

Documentation for: The Family Tree by Harry Koons

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1. INTRODUCTION

Overview

Create a pedigree chart for your family with your personal computer. THE FAMILY TREE can introduce your family and children to their fascinating history. The FAMILY TREE program lets you enter and display the names, births, marriages, deaths and a short biographical note for each person in your family pedigree. The screen displays a tree with a unique cursor. You move the cursor about the tree using a joystick or the keyboard to select a person from the chart. Their

historical data can then be displayed or edited on the screen. The main data file holds six generations. Earlier generations can be saved in separate files on a data disk. You can save about twenty four generations on one disk and print four-generation pedigree charts on an Atari, Centronics, or Epson 80-column printer. You might send the printed charts to distant relatives to get their help in completing your family's history.

The Pedigree Chart

A sample pedigree chart printed by THE FAMILY TREE program is shown in Figure 1. The chart is a four generation pedigree chart. It shows the names, births (B), marriages (M), and deaths (D) of four generations of ancestors. Each person on the chart has a number. The first person for whom the chart is prepared has the number 1. The father of the person is 2, the mother, 3, etc. In general the number of the father is twice the number of the child. The number of the mother is the number of the father plus 1. THE FAMILY TREE program maintains the proper numbering for all generations on the chart.

Minimum RAM and Accessories

To use THE FAMILY TREE program, you will need the following ATARI equipment:

REQUIRED ACCESSORIES

- 40K RAM
- ATARI-COMPATIBLE Disk Drive
- ATARI BASIC Language Cartridge
(included internally with
the XL's and XE's)

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

- ATARI 825 Printer (or Epson
FX/MX-80 Printer)
- One Joystick Controller

2 GETTING STARTED

Set up your equipment and load the program as follows:

1. Install an ATARI BASIC (Computing Language) Cartridge into the LEFT cartridge slot in the computer console. XL & XE owners do not need a cartridge, because BASIC is built into those machines.
2. Have your computer turned off.
3. Turn on your disk drive and wait for the busy light on the disk drive to go off.
4. Turn on your TV set or monitor.
5. Insert THE FAMILY TREE program diskette into the disk drive with the label in the lower right hand corner nearest you and close the disk drive door.
6. Turn on your computer. The program will load into computer memory and start automatically.

8. After the program is loaded, the first display screen contains the program title and copyright message. After a few seconds the tree will begin to appear on the screen.

9. Finally the following prompt will appear under the tree:

```
INSERT DATA DISK  
INTO DRIVE #1  
AND PRESS RETURN
```

3 LOADING A CHART

Each pedigree chart requires a separate data disk. A sample data file containing the author's family tree is provided on THE FAMILY TREE program disk. To familiarize yourself with the program, leave the program disk in drive #1 and press [RETURN]. The data file will load into your computer's memory and the name of the person for whom the chart is made will be displayed at the bottom of the screen:

```
Pedigree chart for:  
HARRY COLEMAN KOONS  
1942-
```

This is the person at the base of the tree.

To start a new chart, at the prompt in step 9 in the last Section, insert a blank, formatted disk into drive #1 and press the [RETURN] key. To use a chart that you have already saved on a data disk, insert that data disk into drive #1 and press the [RETURN] key. The program will read the disk in drive #1. If it finds a pedigree-chart data file it will load the file and display the first person on the chart. If it does not find a file it initializes the program to begin a new chart.

4 MOVING ABOUT THE TREE

Either a joystick in controller jack 1 or the keyboard can be used to move about the tree. Figure 2 shows the joystick functions corresponding with the keyboard commands described here.

The cursor (red square) on the tree points to the current person. Select another person by pressing the following keys:

- [M] - Mother. Displays the mother of the current person.
- [F] - Father. Displays the father of the current person.
- [S] - Spouse. Displays the spouse of the current person.
- [C] - Child. Displays the child of the current person.

Experiment by pressing these keys to move about the tree. As the pointer moves, the name of each person with the year of their birth and death appear. The relationship of this person to the person at the base of the chart is also displayed.

There may not always be a response to a command. For example, if the pointer is at the bottom of the tree there will be no response if you press [C] for child. Similarly if the pointer is at the top of the tree there will be no response to [F] or [M].

The [SELECT] and [START] keys are used to move generations up and down on the tree. The [SELECT] moves the selected person to the base of the tree. The [START] key returns the person to their original place on the tree. You can only select the father, mother, or grandparent of the original person at the base of the tree. When selected, they are brought to the base of the tree. The tree then contains their family pedigree. By moving the generations down the tree in this way, you can reach two additional generations. You cannot move a person from one of these last two generations to the base of the tree. Similarly you cannot move a person on the original tree higher up than they started. Experiment with the six keys [M], [F], [S], [C], [SELECT], and [START] for a while to become familiar with their functions. Remember, if there is no response you are trying to move the pointer or a generation to a point where it cannot go.

Read Section 7 to reach generations earlier than the 3rd great-grandparents.

5 DISPLAYING AND ENTERING DATA

To display the birth, marriage, death, and biographical data for a person, press [D]. You must press the key four times to cycle through the data. Press it a fifth time to return to the original display. To enter or edit the data for the selected person, press [E]. The screen editing cursor will appear beside the heading "NAME." The underlines show the number of characters that you can enter on each line. Press [RETURN] to enter the data after completing each line. The special formats described below are generally used for pedigree charts.

Names

Enter each person's full name if there is room on the line. Capitalize the entire surname. Most genealogists use the form: KOONS, Harry Coleman. You may of course use the form you prefer. On the sample chart the entire name is capitalized and the surname appears last.

