

GenScriber ver. 2.3.4

First Impressions

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Ottawa TMG Users Group

5 December 2015

Introduction

- Taken from the author's web site, "GenScriber is a transcription editor for census records, church records, birth, marriage, baptisms, burials etc."
- "The interface is comprised of several resizable windows with a single main window."
- "A register image can be viewed in the top window while data is input in the bottom window."
- "There is a choice of data input types. A spreadsheet style grid or a word processor style text editor."
- "The worksheet and text pad work independently. They can be used to edit different data by switching between the tabs. It is possible to copy/paste data between the editors."

Introduction

- A wide variety of image formats can be viewed in GenScriber, including jpg, tif and pdf.
- My most used documents include census returns, provincial records, church records and wills.
- This presentation illustrates the latest full release, ver. 2.3.4. Genscriber 2.4 is available as a Beta version. Its many new features are described and illustrated on their web site.

Case Studies

- For this presentation I will feature transcriptions of:
 - A Last Will & Testament
 - Census Return
 - Marriage Certificate
 - Late Registration of Births

Getting Started

- The first step is to locate the folder containing the image or pdf files to be transcribed
- Select the file to be processed
- Decide whether you will be transcribing as a spreadsheet (e.g. census) or open text (e.g. will)
- If using a spreadsheet format you need to create column headers

The first example will be a typical Last Will & Testament from the early 1820s.

1. Selected folder containing list of compatible files

2. Selected image file to be transcribed

The screenshot displays the GenScriber 2.3.4 application window. On the left, a file list under the 'Images' tab includes various historical documents. The main area shows a scanned image of a handwritten will. Below the image, the 'TextPad' editor is open, showing a transcription of the will's text. Red arrows point from the numbered instructions to the corresponding elements in the software interface.

10000 Visits to ancestraltrails.ca/png
1910 US Census - Mary (Hawkins) Walker household 1 of 2.jpg
1910 US Census - Mary (Hawkins) Walker household 2 of 2.jpg
1930 US Census - Ashley Beals 1.jpg
1930 US Census - Ashley Beals 2.jpg
A_census_of_pensioners_for_revolutionary.pdf.searchable.pdf
A_genealogical_dictionary_of_the_first_s.pdf
A_genealogical_dictionary_of_the_first_s.pdf.searchable.pdf
American_Enterprise.pdf.searchable.pdf
Charlottetown People's Cemetery Transcripts.pdf
Charlottetown People's Cemetery Transcripts.pdf.searchable.pdf
Charlottetown People's Cemetery Transcripts.tif
Charlottetown People's Cemetery Transcripts.tif.pdf
Charlottetown People's Cemetery Transcripts.tif.pdf.searchable.pdf
Cumberland County Families.pdf
Cumberland County NS.pdf
Death 1862 William Pagan.tif
death 1864 Ann Hetherington.tif
Death 1887 Agnes W. Hetherington.tif
death 1899 Thomas Hetherington.tif
Death 1930 Margaret Hetherington.tif
Early Settlers of Cumberland County.pdf
Elmwood Cemetery.pdf
Joseph Charles Cannon.pdf
Marriage 1839 Ann Hetherington.tif
Marriage 1857 Robert MacDuff & Mary Pagan.tif
Marriage 1859 George Dick & Margaret Hetherington.tif
Marriage 1863 George Hetherington & Helen Frood.tif
Marriage 1864 Arch. Maxwell & Mary Pagan.tif
Marriage 1886 Thomas Hetherington & Helen Mundell.tif
Mary Cannon Will - Nova Scotia Probate Records, 1760-1993 Hants ...jpg
Mary Cannon Will - Nova Scotia Probate Records, 1760-1993 Hants ...jpg
Obituary Mrs. Susan Letta Cannon.pdf
Petition of Elizabeth (Cannon) Rayner.pdf

Current Image: Mary Cannon Will - Nova Scotia Probate Records, 1760-1993 Hants Will books, 1

Worksheet Column Options TextPad

Mary Cannon Will, Nova Scotia Probate Records, 1760-1859, Hants County, Vols. 1-3, 1.

