Creating a GEDCOM from a TMG Project

Creating a GEDCOM from a TMG Project can be a simple task. In the TMG Help file for the Export Wizard, Wholly Genes states: "This procedure will take you through the few steps to export your data." This is true, only eight steps, but then you get to Steps 5, 6 and 7 and you find that there are many choices. Do not let this discourage you. The defaults will do just fine except for a few exceptions.

One of these is **Step 5. Option Screen 1**, **Miscellaneous**, **Suppress Details for Living People**. The default is to include the data and that is fine if you are going to send the GEDCOM to a family member but you will certainly want to suppress if you are sending to someone that is not family or to a web site. In my opinion, this choice should have a warning or the default should be changed to suppress by Wholly Genes. Since most users will not view there newly created GEDCOM before sending it on, and might be shocked if they did, great care must be taken in the understanding and selection of this option.

Many other options are available to make a GEDCOM that may be designed for a special need or use by a specific program, see the note from Wholly Genes at the end of this procedure. If you design a configuration for a specific use, please give us the details and we will post for others to use.

Much has been written on the poor quality and completeness of a GEDCOM transfer of genealogical data. Use a GEDCOM if you feel the necessity but include a printed report in your transfer of data to ensure that all the details are included.

Most of the procedure below is copied from the **TMG Export screens or the TMG Help file, v6.03**, with some additions and my **Notes and Recommendations:**. Text that is copied or transcribed from TMG is surrounded by quotes, "xxxxxxxx"

Comments, additions and corrections are welcome.

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1. Open TMG
2. Open the Project that you will use to make a GEDCOM file.
3. Open the **Export Wizard**.
   a. Select **File > Export**
4. **Step 1. Welcome to the Export Wizard** "This procedure will take you through the few steps to export your data."
5. **Step 2**. **You can export data to:**
   a. In the **Export file type** field, highlight **GEDCOM**
   b. In the **Export file name** field, enter the name for the new file
   c. In the **Put in folder** field, enter the folder in which the project is or will be located. You can use the [Locate] button to locate the folder, or type the folder name and press <Enter>. If the folder is a new one, TMG will ask you to verify that you want to create a new folder. Select [Yes].
   Note: You can change the default location for saving GEDCOM's in **Preferences**: Options/Current Project Options/Advanced/GEDCOM.
   Recommendation: "C:\My Documents\TMG Backup\GEDCOM Exports\(Project Name)". This ensures that the file is saved under "C:\My Documents\(folders)" and will be saved when you Backup your files regularly on your computer. (You do make regular Computer Backups? Yes?)
   d. Click **Next** to continue.

6. **Step 3. Configurations**   Click on the radio button to select:
   a. **Use without saving changes** "Use the highlighted configuration without saving any changes made during the subsequent steps of the Export Wizard."
   b. **Overwrite current configuration** "Overwrite the current configuration with any changes you may make. You cannot overwrite the DEFAULT configuration. You can only overwrite a configuration that you have previously saved." **This choice is grayed out unless you have previously saved a configuration.**
   c. **Save as new configuration** "Save the changes you make under a new configuration name. If you choose this option, you must give the configuration a new name and you may type a description if you wish. If you are going to make repeated attempts to get an export just the way you want it, you should use this option and save your settings as a new configuration."

   Note: Recommendation: Use Save as new configuration and type in a name for the configuration as in c. above. You may wind up with two configurations to begin, one possibly named 'Family, Includes Living' and another 'Web, Living Suppressed'. See Warning in Preface above and at the end of 8. Step 5. Option Screen 1. below. Additional configurations may be created for users of specific programs like PAF, Roots Magic, etc. Name appropriately.
   d. Click **Next** to continue.
7. **Step 4. Export what people**.
   a. Select **Current Focus Person** or:
   b. "To export more than one person: Click the radio button next to the data set field and Click the down arrow and highlight the correct data set if there is more than one."
      i. Then Select one of the following by Clicking on the radio button next to:
      ii. **All people**
      iii. **Selected people on the Project Explorer**
         1. "You must select the people in the Project Explorer <u>before</u> entering the Export Wizard."
      iv. **People in the Focus Group**
         1. "If you want to export current members in the Focus Group you must set the Focus Group before entering the Export Wizard."
         2. "**NOTE/Warning**: Take care when using this feature. It is possible to place people from different data sets in the Focus Group or to select people from different data sets in the Project Explorer and then to export them to a common data set. Be sure that this is really what you want to do."

