Ahnenblatt 5 - Manual

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Ahnenblatt Help

Ahnenblatt is a Windows program for genealogists.
It serves to manage and present the research results.

This is a context-sensitive help. Whichever dialog you have opened in Ahnenblatt, press F1 button to open the related help topic.
You can also click through the topics of this help file.

Description

User interface

Functions of the main menu

Frequently Asked Questions

Tips & Tricks

Glossary

License/Disclaimer

Credits

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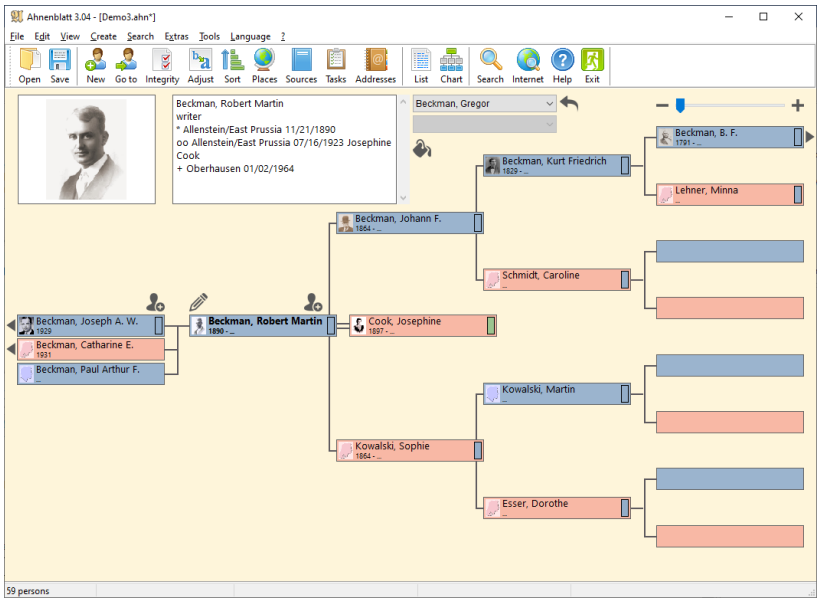
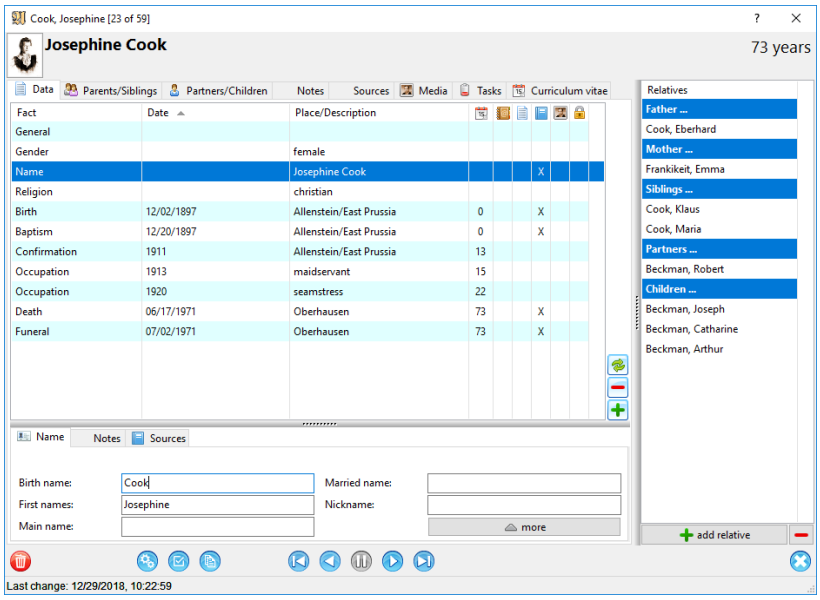
Description

Ahnenblatt is a Windows program for genealogists. Its main features include an easy to use data input environment which offers convenient navigation using the computers mouse. Another main feature is the ability to use a wide range of file formats for data exchange. Research results can be saved in various lists (such as HTML, DOC, RTF, PDF, ...) and tree charts (such as PDF, BMP, JPG, GIF, PNG, TIF,...). Furthermore, Ahnenblatt offers import functionality of GEDCOM and CSV files and export to GEDCOM, HTML, XML, CSV and TinyTafel formats. The whole thing is rounded off by a full-text search and a print preview.





In detail, Ahnenblatt offers the following possibilities:

- Enter data in a feature-rich but user-friendly input dialog
- Navigator for illustrating and selecting persons
- Location, source, task and address management
- The entry of foreign special characters (Unicode)
- Own file format (*.ahn) to share Ahnenblatt data via email or copy it to a USB stick, for example
- Import of GEDCOM files in all known variants (ANSI, ASCII, UNICODE, UTF8, ANSEL)
- Export not only to the GEDCOM format but also HTML format (a file containing all persons or one file per person), to XML format (GEDCOM 6.0, GedML), as a CSV file (for use in a spreadsheet program such as Microsoft Excel) or TinyTafel format
- Print of ancestor and family lists, as they are common in genealogy (with preview). Various options allow, for example, expression of only the mother line or the top ancestors (oldest known).
- Print of ancestor and descendant charts with frame (ancestor chart only) and as a poster (both – can also be combined as an hourglass)
- Export option of all list variants in various file formats, e.g. for post-processing in text processing (Word, RTF, Text, LaTex, ...).
- Full-text search of all persons, for example in an unknown family for places or names of the own research area (including phonetic search).

- Automated post-processing of the data pool to align spellings (Functions **Data Align** and **Search and Replace**).
- Integrity check to detect input errors or other unlogical data
- Merging of several Ahnenblatt files into one Family.
- Delete not only individuals but entire groups of persons.
- Display of statistics
- Language selection for the User Interface (German, English, French, ...)

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User interface

Main window

Input dialog

Operation with the keyboard

Helpful Context Menus

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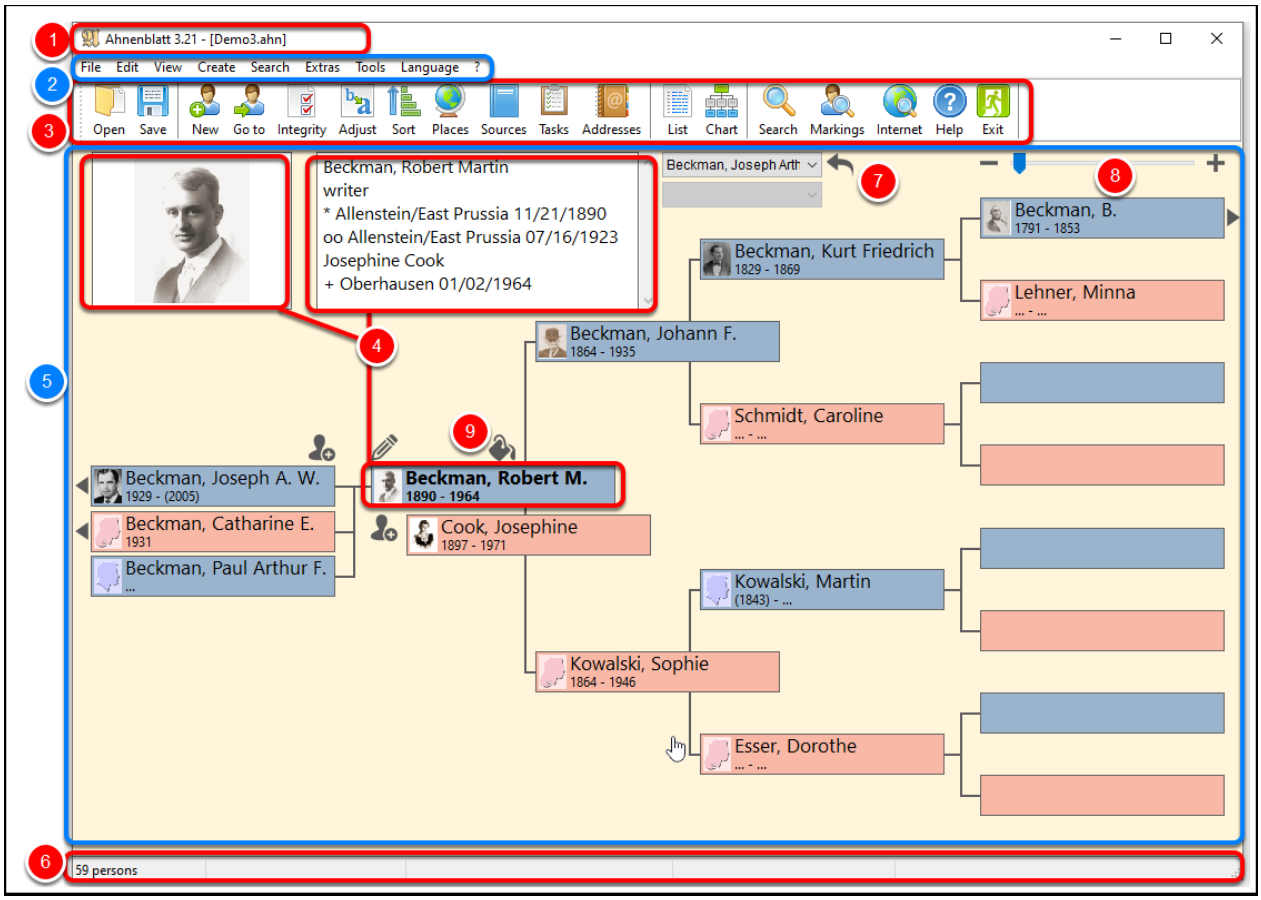
Main window



1. Title bar - Shows the version of the program and the current open file (an additional * at the end of the file name indicates that the file has already been changed)

2. Main menu - Contains all available functions [**Functions of the main menu**]

3. Toolbar - Contains the most commonly used functions

4. Home person - All other persons are connected to this person (profile pictures and**color coding** possible)

5. Navigator - Shows ancestors and children of the home person, by clicking on the personal fields can be navigated in the family

6. Status line - Shows the number of persons of the family, in table prints, also shows the number of persons shown and the overall size of the expression

7. Forward / Back - switch back to the last person called

8. Generation selection - switch between 5 and 7 generations in the display

9. Color coding - activate/deactivate the **color coding**

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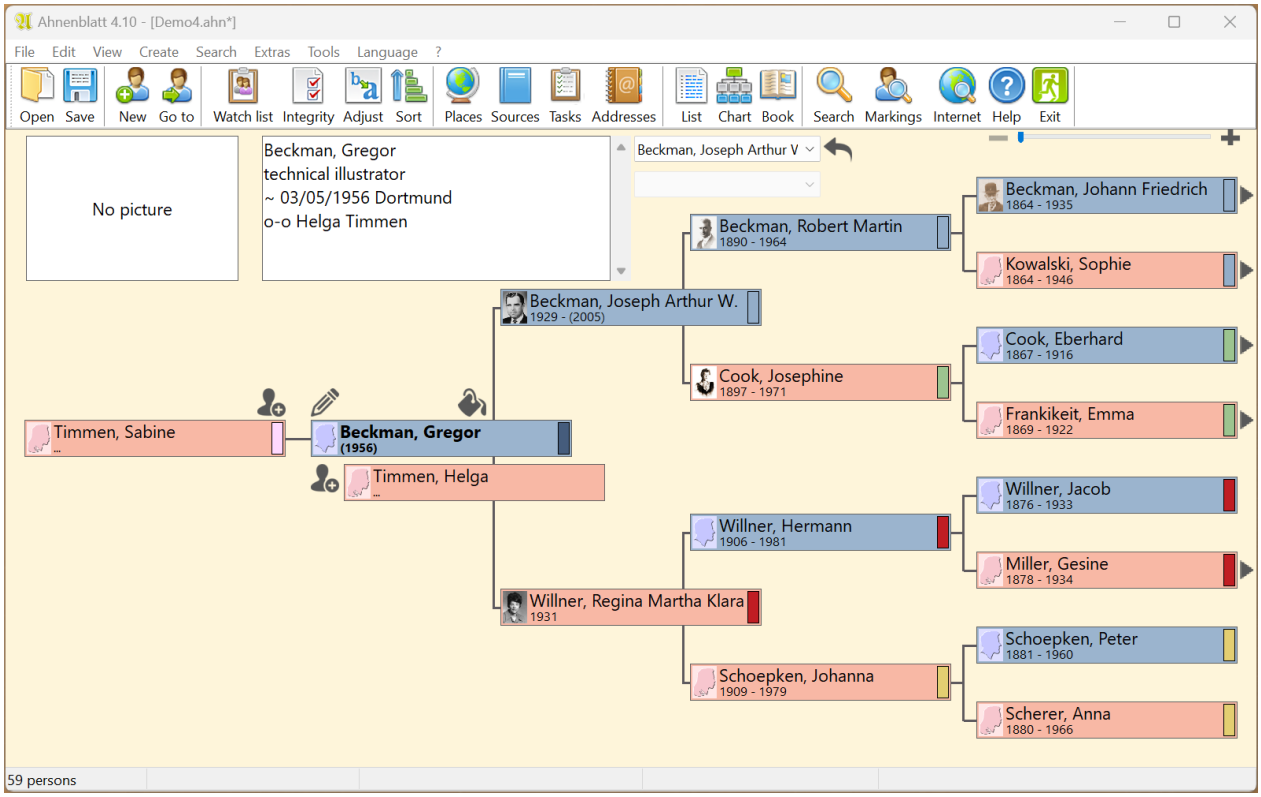
Color coding



Small color markings on the right edge of the person boxes can be activated in the Navigator.

To do this, click on the small paint bucket symbol above the central person and select "Set color coding" in the context menu.

The direct ancestors and descendants of the “central person” are used according to a color coding system developed by Mary Hill and recognized in the genealogy. The paternal ancestors are marked blue, the paternal grandmother is green, the maternal ancestor is red, and the maternal grandmother is yellow. In addition, the starting person gets a dark blue marking and all offspring get a marking in a rose tone.

If you then switch between the people in the family, you can use it to track individual family lines in a

targeted manner and also find them back again, since not all people have a color marking (e.g. siblings or other descendants of the direct ancestors).

The color coding can also be deactivated again or set again for another starting person.

The color coding is also saved in Ahnenblatt and GEDCOM files and is therefore retained even after the program is closed.

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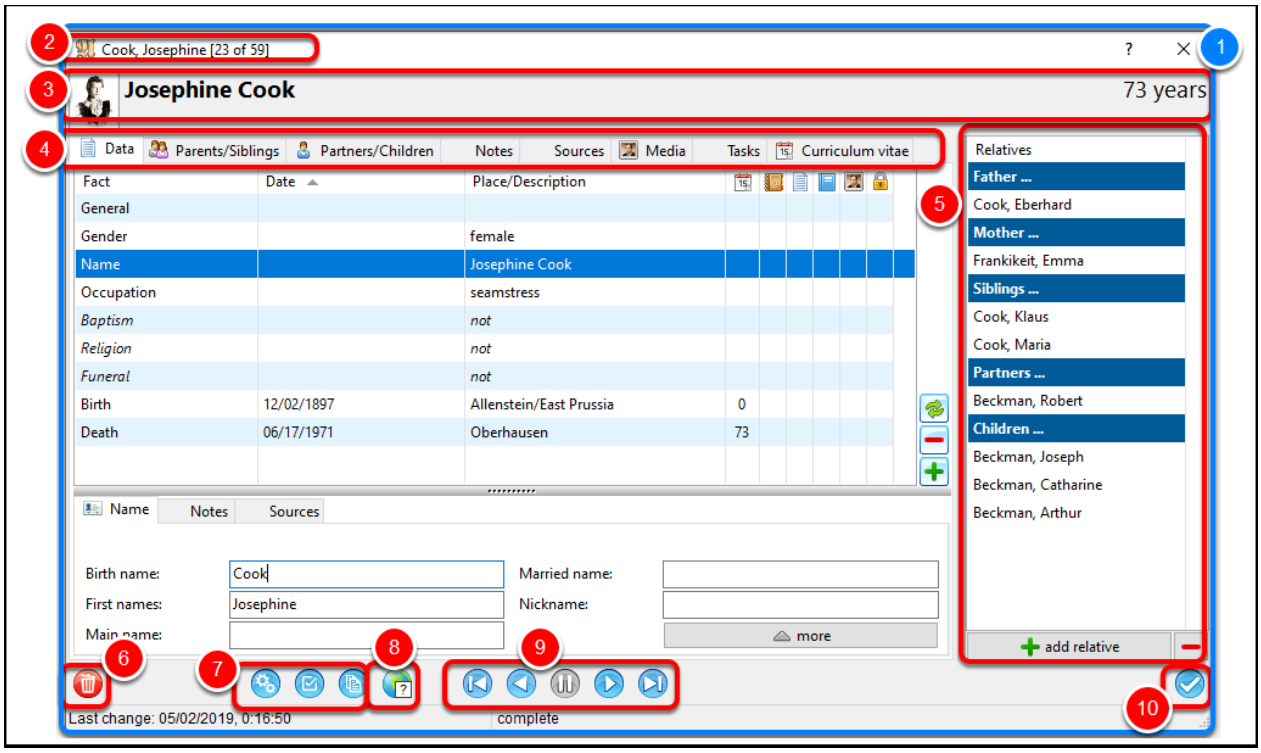
Input dialog



1. Input Dialog - New persons can be created here, and data of existing persons can be changed

2. Window title - Shows the name of the current person and the (alphabetical) position among all persons

3. Profile photo, name, and age

4. Tabs for more information

5. Directly connected persons: Father, mother, siblings, partners, and children - "Add relative" button allows you to add a person

6. Delete person - Deletes the person that is currently displayed

7. Options (opens an additional dialog), create a task and copy the person in text form to the clipboard

8. Number of finds on the Internet about this person [see also**Extras / Options... [Internet**]

9. Navigation buttons - You can switch between the persons in the input dialog; the middle button shows a context menu with the persons most recently displayed

10. Button to close the dialog and present the person as a home person in the navigator (to close the dialog, use the X symbol at the top right corner of the dialog)

For more Information on the input dialog, please visit **How to start inserting the family data?**.

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Operating with the keyboard

Ahnenblatt can be operated using the keyboard in many areas and is based on Windows standards.

Dialogs can always be closed with the **Esc-**button**. Return** or **Enter** triggers the button that is currently focused.

The shortcut **Alt+Pos1,** pressed in the navigator, always jumps to the home person (provided one is set).

There are also other shortcuts which can be found in the main menu.

In all dialogs, you can switch between input fields with the **Tab button**.

In the input dialog, you can use the **Page up / Page down** buttons to jump to the previous / next person.

Very helpful is that you can use the button **F1** from almost any place in the program to directly access the corresponding help topic.

In the print preview, you can now use the shortcuts **Ctrl & +** and **Ctrl & -** to enlarge or shrink the view.

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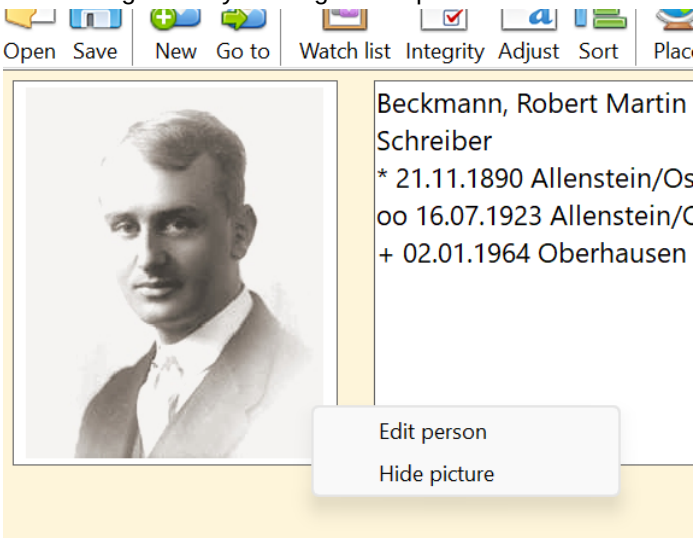
Helpful context menus

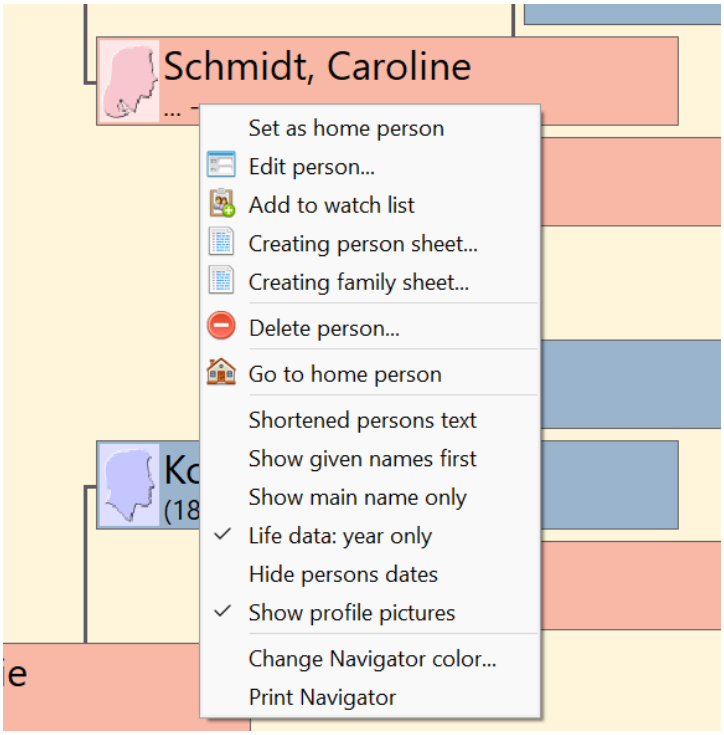
Context menus are small menus, which can be accessed by clicking the right mouse button. From these menus, you can then select a function by clicking the left mouse button.

These can be found:

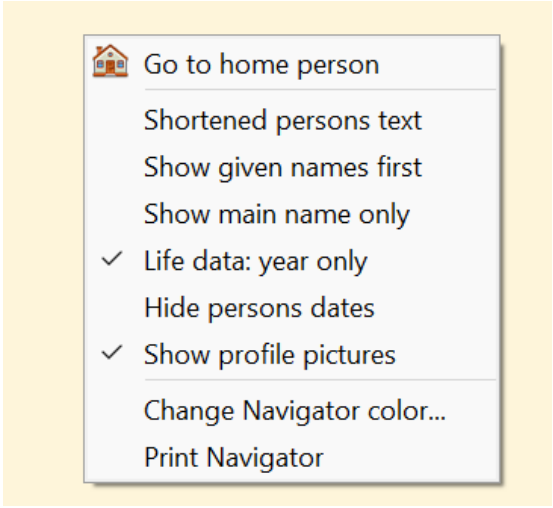
- In the navigator - By clicking on the picture



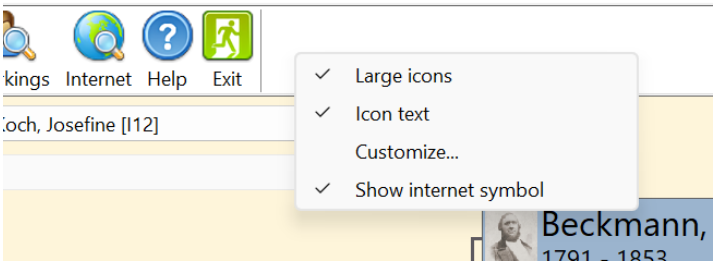
- In the navigator - by clicking on any person box



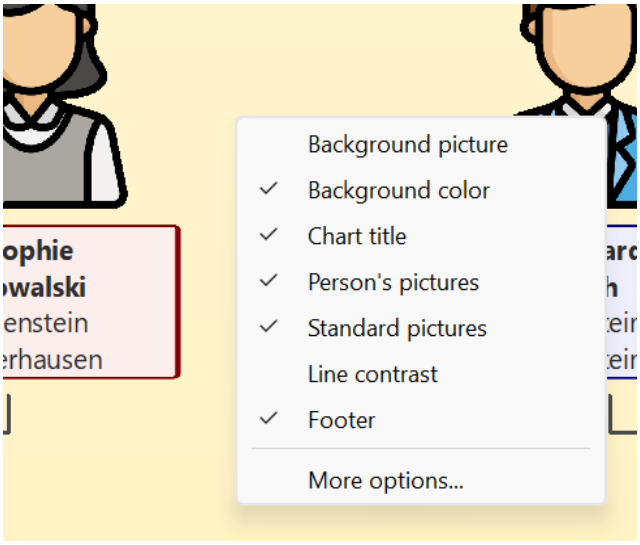
- In the Navigator - By clicking anywhere (not on one of the persons) a reduced context menu appears



- In the toolbar - By clicking at any "free" place



- In the tree chart print preview - By clicking anywhere you can quickly turn some details about the tree chart on or off



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Functions of the menu bar

File

Edit

View

Create

Search

Extras

Tools

Language

?

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File

New

Open...

Add...

Save

Save as...

Search...

Import report...

Properties...

Send as email...

Printer setup...

Exit

If you go to **Extras / Options... [General]** you can set up that between the menu entries "Save as..." and "Exit" the 5 most recently opened Ahnenblatt files are shown, which can be opened directly with a click on the mouse.

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New

Closes an ancestor file (if one is open) and opens a dialog in which you can provide birth name, first name, and gender of a first person in a new file.
After that, the full input dialog will be shown to enter further personal data.

A small guide to filling out this dialog can be found at **How to start typing in the family data?**.

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Open...

Opens a family file.

The following formats are supported:

- **Ahnenblatt file (*.ahn):** Ahnenblatt native file format
- **GEDCOM file (*.ged):** An international standard for genealogy files, supported by nearly all genealogy software programs. GEDCOM versions 7.0 and earlier are supported.
- **GEDZIP file (*.gdz):** A file format based on GEDCOM 7 that stores data and embedded files together in a single file.
- **CSV file (*.csv):** A file format that contains table values and is available as a file format in almost all spreadsheet programs. The table values are separated by special separators (Semicolon, Comma or Tabulator). More Information on how to use it can be found at**How to import data from a Spreadsheet?**.
- **Backup File (*.bak):** When a file is saved, an existing file of the same name is renamed, and the .bak ending is added. Thus, you can still go back to the version before the last save.

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Add...

Adds a family file to the already opened file.

If duplicate persons are identified, the program will ask whether these persons should be automatically merged. This function can also be called manually afterwards (see **Edit/Merge Persons...**).

The file to be added can be in the Ahnenblatt file format (*.ahn) or GEDCOM format (*.ged).