58

Last will and testament of Mary Cannon late of Falmouth in the county of Hants, deceased, dated 18th August 1825. proved, approved and registered on the oath of George Lyon one of the subscribing witnesses to the same on the 7th February 1829. This is the last will and testament of me Mary Cannon of Falmouth in the County of Hants. I direct all of my just debts and funeral expences [sic] to be paid by my Executor hereinafter named as soon after my decease as conveniently may be. All the residue of my personal estate of every description, I give and devise to my Daughters, Amelia Louisa Matilda Lutterel Desbarres, Spry Ann Desbarres, Martha Sophia Desbarres and Mary Desbarres equally to be divided between them.

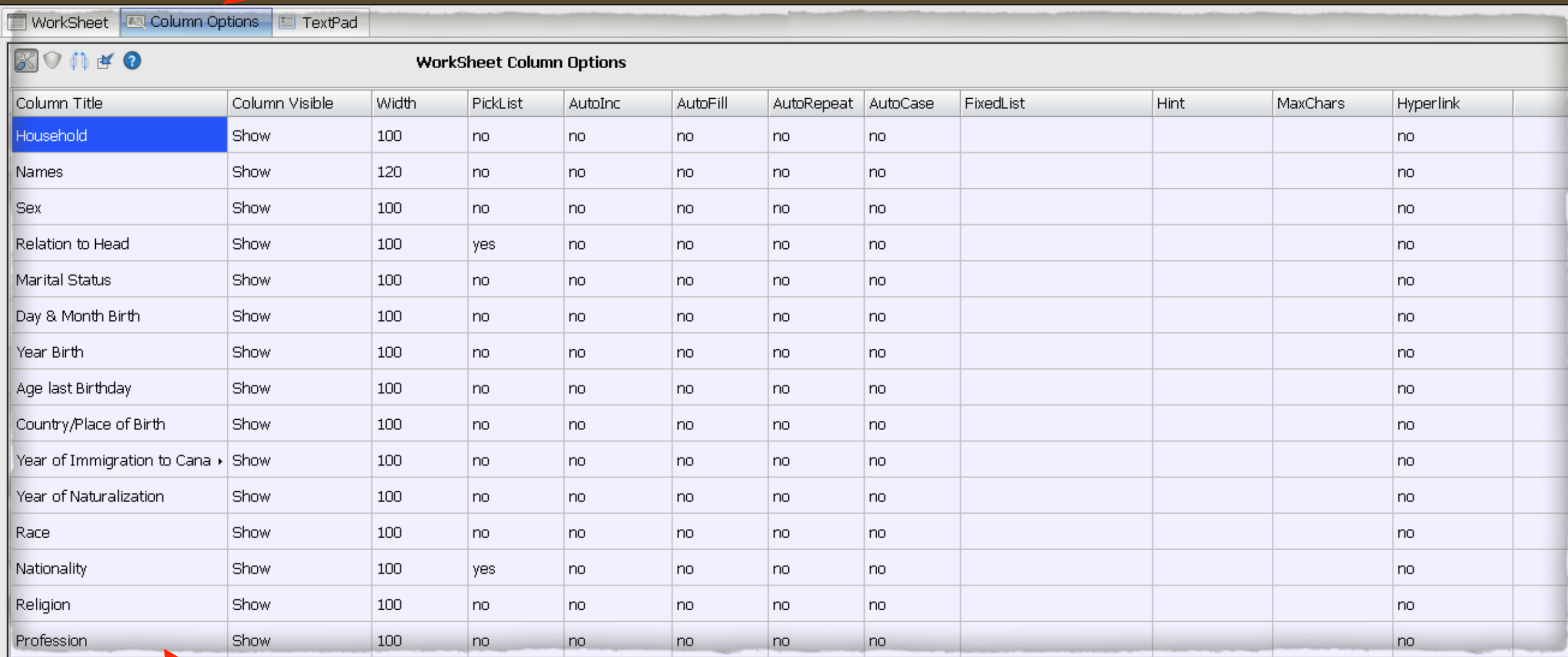
3. The TextPad editor was used in this example of a will. My transcriptions use the same paragraph layout as the original. I transcribe with all original spellings.

