

I.R.I.S. Digital Pen a Useful Tool for Genealogists

Presented by
David Walker

3 November 2012

Introduction

This presentation will describe IRISNotes Executive 2 for PC and Mac.

A few years ago I evaluated a digital pen that I thought would have some genealogical use. The major negative side of this product was that the user had to use their special paper notepads, which were very expensive.

The I.R.I.S. digital pen can be used on any standard paper and uses ball point refills available from stationery stores. The included software converts your handwritten notes to editable text. You can export to PC, Mac, iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad.

Introduction

My rationale for adding this very interesting tool to my genealogy collection was to save time and improve accuracy in transcribing data during cemetery walks. Also, while at various libraries and archives the task of transcribing from microfilms, card indexes, books etc. becomes an improved exercise. In these instances transcribing a second time from written notes to TMG becomes a simple copy & paste exercise.

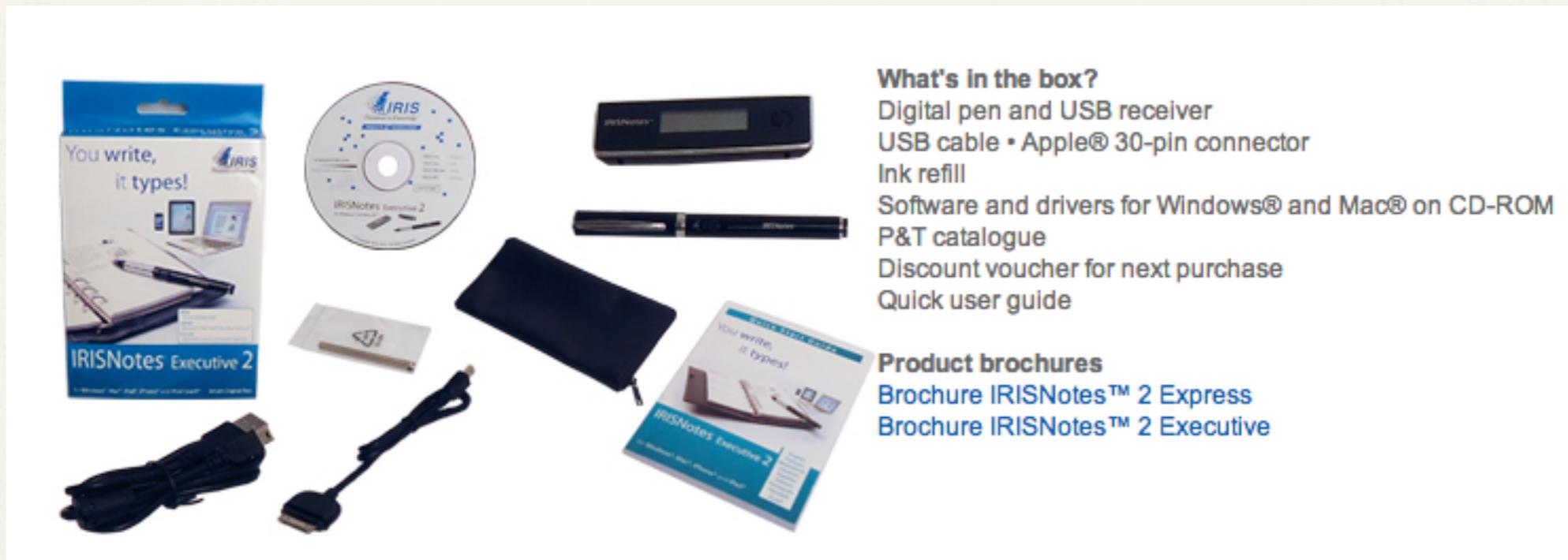
Features

- ❖ Write your notes with standard ink refill and on any paper. Your notes are stored in a receiver placed at the top of the page.
- ❖ Works with cursive and capital letters.
- ❖ Converts your notes into editable text. Plug the receiver into a USB port and the software is automatically displayed.
- ❖ Export your notes to Word, Notepad or any other text editing software for PC or Mac.
- ❖ Stores up to 100 A4/letter size pages before you need to transfer to computer.