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Save

Saves a family file in Ahnenblatt format (*.ahn). Original file name remains unchanged.

If the persons have not been saved yet, the program will ask for a file name to be used.

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Save as...

Saves a family file using a new file name.

Compared to the function **Save**, you can choose between multiple file formats.

The following formats are available:

- **Ahnenblatt file (*.ahn):** Ahnenblatt native file format
- **GEDCOM file (*.ged):** An international standard for genealogy files, ideal as a file format for sharing data with other genealogists, since it is supported by many genealogy programs. Ahnenblatt creates GEDCOM files in version 5.51, which is currently the most widely used version.
- **GEDZIP file (*.gdz):** A file format based on GEDCOM 7 that stores both data and embedded files together in a single file.
- **GEDCOM file with options:** Opens a dialog box where you can specify the output format (GEDCOM 5.5.1, GEDCOM 7.0, or GEDZIP 7.0) and restrictions (privacy, confidential data, tasks, notes, sources, media, and more). This can be helpful if, for example, you have stored personal research notes in the notes section that you do not want to share. There is also a “Specifics” option that addresses features unique to Ahnenblatt that are not recognized by other programs anyway. You can see what data this refers to by hovering your mouse over the information icon. Selecting individuals is not intended here. It is better to do this via “Delete Group” or by saving a family tree as an ancestor file.
- **HTML page (*.htm):** Generates an HTML file with all persons and links within the file
- **HTML website (*.htm):** An HTML page of all persons and a separate HTML page for each person in a subdirectory of the same name. If there is an image file called back.jpg in the same directory as the HTML pages, it is used as a background image.
- **TinyTafel (*.tt):** An older and barely used file format that contains only surnames, years and the contact address of the Genealogist. This allows other Genealogists to check whether there are matches between families without revealing detailed personal data. Further information can be found **here**.
- **XML/GEDCOM 6.0 (*.xml):** An XML variant that was intended to be a successor to the GEDCOM format but has very little distribution yet, as the format specifications have only been available as a design suggestion for many years. The entire data is stored (as with GEDCOM). Since it is one of the special features of XML that each XML file needs a document definition file (.dtd), a file called GEDCOM60.dtd is always placed in the target directory.
- **XML/GedML (*.xml):** Another XML variant based on a 1999 design by Michael H. Kay. Uses the same keywords as GEDCOM for the most part - but is so far hardly used. The entire data is stored (as with GEDCOM). Since XML's special features need a document definition file (.dtd), a file called gedml.dtd is always stored in the target directory.
- **CSV file (*.csv):** All personal data is stored as a table in a file format used for spreadsheets

Note: Only when saving in Ahnenblatt format (*.ahn) you can be sure that the family data will also be stored exactly in the form it was entered. The GEDCOM format (*.ged) also stores all data, but when saving, the date entries are converted into GEDCOM's own data type. When opened, a conversion occurs, which can result in minor changes (e.g. additional zeros are added to get double digits for day and month values or information such as "circa 1900" can become an "around 1900").

In case of CSV and XML formats (*.ged, *.csv, *.xml) all data is stored, but specific Ahnenblatt features (e.g. home person in the navigator) can be lost.

When saving in CSV format, you will be notified which data cannot be stored. There is also a more detailed explanation **here** in the help file.

All other file formats are prepared for special purposes, possibly even condensed so that they are not

suitable for re-opening.

When using the two HTML formats, a dialog with further **HTML options** always appears. If files with the file extension .css (Cascading Style Sheets = style templates for the HTML file) are stored in the target directory, a dialog **Select CSS** also appears to select the style template to be used.

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Save in Tiny Tafel format

An outdated file format that was originally intended to compare ancestor data.

Not all details are stored. Only contact details (of the author of the ancestor file, which is asked in a specific dialog) and a list of all family names with a year range of occurrence and the places where the family name occurred.

However, in the absence of programs supporting the file format, the file format has never really gained ground.

More information about the file format is found here: **https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiny_Tafel**

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Save in CSV format

When saving in the CSV format, all individual data (columns) to all persons (lines) is stored.

However, there is usually a message that not all data can be stored, as this data cannot be written in a simple table structure. Since Ahnenblatt can also open CSV files, the message appears to notify you that parts of the data may be lost when the CSV file is re-opened.

For example, the name of the person who created the file (see **File/Properties...**) is not saved. Nor can the home person, on whom the navigator centers when opening the file, be saved.

However, the data mentioned above is not very extensive and can be easily added if necessary.

The data from the place management cannot be stored in the CSV format either. There you can enter data on all places, no matter how often they occur in the Ahnenblatt file. The same applies to the source management data. This data is therefore not "per person".

Therefore, the CSV format can only ever be an "auxiliary format" to check data details from a spreadsheet perspective. To re-read data later or for archiving purposes, the CSV format is unsuitable because it can only contain a part of the data.

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Search...

With this feature, a search for ancestor files can be carried out on your computer.

You can choose which types of files to search for (Ahnenblatt file, GEDCOM file, backup file).

The search starts with the "Start" button. Since searching through all the files on the computer can take some time, you can end the search process at any time with the button "Stop" (especially makes sense, when the searched file has already been found).

In the end, you can open the desired file (= the marked line) directly from the dialog using the "open file" button.

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Import report...

This feature is only available if the opened family file is a GEDCOM file or a CSV file. Details of the file are shown in a dialog. This can be of particular interest when opening a GEDCOM file that was not created with Ahnenblatt.

The dialog is divided into the following areas, which are only visible when necessary:

- **General:** Shows, among other things, the number of imported persons or the character encoding of a GEDCOM file
- **Other:** Shows specifics, such as missing a creator in a GEDCOM file

The dialog can also be shown automatically after loading a GEDCOM file by selecting the "GEDOM report after import" option (please go to **Extras / Options... [General]**).

The import report can be saved in the text format via "Save..."

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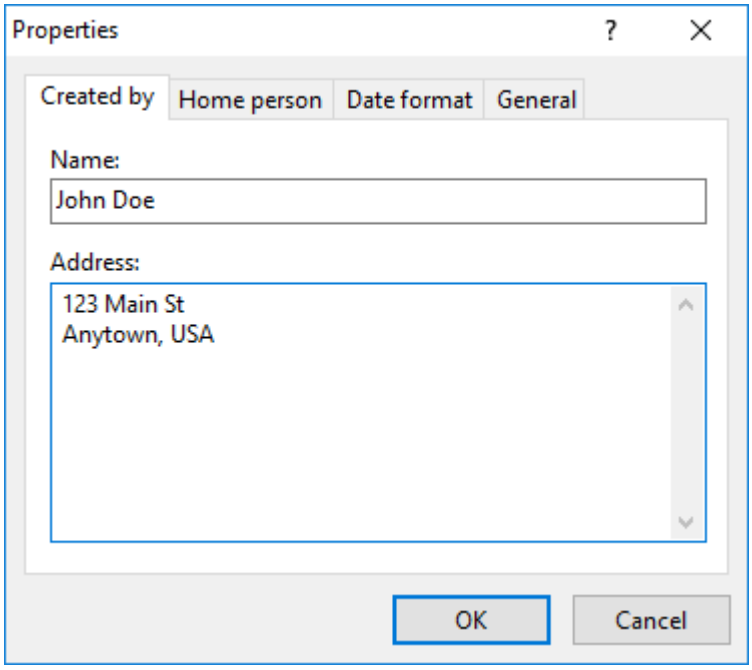
Properties...

This menu item is available as soon as data has been entered or a file has been loaded.

Created by



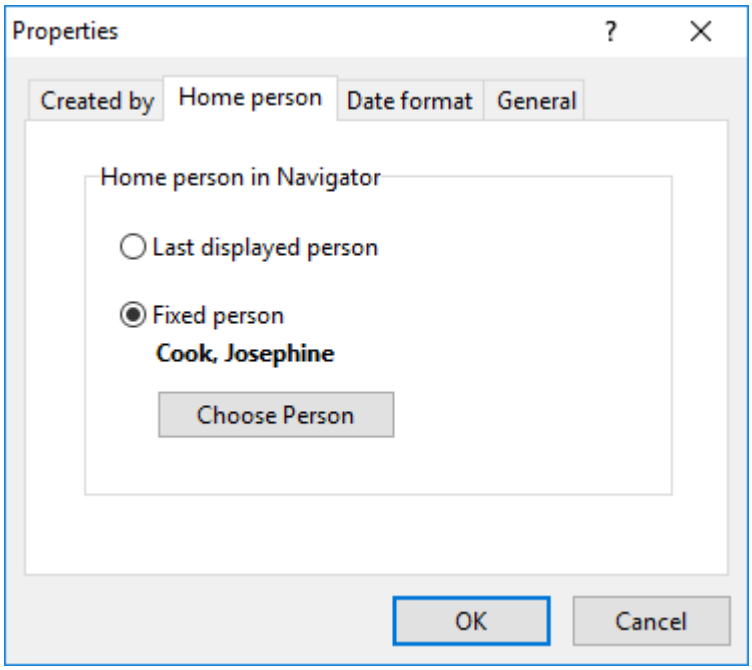
Enter your name and address under "Created by". This information is stored in an Ahnenblatt file or GEDCOM file (mandatory in a GEDCOM file) and displays the creator when the file is shared with other people.

This information can also be included in lists and HTML exports so that the author of the family data is known (in dialogs as "creator").

A special feature is the placeholder $DATE, which is replaced in printouts and exports by the current date. The placeholder can appear anywhere in any line (e.g. "State of research: $DATE").

Note: If an e-mail address is mentioned within the address, it becomes a mail link within an HTML export.

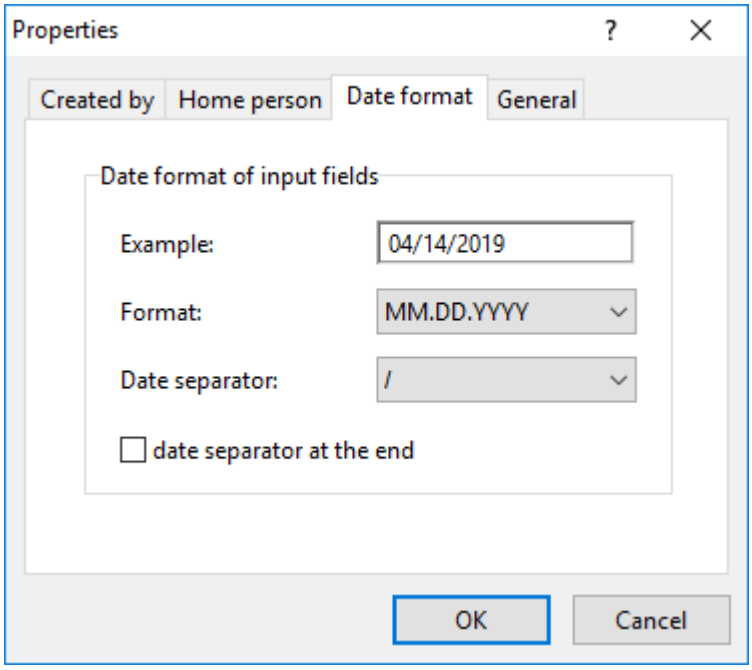
Home person



Determines the person who is displayed centrally in the navigator after loading an Ahnenblatt file. For GEDCOM files, this information is not stored. In this case, the "home person" is always determined by automatically (the first person, where the navigator is filled as completely as possible, will be chosen as home person).

When "Last displayed person" is selected, the person who was shown in the center before saving an Ahnenblatt file is always shown centrally.

Date format



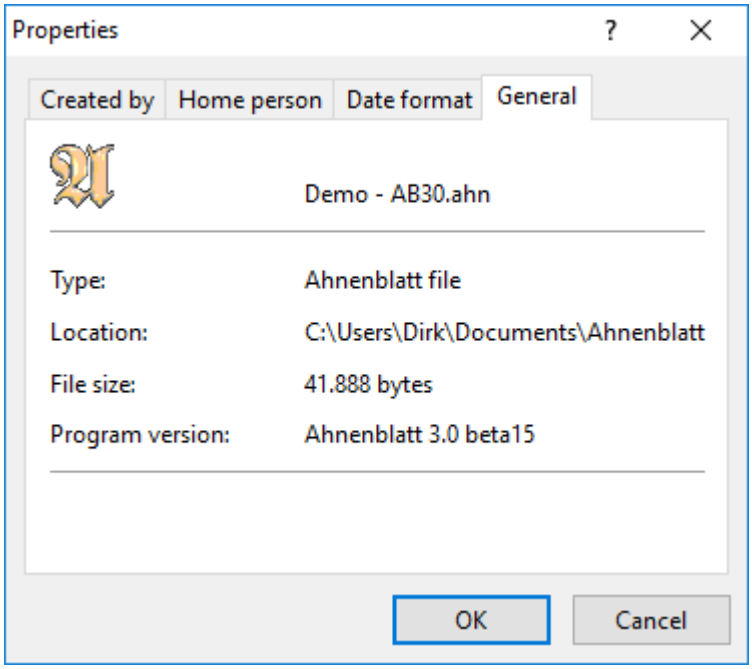
Ahnenblatt uses pure text format in all date fields. For certain functions (sorting family, integrity check, saving as GEDCOM, ...), Ahnenblatt must be able to interpret these fields.

How to interpret the given date can be configured here. The date format that is set in Windows is used as default, which is then stored together with the Ahnenblatt file.

The chosen date format is also used for an integrity check. In this example, it checks, if all date fields have

been used in the format "MM/DD/YYYY".

General



Displays some general information about the file that is currently loaded.

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Send as email...

Opens a send dialog of the standard email program set up on the computer. The file loaded in Ahnenblatt is attached to the email as a file attachment. It enables you to easily send your family file directly out of Ahnenblatt to a genealogist friend.

If changes have been made in the family data, you will be asked to save it before sending the email.

If there is an error message, it may be because the email program must be started manually.

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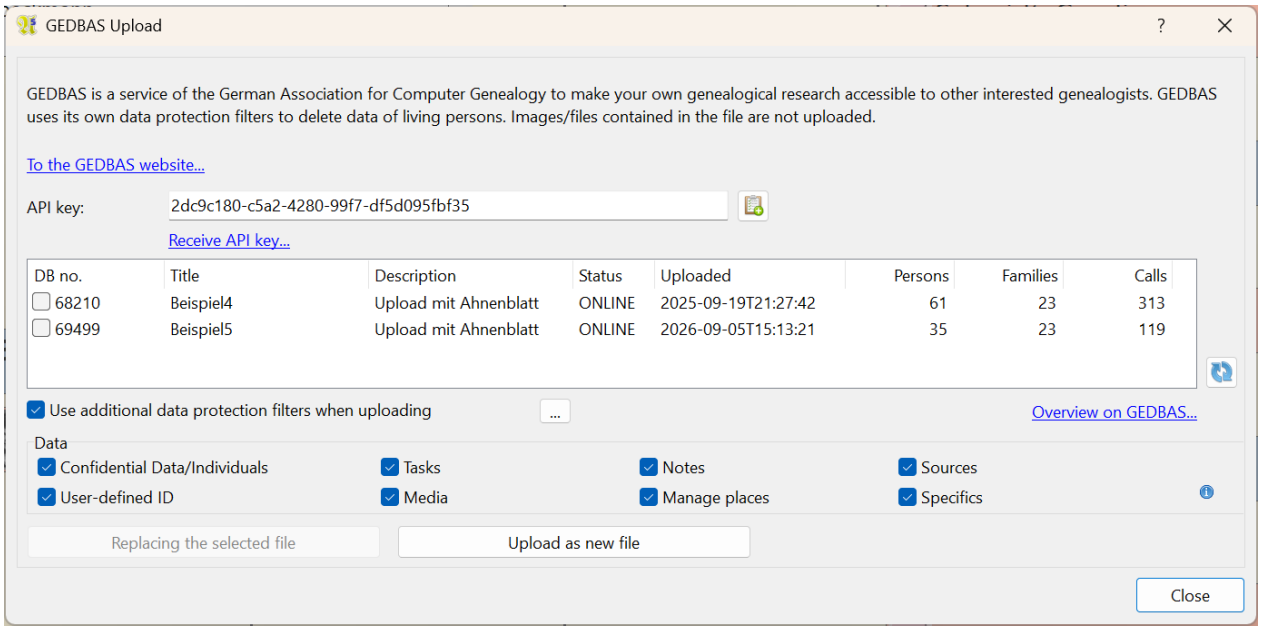
Upload to GEDBAS...

GEDBAS is a free service of the German Association for Computer Genealogy. It is also available to non-members after registration and login.

You can upload your own data as a GEDCOM file, which can then be viewed and searched by other genealogists. GEDBAS uses its own data protection filter and removes living persons. Images/files are not part of a GEDCOM file and cannot be uploaded.



The blue text underlined in the dialog box are web links and open in your web browser when clicked.

To upload data to GEDBAS yourself, you need a personal API key. You can obtain this by clicking "Get API Key...". Then log in on the corresponding website and copy the displayed API key to the clipboard. To the right of the input field in Ahnenblatt, there is a button to paste the API key from the clipboard.

Either immediately or, at the latest, after clicking the Update icon (far right), you'll see a list of your previously uploaded files.

You can either replace or update a file that has already been uploaded (to do so, check the box next to the corresponding table row first) or upload a new file. The file loaded in Ahnenblatt will be used for this.

Optionally, you can use Ahnenblatt's privacy filter to exclude living individuals. This results in fewer people being uploaded—while the GEDBAS filter removes all data for living individuals (hence the difference in the number of people between the two options). You can also use the data selection options to exclude specific data from the upload.

By default, when uploading a new file, Ahnenblatt uses the filename as the title and includes a reference to Ahnenblatt in the description. The "Overview on GEDBAS..." link provides access to additional functions, allowing you to change the title and description later or even delete files. It is also possible to allow other users to download the GEDBAS-filtered GEDCOM file.

Double-clicking on a file row opens a browser window directly with more detailed information about that file and its editing functions.

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Printer setup...

A dialog appears in which special printer settings can be made. These include...

- **Printer:** When the program starts, the standard printer is always specified here, but can also be changed here
- **Paper:** Determines the size of the paper used depending on the capabilities of the selected printer
- **Format/orientation:** Portrait or landscape format

Other printer settings, such as margins, can be found under **Extras / Options... [Print]**.

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Exit

Ends the program. If changes have been made in the current family file, you will be asked whether these should be saved.

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Edit

New person...

Go to...

Delete group...

Integrity check

Go to entry with error

Watch list...

Adjust data...

Sort family

Merge persons...

Manage places...

Manage sources...

Manage tasks...

Manage addresses...

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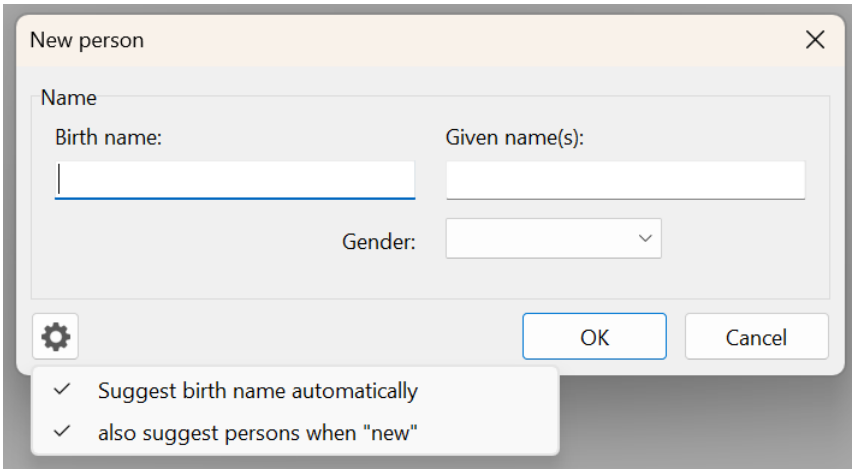
New Person...

Because you create new related persons in the input dialog or the navigator, this feature should only be used for persons who are not related to any of the persons already entered.

A notification appears when you call this function.
After that, a dialog opens up in which you enter a birth name, first name, and gender.



Clicking the "gear icon" reveals two options that apply generally to this input dialog.
First, if possible, a maiden name may be suggested. For example, when adding children, the father's maiden name would already be entered in the child's "Maiden Name" field. It may be advisable to disable this option in general if the birth name is not automatically taken from the father.
Second, there is the option here not to always create every "supposedly" new person as a new entry, but to first search among the already entered persons for those with the same name and optionally suggest them. This option can be helpful when transcribing church records or civil registry documents where you repeatedly return to previously entered individuals to enter a different event.

Only when this dialog is closed with "OK" does an empty "complete" entry dialog appear, in which a person's events can be entered.

A small guide to filling out the input dialog can be found at "**How to start typing in the family data?**".

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Go to...

With this feature, a person can be selected directly as central person in the navigator.

If the option "Open input dialog" is selected, the input dialog of the selected person will also be opened immediately.

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Delete group...

This feature can be used to delete an entire group of persons.

The following selection criteria are available:

- **Search for...:** A search dialog appears like "**Search / Find...**", where the selection of persons to be deleted is determined.
- **Direct Ancestors of...:** All direct ancestors of a person (parents, grandparents, ...)
- **All Ancestors of...:** All ancestors of a person, not only parents, grandparents, ... but also their siblings and other spouses
- **Direct Descendants of...:** All direct descendants of a person (children, grandchildren, ...)
- **All Descendants of...:** All descendants of a person, not only children, grandchildren, ... but also their siblings, other spouses and hence, their parents
- **Relatives of...:** A person's relatives (children, parents, siblings, partners) up to a "maximum search depth"
- **Individual selection:** Shows all persons to choose from, from which the persons to be deleted can be selected

All persons to whom the selection criterion applies ("Normal selection") or to whom it does not apply ("Inverted selection") can be deleted.

The persons to be deleted are always displayed before the actual deletion occurs.

If, after deleting persons, you save the file using '**File / Save as...**" and choose a new file name, this feature can be used to divide ancestor files.

Created with the Standard Edition of HelpNDoc: Make Your PDFs More Secure with Encryption and Password Protection

Integrity check

This feature checks every person for logical errors. These can be references to partners who do not have a corresponding reference as well. Same applies for lack of reference in siblings and children/parents, etc. Furthermore, the dates are checked, so that, for example, the birth of a person must always be before death, a birth before baptism, etc.

If errors are found, a list of all defective persons and an error description will appear. From here, a person can then be selected to correct the errors.

If no error is detected, a short message will be shown.

In the options section, "**Extras / Options... [Integrity check**]", integrity check settings can be made, which can also be accessed directly via the "Options..." button.

The full report of the integrity check can be saved in text format by using the "Save..." function.

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Go to entry with error

Also conducts an integrity check (see **Integrity check**), but does not display a list of all errors, it immediately goes to the first person with an error and allows you to correct it.

If no error is detected, a short message will be shown.

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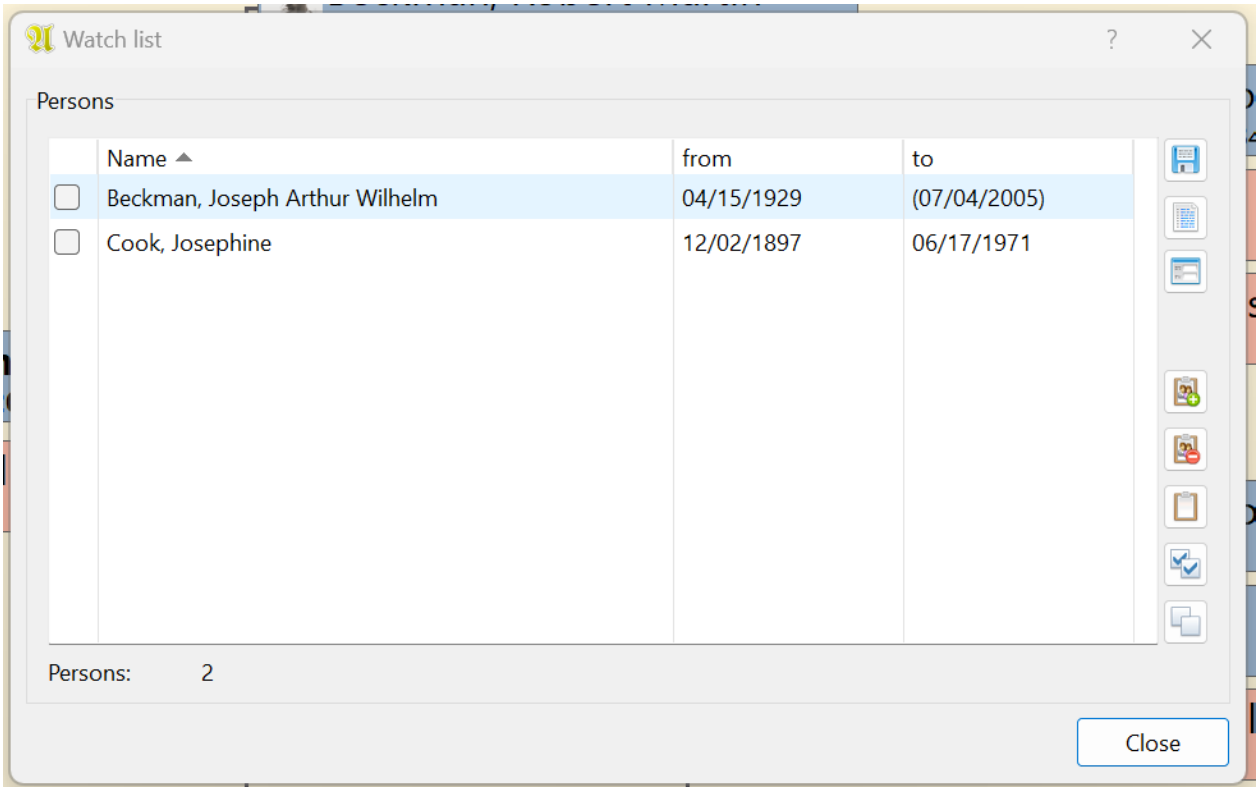
Watch list...

The watch list allows you to add individual persons or groups of persons to a list with which you can implement certain functions.

Individual persons can be added to the watch list in the Navigator (right mouse button on a person box, then "Add to watch list") or in the input dialog (via the "Add person to watch list/Remove person from watch list" button).

You can add groups of people from the Show islands... dialog, the Plausibility check dialog or the watch list.



If people are on the watch list, they are also offered for selection when creating charts or lists. Two individual persons are added to the watch list and can be selected when creating a "Relationship line" chart.

In the watch list, you can save the person group of the watch list as a new ancestor file, create person sheets for these persons or call up the persons as a closed person group in the input dialog.