4. Transcription of the above will

The next example is a 1901 Canada Census return.

When transcribing census returns use a spreadsheet format.

1. Select Column Options

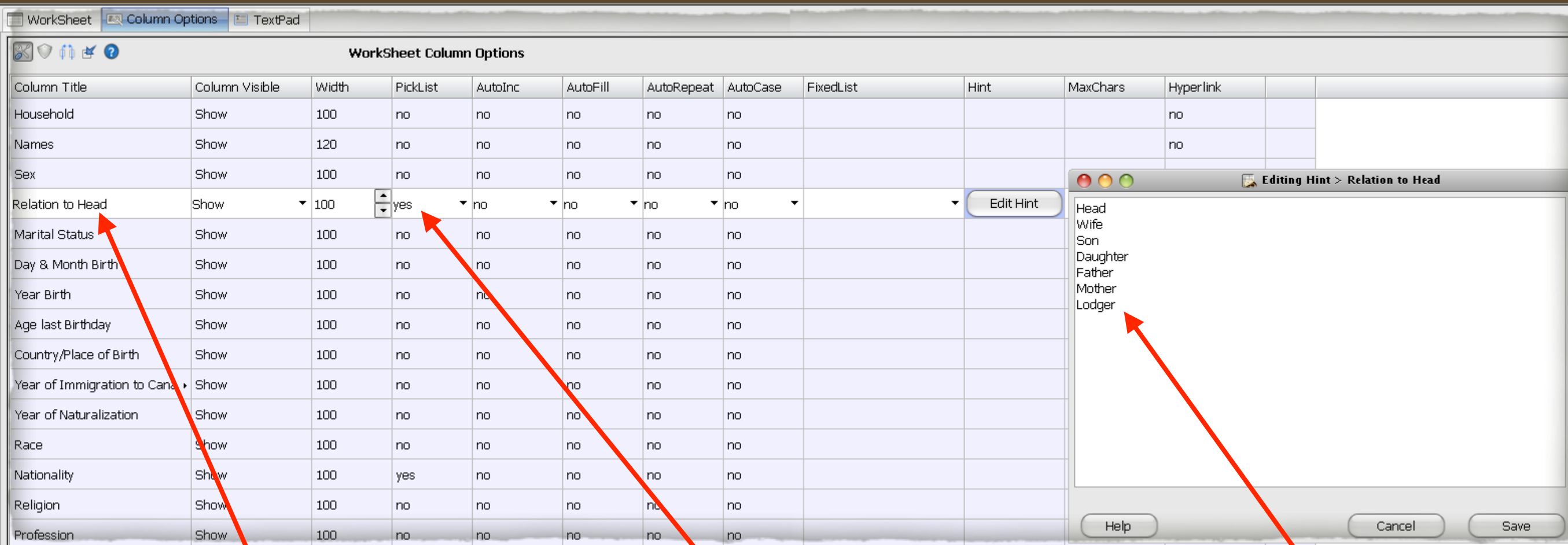


Worksheet Column Options

Column Title	Column Visible	Width	PickList	AutoInc	AutoFill	AutoRepeat	AutoCase	FixedList	Hint	MaxChars	Hyperlink	
Household	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no	
Names	Show	120	no	no	no	no	no				no	
Sex	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no	
Relation to Head	Show	100	yes	no	no	no	no				no	
Marital Status	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no	
Day & Month Birth	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no	
Year Birth	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no	
Age last Birthday	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no	
Country/Place of Birth	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no	
Year of Immigration to Cana ▶	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no	
Year of Naturalization	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no	
Race	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no	
Nationality	Show	100	yes	no	no	no	no				no	
Religion	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no	
Profession	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no	

2. Key in headers for each column

Create a Picklist for Repeated Entries



1. Select the column
for the picklist

2. Select 'yes' for the header

3. A picklist window opens.
Type desired word list.

The next
demonstration will be a
Marriage Registration
from New Brunswick.