Features - con't

- ❖ 30 OCR languages.
- ❖ Connect to iPad, iPhone or iPod Touch using the provided cable; handwritten notes appear on the Apple device simultaneously.
- ❖ The batteries in the digital pen and receiver are rechargeable using the included USB cable.
- ❖ Text & graphics are automatically detected.
- ❖ OCR (Optical Character Recognition) trainer module, used to learn your hand writing for improved OCR.

What's Included



What's in the box?

Digital pen and USB receiver
USB cable • Apple® 30-pin connector
Ink refill
Software and drivers for Windows® and Mac® on CD-ROM
P&T catalogue
Discount voucher for next purchase
Quick user guide

Product brochures

Brochure IRISNotes™ 2 Express
Brochure IRISNotes™ 2 Executive

Specifications

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- ❖ Receiver: rechargeable battery, about 8 hours of continuous writing
- ❖ Pen: USB rechargeable, about 8 hours of continuous writing
- ❖ Standard ink refill, M21 mini, 2 5/8"

Writing Notes

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- ❖ Start writing

Writing Notes

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- ❖ Power on the receiver
- ❖ Start writing
- ❖ Press the power button on the receiver to end and save the current note

Transferring Notes to Computer

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- ❖ A digital image of your page is displayed

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- ❖ A digital image of your page is displayed
- ❖ Click on the Convert icon to see the editable version of the page

Transferring Notes to Computer

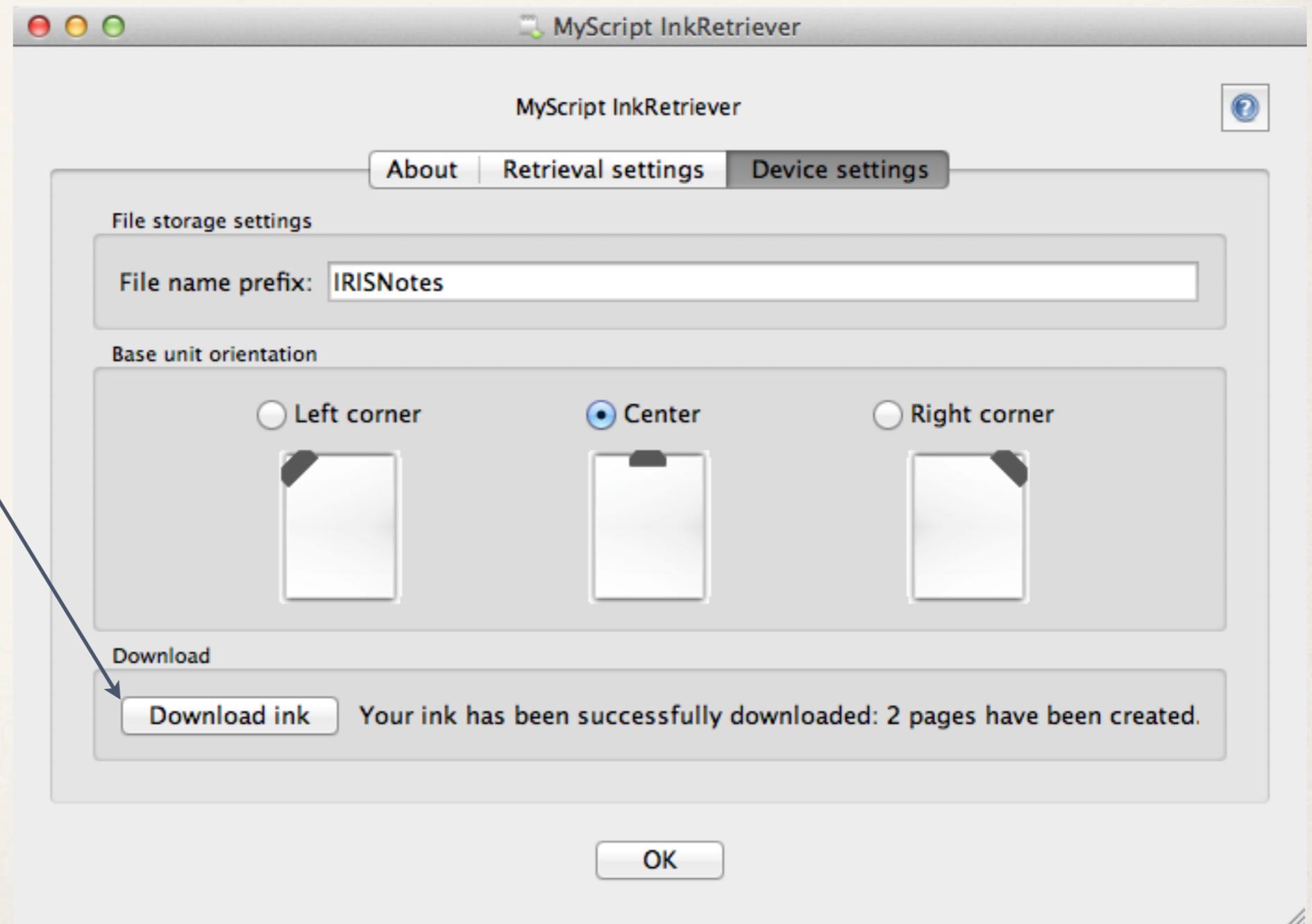
- ❖ Assuming the software has been installed, attach the receiver via the supplied USB cable.
- ❖ The transfer program is automatically initiated. Once done the program closes.
- ❖ Using IRISNotes Executive you can transfer either the current page, a selection or all pages
- ❖ A digital image of your page is displayed
- ❖ Click on the Convert icon to see the editable version of the page
- ❖ Export to a text editor