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Adjust data...

This function allows data changes to be made across all persons entered.

- **Remove leading/following spaces:** Removes spaces that were accidentally entered. These spaces can lead to unwanted results. Manually, such spaces would be very hard to find.
- **Unify date fields to short format:** Corrects dates to the operating system predetermined short format (i.e., MM/DD/YYYY)
- **Remove commas in all name parts:** Sometimes, GEDCOM files contain commas to separate multiple first names that can be removed retrospectively with this function
- **Birth names:** Allows changing all birth names to 'Upper and lower case (Example)', or 'Only upper case (EXAMPLE)'.

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Sort family

Even if they are always sorted alphabetically when entering new persons, this function also sorts the siblings, partners, and children according to their dates of birth.

The following sorting rules apply:

- **Siblings:** Sorting the siblings by date of birth or, if not present, by date of baptism. All siblings without

date of birth and date of baptism are put to the end of the list.

- **Marriages:** Sorting the partners by the wedding date. The partners without a wedding date are put to the end of the list.
- **Children:** Sorting of children by date of birth or, if not present, by date of baptism. Another sorting criterion is the order of marriage to the second parent. All children with no date of birth and baptism and no clear reference to any of the marriages are put to an end of the list.

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Merge persons...

Merging persons means recognizing duplicate persons and merging them into one person.

Ahnenblatt performs this task as automatically as possible so that even with a large number of duplicate persons, the effort is small.

This happens in three phases:

- **Find double persons:** You'll see all the duplicate pairs of persons that Ahnenblatt automatically found. Those persons who have the same birth names and the same first names and also have an event date in common (birthday, date of death, baptism, ...). In front of each pair, a checkbox is set by default, which can also be taken away by clicking. When merging, only the pairs marked with a checkbox are considered. Furthermore, more pairs can manually be added using the "Add..." button. The merge is then started by the "Start" button.

  The option "merge even unequal events into one same named event if possible" merges unequal contents (e.g. date, place, ...) of the same events (e.g. birth) with a semicolon (";"). This often simplifies postprocessing - instead of merging two independent, similar events back into one.

- **Merging the persons:** Not only the multiple entries of persons are merged, but also the direct relatives. If two persons are the same, then their parents, children, and siblings must also be the same. The personal data is brought together "intelligently" by Ahnenblatt. If a person has entered a date of birth and no date of death, but no date of birth is entered in the persons' second entry, then the merged person has both dates of birth and death as a result. If different contents are in the same data fields, then both the data is used, separated by a semicolon ";" (e.g. "Brussels; Bruxelles").

  In the "merge" dialog, the result is then displayed in three tabs:

  "Merged" lists the persons merged, with the number in square brackets showing the number of mergers for each person (1 = two persons were merged, 2 = three persons were merged, ...).

  "Not merged" lists all individuals who have not been merged.

  "Still to check" are persons where data fields with different content have been merged. These persons still require manual editing. You can get directly to the person to be examined by clicking on the "Check..." button (it can only be clicked if the person really needs to be manually edited).

  With the button "Save..." you can store the details of all three tabs in a text file for future review or print.

- **Postprocessing:** If you click the button "Check..." to access the person who needs editing, this person is shown as a "closed" group of persons (if the button is not clickable, then nothing must be edited). With the arrow keys in the input dialog, you can jump to the next or previous person that needs editing. This corresponds to a search across all data fields for the search text " ; " (space semicolon space). This does not force you to carry out the post-processing immediately. You can save the new family and continue the post-processing later. Later, the list of persons to be edited can be accessed again by clicking the function "Edit / Merge persons...", then "Start" (even if no duplicates are shown) and then in the following dialog, click "Check...".

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eBook with HelpNDoc

Manage places...

The “Manage places …” settings can be accessed either directly from the menu ("Edit / Manage places …") or from the toolbar ("Places"). In addition, a small dialog symbol can be found in the personal input dialog behind each place field. By clicking this symbol, you can get right to the “Manage places …” settings.

In the “Manage places …” settings you can add …

- Data (short name, ZIP code, state/region, county/district, country, GOV identifier)
- Note (as free text)
- Sources (as free text)
- Media (pictures/files)
- Coordinates

... to every place.

Under the "Person" tab you can find the persons where the place occurs. By clicking on a person, you can jump directly to that specific person.

It is also possible to rename a place in the “Place Name” field. This change can then be applied to all persons who have a corresponding place entry.

It is also possible to merge the data of two places by renaming a place. Just change it to the name of another existing place.

The "add place" button (“plus” sign) can create a new place that does not yet appear in the Ahnenblatt file.

You can also delete individual locations and "remove unused locations"—that is, locations that aren't used by any person.

Under the “Coordinates” tab, you can not only enter location coordinates manually, but also paste them from the clipboard (e.g., copied from a website) or search for them online using the name. For the latter option, a new dialog box opens listing possible locations found based on the place name, which you can then select. These can then be applied directly.

If you have entered data for one place and you want to enter data for other places, you do not have to close the dialog with "OK" every time, but simply click on the next place in the list of places. The data is automatically saved.

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Manage sources...

Source management can be accessed directly from either the menu ("Edit / Manage sources...") or from the toolbar ("Sources").

The source management shows only the sources that have been explicitly added (in a person's input dialog) or that are found in multiple persons or events (by copying a source).

In source management, you can add …

- Title, author and publication
- Citation
- Note
- Media (pictures/files)

... to every source.

Under the "Persons" tab are the persons with the respective source. By clicking on a person, you can jump directly to a specific person.

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Manage tasks...

Task management can be accessed directly from either the menu ("Edit / Manage tasks...") or from the toolbar ("Tasks") and shows all tasks across all persons. This gives you an overview of which tasks are already in the works or which tasks have which priority.

Ahnenblatt only allows tasks related to specific persons that can be created directly in a person's input dialog. No tasks can be created in the task management itself, hence it cannot be accessed without a created task.

In task management, you can add ...

- Name, priority, and status
- Note

... to every task.

At the right edge of the dialog there are buttons (symbols) with the following functions:

- **Select shown tasks:** The tasks shown can be filtered if, for example, you want to hide tasks that have already been completed
- **Edit person:** Open the input dialog of the selected person and switch to the task tab
- **Create task list:** jumps directly to the dialogue for creating a task list
- **Delete selected task:** Deletes the marked task

At the bottom left of the dialog, you can always see the total number of tasks.

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Manage addresses...

Address management can either be accessed directly from the menu ("Edit / Manage addresses...") or from the toolbar ("Addresses") and shows all addresses of all persons.
Addresses are the events "place of residence" of all persons who have been assigned either individually or to a partnership.

Ahnenblatt only allows personal addresses that can be created directly in a person's input dialog. No addresses can be created in the address management itself, so it cannot be accessed without a registered address (resp. event/fact "place of residence").

In address management, you can add ...

- Address, Place, Zip code, State/Region and Country
- Telephone, Mail, Fax, Internet
- Date/Period, Place
- Notes (free text)

... to every address.

At the right edge of the dialog there are symbols with the following functions:

- **Edit person:** Open the input dialog of the selected person
- **Delete selected address:** Deletes the marked address
- **Add address:** Creates an event "place of residence" in the selected person or partnership

At the bottom left of the dialog, you can always see the total number of addresses.

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View

Toolbar

Go to home person

Go to start person of color coding

Shortened persons text

Show given names first

Show main name only

Life data: year only

Show profile pictures

Change Navigator color...

Print Navigator

Set color coding

Remove color coding

Hide picture

Copy persons text

Set input mode...

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Toolbar

Here the appearance of the toolbar can be changed (also accessible via right mouse button in the toolbar – see **helpful context menus**).

- **Large icons** - Changes the size of the icons in the toolbar
- **Icon text** - Show/hide the icons text in the toolbar
- **Customize...** - Shows a dialog that allows the selection of the icons to be displayed in the toolbar

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Go to home person

Displays the home person as the central person in the navigator.

This menu item can only be selected if a home person has been set.

The home person can be selected in the settings – Go to**File / Properties... [home person]**.

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Go to start person of color coding

Displays the start person of the color coding as the central person in the navigator.

This menu item can only be selected if color coding has been activated.

Color coding can be activated and deactivated via the color bucket icon in the navigator.

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Shortened persons text

This option allows the text of the current home person to be shortened in the navigator. If a lot of data, notes, and sources about a person have been entered, a full view can be confusing.

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Show given names first

This can be used to determine whether given names or the birth names will be shown first in the navigator.

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Show main name only

This can be used to not show all given names, but only the main name (name normally used).

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Life data: year only

By deactivating this function, the life data within the person boxes in the Navigator will no longer be reduced to the years only.

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Show profile pictures

This can be used to deactivate and reactivate the display of profile pictures in the Navigator. These are displayed by default in each person box on the left-hand side.

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Change Navigator color...

Brings a selection dialog to select the color of the navigator background.

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Print Navigator

Prints the displayed navigator directly and side-filling to the currently set printer (without a print preview).

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Markdown Documents

Set color coding

This allows predefined colors to be assigned to direct ancestors and descendants based on the central person in the Navigator. These are displayed in the Navigator, but can also be displayed in tables.

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Remove color coding

This allows you to remove assigned colors that are displayed in the Navigator.

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Hide picture

In certain circumstances, it may be useful to suppress the display of a picture in the navigator (for example when picture files are too large and take too long to display).

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Copy persons text

Copy the person text of the current central person to the clipboard. After that, the text can be inserted into other programs (e.g. word processing or email program).

This feature can also be accessed with the key combination Ctrl+C.

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Set input mode...

The input mode determines the complexity of the input dialog.

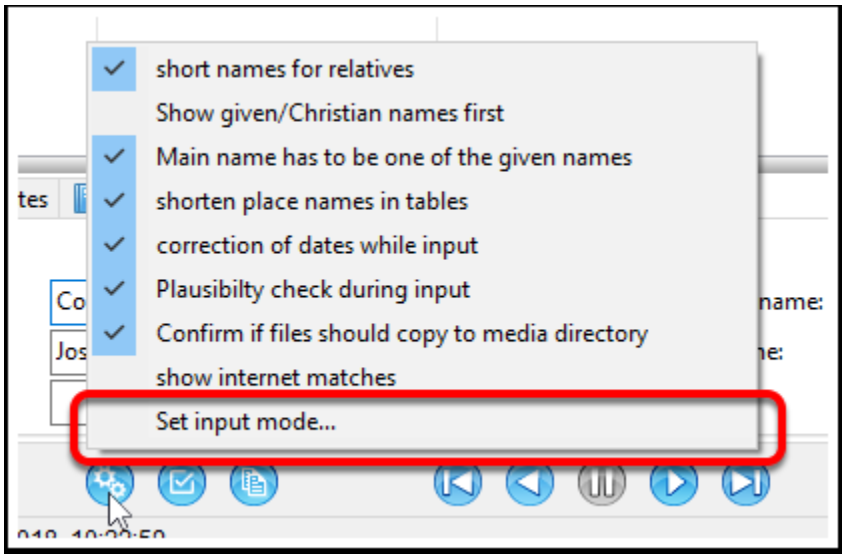
There are various input modes to select from. Beginners can choose a simple mode to start with simple family data. Experienced Genealogists can choose a more complex mode that allows entry of detailed data such as source information and many different individual events.

The following input modes are available:

- **Complete:** It provides the greatest depth of detail, i.e. most tabs and most input fields, as well as adding new events
- **Simple:** Offers the best clarity, with only standard events for each person. Additional detail buttons can be used to add more details to events. However, new (non- standard) events cannot be added
- **Read-only:** Only the resume in the input dialog is offered-the input dialog is a "read-only dialog".

You can switch between input modes at any time. This can be done in the main menu "View/set input mode...", in the options menu in the input dialog (look for the gear icon) or the shortcut Ctrl + I.

Even if less data is displayed in the input dialog by changing the input mode, no data is deleted. So if you have already entered more details and switch to the input mode "Simple", certain data may no longer be displayed-but the data is still available and, if necessary, can be seen and edited when switching to "complete".



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Create

List...

Chart...

Book...

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List...

Creates a list for printing or exporting.

The following lists are available:

- **Ancestor list** (sorted by metrics or family tree) with other **Options**
- **Descendant list** (married persons in an appendix, in text or not shown - Descendants "male only", "same name" or "all")
- **Family list** (alphabetical or chronological)
- **Event list** (sorting months/years, events, living/deceased/all, places)
- **Person sheets** (with/ without pictures)
- **List of places** (family names/personal names/events, with/without place details)
- **List of names** (with/ without year figures and relevant places)
- **Fact list** (with a selection of facts, details, and completeness)
- **Task list** (with options for filtering and sorting)
- **Top ancestors** (limit generations)
- **Descendants line** (optional siblings included)
- **Maternal line** (optional siblings included)
- **Ancestor score** (summed, colored)
- **Godparents** (chronological baptisms, alphabetically baptized/godparents)
- **Witnesses of marriage** (chronological, alphabetical groom/bride/groomsmen)
- **Causes or death** (chronological, alphabetical person/cause of death, frequency)
- **Addresses** (sorted by persons or addresses, optional only last address and living persons only)
- **Sources** (sorted by persons or sources)

- **History of changes** (sorted by change time or persons)
- **Statistics descendants:** tabular statistics of a person's descendants (options: personal data, colored)
- **Religions** (with options "Alphabetically" and "Frequency")

Furthermore, the amount of information can be determined, whereby the following can be selected (not for every list):

- **Creator** (for the entire list)
- **Notes** (for each person)
- **Sources** (for each person)

A page number can optionally be displayed for each list, whereby the page number of the start page can be determined.

The family list also offers the option of filtering by birth name, location and events. These filters can also be combined, e.g. view all births and baptisms in one or more locations.

Once the list to be created is selected, the ancestor list, as well as the descendant list, will be accompanied by a selection dialog in which a person is to be selected. In the ancestor list, this is the person whose ancestors you want to be listed (that is, "the youngest"). In the descendants' list, it is the person whose descendants you want as a list (that is, "the oldest").

After that, a preview of the desired list will appear. You can flip through all the pages, change the presentation size, print the list and export it, i.e. save it as a file.

When exporting, you can choose between the following output file formats:

- **HTML (*.htm):** if there is a website of the same name (see **Save as...**), references will be created, linking to the individuals' files.
- **TeX/LaTex (*.tex):** the traditional text system (especially for Unix)
- **Microsoft Word (*.doc):** the widespread Microsoft text processing
- **RichText Format (*.rtf):** this file format is supported by virtually every word processor program on Windows (but there is no program of its own), such as OpenOffice, LibreOffice, ...
- **Text file (*.txt):** unformatted text information
- **PDF file (*.pdf):** document format to share the list in print quality
- **Ahnenblatt file (*.ahn):** save shown persons in a seperate Ahnenblatt file

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Chart...

Creates a graphical representation of family data for printing.

The following tree charts are available:

- **Ancestor chart:** here you can specify the size of the person’s frames (width in millimeters) and the positioning of the home person (above/below). This prints an ancestor chart that spans over several pages. On the individual pages, aid lines will show where pages need to be bent or cut off and where to glue pages together to get an ancestor chart as a "poster".
- **Descendant chart:** Similar to the ancestor chart but focuses on the oldest family member with all descendants
- **Hourglass:** Shows the ancestors and descendants of a person and is thus a mixture of "ancestor chart" and "descendant chart"
- **Complete kinship:** a chart of the complete relatives of the central person of the navigator (with variants "based on a pedigree chart/family tree")
- **Descendants line:** representation of the male lineage (optional all parents/siblings)

- **Maternal line:** representation of the female lineage (optional all parents/siblings)
- **Oldest ancestor:** representation of the lineage to the oldest ancestor (optional all parents/siblings)
- **Common ancestor:** shows the common ancestor of two persons
- **Relationship:** shows the relationship between two people
- **Ancestor chart (page-based):** Partial charts are created. One per page. For each generation on each page, it is indicated on which page the next (ancestor) generation is shown. This form of representation is ideal if you want to bind it as a book. **Attention:** the size of the individual frames and thus, the font used always depends on the number of generations per page. Since the number of (possible) persons per generation is always doubled (8 persons in the 4th generation, 16 in the 5th), the personal frames are also reduced by half!
- **Fan chart (page-based):** representation of a person's ancestors in the form of an expanded fan. If the starting person has more than the specified number of ancestor generations, these are displayed on subsequent pages. Options can be used to determine the angle of the fan (up to a full circle), the field for the source person/proband (half or full circle), the distances between the circle segments (e.g. to also display wedding dates), round off the corners of the circle segments and hide empty circle segments/fields.
- **Fan chart:** in contrast to the page-based variant, the ancestors can only be displayed on one side, but in any size. The total size is ultimately determined by the diameter of the center circle (where the data of the source person is displayed). In addition to the options of the page-based variant, it is also possible to display the partner and children of the original person.

With the button "Options..." various settings can be made, especially for the selection of the group of persons to be represented under "ancestor chart" and "descendant chart". To simplify the selection, there are predefined scenarios that preoccupy specific options.

The following scenarios can be selected:

Ancestor tree ("variant") or hourglass ("ancestors"):

- **Classic** - Portrayal of the direct ancestors of a person, i.e. Parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, ...
- **Classic with siblings of proband** - The direct ancestors of a person and his siblings
- **School chart [3 generations]** - Contains siblings, their spouses and their children, which then also shows the cousins of the person
- **School chart [4 generations]** - Like the "school chart (3 generations)" supplemented by the direct great-grandparents
- **With all siblings** - Like "classic" but with the siblings of each person (i.e. Also uncles, aunts, great-uncles, great-aunts, ...)
- **Large relationship tree** - Uses all ancestor tree options without the options "further persons"
- **Larger relationship tree** - Uses all ancestor chart options that give as many persons as possible to display
- **Complete relationship tree** - shows all relatives in the same or higher generation as the starting person. This is achieved by doubling people to avoid crossing connection lines.
- **Custom** - Indicates that custom options are selected

Descendants chart ("variant") or hourglass ("descendants"):

- **Classic** - Always shows all children, but only expands the male descendants - thus a representation of only the name bearer of a family
- **Direct descendants** - All children and their children are shown regardless of gender
- **Descendants with spouses** - All descendants and their spouses
- **Large relationship tree** - Uses all family tree options without the options "further persons"
- **Larger relationship tree** - Uses all family tree options to show as many persons as possible
- **Complete relationship tree** - shows all relatives in the same or lower generation as the starting person. This is achieved by doubling people to avoid crossing connection lines.

- **Custom** - Indicates that custom options have been selected

more settings for graphical output, which can be reached directly in the print dialog.

In the "representation" tab:

- **Frames:** A selection of different frame designs
- **Fonts/Heading:** The font size and color is always the same!
- **Fonts/Frames:** Font size depends on the type of text and size of the frames

in the "data" tab:

- **Data/Selection:** Allows a selection of the information to be printed
- **Only main names:** If this option is selected, instead of all first names, only the main name will be printed. This may avoid excessive first name lines, which lead to a reduction of the font of all persons's frames. So if the font in the person's frames is too small, then try this option (which is set by default).
- **Title/prefix:** Prints the title/prefix of a person
- **Birth name first:** This allows you to determine which of the two-name lines (first name, birth name) is displayed first
- **Shorten city names:** The city names only print up to the first comma, semicolon or slash ("Heide/Kreis Dithmarschen" then becomes only "Heide"). This helps to not reduce the font size too much in case of long city names
- **"..." if date is unknown:** Replaces missing dates with three points, which, for example, allows you to see if a person has already passed away (shows "..." instead of a blank)
- **Baptism/funeral instead:** In case of unknown date of birth or death, baptism or funeral dates show instead
- **Years only:** Instead of complete dates, only the year shows
- **With picture:** Prints the first picture of a person above the text - If there is no picture, the frame is empty

Once the desired tree chart has been selected, a selection dialog will appear in which a person is selected. In the ancestor chart, this is the person whose ancestors should be shown in the tree chart (that is, "the youngest").

After that, a preview of the desired tree chart will appear. You can flip through all the pages, change the style and print the tree chart.

An export of the tree charts "poster variants" can be done using the "save" symbol (various graphic formats are available). For large-format charts, the best print quality is in PDF format.

Two tips specifically for "Ancestor chart (page-based)":

Tip 1: In order to make the most of the pages, it is advisable to print the ancestor tree chart in landscape format. This is done in **File / Printer setup...** or in the print preview.

Tip 2: Within the frame of a person, the font may become very small. The size of the font is automatically determined by Ahnenblatt based on the width of the persons' frames and the longest line to print. It can be helpful to only print the main names/ year dates, shorten city texts or increase readability by selecting a different font, Arial is recommended. If even this is not good enough, the number of generations per page should be reduced (for the ancestor tree chart) or the width of the persons' frames should be adjusted (poster variants).

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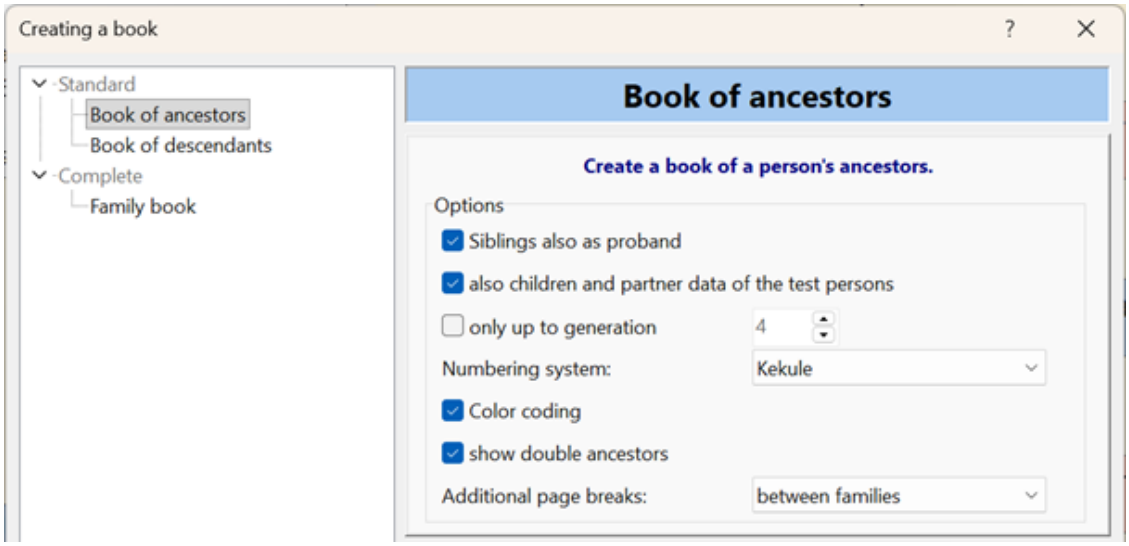
Book...

Books differ from lists in that they have a title page, possibly a foreword and optional indexes (content, places, names, ...). A book also has page numbers throughout.

The following books are available:

Book of ancestors

The ancestors of a person are displayed.

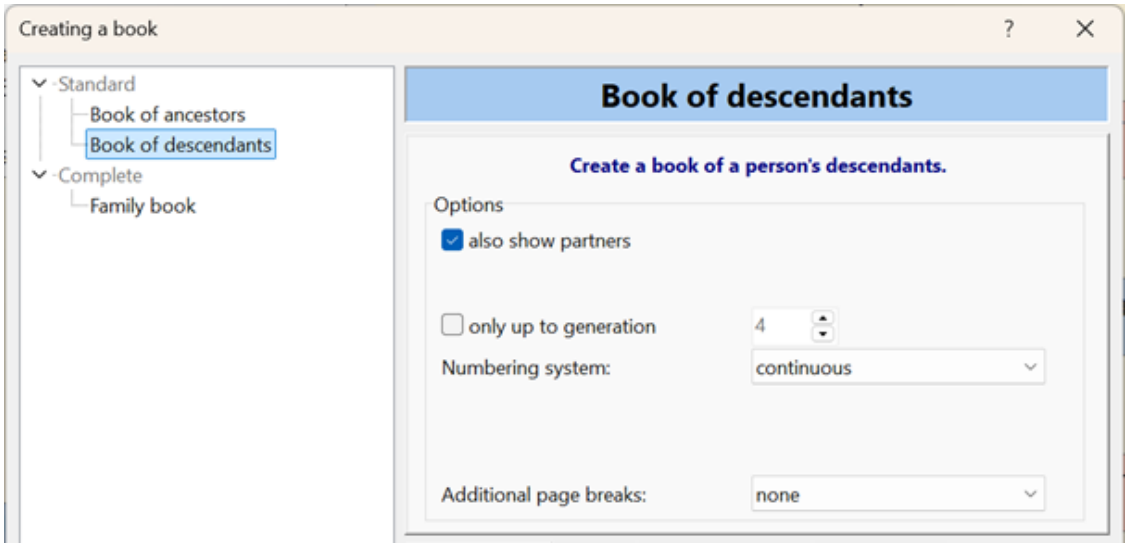


The options specifically for the ancestor book are shown in the upper part of the dialog.

The number of generations listed in the book can be limited. For the numbering system, you can choose between Kekule or continous. If colour coding is active, a colour bar is displayed above each person. Dark blue for the probands, blue for the paternal line, green for the paternal grandmother and her ancestors, red for the maternal line and yellow for the maternal grandmother and her ancestors.
The option "show duplicate ancestors" also lists duplicate persons if there is an ancestor implex or ancestor loss (e.g. if cousins marry, their grandparents are the same and would be mentioned several times). However, this can be annoying if it occurs too often and can bloat the book - therefore it can also be switched off.
Additional page breaks between families or generations can also be added as an option.