003567

(Schedule B.)

MARRIAGE.

Registration Division of Westmorland County.

Bridegroom.

His Name and Age, Arthur P. Walker
Residence, Amherst, Nova Scotia
Place of Birth, New Annan P. E. Island
Bachelor or Widower, Bachelor
Occupation, Machinist
Religious Denomination, Methodist
Name of Parents, George & Mary A. Walker (Robinson)

Bride.

Her Name and Age, 24 Ella Townshend
Residence, Joliette, West Co. New Brunswick
Place of Birth, Joliette
Spinster or Widow, Spinster
Religious Denomination, Methodist
Name of Parents, Frank & Susan Townshend
Names and Residences of Witnesses, Dudley A. Lambert
Grace Townshend
Date of Marriage, June 26th 1912
By Whom Married, Thomas Dicks
By License or Banns, License
Signature and P. O. Address of Clergyman, Thomas Dicks
Point-de-Bute

NOTE.—The above Form is to be filled in fully and accurately by the Clergyman solemnizing the Marriage and forwarded to Mr. F. A. McCully, Division Registrar, Moncton, N. B., as required by Act of Assembly, 50th Vic., Cap. V, intituled "An Act to provide for the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages."

1. As for any new document, the first step is to create a template name and titles for the spreadsheet columns.

2. If desired add a Remarks column, and set to fulltext.

3. Click Save when done.

The screenshot shows a 'Create New Document' dialog box with the following fields and options:

- Template Name (id):** A text field containing 'Marriage Registration for New Brunswick'.
- Column Titles (enter one per line):** A list box containing the following titles:
 - Bridegroom-Name
 - Age
 - Residence
 - Birthplace
 - Bachelor-Widower
 - Occupation
 - Religion
 - Father's-Name
 - Mother's-Name
 - Bride-Name
 - Age
 - Residence
 - Birthplace
 - Spinster-Widow
 - Religion
 - Father's-Name
 - Mother's-Name
 - Witness-1
 - Witness-2
 - Marriage-Date
 - By-Whom-Married
 - By-License-or-Banns
 - Clergyman-Name
 - Clergyman-Residence
 - Remarks
- Set last column to fulltext:** A checked checkbox.
- Buttons:** 'Help', 'Cancel', and 'Save'.

Instructions on the right side of the dialog box:

- You must enter a template name and a list of column titles.
- 1. Enter the template name. This is used as a reference (id) if you save a master template. Use only alphanumeric characters, and no spaces.
- Note: The template name does not refer to the current filename or data, but rather to the column structure.
- 2. Enter the column titles. Enter each title on a new line.
- 3. Specify if to set last column as fulltext.
- 4. When done, click on 'Save', and a new document will be created.
- Don't worry if you make mistakes. You can change column names later.
- Important note:- Column titles must be unique, and they must not contain special characters.
- Spaces in column titles are not allowed. They will be replaced by a dash(-)
- The best way to format a title is to use 'medial capitals' in compound words, also known as camel-case...

