

TMG Flags

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Most of the information about your individuals will appear in Tags but some is contained in Flags, for example the Sex of the subject. Flags are generally not useful for basic information about a subject but are used in the analysis of your data. A flag is a single-character field that may be used to codify information about a person or to classify individuals in the data set. Flags can be used in conjunction with the accent feature and to filter information for display or in reports.

The Flag window is not part of the Standard layout but can be accessed from the Window menu or included in a custom layout. The Flags window displays all of the seven standard flags in a project, as well as those custom flags that are specific to a particular data set. Where imported formats support something similar to these seven, they are mapped automatically to one of these seven formats. All other customized flags are specific to the data set. The program supports up to 250 unique flags in each data set. There is no limit to the number of flags in a project.

To display the Flags window:

- Select Window from the Main Menu and check Flags or click on the Flags window toolbar button

There are two types of flags: Standard and Custom.

TMG has seven standard flags:

- **SEX:** used to compile reports, generate statistics, set accents, audit for discrepancies, etc. Therefore, it is important that the flag be set correctly. Almost all genealogy programs use a flag to designate the sex of the individual. The choices for setting this flag are: M, F, and ?. It is rarely necessary to use the ? (unknown sex) designation. When you add sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, mothers, or fathers, this flag is set automatically. It is automatically set to ? if you add a child or sibling.
- **LIVING:** defaults to ?. The program automatically sets it to N when a death or burial tag is entered, or when a birth group tag indicates that the person would be more than 110 years old. You can change the LIVING flag to Y to use it with filters.
- **BIRTHORDER:** used to keep children in the correct order on reports like the Family Group Sheet when the birth dates are not known. On the Family Group Sheet the numbers will be printed on the report if they have been entered.
- **ADOPTED:** set in conjunction with relationship tags such as Moth-Ado, Fath-Ado, Son-Ado, or Dau-Ado. A Y indicates that the person shares an adoptive relationship in this family.

- **MULTIPLE BIRTH:** designates a person who is part of a multiple birth -- 2 for twins, 3 for triplets, etc.
- **ANCESTOR AND DESCENDANT INTEREST:** used to indicate your level of interest in a particular ancestor or descendant. For example, 3 might be used for a direct ancestor or descendant.

You can also create your own customized flags. When importing data from other genealogy programs, any custom flags will be imported with the same name they had there. If more than one data set in a project uses the same custom flag name, then in the Flag Manager, the data set number will appear after the flag name, e.g., CLERGY#1 and CLERGY#2.

Common Uses of Flags

Accents and Reports make use of the Flag feature. Another idea is to track the progress of research or clean up. For each task you define a Custom Flag . This can be a simple Yes/No or more detailed (my Cleaned flag).

Another use is to divide a single TMG data set into logically distinct groups such as ancestor branches. Start from #9

A Custom Flag may be used to record a particular characteristic that is present in multiple people but is not associated with a particular place and time, i.e. an inherited health condition or my Military flag.

Flags are also used by some of John Cardinal's companion programs.

To use the Flag Manager:

- Select File > Flag Manager. The Flag Manager window will appear.

All flags are enabled by default.

To disable a flag:

- Highlight the flag name and click [Disable].

To enable a flag:

- Highlight the flag name and click [Enable].

To delete a flag:

- In the Flag Manager, highlight the flag and click on [Delete] or press <F6> or <Delete>.
- Answer [Yes] to confirm the deletion.

To rearrange the order of the flags:

1. Highlight a flag name and click [Move up] or [Move down].

To add a new flag:

Lookup: Add New Flag

To edit a flag:

Lookup: Edit Flag Value

Sources:

1. Hoffmann, Lee H., editor, *Getting the Most Out of The Master Genealogist*.
Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, Inc., 2003