Book of descendants

The descendants of a person are shown

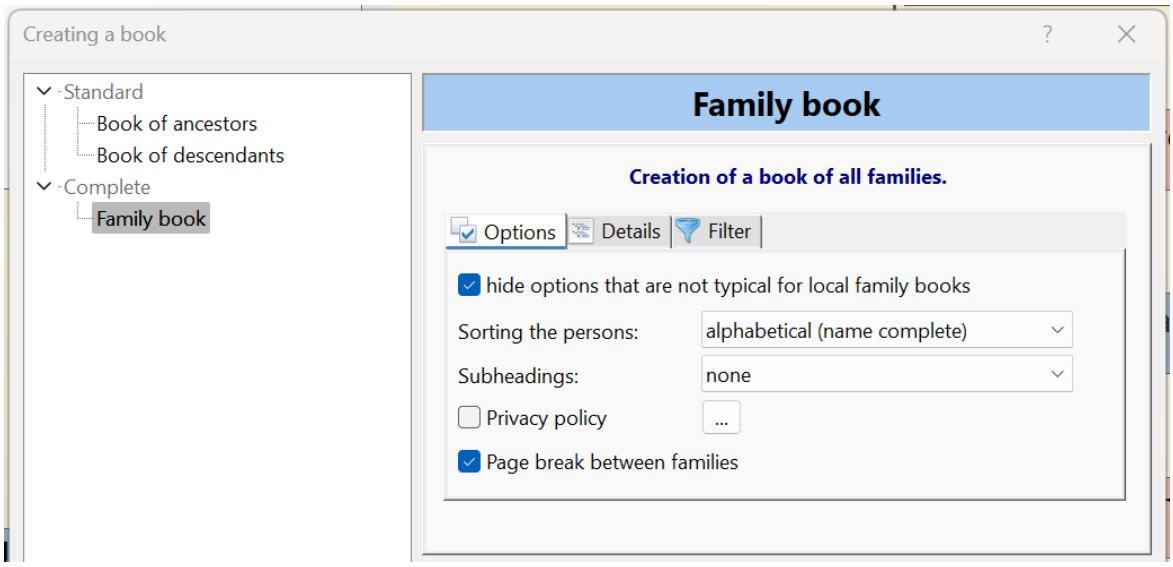


The numbering systems available are "continuous", "Henry", "Henry (modified)", "Saragossa" and "d'Aboville".

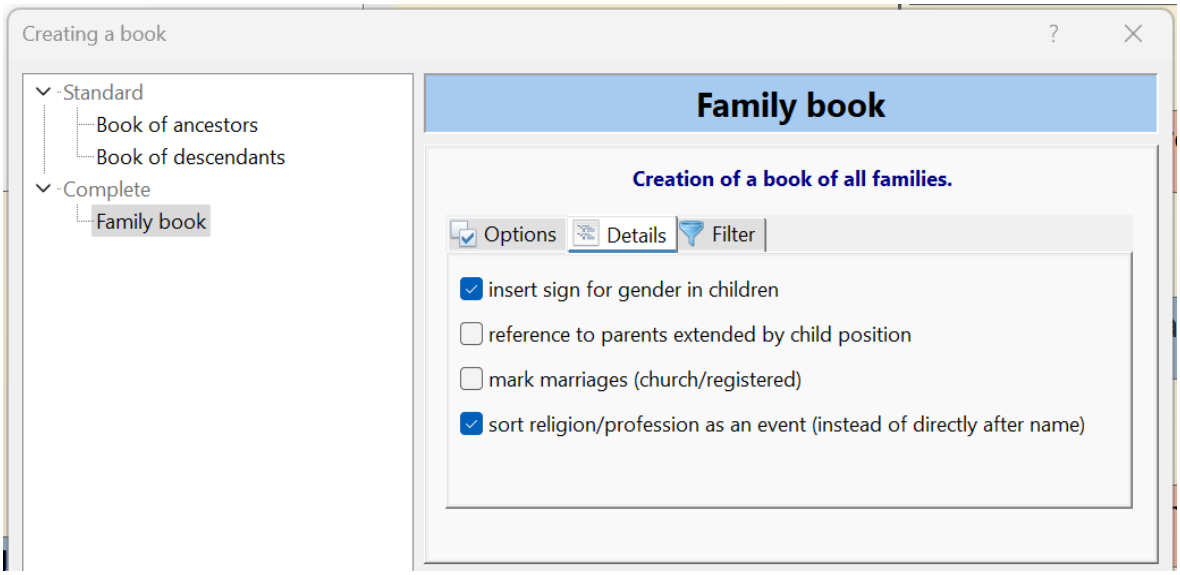
When numbering according to "Henry", the starting person is numbered with "1" and the child position is added for each additional generation (e.g. the second child is "12", the fourth child of "12" is then "124"). For more than 9 children, letters are inserted. For "Henry (modified)", no letters are used, but numbers in brackets (e.g. "12(11)4"). For "Saragossa" and "d'Aboville", separators are inserted between the generations, i.e. after Saragossa "1", "1.2" and "1.2.4" and d'Aboville with a leading letter for the generation "A1", "B1.2" and "C1.2.4".
Additional page breaks between families or generations can also be added as an option.

Family book

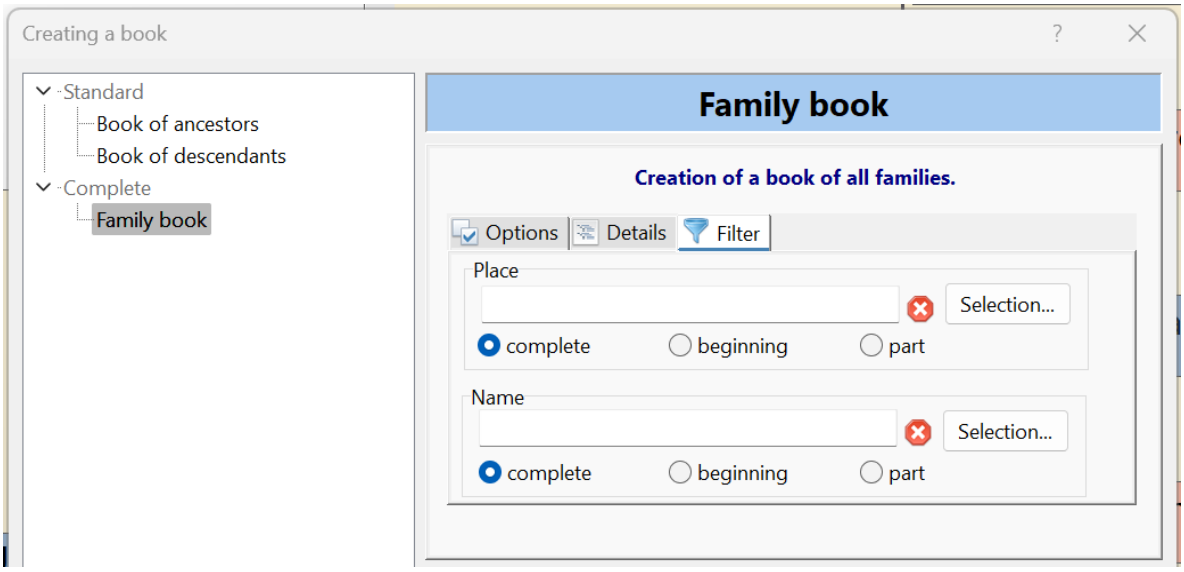
A book about all persons.



The option "Hide options atypical for local family books" hides certain options in the lower part of the dialog, the options for all books. These include the options "Family charts", "Pictures" (incl. sub-options) and "Monochrome" under "Representation", as well as "Sources" and "Occupations" under "Directories". Sources are then shown with their title directly in the text. When "Sorting persons", you can sort according to the complete first and last name of the persons or chronologically within the family names, i.e. the oldest person first. If "Privacy policy" is activated, persons who are not yet deceased or whose death is still within a blocking period are hidden. The "..." button takes you to the corresponding data protection options.



The option "insert sign for gender in children" means that a symbol for male/female appears directly after the name in the list of children. This means that the gender is also visible for old and nowadays uncommon first names. The option "reference to parents extended by child position" adds the child position in angle brackets directly after the name when referring to the parents. A reference "<24>" to the family with the number 24 then becomes "<24.3>" (3rd child of family 24) or even "<24.II.3>" (3rd child from second marriage of family 24). With the option "mark marriages (civil/church)", an "(s)" (for civil) or a "(k)" (for church) is added after each marriage symbol. This is not always necessary if the family register only contains persons before the introduction of civil registries (approx. 1875). The option "sort religion/profession as an event (instead of after the name)" allows the two events mentioned to appear between a person's baptism and death. They are treated as events - less like facts about the person.

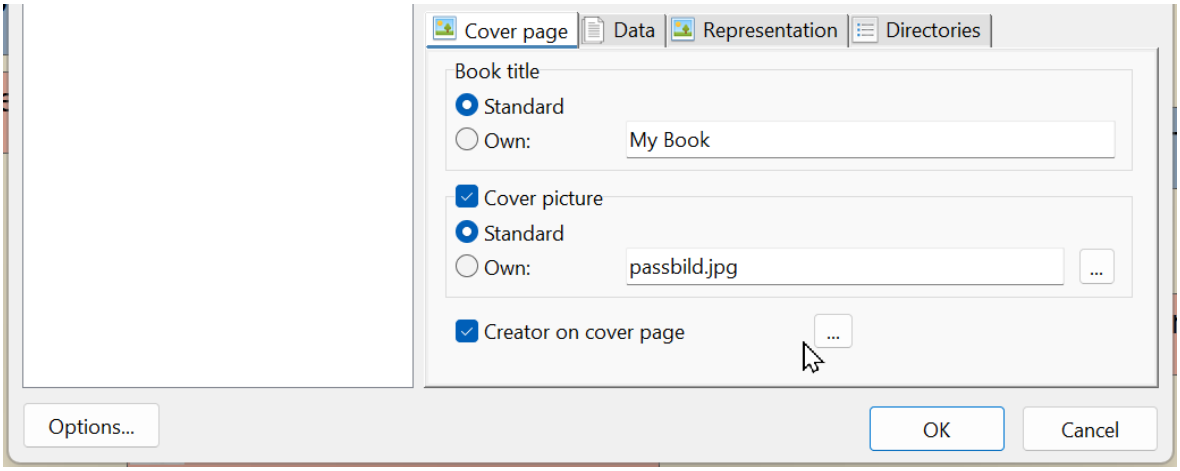


Under the "Filter" tab, you can restrict the persons displayed to certain places or birth names. You can choose between "complete" (text must correspond completely to the name/place), "beginning" (only the beginning of the word must be the same - e.g. "York" then also allows "New York") or "part" (the named term must appear somewhere - e.g. "Jon" then also allows "Jonsson").

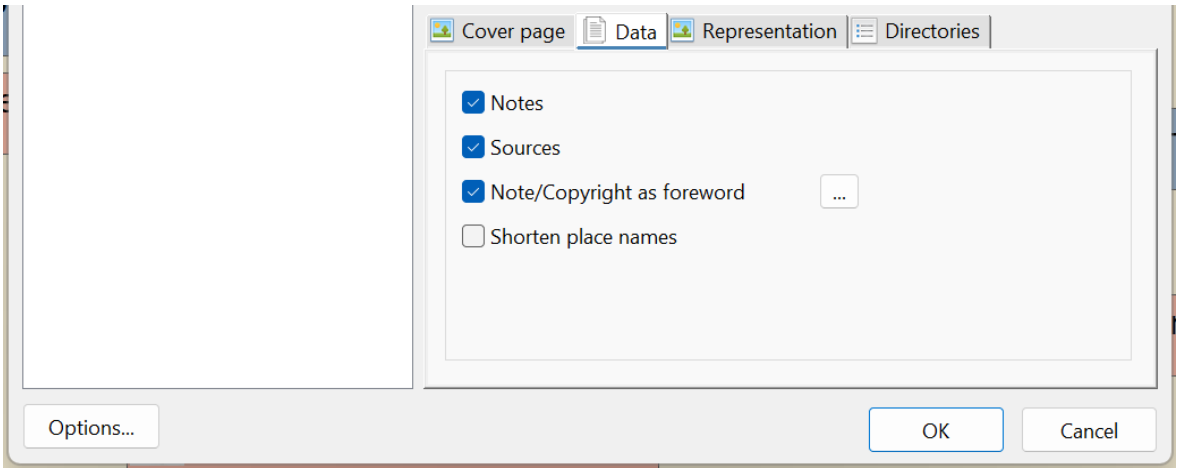
The filter for the city also has additional functions. If a place name is entered, the output is called "Local family book xxx" (instead of "Family book"), a page with place information is inserted (for place "xxx", if information or pictures are inserted in the place management for this place) and the place "xxx" does not appear in the place index (as it is assumed that only persons with reference to this place appear in the book).

Options for all books

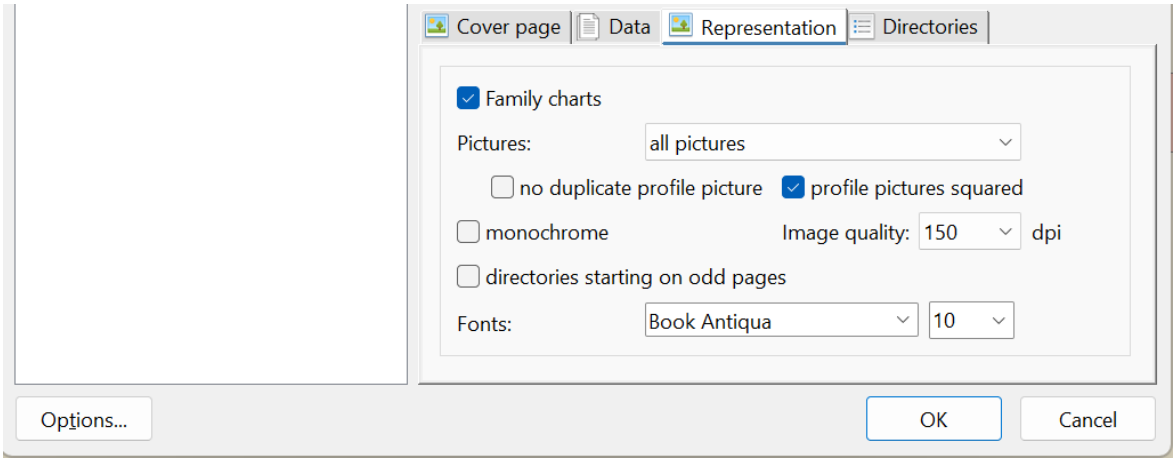
At the bottom of the dialog are the options that apply to all book variants.



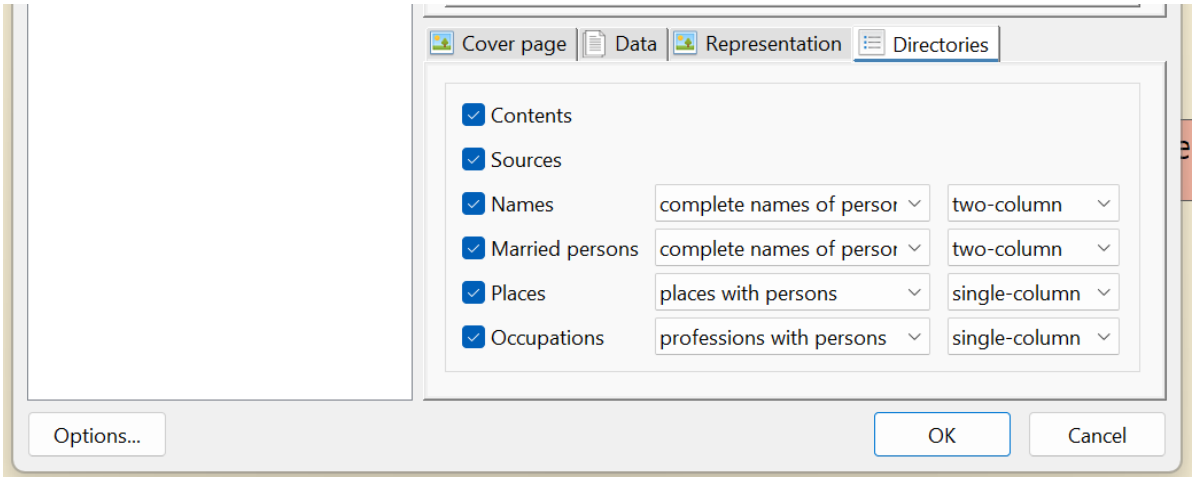
Under "Cover page" you will find the options that apply specifically to the first page of the book. The default book title can be replaced with your own text and a cover image can be specified (in the case of Standard, a picture of the source person(s) or, in the case of the local family book, a picture from the place management - if nothing is available, a fixed standard image).



Under "Data" there is the option to hide individual data. With "Shorten place names" the places are cut off at a comma or slash (e.g. "Los Angeles/California" becomes "Los Angeles") or the short name from the place administration is used (if one is stored). This would allow the place "Los Angeles" to be represented in a local family book by "LA", for example.



Under the "Display" tab, "Family tables" (small 3-generation graphics), "Pictures" (and the type of pictures) and the associated options "Do not duplicate profile pictures" (so that this does not appear enlarged again with the person) and "Profile pictures square" (if deactivated, the profile pictures appear in the original aspect ratio) can be selected, "monochrome" (if activated, colored images are black and white), "image quality" (allows the image quality to be reduced so that even with many images a family book can be created), "directories starting on odd pages" (for double-sided printing) and the "font" (and size) (de) activate or set.



Directories can be activated under the "Directories" tab. The table of contents always appears before the family data, the others in the order mentioned at the end of the book. Some directories also have display options. The "Married" directory is only available in the family book and is hidden in the other book variants. The directory "Married persons" is only available in the family book and is hidden in the other book variants.

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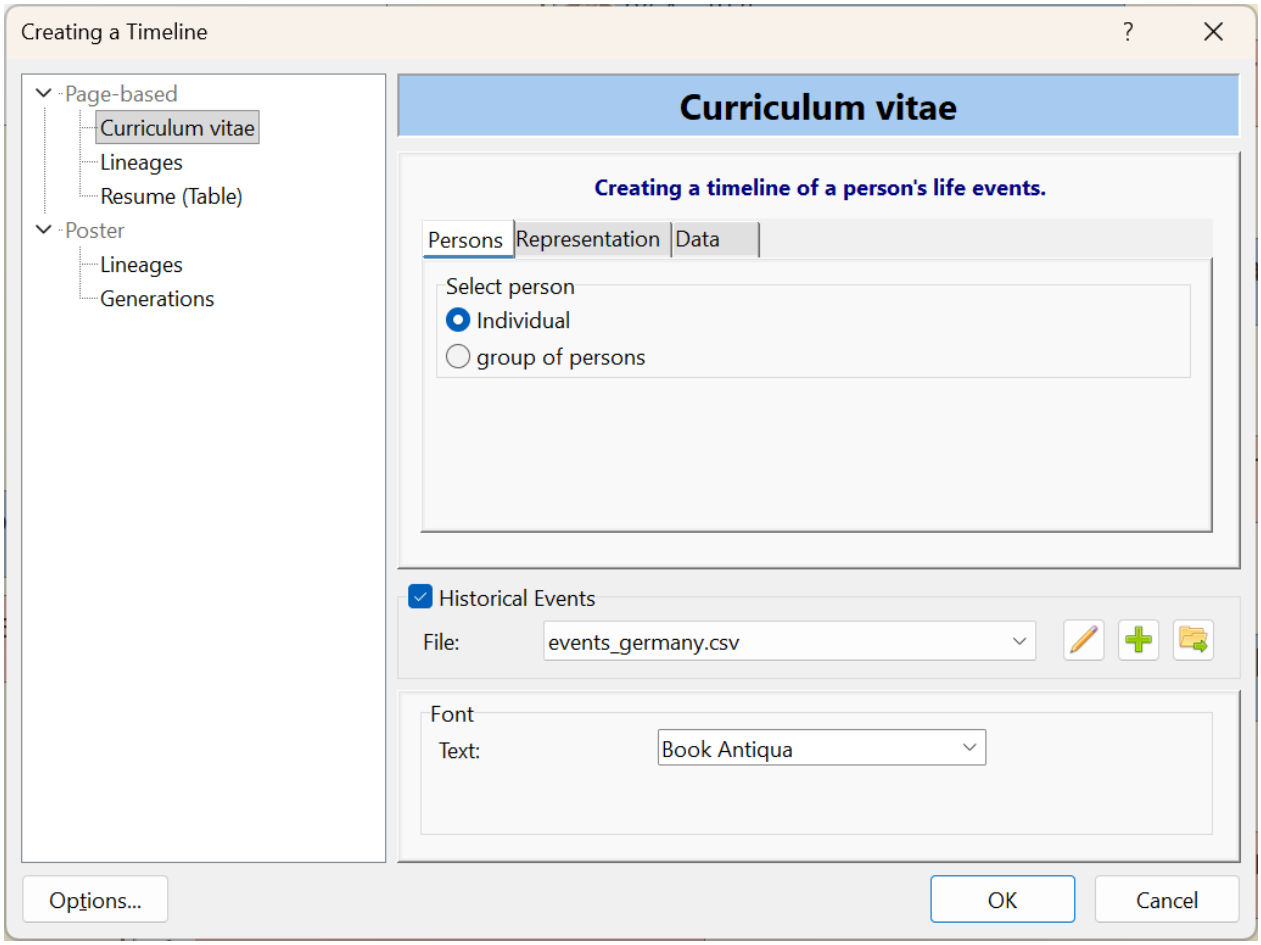
Timeline...

Timelines are a form of presentation that organizes the events of individual people or groups of people in chronological order.

There are two categories. Timelines in the "Page-Based" category are formatted for the Windows printer, such as the standard A4 paper size. Depending on its length, the timeline may be spread across multiple pages. Timelines under “Poster” generate a large-format layout that is usually larger than the paper size of a Windows printer.



In the upper-right corner of the dialog box, you'll find the options related to the selected timeline variant (sometimes spread across multiple tabs).

In the center-right, there is an option to add historical events. Here, you can choose from several pre-prepared files. You can also edit these or create an entirely new file with historical events to include regional specifics.

In the bottom right corner, you can select the font to use. While page-based timelines use only one font, with posters you can select a separate font for the heading.

The following timelines are available:

- **Timeline:** This displays not only a person's events but also dated photos, the deaths of parents, the births/marriages/deaths of children, the births/deaths of other descendants, and the deaths of other ancestors. Optionally, events can be labeled with the year or age. The life story can be created for a single person or for a group of people.
- **Ancestral Line (page-based):** Individual lines are created for each ancestral branch. These can include only the male ancestors (1), the parents' male ancestors (2), or the grandparents' male ancestors (4). If lines are also shown on the map, they are displayed using the navigator's color-coding scheme (paternal line in blue, maternal line in red, paternal grandmother's line in green, and maternal grandmother's line in yellow).
- **Timeline (Table):** Here, events are presented in tabular form. This is the only timeline where, under "Historical Events," not only a heading but also a brief description of the event appears.
- **Ancestral Lines (Poster):** Here, rather than individual events, each person is represented as a timeline bar labeled with a number indicating the respective generation.
- **Generations:** Here, all individuals related to the "central person" displayed in the Navigator are summarized by generation. As an alternative to "Historical Events," you can view individual data. For each generation, this includes the first and last born, as well as the first and last to die—though only individuals with children are included, so that those who died in childhood do not "skew" the display.

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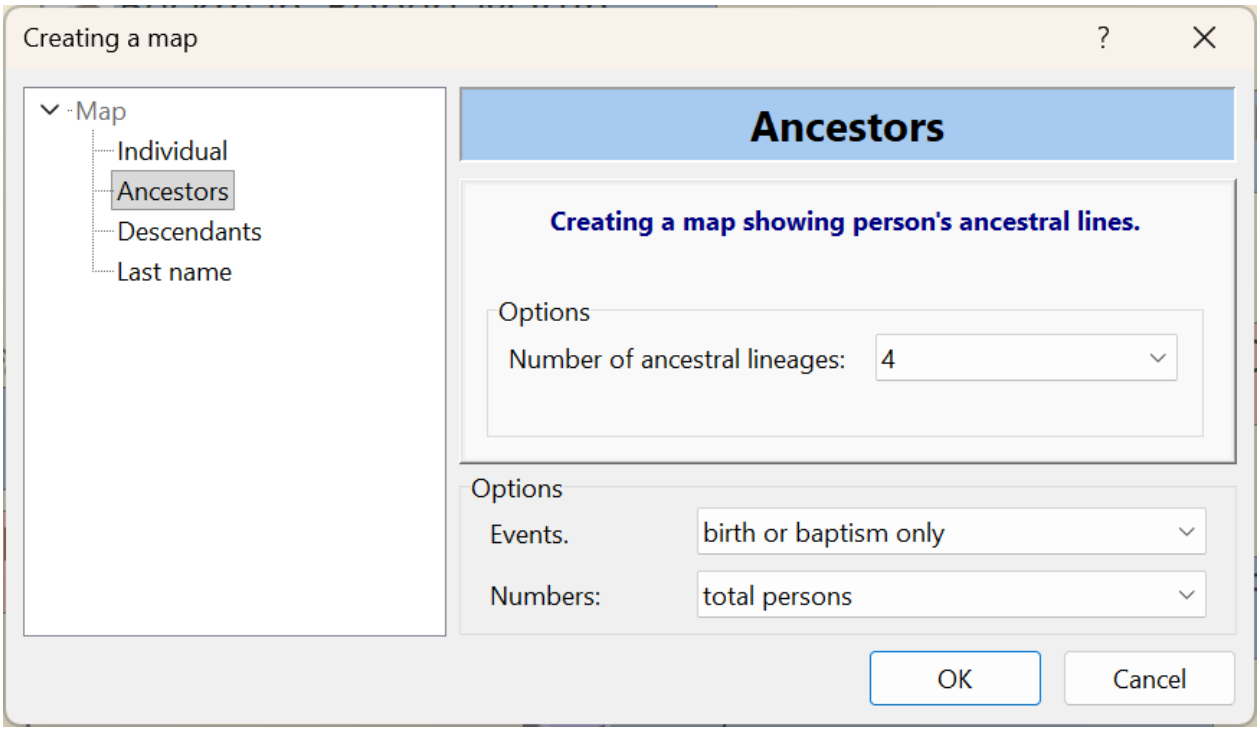
Map...

Here, you can display event locations on a map. This requires that the locations have coordinates on file. You can enter these in the Location Management section. If, while creating a map, Ahnenblatt finds locations for which no coordinates have been entered, you will see a list of those locations and can search for their coordinates online one by one.



As in other output dialogs, the available map variants are listed on the left, the corresponding options are in the upper right, and the general map options are in the lower right.

