

# Computer Guide #4

## GEDCOM – What it is.

**Q. What is a GEDCOM?**

**A. GEDCOM is an acronym for Genealogical Data Communication. GEDCOM is a “sharing” file. A means of exchanging or transferring Information.**

### **Uses of GEDCOM files include:**

- 1. Sharing Genealogy through e-mail, to Pedigree Resource File, by Internet to others such as Roots Web, or a Web page. You may also take a large file and separate it in two or more smaller files (such as each Grandparent). This lets a user send only a part of their file that is of interest to another party.**
- 2. “Downloading” from Internet sources such as [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com), or other sites.**
- 3. Combining Files, Importing Files (with care) and Exporting Files.**
- 4. Exchanging files between different genealogy programs such as PAF 5.2, Legacy, Family Tree Maker, Ancestral Quest, Roots Magic, etc.**

### **In PAF 5.2**

- 1. The Export feature is used to create a GEDCOM file.**
- 2. The Import feature is used to bring a GEDCOM file into your computer either into a new file or an existing file (with care).**

**See Computer Guide #5 for GEDCOM procedures.**