   Note: People in the Focus Group and its radio button will be grayed out unless a Focus Group has been created and selected before entering the Export Wizard.
8. **Step 5. Option Screen 1.**
   a. **Destination**
      i. **Version** "The default version is GEDCOM 5.5. You may also select: GEDCOM 4.0, Personal Ancestral File (tm), Ancestral File(tm), or Temple Ready (tm). To select a GEDCOM version:
         1. Click on the Down-Arrow to the right of the Version field.
         2. Highlight the correct version and press <Enter> or click with the mouse."
      ii. **Character Set** "The default is ANSEL (default). You may also select ANSI or IBMPC. To select a character set:
         1. Click on the Down-Arrow to the right of the Character Set Box.
         2. Highlight the correct character set and press <Enter> or click with the mouse."
   b. **Miscellaneous**
      i. **ID Numbers** "When selected, each person's ID Number is exported to the GEDCOM file with a REFN tag. In this way, many programs (including TMG) will preserve the original numbering system upon import.

ii. **Memos** This check box provides the user with the option of including memos in the GEDCOM file. While the inclusion of memos tends to increase the resulting size of the GEDCOM file dramatically, importing programs will sometimes ignore them.

iii. **External Files** When this option is selected, TMG will find and export any data from external text files that are referenced in a memo. In order to point to an external text file, the memo must begin with an exclamation point (!) followed only by the path/file name.

iv. **Sources** When selected, the data contained in TMG's extensive citation and source structures will be exported to the GEDCOM file.

1. NOTE: If the citation detail is split, only CD1 is exported.

v. **Sureties** When this option is selected, surety values are exported to the extent supported by GEDCOM. Date, place, and memo sureties are exported with a QUAY tag at one level higher (usually 4) than the source citation from which they are referenced.

1. **SOUR level** When selected, surety values (QUAY) are exported at the same level as the source citation from which they are referenced in order to accommodate certain importing programs.

a. **Widowed note to SOUR** Some programs export textual notes or event details ("of typhoid") with a source (SOUR) tag, although, in many cases, that is not the form which was intended by the researcher. In that context, the SOURce tag generally stands alone (widowed) in the GEDCOM file - unattached to a real source record. TMG's import process provides an option to identify those SOURces and place them in the memo of a NOTE event. Upon export, this option reverses the process.

vi. **Name NPFX/NSFX** When this option is checked, name prefixes (e.g., Col, Dr.) and suffixes (e.g., Jr., Sr.) will be itemized, as well as being placed in the NAME tag line.

vii. **Suppress Details for Living People** If this option is checked, then all name (except the primary name) and event tags are suppressed for people for whom the flag LIVING=Y or ?.

viii. **Extract recognizable memos as tags** If this option is checked, then memos which are recognizable to TMG will be exported as tags.

ix. **External image and audio exhibits** Check this if there are external images or audio exhibits that need to be exported

x. **Export Citation Reference field** Check this if there are external images or audio exhibits that need to be exported."

xi. Click **Next** when you have finished

Note: *Warning* **and Recommendations:** Take great care in your choice here under: **Miscellaneous**, **Suppress Details for Living People**. *The default is to INCLUDE Details for Living People* and that is fine if you are going to send the GEDCOM to a family member but you will certainly want to *SUPPRESS Details for Living People if you are sending to someone that is not family or to a web site*. For the rest of the choices, unless you know the specific needs of the GEDCOM recipient, the defaults will suffice.

