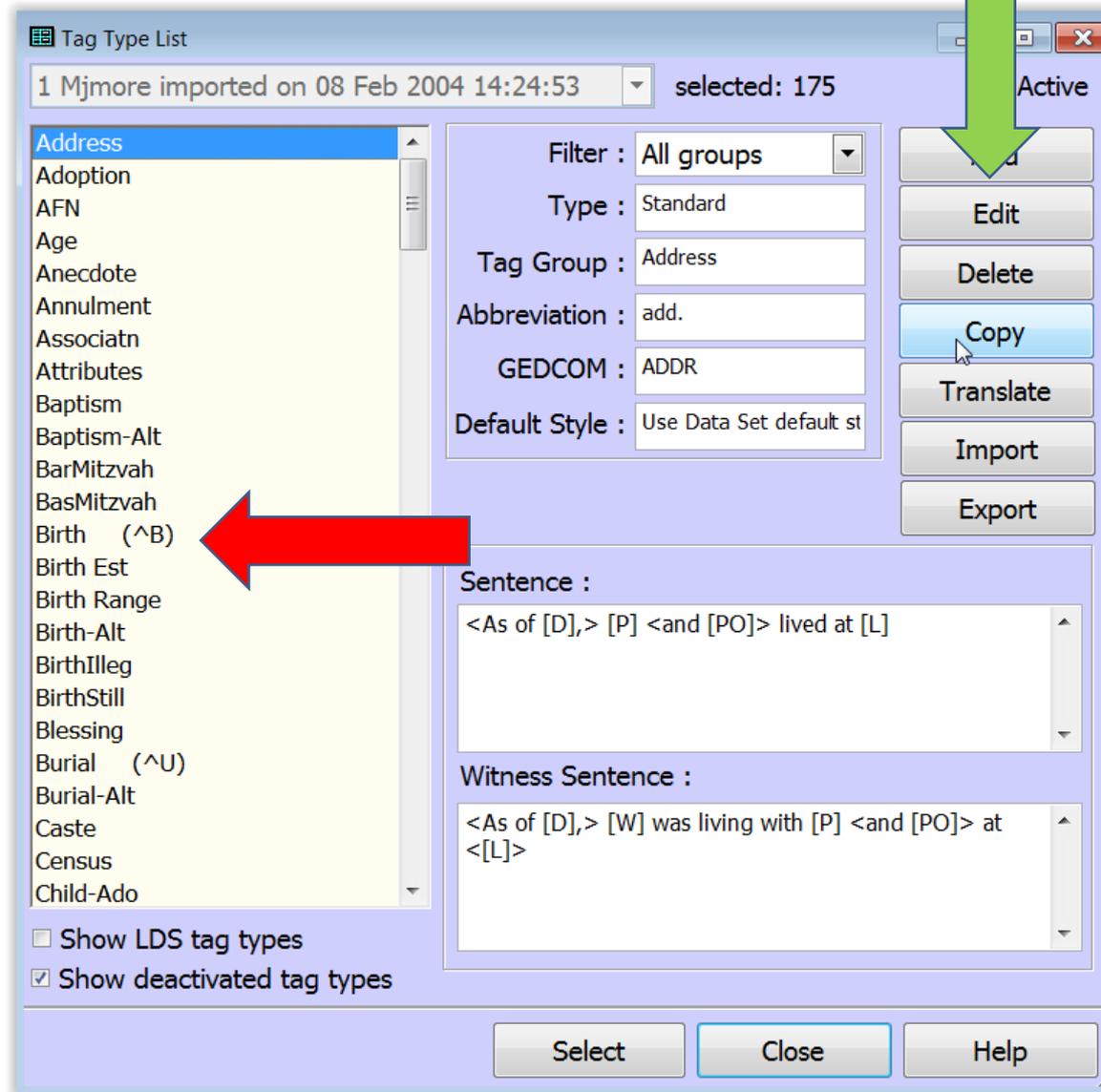
Modify a Sentence Structure

- **Globally** - When you modify the Sentence Structure of a Tag Type, you are modifying the Sentence Structure for every individual Tag of that type. Any existing tags of that type take the new Sentence Structure, as do all new Tags you may later create of that same type.
- **Locally** - Alternatively, you can modify the Sentence Structure for one individual Tag. When you do that, you only change the Sentence Structure for that one Tag.

NOTE: Once you make a change to the local Sentence Structure of an individual Tag, any Global changes made later to the Tag Type will **Not** have any impact on that individual Tag.

Modify a Sentence Structure

- Open the Tag Type Definition screen.
- Select the Tag
- Click the Edit button



Tag Type Definition

Label : Address

Language : English (U.S.)