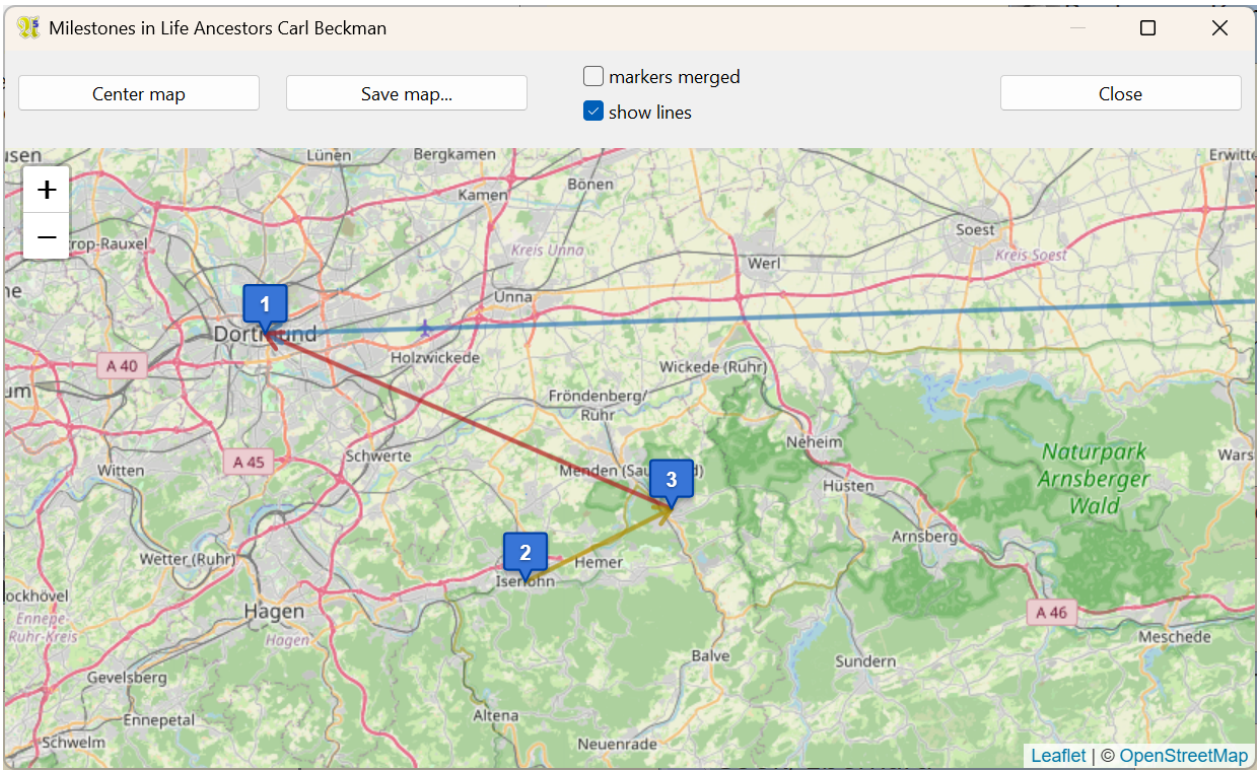
This allows you to determine which events should be included. For example, it can be quite interesting to see that an individual lived abroad for a short period (for studies or work), while when displaying groups of people, it's more interesting to see how they have moved geographically over time. Sometimes, the individuals' birth and baptism dates are sufficient for this.

Each location on the map is marked by a marker containing a number. This number can represent the total number of events or people.

The following options are available:

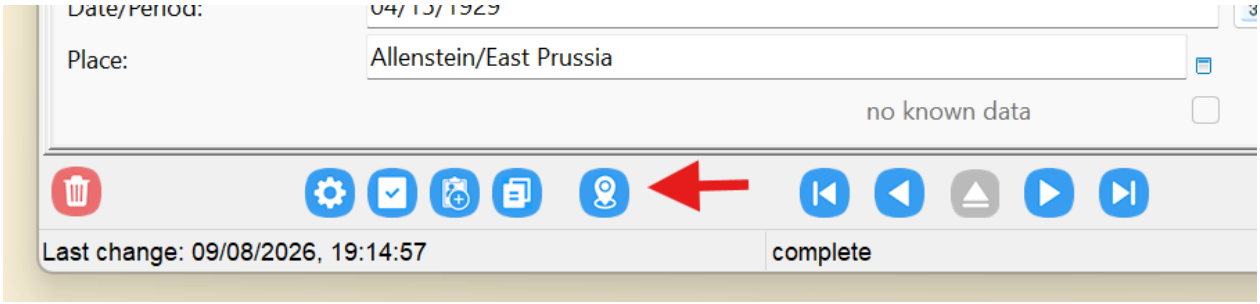
- **Individual:** The events of a single person are displayed. This map can also be accessed directly from the input dialog via the "Life Stages" icon.
- **Ancestors:** The events of a starting person and their ancestral lines are displayed. Either only the male ancestors (1), the male ancestors of the parents (2), or the male ancestors of the grandparents (4) . If lines are also shown on the map, they are displayed using the navigator's color-coding scheme (paternal line blue, maternal line red, paternal grandmother's line green, and maternal grandmother's line yellow).
- **Descendants:** The direct descendants of a starting person.
- **Last Names:** All people with the same last name.

Ahnenblatt attempts, whenever possible, to connect the locations of consecutive events with arrows. These can be hidden on the map if desired. There is also an option to group markers so that multiple markers located close together are combined into a single number.



The map itself can be saved directly in common image formats.

You can also view a person's life stages on a map directly from the input dialog.



The map is displayed directly with the most recently used options.

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Search

Find...

Find again

Replace...

Markings...

Internet matching...

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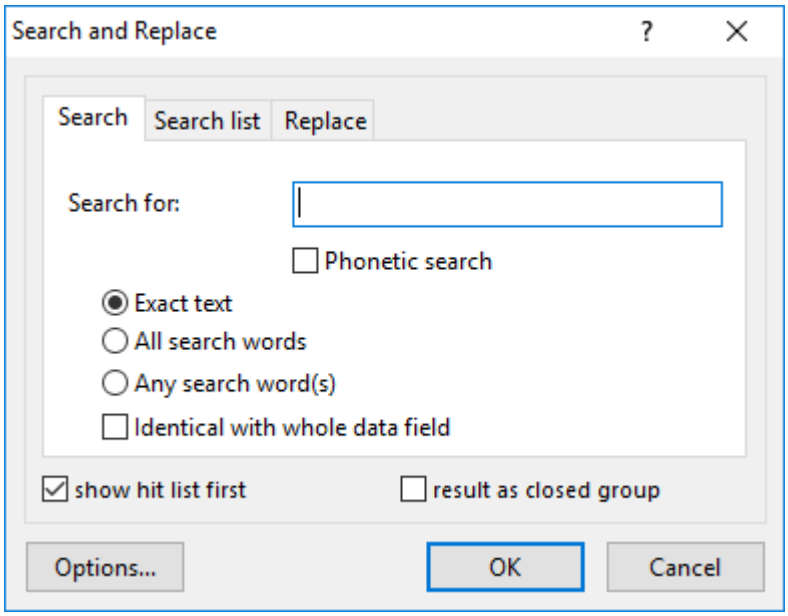
Find...

Here, one or more search terms can be entered for which all persons should be searched. Two options are possible, the simple "Search" and the "Search list".



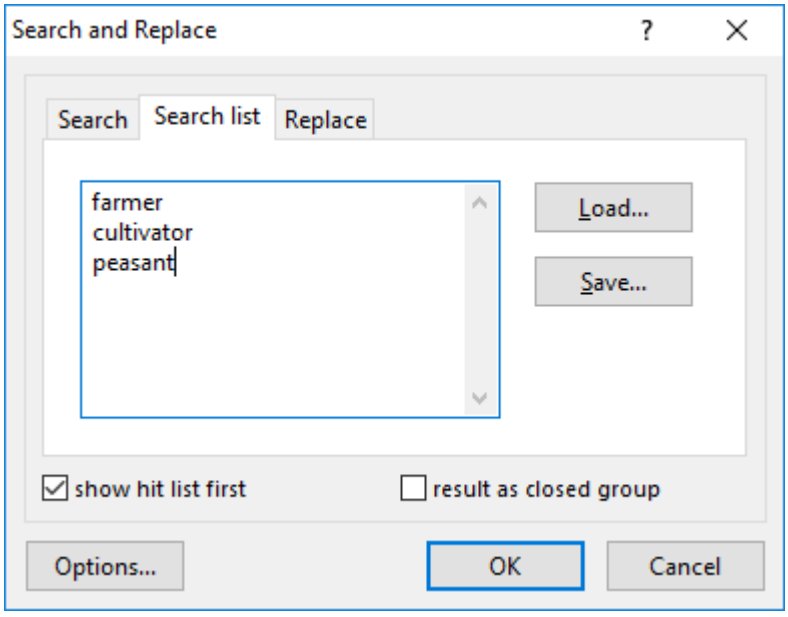
In the simple search, you can enter one or more search terms (separated by space).

Optional, you can turn on the 'phonetic search', which also looks for words with similar spelling. A search for 'Maier' also finds the words 'Meier' and 'Meyer'.

There are also three search variants:

- All search words: all of the words must be found in the person
- Any search word(s): it's enough if only one word is found in the person
- Exact text: the entire search term, including spaces, is searched

Furthermore, there is the 'identical with whole data field' option, which searches for data fields that have an exact match with the search term.



In the tab "Search list", the search terms are entered line by line. Also, the search terms can be saved and also loaded (*.sb).

As a third option, there is the "Replace" function. For more information, please see **Replace**.

Under "Options...", more settings can be made for the search (see **Extras / Options... [Search]**). For example, it is possible to exclude a search term "farmer" for the Occupation field, so that only persons with the name Farmer are found and no persons with the occupation "farmer".

After a successful search, the persons found will either appear in a separate list (if the "show hit list first" option was set in advance) or the first of the persons found will be displayed directly.

The "result as closed group" option only shows the persons who meet the search criteria.

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Find again

Repeats the search based on the inputs at **Search / Find...** and shows the persons found.

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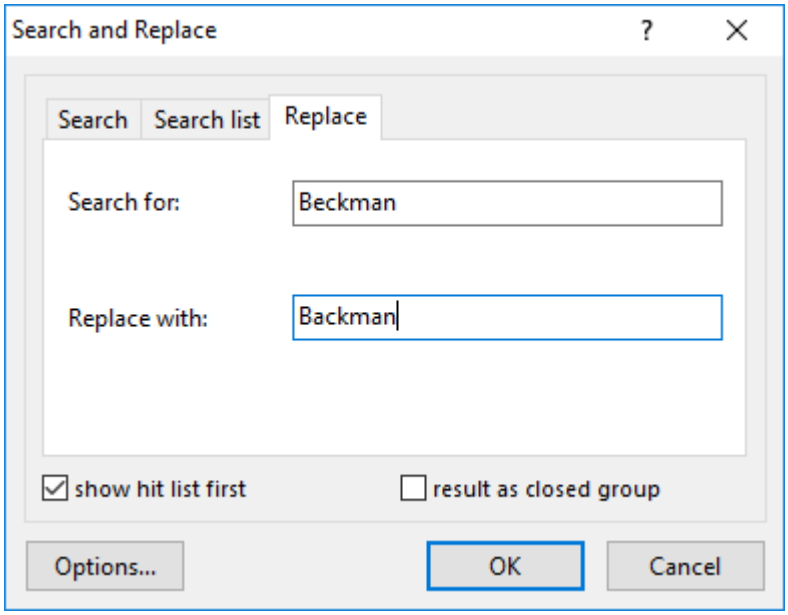
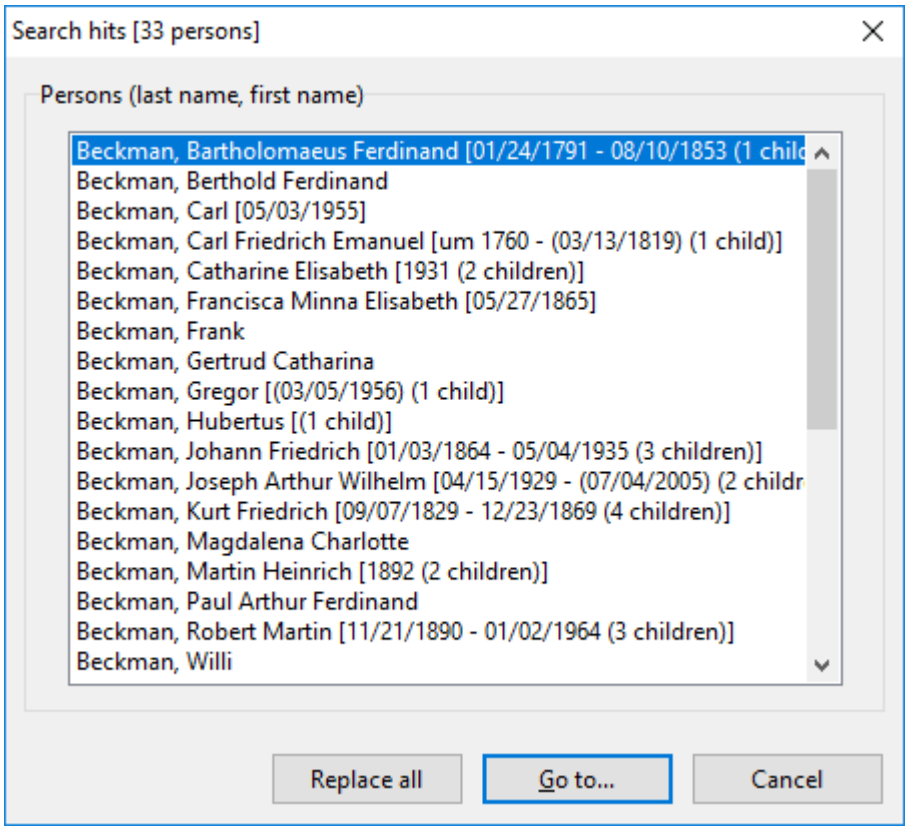
Replace...

"Replace" works like search, but the entire term defined in "Search for" is considered as a word. The occurrences of this word are then replaced by the one entered in "Replace with". The "Options..." also apply, so that the replacement can be restricted to specific data fields.



If you select "show hit list first", the replacement will not be done immediately. Only when "Replace all" in the search hits list is clicked, the actual replacements happen. Without a hit list, the replacements will be done immediately.



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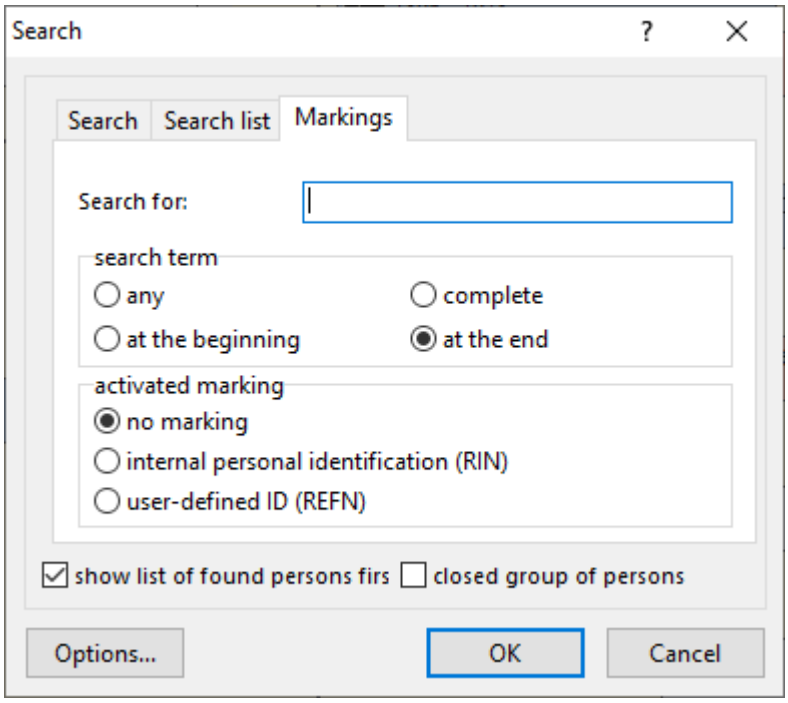
Markings...

When searching for "markings", you can only search explicitly in the markings of all persons (see also Options/Name representation).



In the "search term" group box, you can determine where within the marking the search term must be

found.
There is a special treatment when searching only for digits. In this case the entered number is compared only with the numeric part of the marking.
Since the "internal personal identifier (RIN)" also contains letters (e.g. "AB: I123"), it is helpful if this identifier is also found when searching for "123" using search term "complete".

In "activated marking" you can directly activate the desired marking for all persons.
In the case of "no marking", the search is done in the field "birth name" of all persons.

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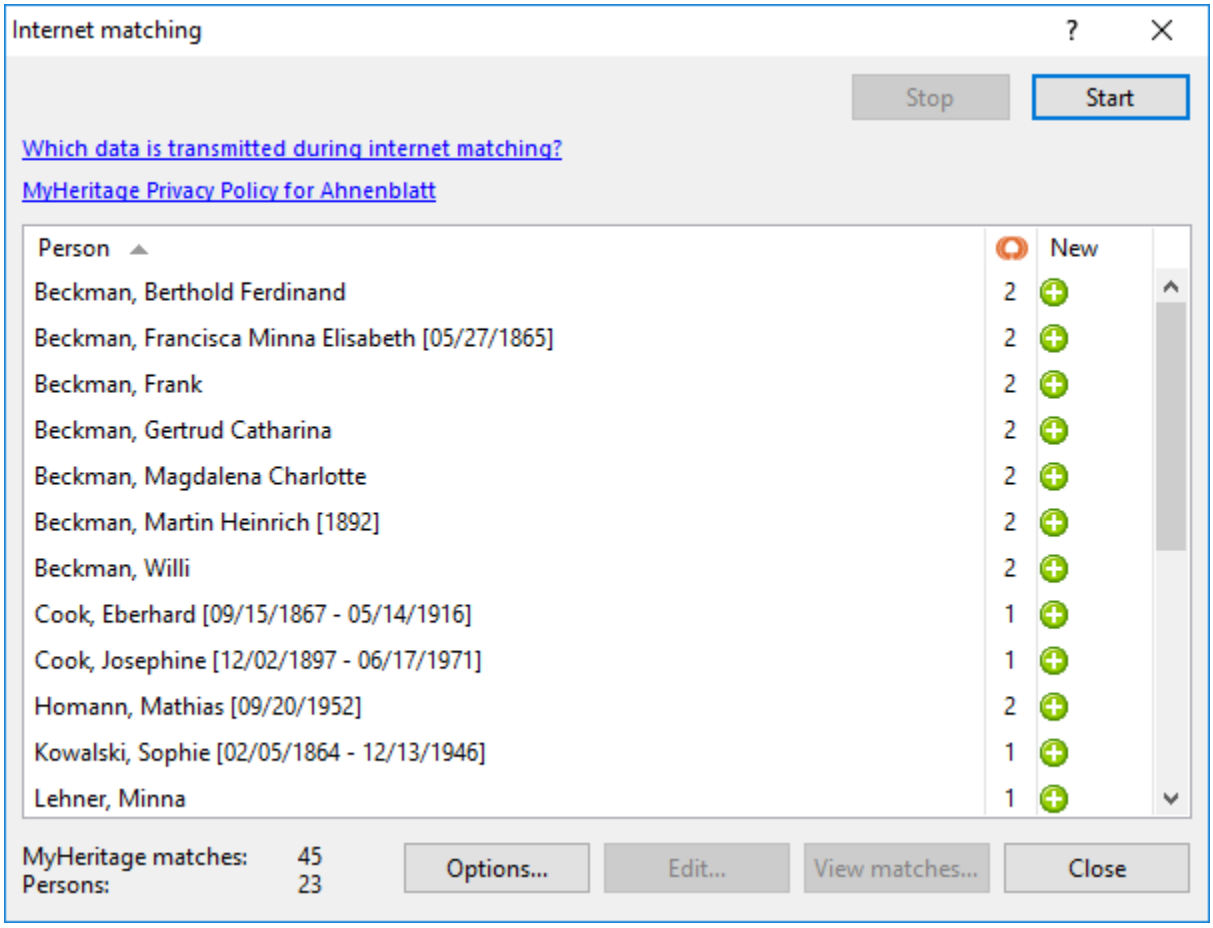
Internet matching...

Ahnenblatt also offers the possibility to search the Internet for more data on persons. The search is carried out by one of the largest Genealogy service providers on the Internet, MyHeritage. This search is optional. It is switched off by default but can be activated at any time and influenced by options. On request, the Internet search can take place in the background, while you work normally with Ahnenblatt. If desired, it can even be started automatically immediately after opening an Ahnenblatt file.

Internet matching is a modern way to supplement the data of your Ahnenblatt file, but not every user wants to use it. Data transfer of personal information is a concern.

Internet matching is always carried out person by person. To search for every person in an extensive database can take quite a long time. The number of hits per person is stored in the Ahnenblatt file, so that the next time you work with Ahnenblatt, search hits are shown without a new search.

However, a data transfer to an Internet service provider does not mean that the Internet service provider creates a copy of your data from the search queries.



The Internet matching dialog shows the hits found. Initially, this list is blank.

The button “Start” will begin the Internet search process, which is then indicated by a progress bar.

The button "Stop" allows you to cancel the Internet search at any time.

If the window is closed during an ongoing Internet matching, a hint appears that the Internet search is continuing in the background. A small animated magnifying glass indicates an ongoing Internet matching in the background in the lower status line of Ahnenblatt.

The window contains a link to the topic "**Which data is Internet matching - data transfertransmitted during Internet matching?**" here in the help file and data protection regulations of MyHeritage, where the terms “RecordMatches” (search in archives) and SmartMatches (search in MyHeritage user data) are explained (in a separate browser window).

The hit list contains three columns: the persons, the number of hits at MyHeritage, and a "New” column. The "New" column displays a plus icon for changes to the last search performed (It also shows a plus icon at the first search). By clicking on the column header, the hit list can be sorted by one of the columns (e.g. number of Internet hits).

Under "**Options...**" you can go directly to the settings available for Internet matching.

If Internet matches are shown in the list and you select a person in the list, the buttons "Edit..." and "View matches..." become clickable.

By clicking the "Edit..."- button, the persons' dialog shows and by clicking "View matches...", a new browser window with the Internet matches at MyHeritage opens to that person.

The search results at MyHeritage can also be opened via a double click on a person in the list.

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Internet matching - data transfer

General

When using the **Internet matching** function in Ahnenblatt, personal data is transmitted to an Internet service provider (MyHeritage). MyHeritage performs a comparison with its own database and returns a result. This data transfer between Ahnenblatt and the Internet service provider is encrypted so that third parties can not read the data.

By default, the Internet matching is not active and requires user consent. This consent can be set in **Internet options** and adapted by the user to their own needs.

Internet matching only works with an existing Internet connection.

What data is transmitted during Internet matching?

Only the data necessary for the search for persons is transmitted to the Internet service provider.

When searching the Internet, the following data of a person is sent to the Internet service provider:

All name components (e.g. first name, birth name, marriage name, ...), sex, occupation, a person's parents, siblings, partners and children with each name and gender and the events birth, baptism, wedding, death and burial respectively with place and date.

Further details about the person (e.g. notes, sources, photos or other events) or the persons' events (e.g. godparents of baptism) are not transferred.

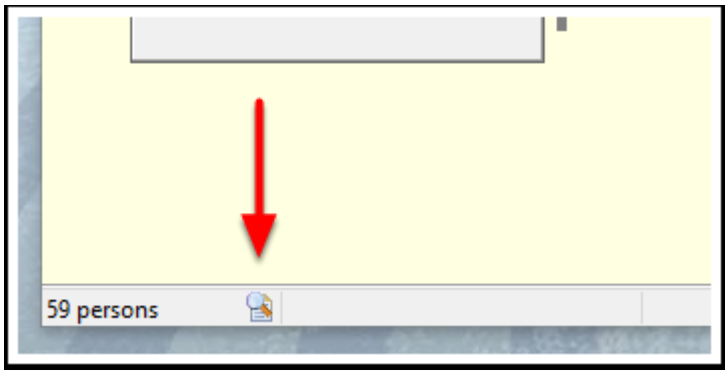
When does the Internet matching take place?

When searching for matches using the dialog **Internet matching**, personal data of all persons is transferred to the Internet service provider.

When searching for Internet matches from the**input dialog**, the Internet matching is done directly, and only the data of that person is transmitted.

If background matching is activated (must be explicitly activated by the user), the data of all persons is transmitted in the background, whereby the settings of the user**Internet options** are used. Ahnenblatt generally stores to every person when the last Internet matching was performed. A new matching in the background then takes place only after the end of the days set in**Internet options**.

When Internet matching is performed in the background, a small search animation can be seen in the status line of Ahnenblatt:



This can be canceled at any time by opening the **Internet matching** dialog and clicking "Stop". There is never such a thing as a "secret" data transfer to an Internet service provider.

When Internet matching is performed, only the number of matches is determined. This number is generally stored in the Ahnenblatt file. If you want to look at these finds in detail, an updated search is always done for this person.

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Extras

Common ancestor...

Show all profile pictures…

Statistics

Calendar...

Show Islands...

History of changes...

Partner status...

Remap images/files...

Automatic task creation...

Options...

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Common ancestor...

You select two persons and then see the (first) common ancestor of those persons (if there is one).

This shows, for example, whether two persons are belonging to the same generation since all direct ancestors are displayed up to the common ancestor.

Now, by clicking on a personal field, you can directly select a person as the home person for the navigator.

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Show all profile pictures...

View all profile pictures, i.e. Images found under the "media" tab (non-event-related images).

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Statistics

The following statistics can be compiled:

- **Genders** - Divided into "male", "female" and "unknown". The persons whose gender could not be determined (there is an automatic in Ahnenblatt for that) are listed as "unknown."
- **Birth names** - The occurrence of birth names are evaluated.
- **First names** - The occurrence of first names are evaluated.
- **Places** - Tthe occurrence of places are evaluated.
- **Occupations** - Statistics on all occupations.
- **Religion** - Statistics on all religions occurring.
- **Living** - Indicates what proportion of persons are still alive.
- **Number of children** - Number of children of each person
- **Age of persons living** - The age of living persons, standardized in brackets of 10 years (0-9, 10-19, 20-29, ...)
- **Age of persons at death** - The age of persons at death, standardized in brackets of 10 years (0-9, 10-19, 20-29, ...)
- **Age at marriage (female)** - The age of wives at their wedding, summarized in brackets of 5 years (0 .. 4, 5 .. 9, 10 .. 14, ...)
- **Age at marriage (male)** - The age of husbands at their wedding, summarized in brackets of 5 years (0 .. 4, 5 .. 9, 10 .. 14, ...)
- **Age at birth of first child (female)** - The age of women at the birth of their first child, summarized in brackets of 5 years (0 .. 4, 5 .. 9, 10 .. 14, ...)
- **Age at birth of first child (male)** - The age of men at the birth of their first child, summarized in brackets of 5 years (0 .. 4, 5 .. 9, 10 .. 14, ...)

The statistics dialog contains three tabs, "Diagram", "Details" and "Terms". "Diagram" displays a cake diagram and "Details" a tabular overview. "Terms" shows a list of the terms found. These are shown in different sizes (depending on the occurrence). The corresponding group of persons can be accessed directly by clicking on it.