9. **Step 6. Option Screen 2**

a. **Tag Types** "This option allows the user to include in the GEDCOM export file only those tag types which the expected importing program can interpret. Some programs handle only birth, marriage, death, and burial data. It is best not to include other data in files intended for import to such programs.

i. **You can choose None, All, or Selected**. If you choose Selected, a list of tag types will appear. You must place a check next to the tag types you want to export.

1. **To mark or unmark a tag type:** Highlight the tag type and click [Mark] or [Unmark].

2. **To mark or unmark all tag types:** Click [Mark All] or [Unmark All]>

b. **Names**   You can choose to export only primary names or all name variations. This option provides the researcher with a means to exclude from the export file all but the primary name of each person. Although the GEDCOM specifications call for the primary name to be listed first, some importing programs are known to ignore all but the last name given in a series. This feature is designed to help avoid misinterpretation when transferring to such a program.

c. **Events**   You can choose to export only primary events or all events. This option determines whether non-primary events (conflicting events, multiple versions of the same event) are exported. Some importing programs are known to get confused by such data.

NOTE: If the Detail field in an event has been split, only the first detail, i.e., up to the first ‖, will be exported. **Lookup: Data Entry: Places**” in TMG Help.

d. Click **Next** when you have finished.

Note: Recommendations: Unless you know the specific needs of the GEDCOM recipient, use the defaults.

10. **Step 7. Option Screen 3**
    a. **Export** Reference field as: (Select)
        i. **Ancestral File # (AFN)**
        ii. **Reference (REFN)**
        iii. **Social Security # (SSN)**
    “**Note:** This option allows the researcher to export the data in the REFERENCE field (on the Person View) according to his/her preferred use of that field. **Lookup: Reference Field Customization**” in TMG Help.
    b. **Exclusion:**
        i. **Show Excluded Data**   “The exclusion marker (a hyphen) is designed to suppress output of certain data fields when space is limited. Any place field, for instance, which is preceded by a hyphen will not display on the Person View and will be excluded from exports and reports, although it is visible in the Tag Entry screen. When this export option is selected, the exclusion marker is ignored and the data is exported. A single exclusion marker at the beginning of a Sentence field in a Note tag prevents the entire tag from being exported unless this option is checked. **Lookup: Exclude Information**” in TMG Help
        ii. **Show Sensitive Data**   “When this option is selected, any data enclosed by sensitivity markers {like this}will be included in the output. The sensitivity markers, curly brackets, are intended to provide the user with a means to designate data which may not be appropriate for certain audiences. Sensitive data is supported in source templates (long, short, and bibliographic) as well as in all source elements.”
        iii. **With Brackets**   “When sensitive information is included in the output, the curly brackets themselves will be stripped from that information unless this option is selected. **Lookup: Sensitivity Brackets**” in TMG Help.
    c. **Maximum GEDCOM Line Length**   “You can specify the maximum length of the line. The default is 80 characters.
    d. **Break Long Values Between Words**   When checked, long values will be broken into two or more parts.
    e. **Places**   You can check which of the place fields will be exported, whether a comma will be exported when a field is missing, and, if Commas when missing is checked, then you specify whether to trim leading and trailing spaces which may have been inadvertently included in the data.”
    f. Click **Next** to continue.

Note: Recommendations: Unless you know the specific needs of the GEDCOM recipient, use the defaults.

11. **Step 8. Finish.** Click on Finish to begin the Export.

"**NOTE:** TMG source structure is not preserved in GEDCOM export since the GEDCOM source record has a much simpler structure than that used by TMG; however, the data from all TMG fields containing source information are exported, except for the following fields. Dates and places associated with tags exported as GEDCOM NOTE tags are not exported. (This includes TMG Note tags, unless you modify them. **Lookup: Tag Type Definition**)" in TMG Help. "Address tags with the GEDCOM ADDR tag selected and Phone tags with the GEDCOM PHON tag are not exported. Methods of circumventing the GEDCOM 5.5 specifications are beyond the scope of a Help file. They are, however, discussed in *Getting the Most Out of The Master Genealogist*, a book written by TMG users and offered for sale on the Wholly Genes website.