Active

General

Roles and Sentences

Other

Role :

Rebuild all sentences

- P** Principal
- W** Witness
- Resident

Male sentence structure :

<As of [D],> [P] <and [PO]> lived at [L]

Female sentence structure (if different) :

I

Role reminder :

This role is appropriate for :

Sex : Any

Minimum age : Any

Maximum age : Any

New

Edit

Delete

Enable

Disable

Copy

OK

Cancel

Help

Adding Memos

- Most standard Tag Types do not include the [M] variable in the Sentence. The Memo text will only appear in narrative reports if you choose one of the choices other than "None" on the Memos tab of report Options. The memo text will appear for those tag types in footnotes, endnotes, or embedded in the body, depending on which choice you make.
- However, you have no control of where the text appears relative to the output of the other Sentence Variables.
- Better to edit the Sentences of all the Tag Types you use to add the [M] variable, located in the position in the Sentence you want the memo to appear.
- Always put it in conditional brackets in case some tags do not have anything in the Memo - <[M]> - or with a comma - <,[M]> which works especially well if you put it at the end of the Sentence.

Modify a Sentence Locally

Tag Entry

Tag type Birth

Principal 10 Arthur James KNOWLES, (1895-1955) Primary name

Date: 15 Feb 1895

Sort date: 15 Feb 1895

Place style U.S. Standard Place

Addressee		Country	England
Detail		Postal	
City	North Waltham	Phone	
County	Basingstoke	LatLong	
State	Hampshire	Temple	

Memo

1901 Census: Age-6, birthplace-Hants-North Waltham
1901 Census: Age-16, birthplace-North Waltham, Whitchurch, Hants

Sentence

1 more witness

Ann PRIOR (21)	05 Apr 1870	16 Jan 1936	Informant
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8 citations 12 DPM

42	Birth A.J. Knowles	Basingstoke/Dummer/	3	3	3
513	Infantry Records	#26397 22 May 1919:	3	2	
-80	Cemetery Visit	(Photo C-45)	3	1	

OK Cancel Help



Modify a Sentence Locally

The screenshot shows a software window titled "Sentence structures" with a light blue background. It contains several interactive elements:

- Role:** A list box with "P1: Principal" selected (highlighted in blue) and "P2: Principal" below it. A red arrow points to the selected item, and a yellow arrow points downwards from the list box.
- Language:** A list box with "Dutch", "English (U.K.)", "English (U.S.)" (selected and highlighted in blue), and "Fnlsh?" below it.
- Sentence structure:** A text field containing the template "[P] |<|and [PO]> lived <[D]> <[L]>". A green arrow points to the right side of this field.
- Preview:** A text area showing the rendered sentence: "Arthur James Knowles and Emily Vincent lived in 1942 in 328 Simcoe St, London, Middlesex County, Ontario, Canada." An orange arrow points to the right side of this area. A "Refresh" button is located to the right of the preview area.
- Options:** A checkbox labeled "Recalculate the preview with each keystroke" is checked. To its right is the text "(Why is it not correct?)".
- Buttons:** At the bottom are three buttons: "OK", "Cancel", and "Help".

Modify a Witness Sentence Locally

The screenshot shows a software dialog box titled "Add witness". It contains several input fields and controls:

- Role:** A dropdown menu set to "Witness".
- Language:** A dropdown menu with "English (U.S.)" selected. Other options include "Dutch", "English (U.K.)", and "English?".
- Sentence structure:** A text area containing the template: "[W] was left a widow by the death of [P1] <and [P2]> <[D]> <[L]>". A green arrow points to this field.
- Memo:** An empty text area for additional notes.
- Preview:** A text area showing the rendered sentence: "An unknown witness was left a widow by the death of Arthur James Knowles on 03 May 1955 in London, Middlesex County, Ontario, Canada." An orange arrow points to this field.
- Refresh:** A button to update the preview.
- Options:** A checkbox for "Recalculate the preview with each keystroke" and a link "(Why is it not correct?)".
- Buttons:** "OK", "Cancel", and "Help" buttons at the bottom.

Tag Entry

Tag type Milit-Beg



Principal 10 Arthur James KNOWLES, (1895-1955)

Primary name

Principal 0

Primary name

Date: U.S. Standard Place

	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>

Sort date:

Memo

Regtl. No 3379/201165 Pte Knowles, Arthur James 1/4th Batt. Hants Regt. || transferred to Reserve. || Enlisted on the 5th November 1914 for Hants Regt, also served 36th L.T.M.B. Medals and

No more witnesses

	<input type="text"/>	
	<input type="text"/>	

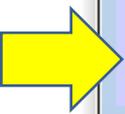
2 citations 12 DPM

	513	Infantry Records	#26397	22 May 1919	3	3	3	
	1754	Medal card Knowles, Arthur J	Regtl. No 3379/20116		3		2	

Sentence

P1:[P] <[and [PO]> joined the British Army <[D]> <[L]>: [M1] [M3] [M5]