The statistics can be saved in the formats .CSV (the Details tab, for example, for evaluation in a spreadsheet program), .bmp, .gif, .jpg, .tif and .png (the diagram - e.g. for your own website).

About Ahnenblatt statistics:

- The number of individual values included in the statistics does not have to match the number of persons. For example, the "birth names" statistic does not include persons with empty birth names

field. "first names" consider all individual first names (separated by spaces). There are also "places" in several fields of a person (birthplace, place of death, wedding place, ...).

- Only the first eight values are displayed at most. All others are listed in the diagram as "rest". More detailed information can be found under the "details" tab (all values there-not just the first eight).
- The percentages in the diagrams are rounded and do not always add up to 100% in total. Imagine there are precisely 50.5% male and 49.5% female persons. In the diagram, it would be 51% for "male" and 50% for "female" because of rounding.
- To determine whether a person with no date of death is still alive, as well as to determine the age of living persons, "age limits" are set under **Extras / Options... [Integrity check]**. If statistics on old persons are evaluated, it may make sense to reduce the maximum age of a person or add "..." as the date of death to make sure the person is considered dead in the statistics...

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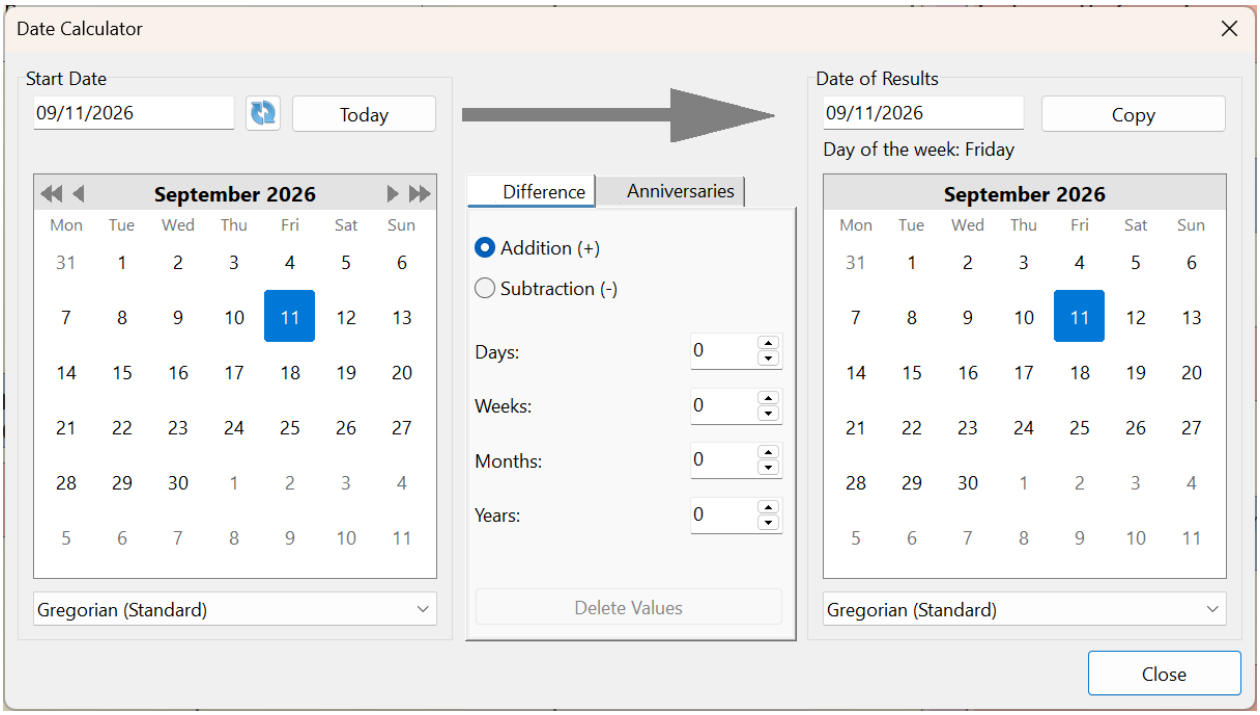
Date Calculator...

The date calculator displays a start date and an end date, along with their respective calendars.



The start date can be set to the current date using the "Today" button, or it can be entered manually. After entering the date, click the "Refresh" icon next to the input field.

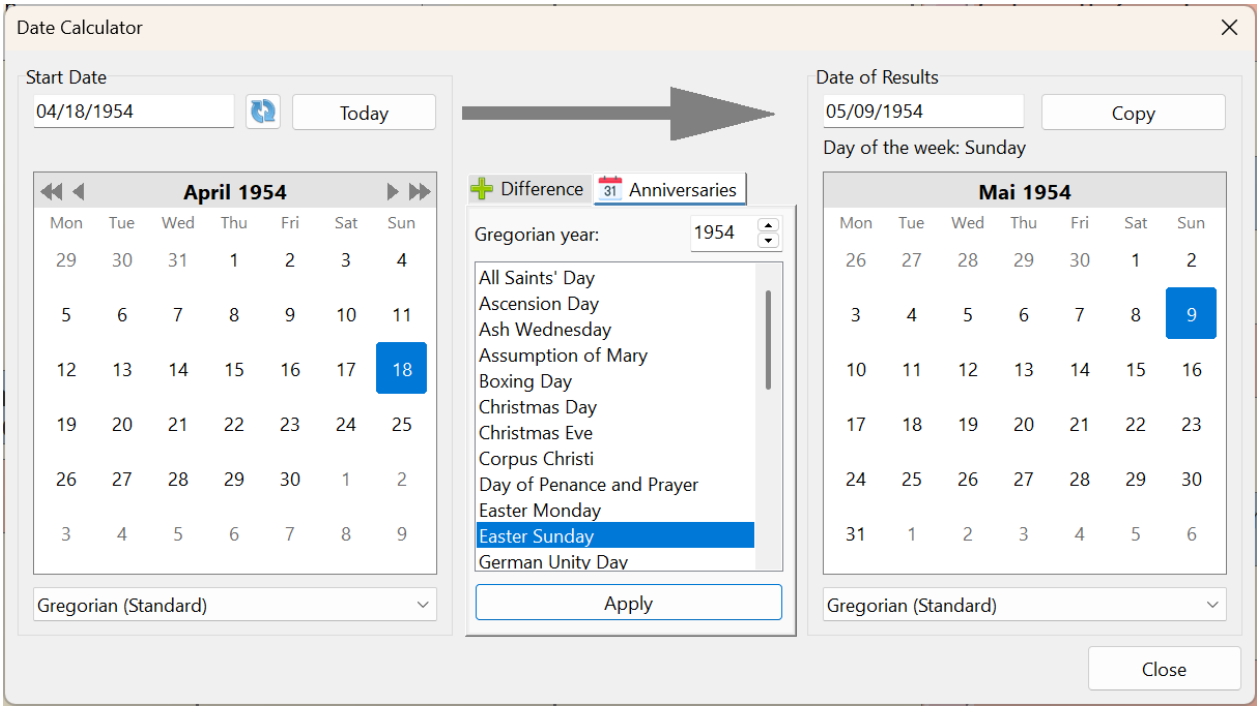
On the right is the result date, which can be copied to the clipboard using the “Copy” button (to paste it into a field in the input dialog, for example).

The date calculator offers three functions:

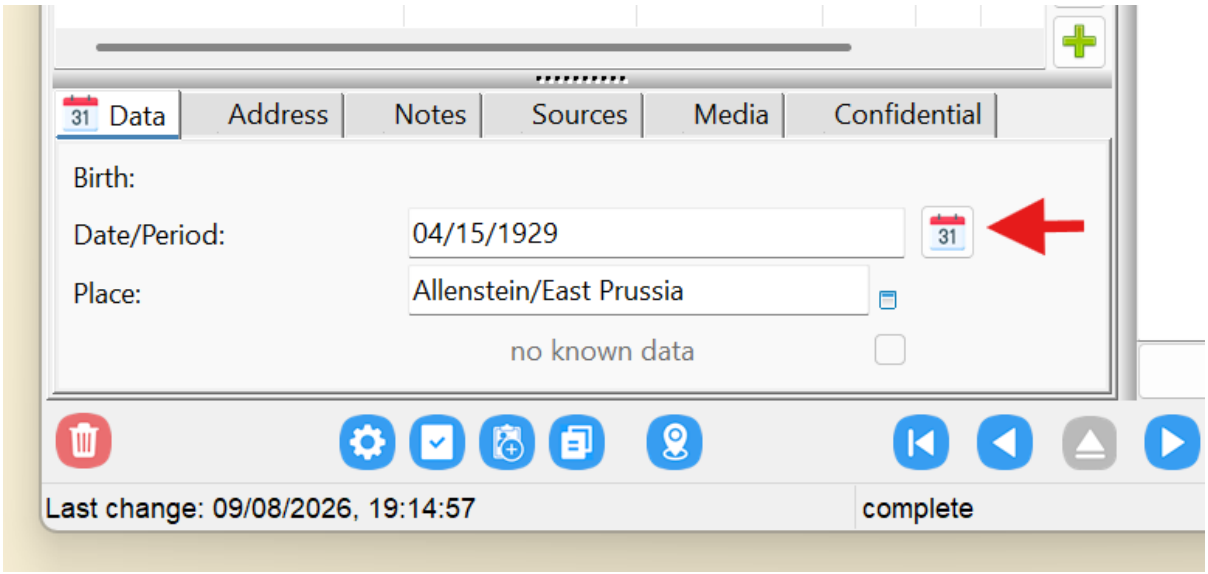
- **Calculate difference:** Using the “Difference” tab, you can add or subtract days/weeks/months/years from the starting date. This allows you, for example, to calculate a person’s date of birth based on a date of death and an age.
- **Convert calendar systems:** Below both calendars, you can select the respective calendar system. Options include the Gregorian, Julian, French Revolutionary, Russian, Islamic, Coptic, and Persian calendars.
- **Anniversaries:** Under the “Anniversaries” tab, you can choose from various religious and secular holidays. Combined with a year, this allows you to determine a specific starting date.

These functions can also be combined to determine, for example, a date such as “three weeks after

Easter Sunday 1954."



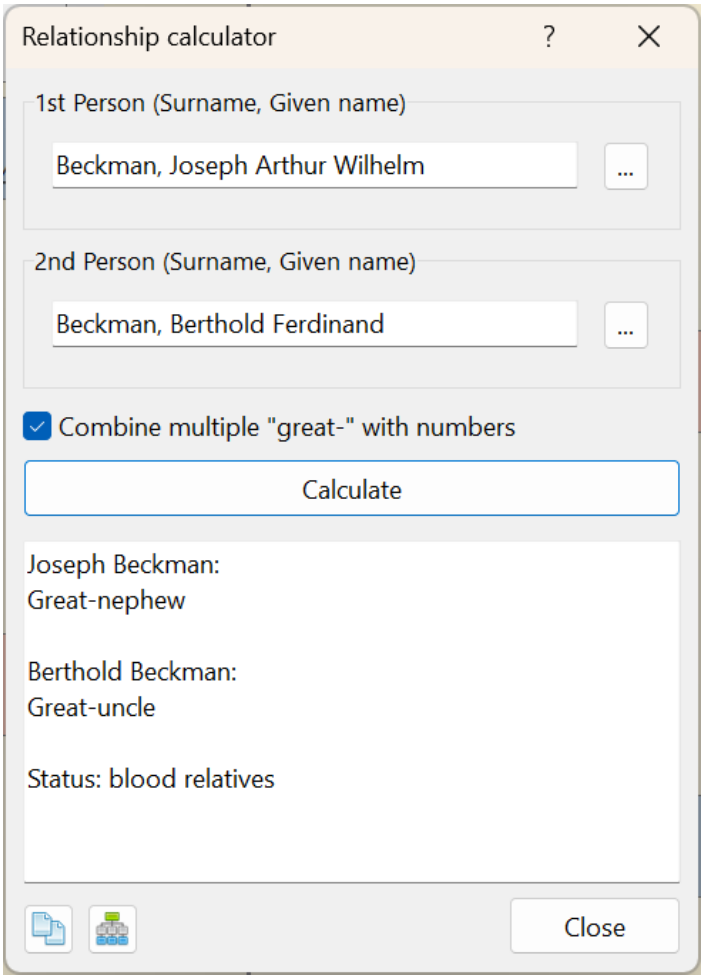
The date calculator can also be accessed directly from the input dialog. There is a corresponding icon next to the "Date/Period" input field.



Created with the Standard Edition of HelpNDoc: Free CHM Help documentation generator

Relationship calculator...

The Relationship Calculator displays the relationship as text.



Select two people at the top and then click the "Calculate" button to display the relationship.

The relationship is displayed in both directions, along with whether they are blood relatives or not.

As an option, several “generational prefixes” (e.g., great-great-great-grandmother) can be represented by numbers (e.g., 3x great-grandmother).

Using the two buttons at the bottom left, the text can be copied to the clipboard, or the two selected people can be displayed in a “Family Tree” table.

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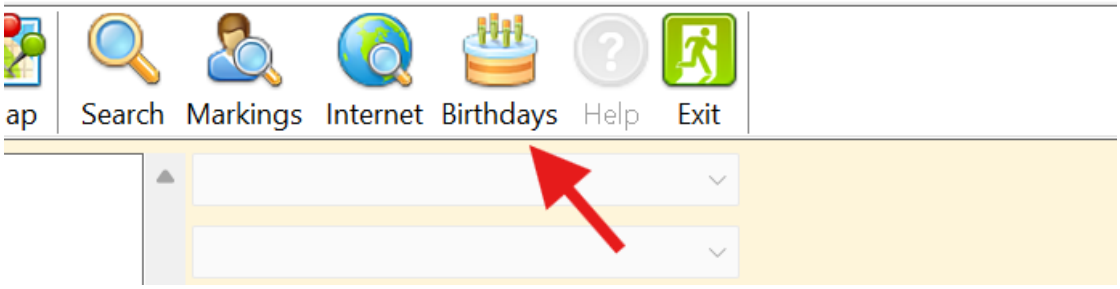
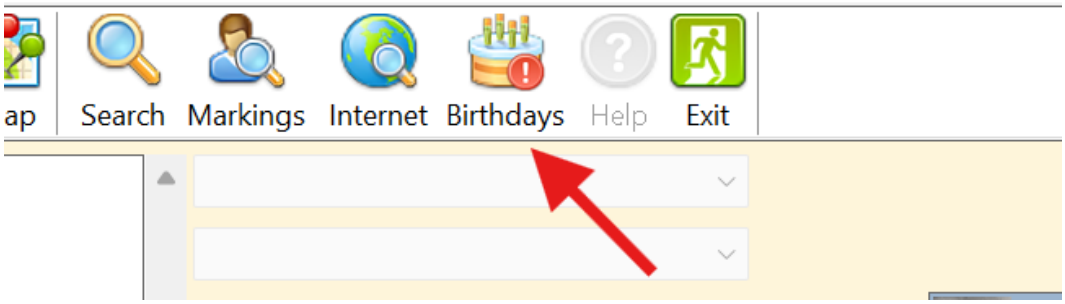
Upcoming birthdays...

This feature is designed to remind you of upcoming birthdays for living individuals in an ancestor file.

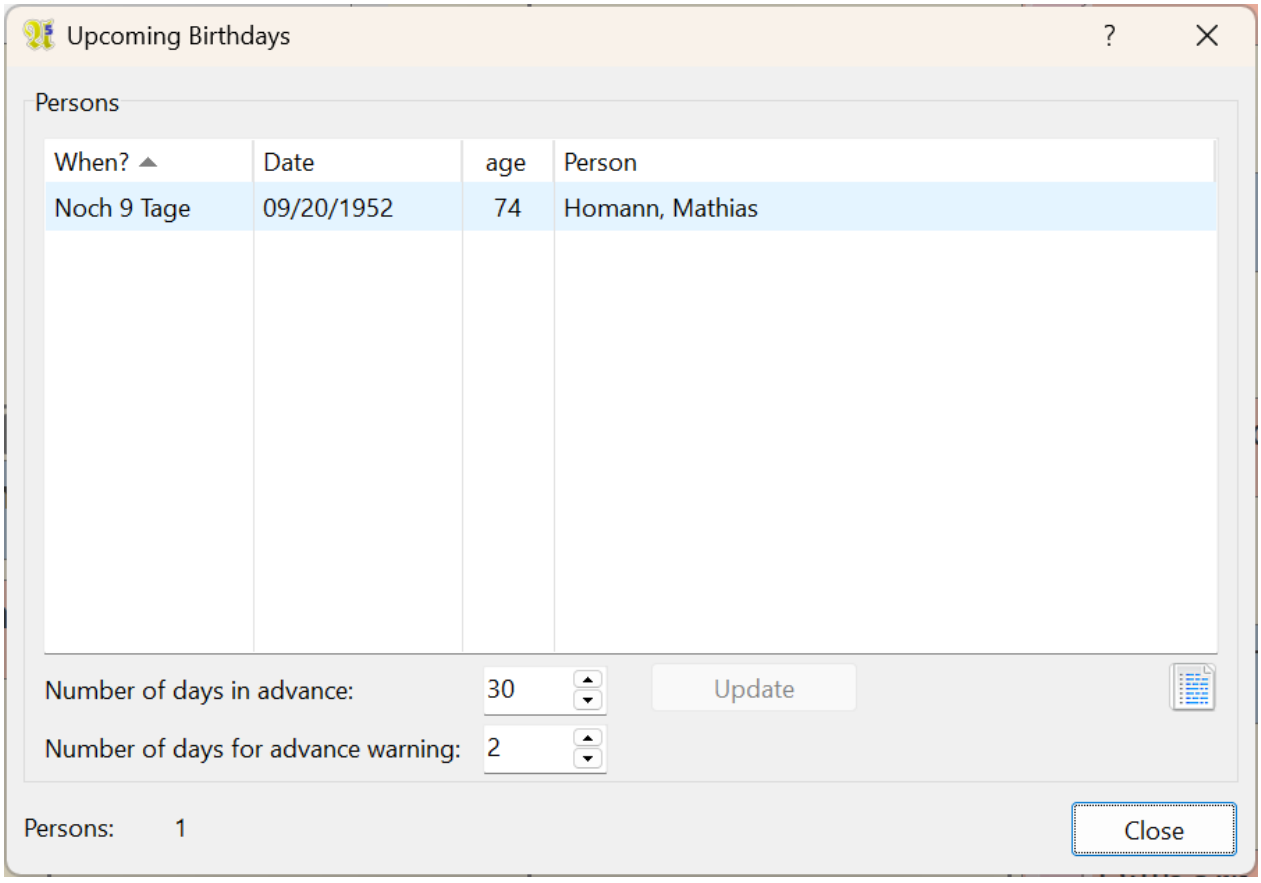
In the main window's toolbar, this feature can be accessed directly via the "Birthday" icon.



Immediately after opening an ancestor file, the program checks in the background for upcoming birthdays and marks them with an additional exclamation point.



Clicking the icon opens the following dialog, which lists the upcoming birthdays.



Clicking on one of the rows opens the input dialog for that person directly.

The "Number of Days in Advance" option determines how many days in advance upcoming birthdays are displayed in the dialog.
The "Number of Days for Early Warning" option lets you specify when a notification should appear in the toolbar. Perhaps you only want today’s birthdays to trigger a notification? But sometimes you want to be notified earlier so you can still get a gift.

The “Create List...” button below the list takes you directly to the “Event List” in the “Create a List” dialog.

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Show Islands...

An "island" is a group of people who are related to each other. It is not mandatory that all persons in a family file are related to each other. For example, persons or groups of people may be entered whose family relationships with the other persons have not yet been proven.

But it is not easy to find these persons or groups afterwards. The purpose of this dialog is to display the groups of people sorted according to their size on the left side and on the right side the persons included in the currently selected group of people.

By clicking on a single person, the input dialog of this person is called up.

The option "closed group of persons" shows only the persons of an island in the input dialog.

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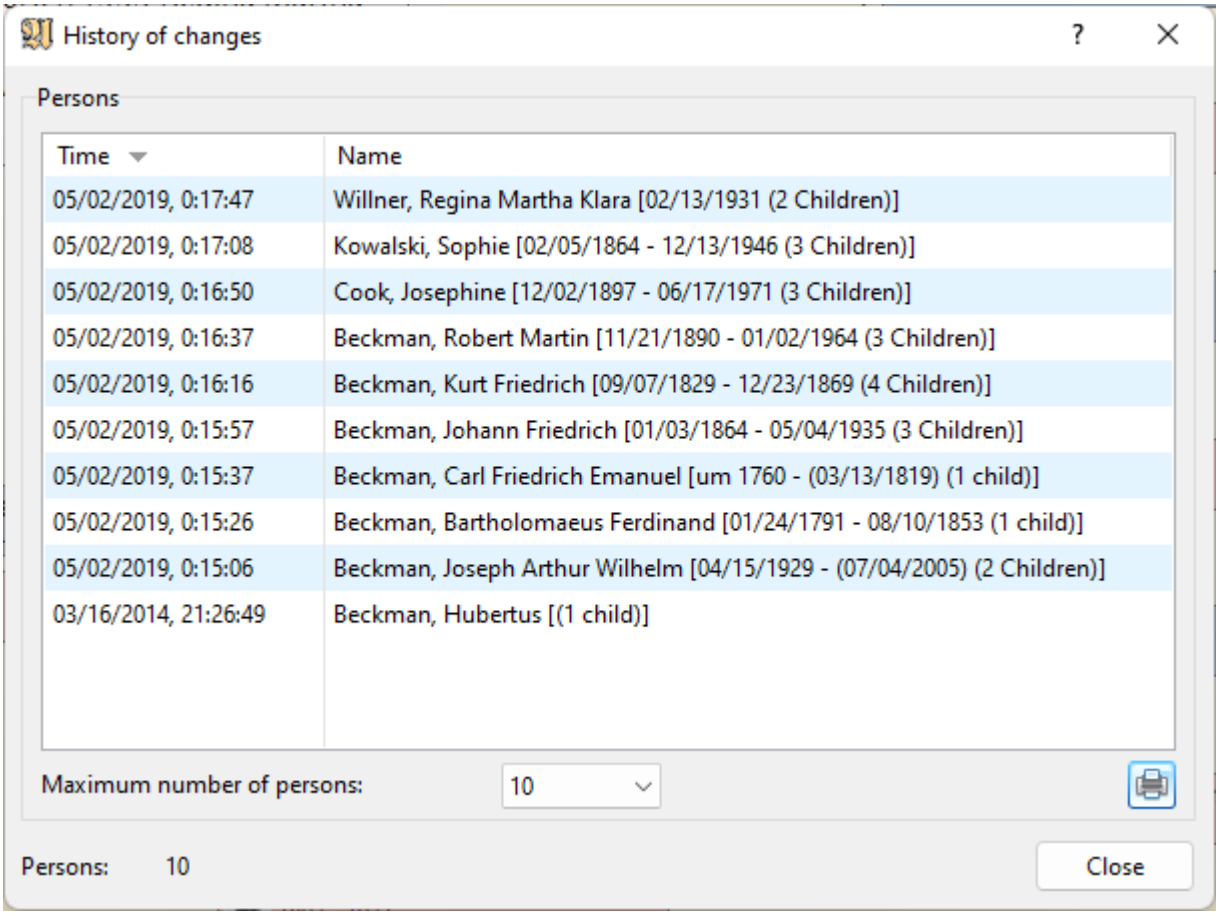
History of changes...

A change time is stored for each person, i.e. the date and time of the last data change for this person. This is displayed in the person's input dialog.

You can use the change history to see the change times for all persons. Sorted by time, you can see which people had the last changes made to them.
By clicking on a line, the input dialog for the person concerned can be called up directly.



You can determine how many changes are to be displayed ("Maximum number of persons"). You have the choice starting with 10 up to show all persons.
At the bottom of the dialog you can see the number of persons displayed. This can deviate from the maximum number of persons because the family file may contain fewer persons or a change time is not stored for each person (possibly if the data was taken from another software).

You can also create a list of the history of changes. There is a "Create list" button at the bottom right of the dialog. This takes you directly to the dialog for creating a list.

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Partner status...

A dialog appears in which "Married couples (without date)" and "Unmarried couples" are displayed one above the other.

You can select couples and move them from one category to the other using the arrow symbols. The data is adjusted accordingly.

Either you have forgotten to check the box "Date and place unknown" for married couples without a date in the "Marriage" event in the input dialog (this indicates that this event took place, even if no details are known) or the data originates from other software and was transferred in GEDCOM format.

Many programs explicitly do not mark married couples and assume by default that all couples are married. This is then reflected in the GEDCOM export of these programs, where there is also no indicator for married couples. In Ahnenblatt, such couples then appear as "unmarried".

This function can be used to quickly find and correct such discrepancies.

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Remap images/files...

When adding a picture or file, Ahnenblatt remembers the path to where the picture or file is saved. If later, you change the path of this picture of the file, Ahnenblatt will not find it anymore.

This feature allows you to select the new picture/file path. In the directory you choose, Ahnenblatt searches for images/ files of the same name and remembers the new directory for them.

This feature also makes sense if pictures/files assigned to persons are scattered on the hard drive.
If you manually copy them all into a new directory and use this feature, all file references are adjusted.

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Automatic task creation...

Another way to automatically create tasks is via the menu item '**Extras / Automatic task creation...**". A dialog then appears where you can create tasks for persons according to specific criteria.

There is a criterion that must be fulfilled for a task to be created and the group of persons can be selected.