Dates

The date must be typed in the form shown. The year must appear first. It should be followed by the month and then the day if known. For the month use a three letter abbreviation such as JAN for January. If the information is only approximate or is uncertain, the year may be followed by the word "about" or by a question mark.

Places

Always record the smallest geographical area first. For example, if a person was born in the city of Johnsonburg in Elk County, Pennsylvania, enter Johnsonburg, Elk, PA. Use standard Postal Service abbreviations for states, but do not abbreviate cities or counties unless necessary.

Any information that is in doubt should be followed by a question mark in parenthesis.

6 SAVE/END

When you are finished working with THE FAMILY TREE program, you end work by pressing [Q] to quit. If you have entered any new data into the chart as explained in the last section, the data will automatically be saved on the data disk in drive #1. If you have not entered any new data, the original file is still on the data disk and the message "END OF SESSION" will appear on the screen.

*** WARNING ***

If you do not press [Q] to quit the session, the new data you have typed into the chart will be lost.

7 EARLIER GENERATIONS

Generations earlier than the third great-grandparents are not stored in the main data file. The main data file is a six generation file. You can easily start a new data file on the disk for earlier generations. Select the person on the tree that you want to be at the base of the new file by moving the pointer to that person. Generally you should choose someone who is a second or third-great grandparent. With the pointer at that person, press the [OPTION] key on the right side of the keyboard. If you have made any changes in the chart that is currently in the computer, the data will automatically be saved on the data disk in drive #1.

The program will then check the disk to see if a file with that person at the base of the tree already exists on the data disk. If the file already exists it will be loaded into the computer's memory and the person will be displayed. If the file does not exist, a new file will be started. You can start a new file for any person on this tree as well. In this way you can enter as many generations as you need for your complete chart. A data disk can hold 35 data files for earlier generations.

It is useful to identify persons that are at the base of a new data file by adding a symbol beside their name in the data file where they are near the top of the tree. For example, you might place an asterisk after their name. In that way you will know that there is a data file to be loaded that will continue the chart to earlier generations along that family line.

You return to the preceding data file by simultaneously pressing the [START] and [SELECT] keys on the right side of the keyboard.

8 PRINTING A CHART

Four generation pedigree charts such as the one shown in Figure 1 can be printed on an Atari 825, Centronics or Epson printer. The chart is printed for the person at the base of the tree when the print command is entered. Two type fonts are available for the Atari and Centronics printers. Position the paper for printing, then enter one of the following commands to print the chart:

[CTRL] [P] - Atari or Centronics proportional type font

[CTRL] [N] - Atari or Centronics 10 character per inch type font

[CTRL] [E] - Epson 10 character per inch type font

Special printer control characters are used to fit the chart on a single page. These characters may produce undesirable functions on other printers.

9 ERROR MESSAGES

You may occasionally get one of the following error messages in English on the screen:

```
PRINTER NOT READY
Check Printer
Then Press [RETURN] to try
again.
```

```
DISK ERROR - Check Drive then
press [RETURN] to continue.
```

These errors occur when the printer or disk drive are not ready. Check to see that the printer is "online" and that the disk drive is turned on and the proper disk is in the drive. Also be sure that the data disks do not have labels over their write-protect notches. You may get the message:

```
PROGRAM ERROR
Press [RETURN] to continue.
```

When you press [RETURN] the program will attempt to continue by redisplaying the person at the bottom of the tree. In some cases you may not be able to continue and you will have to begin again. This error message may appear if your disk data files have been damaged. Be sure to periodically back-up your files on a separate disk to avoid the loss of a large amount of valuable data.

10 REFERENCES

An introduction to genealogy can be found in many popular books available at a local library or bookstore.

The author has found the following two very useful in searching his own family history:

1. Finding Your Roots, by Jeane Eddy Westin, Ballantine Books, New York, NY, 1977
2. Building an American Pedigree, by Norman E. Wright, Brigham Young University Press, Provo, Utah, 1974

Both contain extensive bibliographies for further research.

The Salt Lake City Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints contains the world's most extensive collection of family histories. For a nominal fee, you can obtain a three-hour search of these records for one of your ancestors by writing to:

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Pedigree Research Survey
Suite 1006
54 East South Temple St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
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The National Archives maintains regional branches which may be close to your home. For a free pamphlet "Regional Branches of the National Archives" write to:

National Archives
Washington, DC 20408

APPENDIX A

SOURCES OF FAMILY HISTORY INFORMATION

The best source of family history information is of course the older members of the family. You should begin by talking with or writing to the older relatives. Some of the older relatives may have a family Bible with a handwritten family history. They may also have family records and scrapbooks stored in an attic or basement. You should particularly inquire about newspaper articles about the family and official certificates such as birth certificates, marriage certificates and death certificates.

After the family, you can search library and government records for further information. The following is only a partial list of the documents available:

Federal Census Records

State Histories

County Histories

City Histories

Local Genealogical and Historical Societies

Published Family Histories by Surname

Biographies

Church Records

Cemetary Records

Genealogical Periodicals

Land Grants and Property Deeds

Wills and Court Records

Naturalization Records

Probate and Death Notices

National Archives

Military Records

Tax and Pension Papers

Ship Passenger Lists

APPENDIX B

A FAMILY HISTORY CHART

A second chart that is used by genealogists is the family history or family group chart. A sample is shown in Figure 3. A family group chart is normally made for each marriage of each person on your pedigree chart. This chart contains more detailed information about the husband and wife, the names of their parents, and detailed information on each of their children. You can obtain blank copyrighted charts from local genealogical societies.