

Genealogy Basics – Register Reports, More on my 2014 Article

By Joe Petrie

BACKGROUND:

When I taught Economics and later Computer Science, I sometimes left my classrooms wondering whether I had done a good job teaching a concept etc. Usually in the next session, I would present the material in a different way. On my white board outline for the sessions at MassBay Community College in Wellesley Hills, MA, I called it Ketchup – a pun for Catch-up. When I was a teaching fellow working on the requirements for a PhD in Economics at Boston College in the 1960s, I wrote Mea Culpa on the green board to identify my need to present material again in a different way.

Mea Culpa! Ketchup! In my 2014 EZINE Genealogy Basics article on Register Reports, I described the source of various Register Report formats as the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) format. But I never showed the actual NEHGS format which is still used by NEHGS in various publications like their Quarterly Register Report. In its place, I showed the format of the National Genealogical Society's (NGS) Modified Register Report.

There is a major difference in the numbering systems. While both use common numerals (1, 2, 3, 4) and Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, iv), the NEHGs systems uses common numerals only to identify individuals with children. NGS formats assign a common number to every individual. In addition, the software marks individuals with children with a leading plus sign followed by a tab.

INTRODUCTION:

Wiki describes the NEHGS Register numbering system as follows:

```
(-Generation One-)
1 Progenitor
    2      i  Child
        ii  Child (no progeny)
        iii Child (no progeny)
    3      iv Child
        (-Generation Two-)
2 Child
    i  Grandchild (no progeny)
    ii Grandchild (no progeny)
3 Child
    4      i  Grandchild
        (-Generation Three-)
4 Grandchild
    5      i  Great-grandchild
        ii  Great-grandchild (no progeny)
    6      iii Great-grandchild
    7      iv  Great-grandchild
```

Wiki describes the NGS numbering systems as follows:

(-Generation One-)

```
1 Progenitor
+ 2      i Child
      3      ii Child (no progeny)
      4      iii Child (no progeny)
+ 5      iv Child
      (-Generation Two-)
2 Child
      6      i Grandchild (no progeny)
      7      ii Grandchild (no progeny)
5 Child
+ 8      i Grandchild
      (-Generation Three-)
8 Grandchild
+ 9      i Great-grandchild
      10     ii Great-grandchild (no progeny)
+ 11     iii Great-grandchild
+ 12     iv Great-grandchild
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WHY DO I PREFER NGS MODIFIED REGISTER REPORTS FORMATS? :

I share records and I attribute the sources of shared records using Modified Register Reports and GEDCOMs. Before I publish Modified Register Reports, I spell check the report and fix errors in my database. I use two different Vendors' software to produce the reports. Both create Rich Text Files which I review using Word. Only one Vendor's software is on my laptop.

Also, I review the reports to identify families that may need additional research. For example, I look at all the records in a family to determine whether there are plus signs for one or more children. I recently found a family with ten children that did not have a single plus sign. Further research showed that eight of the ten had married. One of the ten children had eleven children. I think that I had planned to publish a new Modified Register Report in January, 2016. Maybe it will be ready by next January.

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Your corrections, comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please Email me at:
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