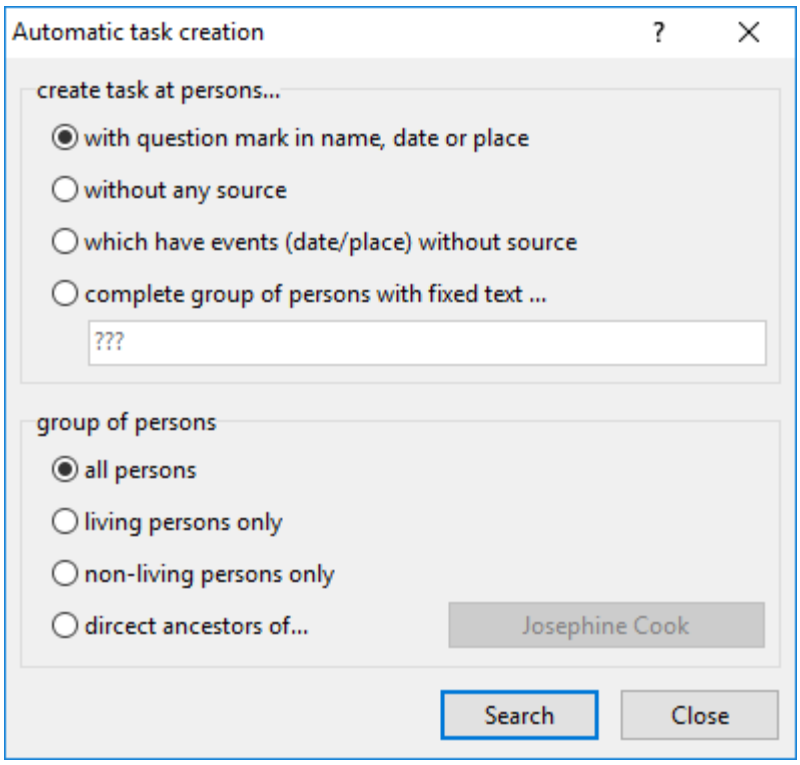
Example: You may add question marks in fields (i.e. name, place) that you don’t know at the time of entry. New tasks can then be created from these inputs.

Persons without sources can be set as a task, it is essential to store what source the data comes from at all (even if only from the oral tradition of a relative).

Those who love it more closely can also take on individual events without a source as a task. Following the motto "only what can be substantiated by sources has taken place at all."

Additionally, there is the possibility to assign a fixed task text to one of the groups of persons. For example, you could assign the task "Ask for current place of residence." to all persons in the group "Only living persons".

You cannot only choose between "all persons", "only persons living" or "only non-living persons" but also the direct ancestors of a person. This allows a preferred ancestor strain to be specifically chosen for tasks.



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Options...

Here you can make program settings:

General

Folders

Search

Print

Import GEDCOM

Privacy policy

File association

Integrity check

Text modules

Internet

Name representation

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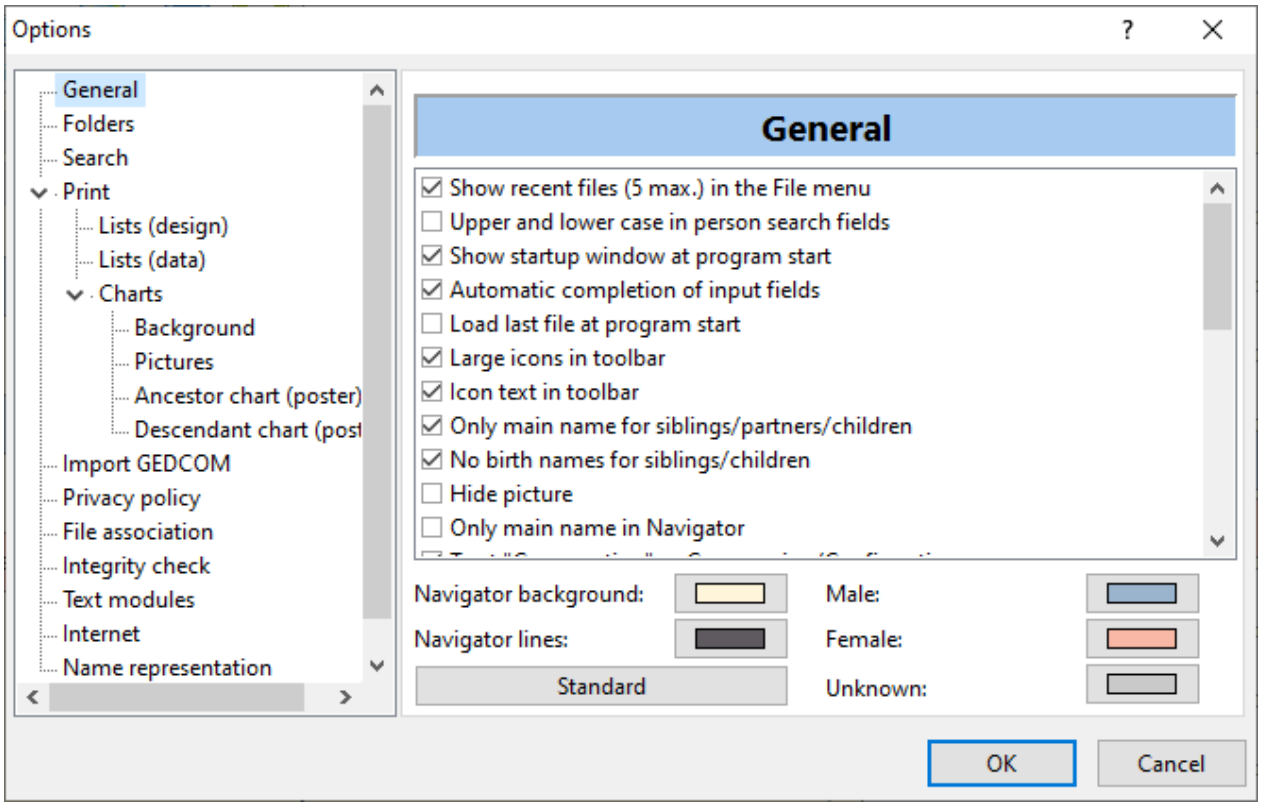
[General]



General:

- Show recent files (5 max.) the File menu: Show the 5 most recently opened files under the menu item **File**
- Upper and lower case in person search fields: If selected, the search function is case sensitive
- Show startup window at program start: A window with version information will be shown at start of the program
- Automatic completion of input fields: When data is entered in a field in the input dialog, the text is automatically completed while typing, based on the field content already entered for other persons. This applies to the fields of birth name, occupation, religion, and all local fields. This saves typing and ensures that input errors are avoided.
- Load last file at program start: When selected, the last family used is automatically loaded at start of Ahnenblatt.
- Large icons in toolbar: When selected, large icons are shown in the toolbar.
- Icon text in toolbar: This option turns on texts in the toolbar of the main window
- Only main name for siblings/partners/children: When creating new persons, some data fields are filled by Ahnenblatt due to the data of the source. This option can be used to determine whether only the main name or all first names are entered in the fields in some areas of the input dialog. This setting only affects new data. However, existing entries will not be changed retrospectively. To adjust the data fields retrospectively, the function **Edit / Adjust data...** can be used
- No birth names for siblings/children: This determines how the Ahnenblatt automatic fills specific data fields. Should the birth name also be entered in children's and sibling fields, or not? This setting only affects new data. However, existing entries will not be changed retrospectively. To adjust the data fields retrospectively, the function **Edit / Adjust data...** can be used
- Hide Picture: This can be useful if the change of persons in the navigator is too slow. The reason may be that either the images are too large or the computer is generally too slow.
- Only main name in Navigator: This can be used to determine whether all first names or only the main names appear in the navigators' persons' fields.
- Treat "Consecration" as Communion/Confirmation: This option plays a role in **integrity check** and

when storing a file in GEDCOM format. This option should only be switched off if the input fields of "Consecration" are used for purposes other than confirmation/communion (possibly regionally related divergent interpretation of the term "Consecration").

- GEDCOM report after import: This option displays the GEDCOM import report after loading a GEDCOM file, provided it is selected at "info after opening a family" in **Options... [Folders]**.
- Erase all connections when a person is deleted: If a person is deleted, then not only other persons' references to that person will be deleted, but the name entries will also be removed.
- Warn if "New person" is added to an existing family: The default info text can be switched off here
- Message after "Sort family" function: The "End" message can be switched off here
- Apply change of name to all references: If a person's birth or first name is changed, then the entries are automatically adjusted for the connected persons (parents, children, siblings, partners)
- Confirm when adding pictures from removable devices: Asks when images are added to a person that comes from a removable data carrier (CD, USB stick) whether they should be copied to the hard drive.
- Ask when a new person is created: Creates a demand if in a person's input dialog, a relationship is selected ("father", "mother", "1st", "2nd", ...) that no person is yet assigned to.
- Confirm saving HTML formats without privacy policy: HTML files that you want to publish on your website on the Internet should not contain data from living persons without asking the persons for permission beforehand. Therefore, there is a demand by default if the data protection option has not been activated.
- Warn if not all data could be saved as CSV file: Ahnenblatt can store and load the entered Ahnenblatt data as a CSV file. However, not all data can be converted into the 'table-like' CSV format. For example, it is not possible to store the data of the local administration or the creator of the file in the CSV file.
- Notification if a place name has been changed in the local government: If you accidentally change the place name, you will see a notification as to whether the change should be made
- Automatic date correction during input: This changes date inputs into the short format specified by the operating system (e.g. MM/DD/YYYY).
- Main name must be one of the first names: This determines whether you can also enter a name in the 'main name' input box that is not one of the first names.
- Confirm if files should copy to media directory: This collects added images or files in a common folder, the name of the folder is determined by the name of the ancestor file.
- Confirm when adding user-defined event/fact: this indicates that preferably one of the given events should be chosen, since user-defined events/facts could be lost when exporting data to other program
- Message after persons text is copied to clipboard: in the input dialog there is the possibility to copy all data of a person in text form to the clipboard. After clicking on the corresponding control button, this option displays the text that is available in the clipboard afterwards.
- Ask if directly switch to a newly created relative: If a new related person is created in the input dialog, then, with the option set, a request is made as to whether the new person should be called directly for further data entry. If one does not always want to answer this demand immediately, then one can deselect the option "show always" and the selection made will be permanently maintained.

Color selection: By clicking on the respective color fields, you can determine the color of the navigator background, the navigator lines and the personal boxes (male, female, unknown).
The "standard" button allows you to reset the colors to the default values.
The color can also be changed in the menu **View-/Change navigator color...**.

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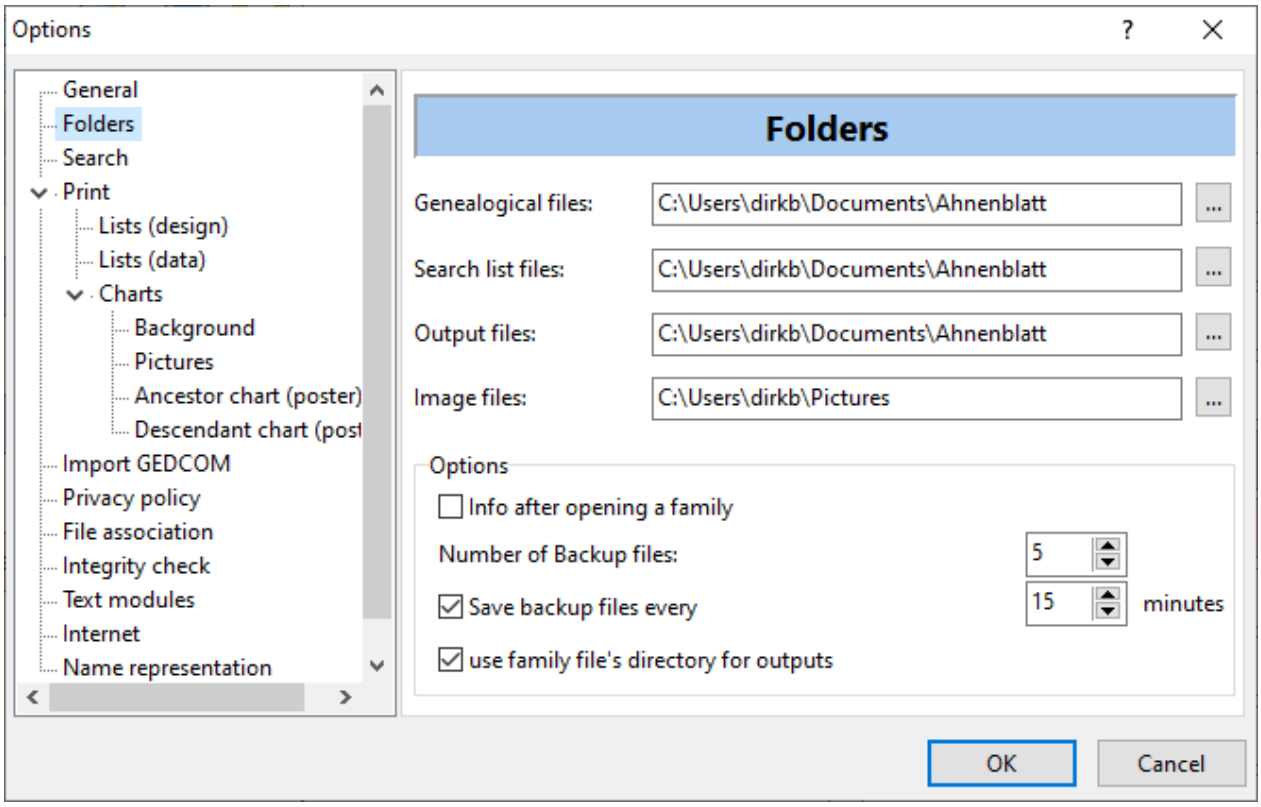
[Folders]



Folders:

- Directory of family ancestor files – Initial folder at **File / Open...**
- Directory of search term files
- Directory of output files
- Directory of picture files
- Directory of tree chart backgrounds - directory in which image files for tree chart backgrounds are located (adjustable under **Extras / Options... [Print]**)
- Into after opening a family: Shows the number of persons after opening a family file
- Number of backup files: If a number is set above zero, an existing Ahnenblatt file (.ahn) is renamed a backup file (.bak) when a new one is saved. The number here defines the number of backup files that are kept. This can be useful to restore data that has been deleted. The backup files can be opened in the **Open...** dialog.
- Save backup files every: This periodically saves family data if changes have been made. If the computer is switched off by accident or because of a power outage, the latest data can be recovered. When Ahnenblatt is started after an uncontrolled shutdown, a recovery prompt will appear and guide you thru the recovery process.
- Use family file's directory for outputs: By default, Ahnenblatt files are always saved in the output files directory. If this option is set, the directory of the currently used Ahnenblatt file is suggested when saving a file. This can be helpful if you work with multiple Ahnenblatt files that are in different directories.

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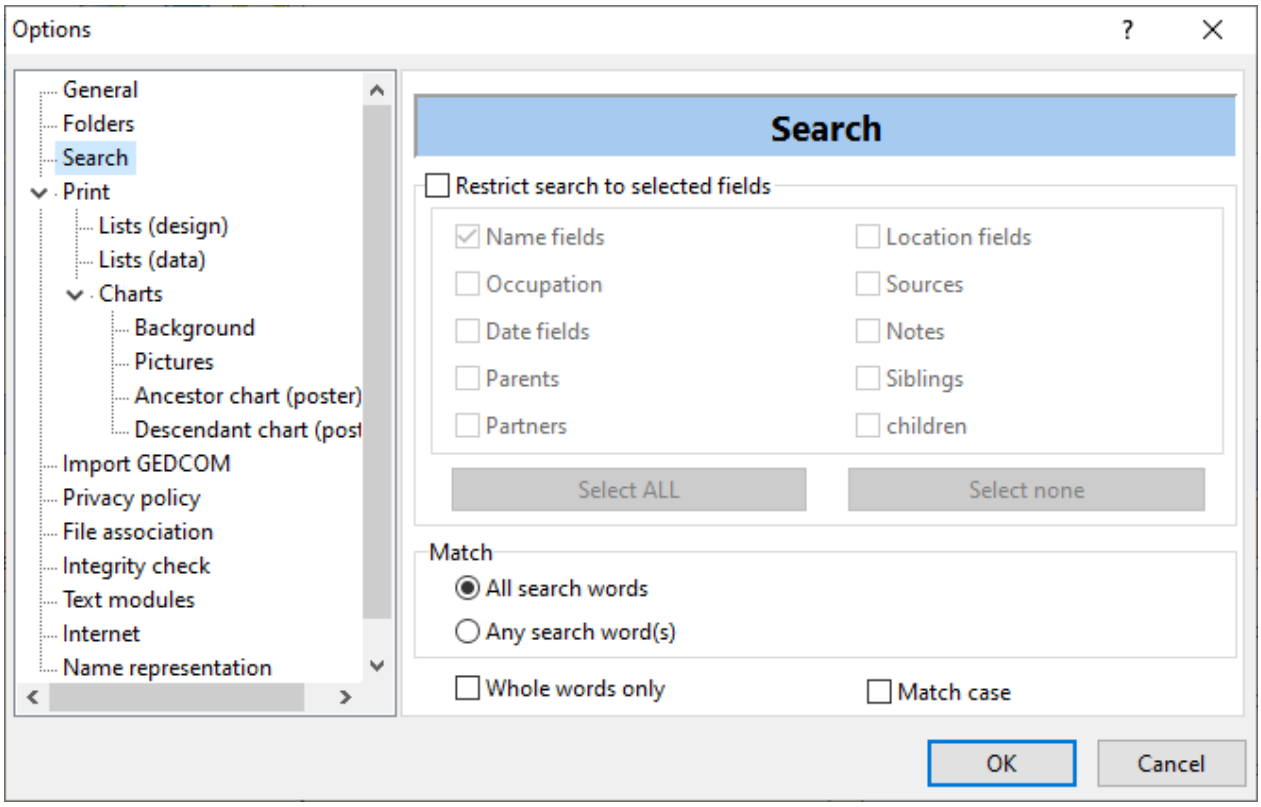
[Search]



Search:

- Restrict search to selected fields - Determines the data fields in which you search
- Match - All search words must be found or at least one (any)
- Whole words only – Only whole words are found but no partial words (e.g. searching for 'Farmer' does not find 'farm')
- Match case – The search is case sensitive

These settings can also be found at **Search...**

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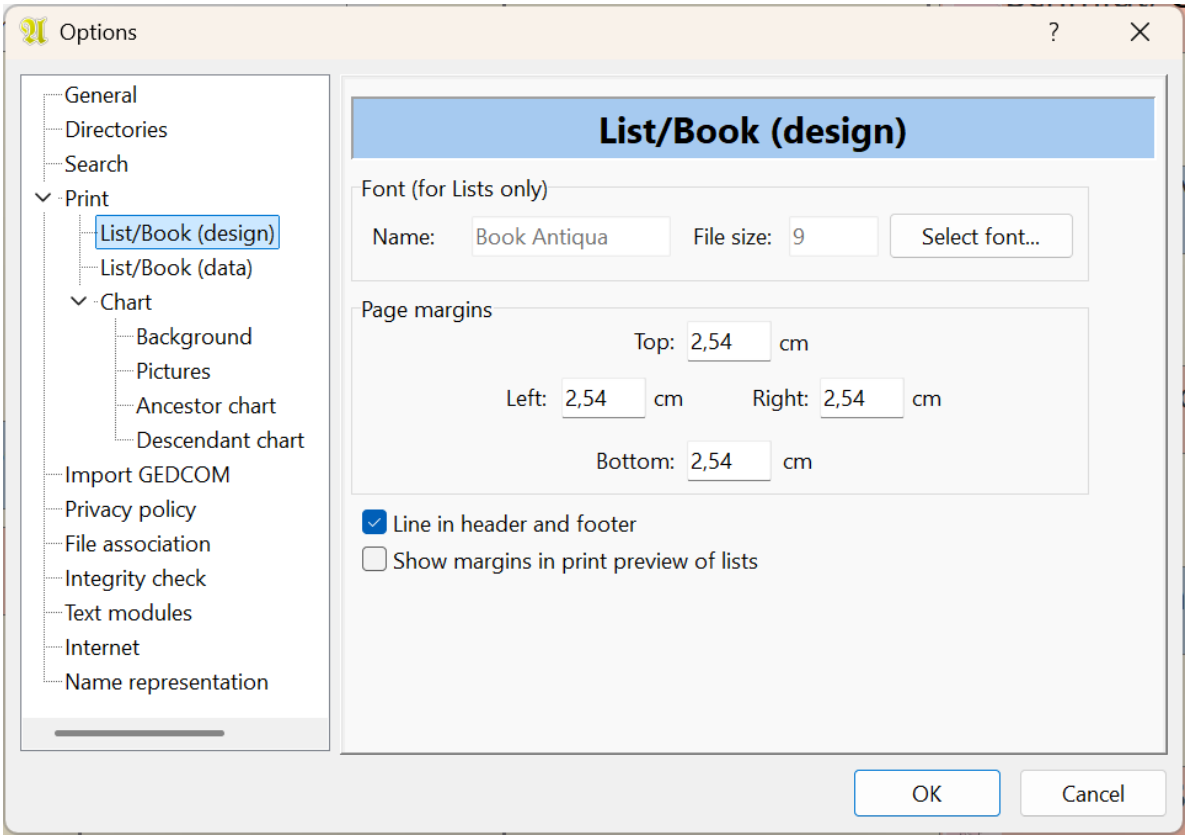
[Print]

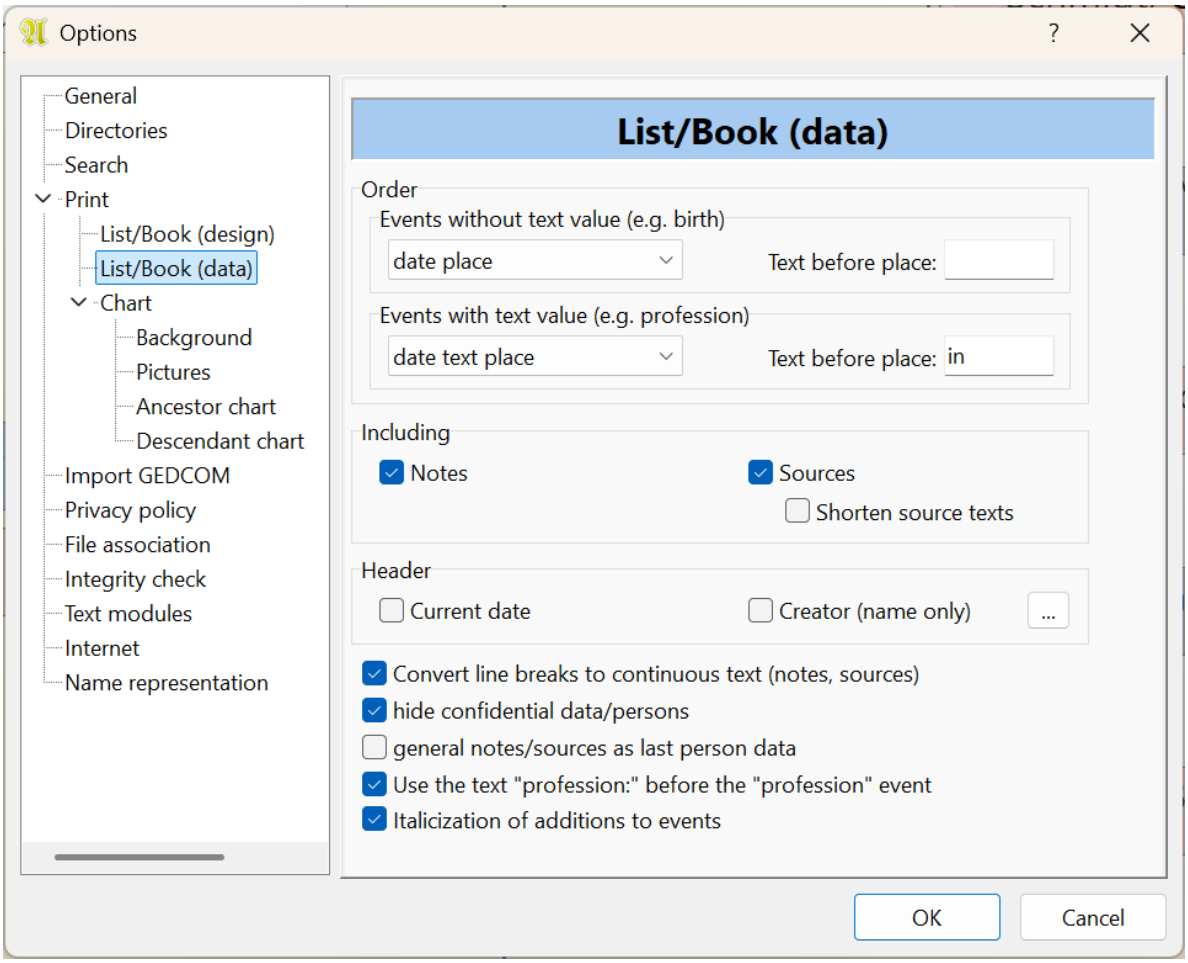
There are extensive settings for printing.

The following sub-categories can be found:

- **List/Book (design):** Options that affect the appearance of lists (such as font and page margins).

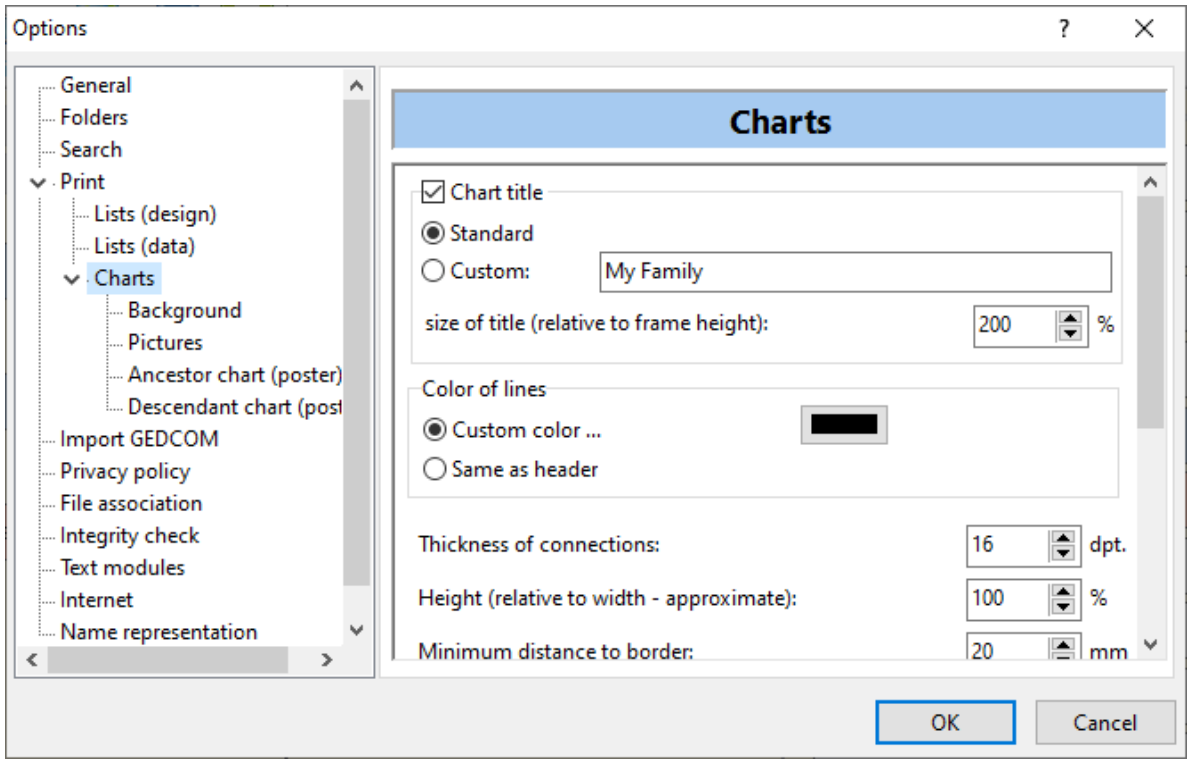


- **List/Book (data):** Options that affect the data display for all lists.