1. Selected folder containing
list of compatible files

2. Selected image file
to be transcribed

GenScriber 2.3.4 Marriage Arthur Walker & Ella Townshend.csv

File Edit Image Tools Updates Help

Images Picklist Hints

Louis Henry Davies.pdf
Loyalist Conference 2010.pdf
LR5 license #-1.png
LR5 license #.png
Lucy Lydia Borthwick Cooley w Alfred Borthwick, her brother 001.jpg
Lucy Lydia Borthwick, age unknown 001.jpg
M. Slocum Headstone.JPG
Mac_Convert_Guide_-_MakeUseOf.com.pdf
MacBookPro_17inch_UserGuide.pdf
MacLife_Apple_Shopping_Guide.pdf
mamiya_c3.pdf
manual_audio_cleaning_lab_17dlx_en.pdf
marchbank history of PEI.pdf
marchbank history of PEI.pdf.searchable.pdf
Margaret Elizabeth (Montgomery) Carew.jpeg
Marjorie (Hooper) Rayner.png
Marker - Delia Marie Arsenaault (1901-1993).jpg
marker - john cottle 1701-1798.jpg
Marker - Uriah W. Cannon Jr.jpg
marker - warren cottle 1755-1811.jpg
marr. aleatha ramsay.jpg
marr. rufus trenholm.jpg
Marriage - Charles Holt & Alberta Hicks.jpg
Marriage - Dugald Campbell & Jane Cannon page.jpg
Marriage - Paul Groves Nunez & Theodosia Elma Walker.jpg
Marriage Arthur P. Walker & Ella Townshend.jpg
Marriage Cert. - Marjorie Walker.png
Marriage David Walker 19 June 1736.jpeg
Marriage photo - Elmer Cannon & Joan Grant.png
Marriage record - Annabella Read & Robert Inman.jpg
marriage record, Joseph Read & Sarah Carruthers.jpg
Marriage Reg. Donald Finlayson & Eliza Townsend.jpg
Marriage Regn. Adelaide (Clark) Walker.png

MARRIAGE.

Registration Division of Westmorland County.

Bridegroom.

His Name and Age, Arthur P. Walker

Residence, Amherst Nova Scotia

Place of Birth, New Annan P. E. Island

Bachelor or Widower, Bachelor

Occupation, Machinist

Religious Denomination, Methodist

Name of Parents, George & Mary A. Walker (Robinson)

WorkSheet Column Options TextPad

Bridegroom Name	Bridegroom's Age	Bridegroom's Residence	Bridegroom's Birthplace	Bachelor-Widower	Occupation	Bridegroom's Religion	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Bride Name	Brid
Arthur P. Walker	not recorded	Amherst, Nova Scotia	New Annan, P. E. Island	Bachelor	Macinist	Methodist	George Walker	Mary A. Robinson	Ella Townshend	not

Remarks [Arthur P. Walker]

There are two unexplained entries on this doc were, in fact, born in New Annan. Secondly, h old, in Colorado 1900. Arthur's father, George

3. Transcription of the
above Marriage
Registration

Remarks [Arthur P. Walker]

There are two unexplained entries on this document. My grandfather declared that he was born in New Annan, Prince Edward Island. He was actually born in Boulder, Colorado. His parents were, in fact, born in New Annan. Secondly, he declared that his mother was Mary A. Robinson. In fact, his father divorced Arthur's mother, Adelaide Mary Clark, when Arthur was 10 years old, in Colorado 1900. Arthur's father, George P. Walker, ultimately married Mary A. Robinson, and they immigrated to Vancouver, British Columbia in 1918.

This is an example of the usefulness of being able to insert a full text window to explain issues encountered with the original document.

The next demonstration will utilize Late Registration of Births from New Brunswick.

These were devised to accommodate those people for whom there were no original birth certificates, and some proof of birth was necessary later in life.

The informant was usually a parent, sibling, related family member, neighbour, or the person requesting the Late Registration of Birth document.

Margin reserved for binding. Write plainly with unfading ink. This is a Permanent Record.

N. B.—In case of more than one child at a birth, a Separate Return must be made for each, and the number of each, in order of birth, stated.
RACIAL ORIGIN will be described by stating to what people or tongue each of the parents belongs, whether English, Irish, Scotch, French, German, Russian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Galician, etc. The words "Canadian" or "American" should not be used, as they express nationality or citizenship but not a race or people.

This form if placed in an envelope, marked "Dominion Statistics—Free, penalty for improper use \$300," and properly addressed to the District Registrar, will pass through the Mail "FREE."

FORM C-1.

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF BIRTH.

(BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN)

Registered No. 801595
For use of Registrar General only.

Received
JUL 23 1926

1. (PLACE OF BIRTH)

Sub-Health District of Leeds Sub-Deputy Registrar area of Johnston

If in City, Town or Village Leeds Street — House No. —
(Name) (If birth occurred in a hospital, give its name instead of Street and Number)

2. FULL NAME OF CHILD

2 (Surname) Perry, Elisha (Given name) Naisie

3. Sex of child Female 4. Single, twin, triplet or other? Single 5. Was the child born alive? yes. Answer, yes or no. 6. Are parents married? yes. Answer, yes or no. 7. Date of birth? Nov. 7th 1900. Month, day, year.