Test Cases

I will describe procedures for two genealogical applications

- ❖ Tombstone inscriptions
- ❖ Recording notes in libraries & archives, from microfilms, index drawers, binders, books etc.

Transfer from Receiver to Computer



Click on 'Download ink' to transfer your pages to computer

Tombstone Inscriptions

The screenshot shows the IRISNotes Executive application window. The title bar reads "IRISNotes Executive". The menu bar includes "Home", "2012-11-01...tes_2", and "2012-11-01...tes_1". The toolbar contains various icons, including a "Convert" button with a red arrow icon. Below the toolbar, there are two main panels. The left panel displays a digital image of handwritten notes in purple ink on a white background. The right panel is currently blank. Two blue arrows point from text annotations to the "Convert" button and the left panel. The status bar at the bottom shows "Ready.", "Text...", "Page 1/1", "49%", and a zoom slider.

19 July North Bedeque Cemetary 27

P 46.36212, -63.72569
IMO / Benjamin Cole / Died / June 14,
1899, / AET. 78 / HW / Martha Rix /
Died / Mar. 7, 1909 / AET. 83 / COLE

L. IMO / Charles B. / Died / Nov. 11,
1875 / AET. 21 / George / Died /
Dec. 13, 1889, / AET. 27. / Children
of / Benjamin + Martha Cole.

R. Bertram P. / Died / Feb. 17, 1906, /
AET. 41. / Isabelle H. Cole /
Died / Apr. 17, 1930, / AET. 69.

B. IMO / James A. / Died / Sept.
30, 1870, / AET. 18 / Margaret /
Died / Feb. 2, 1874 / AET. 24

Click on the Convert icon to view
an editable text version

Digital image of my hand written notes

Ready. Text... Page 1/1 49%

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The screenshot shows the IRISNotes Executive application window. The title bar reads "IRISNotes Executive". The menu bar includes "Home", "2012-11-01...tes_2", and "2012-11-01...tes_1". The toolbar contains various icons for file operations and editing. The main workspace is split into two panes. The left pane shows a handwritten inscription in blue ink on a white background. The right pane shows the converted digital text of the same inscription. The status bar at the bottom indicates "Ready.", "Text...", "Page 1/1", and "49%".

19 July North Bedeque Cemetary 27

P 46.36212,-63.72569
IMO / Benjamin Cole / Died / June 14,
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Minimal errors, / converted as 1,
and it doesn't like the way I write B.

