

# Genealogy Basics - Genealogy Software

By Joe Petrie

## INTRODUCTION

In this article, I'll focus on genealogy software for Windows and two sites of Ranking Reviews that were very helpful in my search for a new software.

## BACKGROUND

Last year, I researched a number of genealogy software. Specifically, the goal was to buy a new software that had more features than the free Personal Ancestral File software (PAF 5.1) that I had been using for years.

The principal goal was 100% accuracy in processing GEDCOM files. Another was user friendly. A third was to operate on Window 7 because both of my computers used Windows 7. A fourth was Windows 10 version (if I changed to Windows 10).

I read a bunch of reviews on various websites. Most had rankings like Top 10, Top 5 etc.

I'll cover two sites. The first is a Top 10 site and the second is a Top 5 site. Both listed Pros and Cons. One Con of one list was that the software was too expensive.

Please note that I never heard of some of the listed items. Some had a free version.

### No1Reviews.com (as of May 16. 2020)

1. Family Tree Builder
2. Legacy
3. Roots Magic
4. Mac Family Tree
5. GenoPro
6. The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding
7. GRAMPS
8. Family Tree Heritage
9. Ancestral Quest
10. Family Historian

### Smarterhobby.com (as of May 16. 2020)

1. Family Tree Builder
2. Roots Magic
3. Legacy
4. Family Historian
5. Family Tree Maker

## MY DECISION

I would buy Legacy.

## **WHY I AM USING PAF 5.2?**

For a while it seemed that if it were not for bad luck, I'd have no luck at all.

Bad luck items:

- In one week both computers crashed.
- I retrieved the PAF database. I lost all applications' software on both computers.
- All of the correspondence was lost.
- Almost all of the files were lost.
- My back- up device was unreadable.
- I tried to replace both computers with equipment that had Windows 7 but could not.
- I bought 2 computers with Windows 10.
- I thought that I would learn Windows 10 quickly but I am still learning.
- Neither computer had Office 10 (Word 10, Excel 10 et al).
- I had to buy the Office 10 software that took me hours to install.
- Learning Office 10 is a very slow process.
- I'd have to find a copy of the PAF 5.1 software to produce the GEDCOM file to load my 31,000+ records. I could not find one.

Good News!

I was lucky!

In many of my seminars, if attendees did not have genealogy software, my advice was to go to Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group ([svcgg.org](http://svcgg.org)) which offered a free download of PAF 5.1.

Now they offered a free download of PAF 5.2 which operated on Windows 10. I downloaded it, installed it, and opened my PAF 5.1 file!

Success!

## **WHAT IS NEXT?**

I plan to buy Legacy whenever I feel comfortable with Windows 10 and Office 10!

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

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Please note that Friends of Irish Research is the repository for my published genealogy articles in the *Newfoundland Ancestor*; and in *EZINE*, the electronic magazine of the Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association. (Please see [friendsofirishtresearch.org](http://friendsofirishtresearch.org) specifically: the Tabs for Publications and Joe's Free Web Sites.) Also, please note that I am the author of the Genealogy Basics Series.

Membership in Ireland Reaching Out ([irelandxo.com](http://irelandxo.com)) is free. It has an Electronic Magazine named XO Chronicles ([irelandxo.com/irelandxo/history-and-genealogy](http://irelandxo.com/irelandxo/history-and-genealogy)). One of the three XO Chronicles Series is XO People. XO People focus on the Irish Diaspora (people who immigrated and never returned permanently). XO People has seven of my XO People articles about ancestors. My relatives are: John Cummings (Thurles Parish, Tipperary, Newfoundland and Lingan, Cape Breton Island); Patrick Tobin (Gowran Parish, Kilkenny and Newfoundland); and Judith Keeffe (Gowran Parish, Kilkenny and Newfoundland). My wife's relatives are; John McGrath (Ballyphilip, Kilcockan, Kockanore, Waterford and Massachusetts); Helena O'Brien (Fermoy, Youghal, Cork, Boston); Peter Connolly (Kilcummin, Galway, Boston) and Mary A (Nee) Connolly (Kilcummin, Galway, Boston).