FATHER

8. Full Name Elisha Lewis Perry

9. Residence Leeds
(Usual place of abode.) If non-resident, give place and province.

10. Racial origin English 11. Age last birthday 48 years

12. Birthplace Havelock, Kings Co.
(City or place, province or country.)

13. Occupation:—Farmer.

(a) Trade or profession

(b) Business in which employed Farmer.

MOTHER

14. Full Maiden Name Katharine Cecelia Perry

15. Residence Leeds
(Usual place of abode.) If non-resident, give place and province.

16. Racial origin English 17. Age last birthday 42 years

18. Birthplace Johnston, Queens Co.
(City or place, province or country.)

19. Children of this mother (including this birth.) 14.

Number born alive 14 Number now living 12 number stillborn (born dead) 0

20. Was this a premature birth? no.

21. Name of Doctor, Nurse or other person in attendance at birth Dr Adam Armstrong

I certify the foregoing to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Given under my hand at Leeds this 21st day of July 1926

Elisha Lewis Perry
Signature of Informant.

I hereby certify that the above return was made to me at Gagetown

on the 26th day of July 1926

Sub-Deputy Registration No. 397

Chas. H. Jones (per G. J.)
Sub-Deputy Registrar.
St. John's Co. Board of Health
1926 07 26

Template Name (id)

Late Reg. of Birth, NB

Column Titles (enter one per line)

Last Name
Given Name(s)
City
County
Province/State
Sex
Single. Twin etc.
Born Alive?
Parents Married?
Date of Birth
Father Name
Residence
Racial Origin
Age Last Birthday
Birthplace
Occupation

☒ Set last column to fulltext

Help Cancel Save

You must enter a template name and a list of column titles.

1. Enter the template name.
This is used as a reference (id) if you save a master template.
Use only alphanumeric characters, and no spaces.

Note: The template name does not refer to the current filename or data, but rather to the column structure.

2. Enter the column titles.
Enter each title on a new line.

3. Specify if to set last column as fulltext.

4. When done, click on 'Save', and a new document will be created.

Don't worry if you make mistakes. You can change column names later.

The first step is to create a list of column titles, using the same procedure described earlier.

1. Add 'Remarks' to the end of the list

2. Check here to create a text entry box

Template Name (id)
Late Reg. of Birth, NB

Column Titles (enter one per line)

- Racial Origin
- Age Last Birthday
- Children Born Alive
- Number Now Living
- Number Stillborn
- Premature Birth?
- Doctor Name
- Informant Name
- Relation to Child
- Where Recorded
- Date Recorded
- Filed Date
- Filed Location
- PANB film
- Code
- Remarks

☒ Set last column to fulltext

Help Cancel Save

You must enter a template name and a list of column titles.

1. Enter the template name.
This is used as a reference (id) if you save a master template.

Use only alphanumeric characters, and no spaces.

Note: The template name does not refer to the current filename or data, but rather to the column structure.

2. Enter the column titles.
Enter each title on a new line.

3. Specify if to set last column as fulltext.

4. When done, click on 'Save', and a new document will be created.

Don't worry if you make mistakes. You can change column names later.

There may be instances when you want to have a Remarks window to enter errors or discrepancies from the original document.

GenScriber offers the ability to create lists of repeated entries.