P2:



Combining Output Sentence

- Generally, a Tag in TMG creates one or more complete sentences of text in narrative reports.
- A special "Join to Previous Tag" code permits the output of two or more Tags to be combined into a single sentence of narrative output.
- The "Join" code, [+], is placed at the very beginning of the Sentence of the second or following Tag. When this code is present, the following "rules" are used to create a combined output sentence:
 - The final punctuation for the first Tag is suppressed.
 - Automatic capitalization at the beginning of the second Tag is suppressed; only words capitalized by the user will appear with an initial capital letter.
 - Any spaces that immediately follow the [+] code will be retained.
- The code can be typed into the Sentence field, or added by selecting "Join to Previous Tag" from the right-click menu.

Example

	<u>Default Tags</u>	<u>Joined Tags</u>
<i>Death Tag Sentence:</i>	<i>[P] died <[D]> <[L]> <[A]></i>	<i>[P] died <[D]> <[L]> <[A]></i>
<i>Burial Tag Sentence:</i>	<i>[P] was buried <[D]> <[L]></i>	<i>[+], and was buried <[D]> <[L]></i>
<i>Sample output:</i>	<i>He died 3 Mar 1852 in Memphis, Tennessee at age 51. He was buried 5 Mar 1852 in Elmwood Cemetery.</i>	<i>He died 3 Mar 1852 in Memphis, Tennessee at age 51, and was buried 5 Mar 1852 in Elmwood Cemetery.</i>

The Fine Print

- Since the final punctuation of the first tag is suppressed, connecting punctuation, such as a comma or semicolon, must be placed as the first character after the [+] code in the Sentence of the second tag.
- If no connecting punctuation is used, generally a space is desired between the two sentence fragments. To obtain such a space, place it immediately after the [+] code in the Sentence of the second tag.
- Many Sentences start with the variable [P], to produce the subject's name or the pronoun He or She. Generally that would not be appropriate in a combined output sentence, so some editing of the Sentence of the second tag is likely required.
- Unexpected results will occur if the intended first tag is not followed by intended second tag when the report is generated. This could happen if another tag is inadvertently assigned a Sort Date between the two tags. Or it can happen if the first tag is omitted from the report by settings on the Tags Tab of report Options, or the tags are reordered by use of the "BMDB in a separate paragraph" option in the Miscellaneous tab of Journal Options.

Modifying Tag Sentence Structures

- <http://tmg.reigelridge.com/Sentences.htm>

TMG Alternates Update

- FH 6.01: fixed the import crash problem if TMG file contained witness memos.
- FH 6.02: addresses a number of the most important issues with direct TMG Import:
 - Memos for events now imported.
 - Text in Note tags now imported.
 - Description and caption for exhibits are now imported.
 - Where the principal for a TMG tag has a role other than ‘Principal’, the default is that the principal is added as a witness to the event with the specified role.
 - The default policy is that the first sentence of a Memo is moved to the attribute value, and the entire memo is moved to the Note, unless the Note would as a result be an exact duplicate of the Value.

To download the latest version of the trial:

<http://www.family-historian.co.uk/downloads/free-30-day-trial>

TMG Alternates Update

Don Ferguson 23 Jan 2015

- Gedcom transfers drop significant data.
- Legacy:
 - direct read doesn't exist.
 - written in Microsoft VB6 with an Access 2000 database, unsupported by Microsoft in 2008/2009.
- RootsMagic added an attempt at direct import in Sept 2014, but does not work well.
- Family Historian v6.0.2 (5 Feb 2015):
 - fixes the worst of the dropped data problems and even some of my gripes as well.
 - source data still not imported correctly - books templates have Author and Publication information data missing.

TMG Alternates Update

Don Ferguson 23 Jan 2015

- I'm not a user of every TMG feature, but certainly make use of many of its unique capabilities, as well as using Second Site. Some people can easily leave TMG behind as they have restricted their use of TMG's advanced features. But I have never subscribed to the theory of only using those bits of TMG that are 'compatible' with other programs - why buy a Ferrari and never get it out of first gear?
- My conclusion: any attempt at conversion to another program at this point would be a big waste of time. Far better to continue using TMG (because I safely can) and hope that one of these programs catches up or someone writes something better in the next 10 years.

Ottawa Branch OGS presents the 31st

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Lesley Anderson	Robin Etherington
Jackie Ryan Patterson	Shirley-Ann Pyefinch
Carol Reid	Glenn Wright

Marketplace Hours

Friday 19:00 - 21:00

Saturday 08:30 - 15:30

Details at <http://ogsottawa.on.ca/>

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