Tombstone Inscriptions

2012-11-01_IRISNotes_2_1.txt

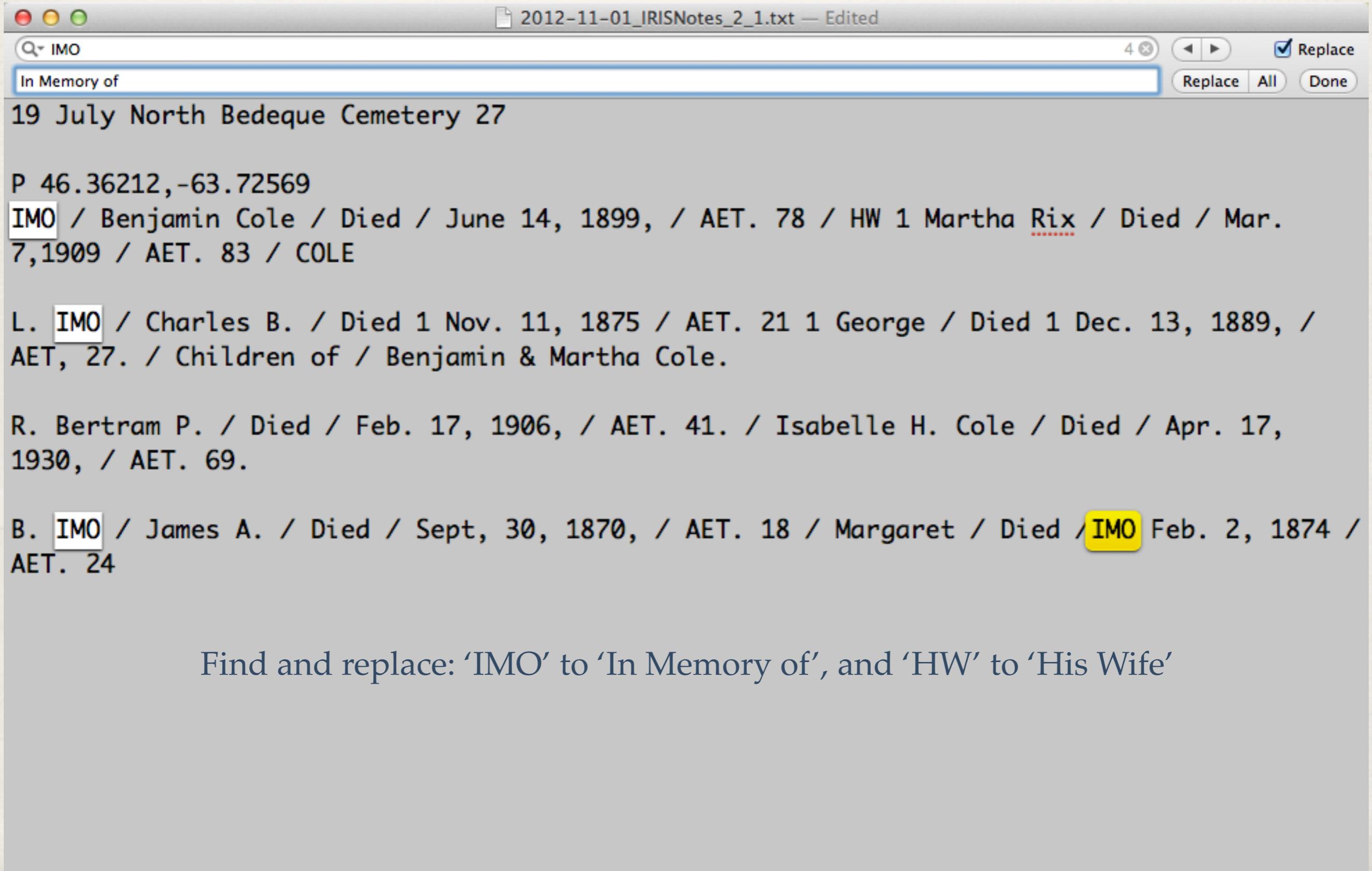
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File exported to a text editor. Cleaning up consists of:

1. Find & Replace, change IMO to In Memory of
2. Find & Replace, change HW to His Wife
3. Correct two B's
4. Replace 1 that should be /

All of these corrections might have taken a minute.