Worksheet Column Options

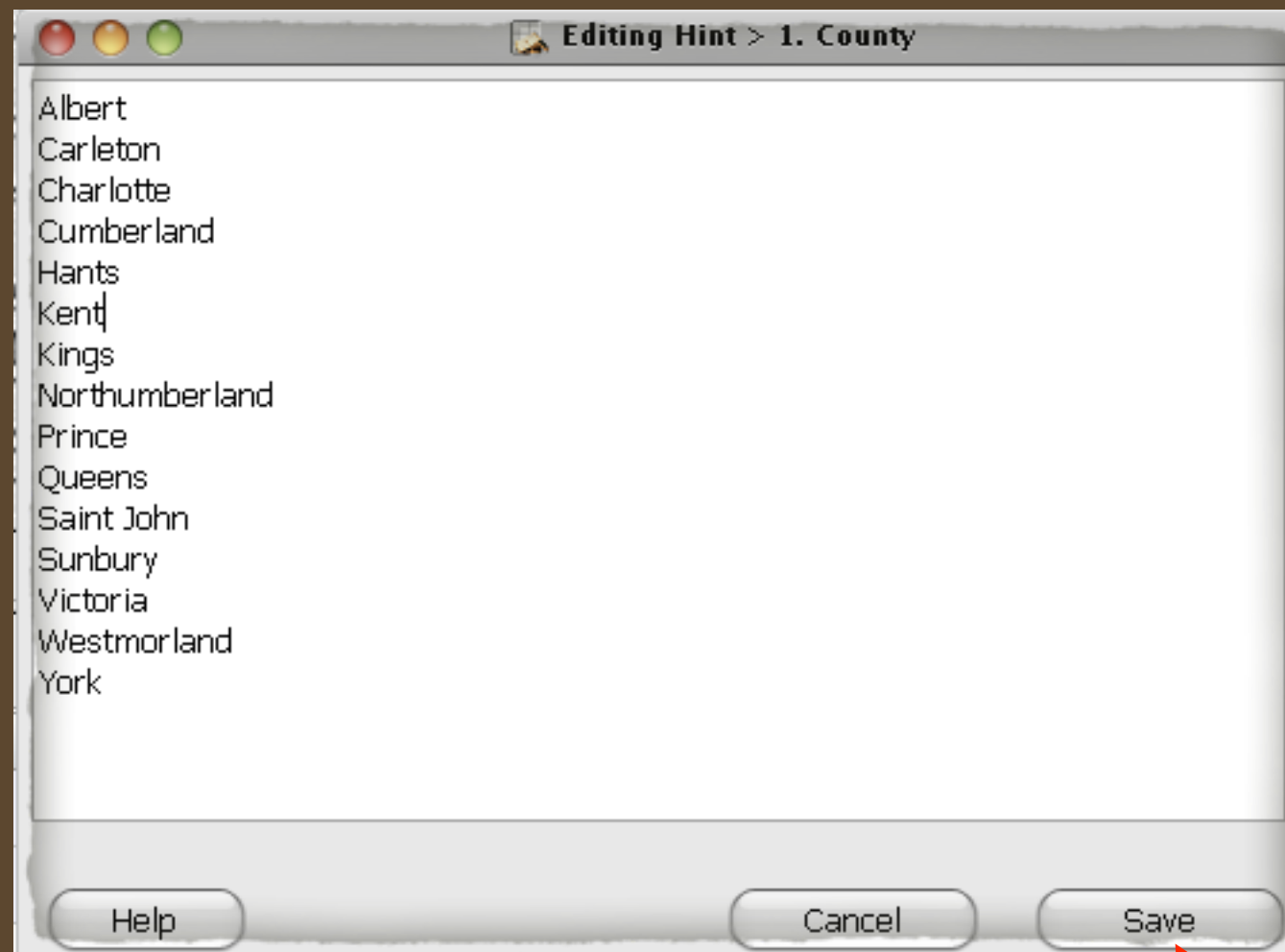
Column Title	Column Visible	Width	PickList	AutoInc	AutoFill	AutoRepeat	AutoCase	FixedList	Hint	MaxChars	Hyperlink
2. Full Name of Child	Show	133	no	no	no	no	no				no
1. City	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no
1. County	Show	100	yes	no	no	no	no		Edit Hint		
1. Province/State	Show	114	no	no	no	no	no				no
3. Sex	Show	50	no	no	no	no	no				no
4. Single, Twin etc.	Show	125	no	no	no	no	no				no
5. Born Alive?	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no
6. Parents Married?	Show	127	no	no	no	no	no				no
7. Date of Birth	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no
8. Father Name	Show	106	no	no	no	no	no				no
9. Residence	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no
10. Racial Origin	Show	112	no	no	no	no	no				no
11. Age Last Birthday	Show	111	no	no	no	no	no				no
12. Birthplace	Show	156	no	no	no	no	no				no
13. Occupation	Show	100	no	no	no	no	no				no
14. Mother Name	Show	147	no	no	no	no	no				no