Tombstone Inscriptions



The screenshot shows a text editor window titled "2012-11-01_IRISNotes_2_1.txt — Edited". The search bar contains "IMO" and the replace bar contains "In Memory of". The text being edited is a list of tombstone inscriptions. The search term "IMO" is highlighted in white boxes, and the replace term "In Memory of" is in the replace bar. The text includes names, dates, and locations. The word "Rix" is underlined in red in the first inscription, and "IMO" is highlighted in yellow in the last inscription.

2012-11-01_IRISNotes_2_1.txt — Edited

Q- IMO 4 x

In Memory of

19 July North Bedeque Cemetery 27

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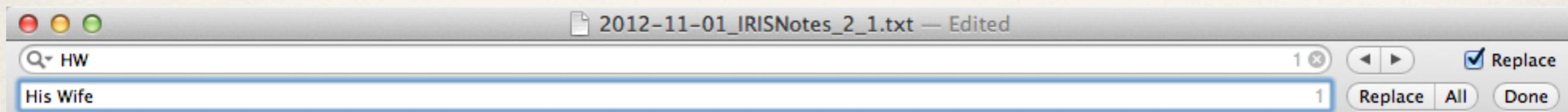
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Find and replace: 'IMO' to 'In Memory of', and 'HW' to 'His Wife'

Tombstone Inscriptions



19 July North Bedeque Cemetery 27

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Corrections complete.

Archive Visit

The screenshot displays the IRISNotes Executive application interface. The window title is "IRISNotes Executive". The top toolbar includes icons for file operations (Home, 2012-11-01...tes_1, Copy (4) o...tes_1, Copy (7) o...tes_1, Copy (6) o...tes_1), editing (Cut, Copy, Paste), and other functions (Export, Settings, Help). Below the toolbar is a secondary toolbar with a "Convert" button and a zoom level of 12. The main workspace is split into two panes. The left pane shows a scanned document with handwritten text in blue ink. The right pane is a digital representation of the same text, rendered in a clean, black font. The status bar at the bottom indicates "Ready.", "Text...", "Page 1/1", and a zoom level of 49%.

MGT 2012

Vit. Stat. R.G. 19
Series 3 Marr. records
Subseries 4 Marr. Lic.
Aug. 1895 - June 1897

Donald McKenzie of Montague B
Susan Walker of Bradley Point S
Date of lic. Sept. 18, 1895
Date of ceremony Sept. 18, 1895
by Rev. David Sutherland Ch'town
Filed Oct. 16, 1895 Iber 12 folio 295
wit. Mrs. A. McLeod, Archibald McLeod
dated at Ch'town

—

Cannon, Charles
Profit Funeral Registrar p.82
Died 3 Oct. 1909 at Miminogash age 90
Farmer, Miminogash
Debtor - Thomas Cannon
Buried 5 Oct. 1909, Alma

—

Cannon, Samuel
Islander, Apr. 11, 1857, p.2
Abstract - ~~five~~ five children died
in house fire, 6th escaped but
life is despaired of.

Digital version of hand
written notes.

Archive Visit

IRISNotes Executive

Home | 2012-11-01...tes_1 | Copy (4) o...tes_1 | Copy (7) o...tes_1 | Copy (6) o...tes_1

Convert

120

MGT 2012

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120

IMGT 2012

Vit. Stat. R. G. '9
Series 3 Marr, records
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Died 3 Oct. 1909 at Miminegash age 90
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Islander, Apr. 11, 1857, p. 2
Abstract-f-five children died
in house fire, 6th escaped but
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Ready. Text... Page 1/1 49%

Conversion from image to editable text.

Archive Visit

Copy (7) of 2012-10-31_IRISNotes_1_1.txt — Edited

MGT 2012 - 120

Vital Statistics R. G. 19
Series 3 Marriage Records
Subseries 4 Marriage Licenses
Aug, 1895-June 1897

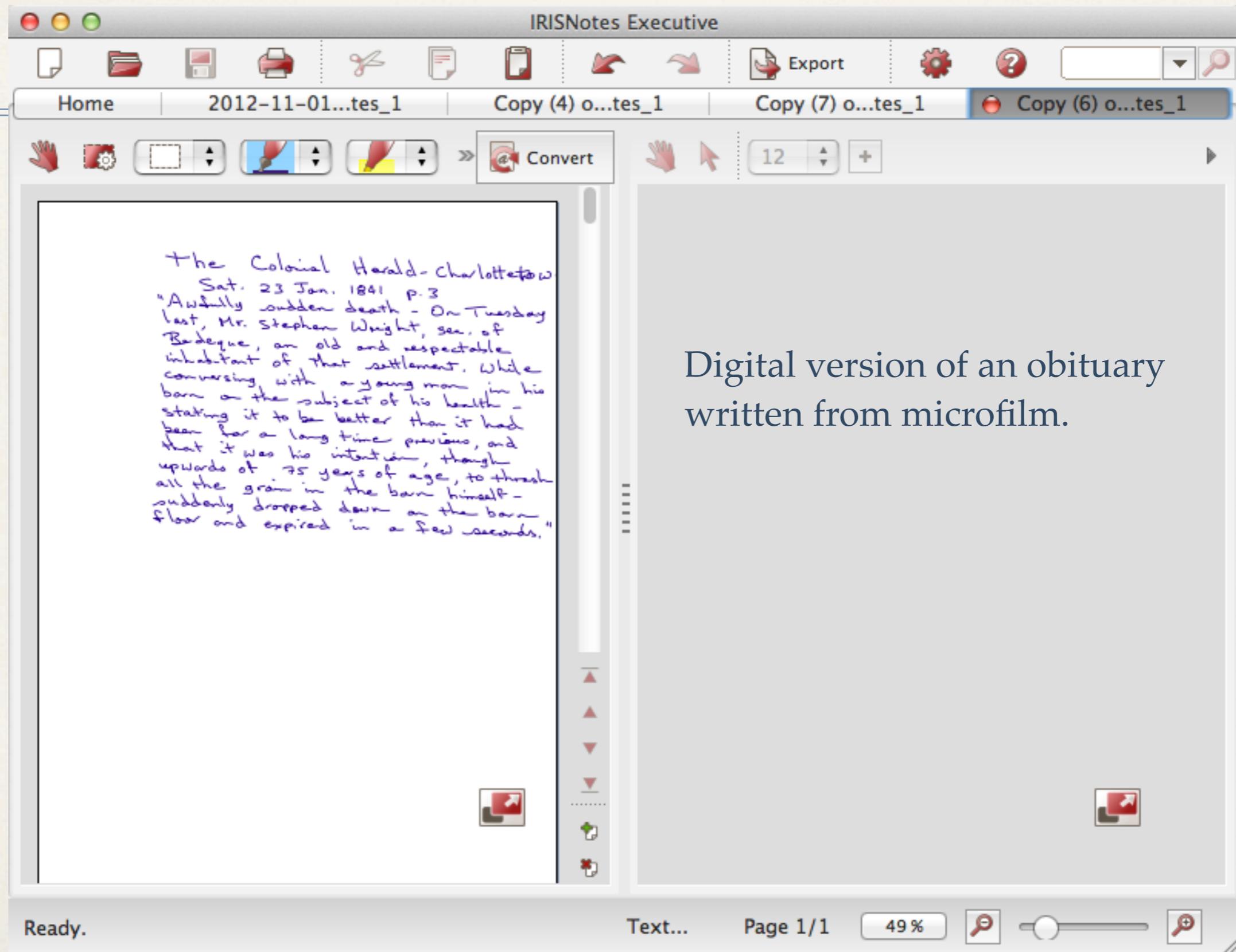
Edited text file.