2. Select the column for which you want to create a list

1. Select Column Options

3. Double click the cell in the Picklist column

4. Click 'Edit Hint' to open the dialogue box



Click 'Save' when done

A text entry box opens, in which you can type in the repeated items.
The list can be edited anytime.

Click here to add a row above



2. Full Name of Child	1. City	1. County	1. Province/State	3. Sex	4. Single. Twin etc.	5. Born Alive?	6. Parents Married?
Perry, Lilian Daisie	Cody	Queens	New Brunswick	F	Single	Yes	Yes

Having entered data for the first person you are ready to add subsequent people. You will want to enter the names in alphabetical order. If the name is to be entered after the first, simply place the cursor on the first cell of the second row and start typing.

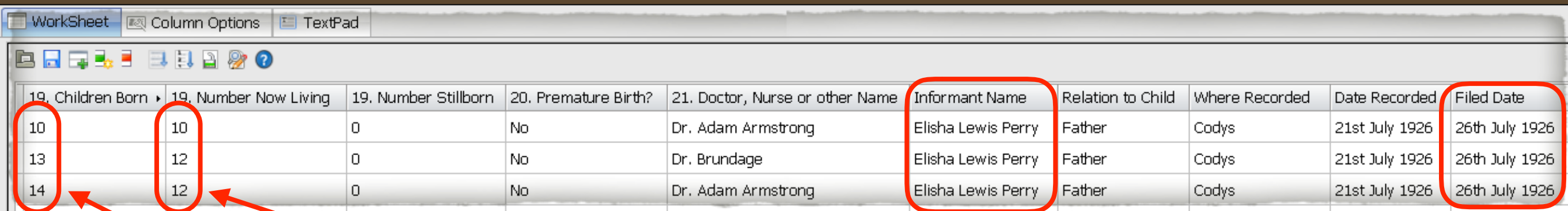
<div> <div>WorkSheet</div> <div>Column Options</div> <div>TextPad</div> </div> <div> </div>							
2. Full Name of Child	1. City	1. County	1. Province/State	3. Sex	4. Single. Twin etc.	5. Born Alive?	6. Parents Married?
Perry, Ann Julia	Codys	Queens	New Brunswick	F	Single	Yes	Yes
Perry, Lilian Daisie	Codys	Queens	New Brunswick	F	Single	Yes	Yes

A sister of Lilian Daisie has been added.

Those of us using Second Site have commented several times that once our TMG projected is published, the resulting Second Site pages have a tendency to display glaring errors.

GenScriber has the same effect when one compiles different records into a single spreadsheet.

Three daughters



19. Children Born	19. Number Now Living	19. Number Stillborn	20. Premature Birth?	21. Doctor, Nurse or other Name	Informant Name	Relation to Child	Where Recorded	Date Recorded	Filed Date
10	10	0	No	Dr. Adam Armstrong	Elisha Lewis Perry	Father	Codys	21st July 1926	26th July 1926
13	12	0	No	Dr. Brundage	Elisha Lewis Perry	Father	Codys	21st July 1926	26th July 1926
14	12	0	No	Dr. Adam Armstrong	Elisha Lewis Perry	Father	Codys	21st July 1926	26th July 1926

1. Entries for Children Born & Number Now Living differs between the three registrations.

2. This is unsettling given that the informant (i.e. the father) completed these registration forms on the same day.

These discrepancies might well have gone unnoticed had the data been keyed into TMG separately for each child.

Such challenges are all part of the endless challenges
we face in assembling family members.

Visit the GenScriber web site

<http://www.genscriber.com>