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Archive Visit

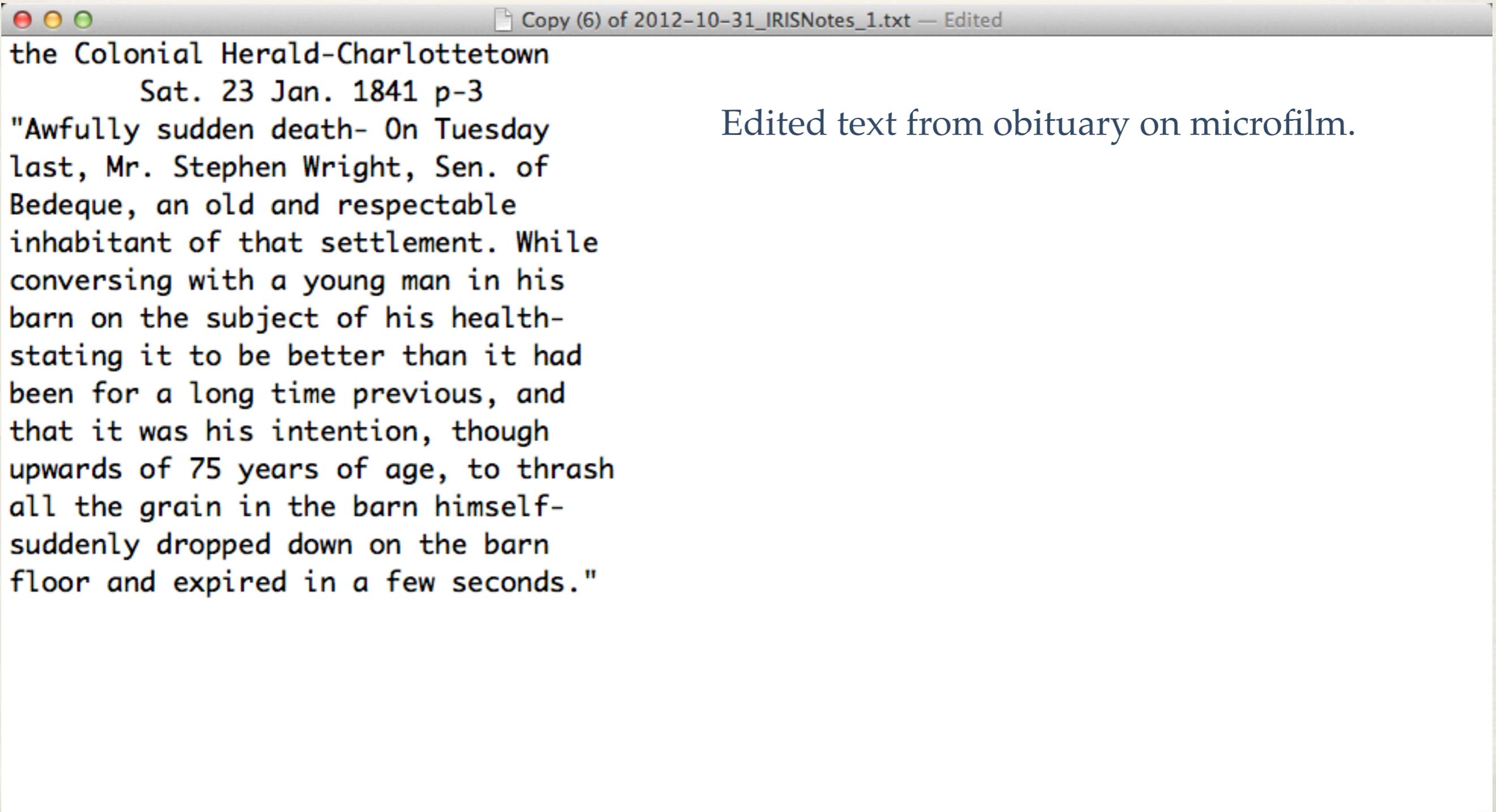
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the Colonial Herald-Charlottetown
Sat. 23 Jan. 1841 p-3
"Awfully sudden death - On Tuesday
last, Mr. Stephen Wright, sen. of
Bedeque, an old and respectable
inhabitant of that settlement. While
conversing with a young man in his
barn on the subject of his health -
stating it to be better than it had
been for a long time previous, and
that it was his intention, though
upwards of 75 years of age, to thrash
all the grain in the barn himself -
suddenly dropped down on the barn
floor and expired in a few seconds."

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Conversion from image to editable text.

Archive Visit



Edited text from obituary on microfilm.

To view a video and pricing on this product, go to

<http://www.irislink.com/c2-2193-189/IRISnotes-2--Digital-Pen-family.aspx>

Regular pricing for the Executive 2 version is \$149.00.