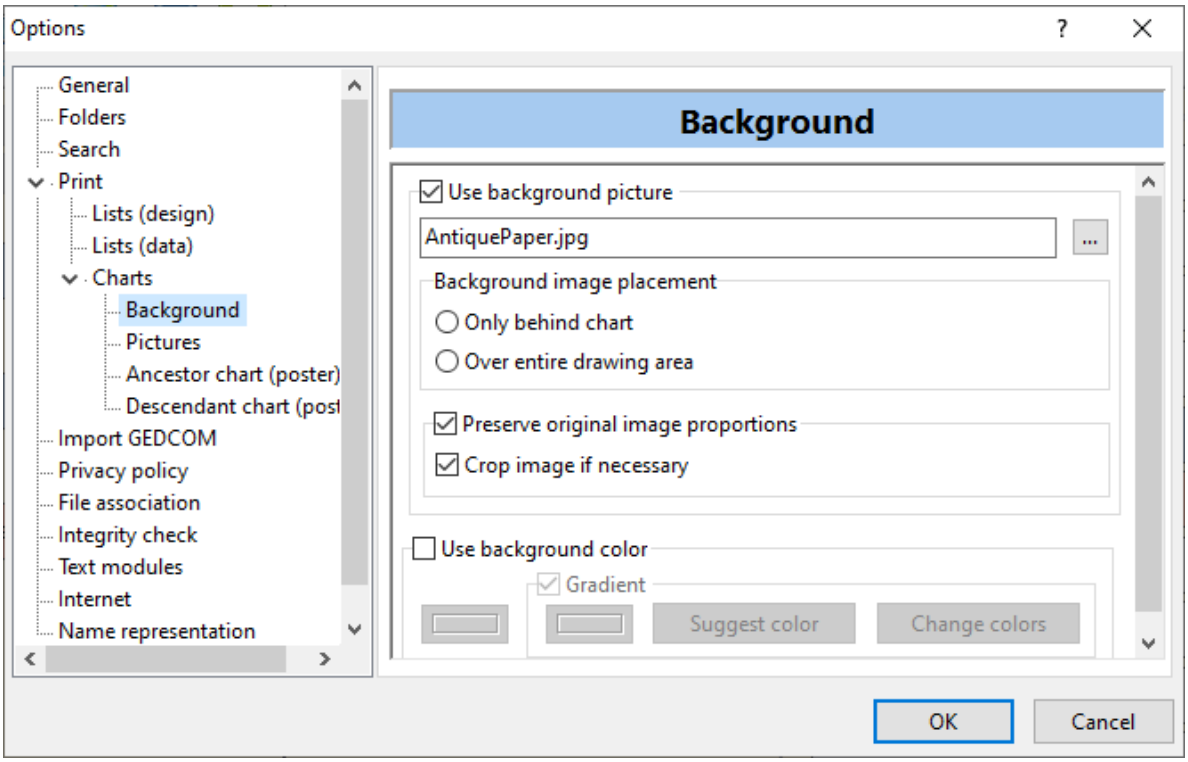


- 'Order' distinguishes between events with and without a text value, whereby a text can optionally be inserted before the location (e.g. "1890 Mayor in London").
- 'Including Notes/Sources': this controls whether notes or sources should also appear in lists. Maybe the notes only contain information internal to the researcher, which should not appear in lists, or the recipient of a list has no need for source information.
- 'Header': displays the current date and/or the name of the creator in the header of all lists if required. The name of the creator can be entered under 'File / Properties...'.
- 'Convert line breaks to continuous text': If manual line breaks exist in notes or sources, the result may look unpleasant in the exported file. This option removes the line breaks for the export.
- 'hide confidential data/ persons' ensures that data marked as confidential is not exported. However, this only plays a role if the data comes from a GEDCOM file that was not created with Ahnenblatt. Ahnenblatt does not yet provide a field to mark certain events as confidential.
- 'general notes/sources as last person data' concerns the person sheet, which then inserts this data after all partners and children - i.e. at the very end of the person sheet
- 'Use the text "Profession:" before the event "Profession"': in books in particular, it can be useful for the job title not to be listed on its own. While with the word "secretary" you still know that it must be a profession, with older designations, such as "cottager", you may wonder whether it is a place or a name.
- 'Italicization of additions to events': especially in books, additions (cause of death, address, godparents, event notes, ...) are placed in brackets after the event data (date and place). To make it stand out even more in a continuous text, it is possible to use italics.

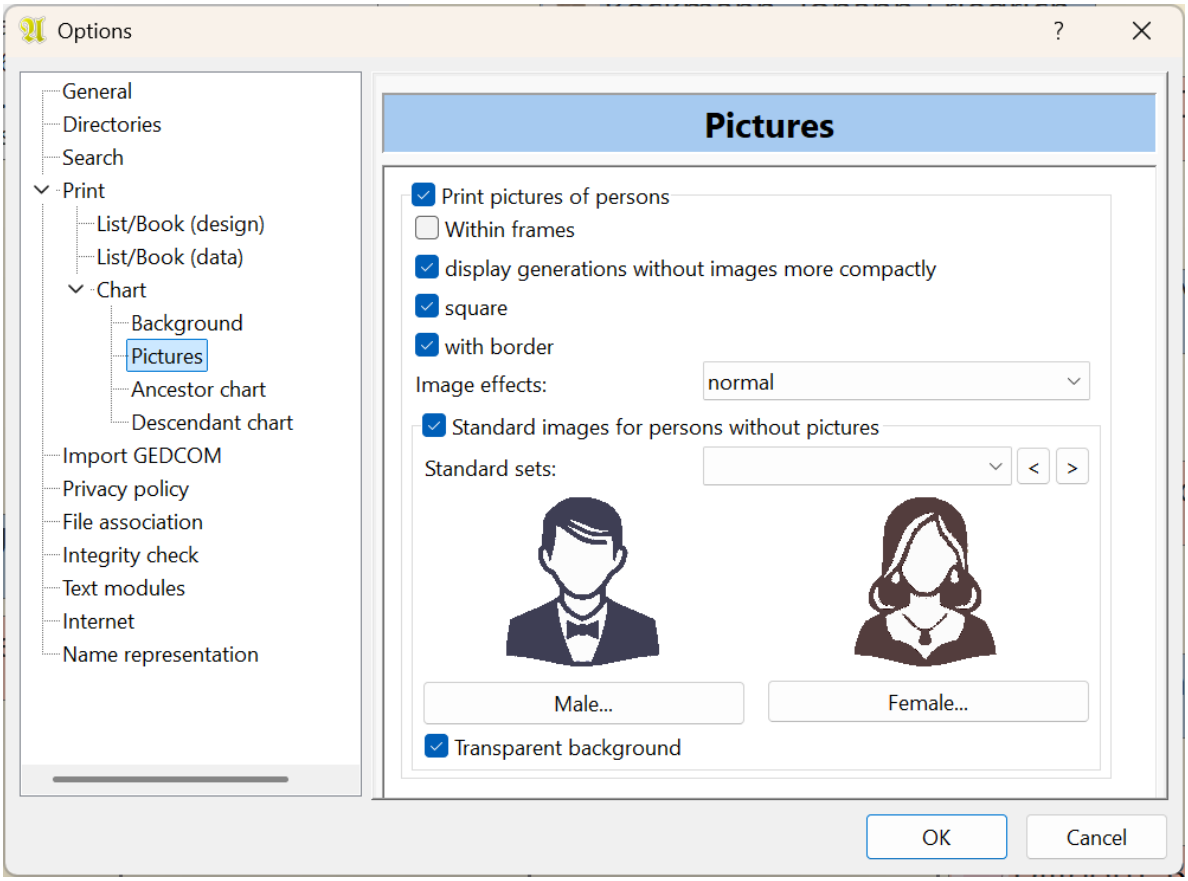
- **Charts:** Special settings for all chart variants (e.g. headline and wallpaper)



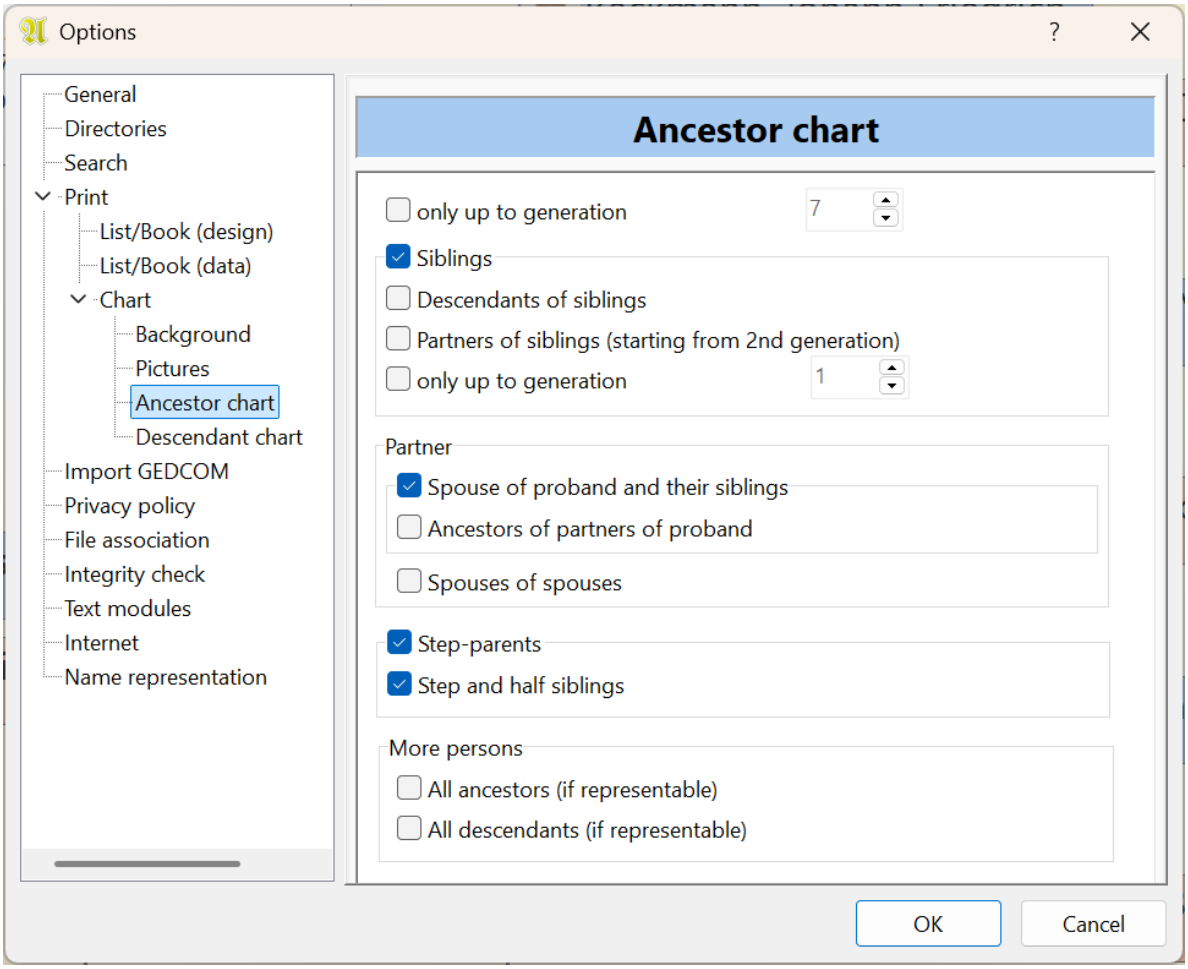
- **Background:** A background image or color can be selected here



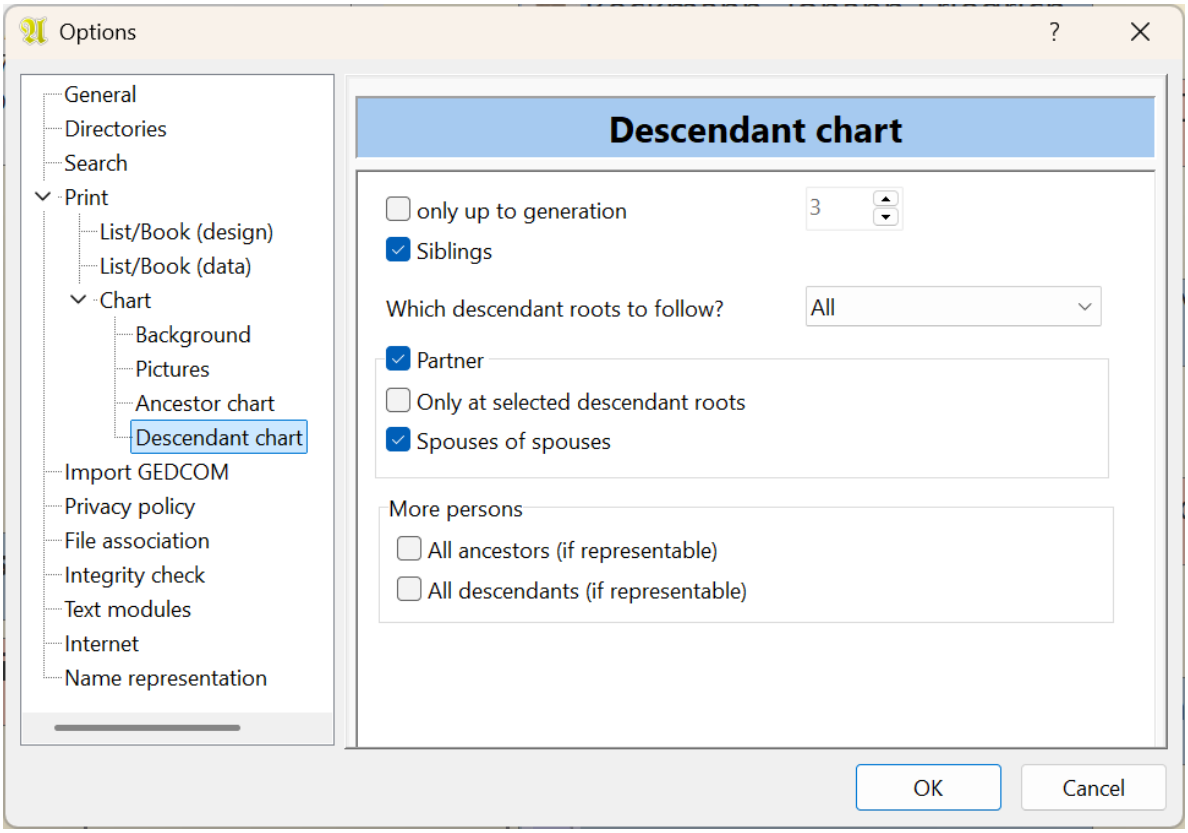
- **Pictures:** Settings for images of persons. Where no image has been inserted, standard images can be set



- **Ancestor chart:** settings for ancestor chart (poster) to select the groups of persons to be shown



- **Descendant chart:** Setting for the descendant chart (poster) to select the groups of persons to be shown



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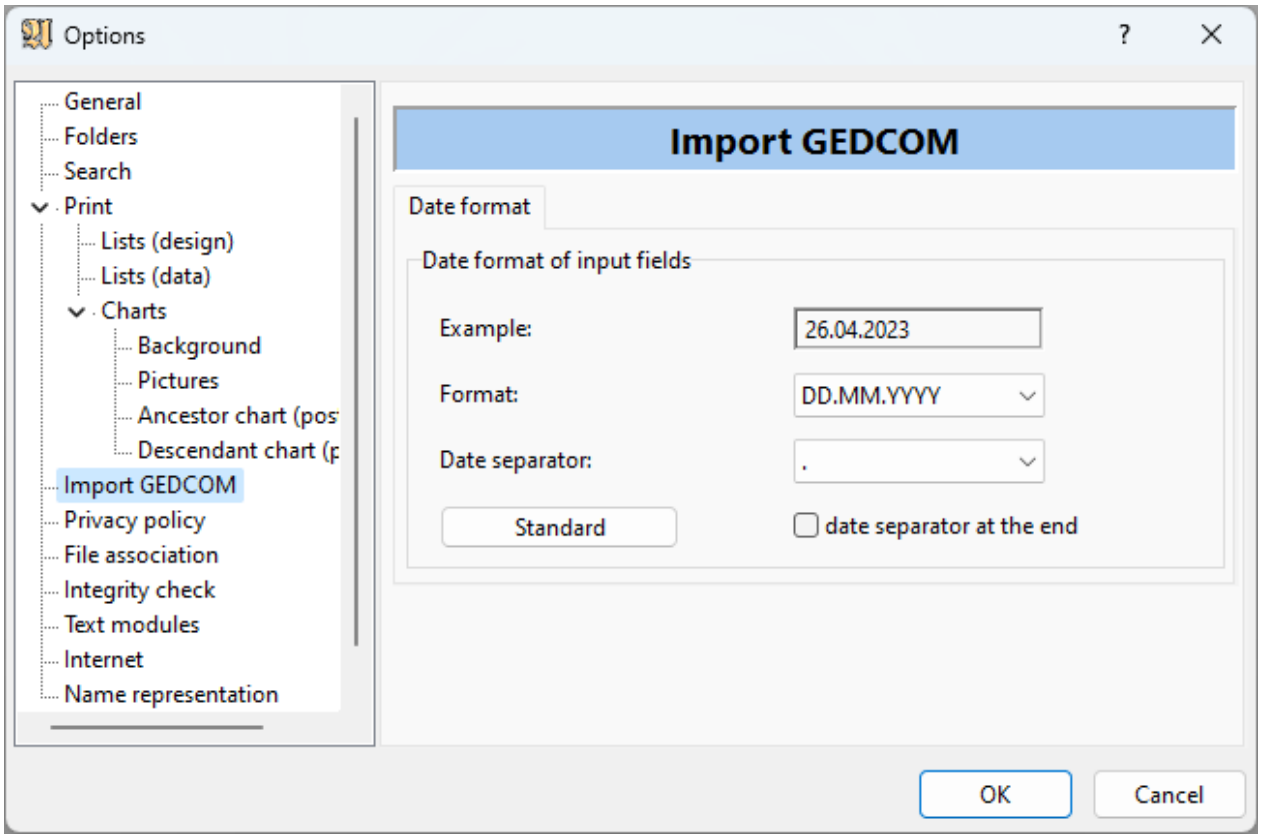
[Import GEDCOM]



Date format: Ahnenblatt uses pure text format boxes in all date fields. In which form dates should be

interpreted when opening a GEDCOM file can be determined here.

Pre-setting is the "short date format" set in windows. Usually, you won't have to change anything here.

If settings were changed here, they can be reset to the Windows setting to "Short date format" with the "Standard" button.

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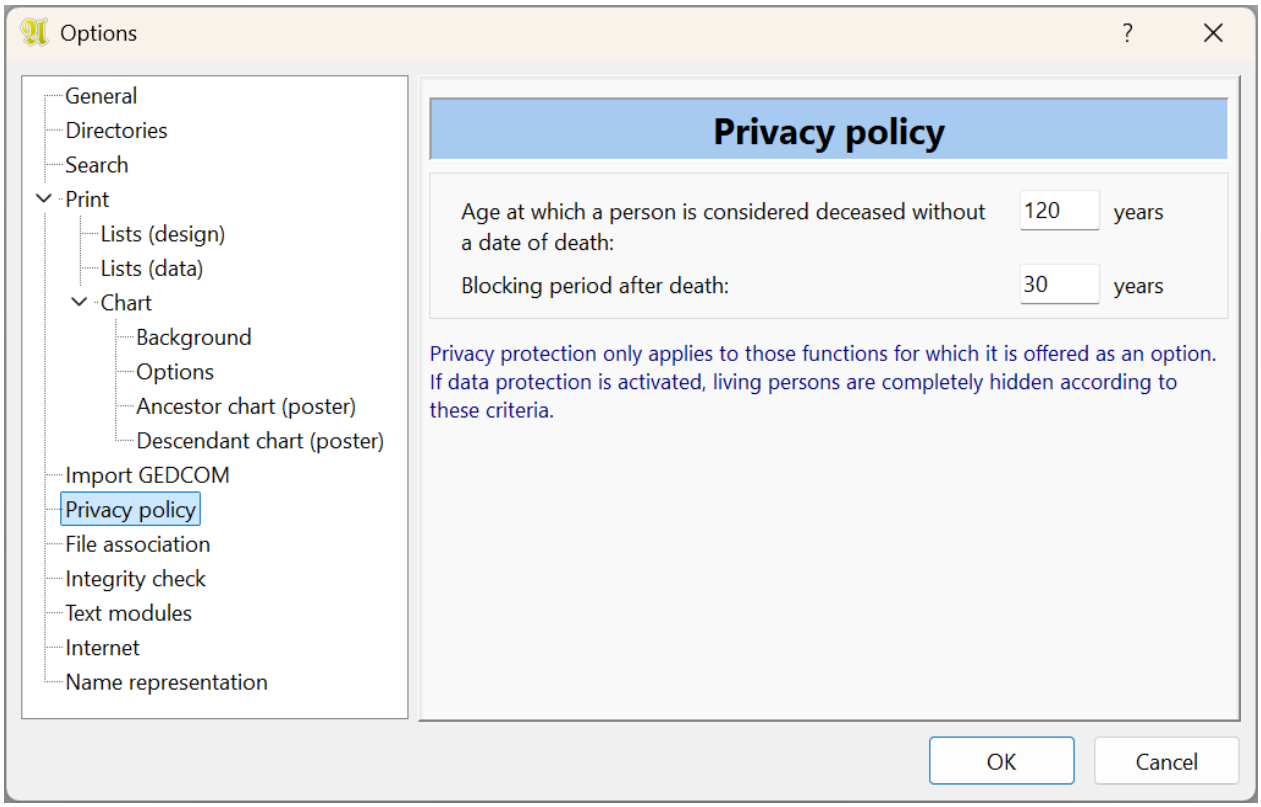
[Privacy policy]



These settings affect saving in HTML format (HTML page, HTML website), but are also used for the family book.

In the HTML options dialog that appears before saving, there is a switch that can turn data protection on and off. If you want to present HTML files publicly on the Internet, data of living persons should not be shown in full detail.

There is also a corresponding option in the "Create a book" dialog in the family book.

The "Age from which a person without a date of death is considered deceased" field also plays a special role, as it is also used for the event list ("Only living" option) and the plausibility check.

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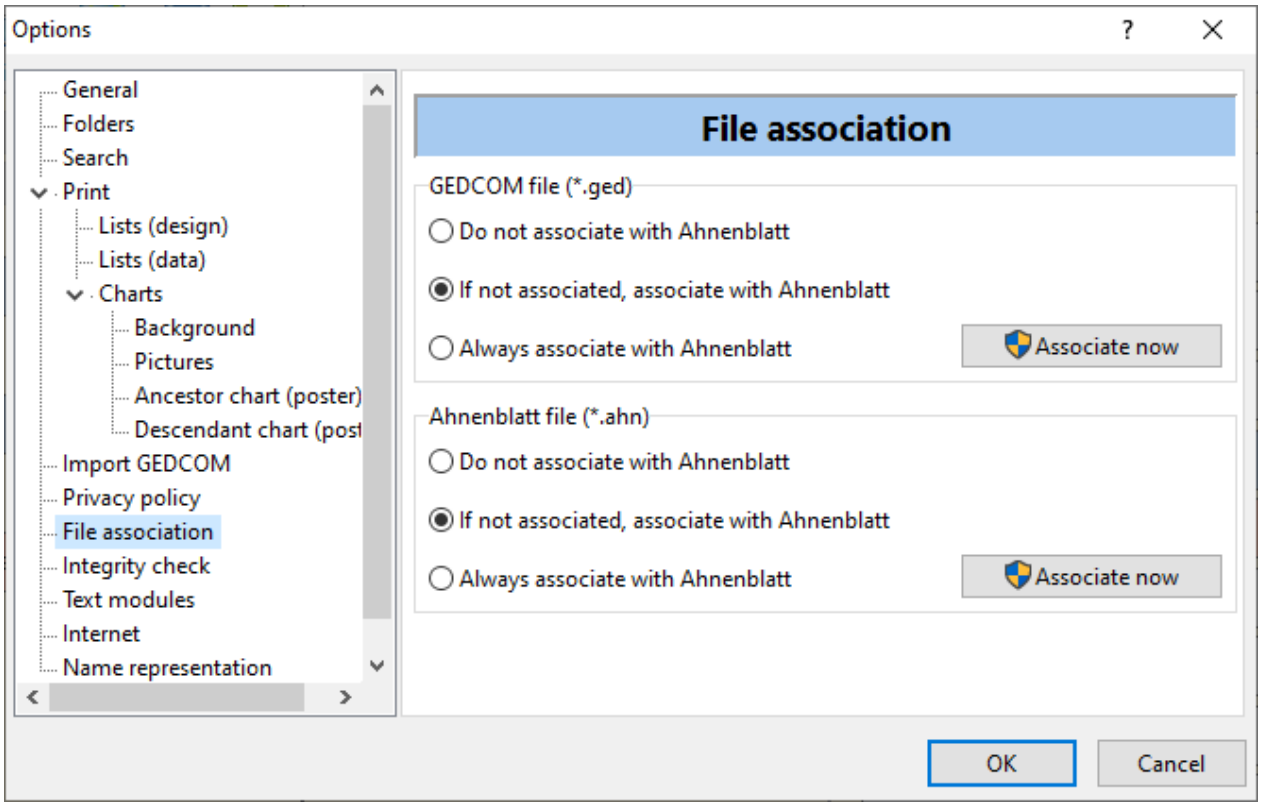
[File association]



Here it can be determined whether the data formats .ahn (Ahnenblatt file) and .ged (GEDCOM file) should be associated with Ahnenblatt by default. That means that a double-click of a .ahn file in windows explorer opens this file immediately in Ahnenblatt.

Different settings for GEDCOM files can be useful if you work with multiple genealogy programs (and all of them can handle .ged files).

Available settings:

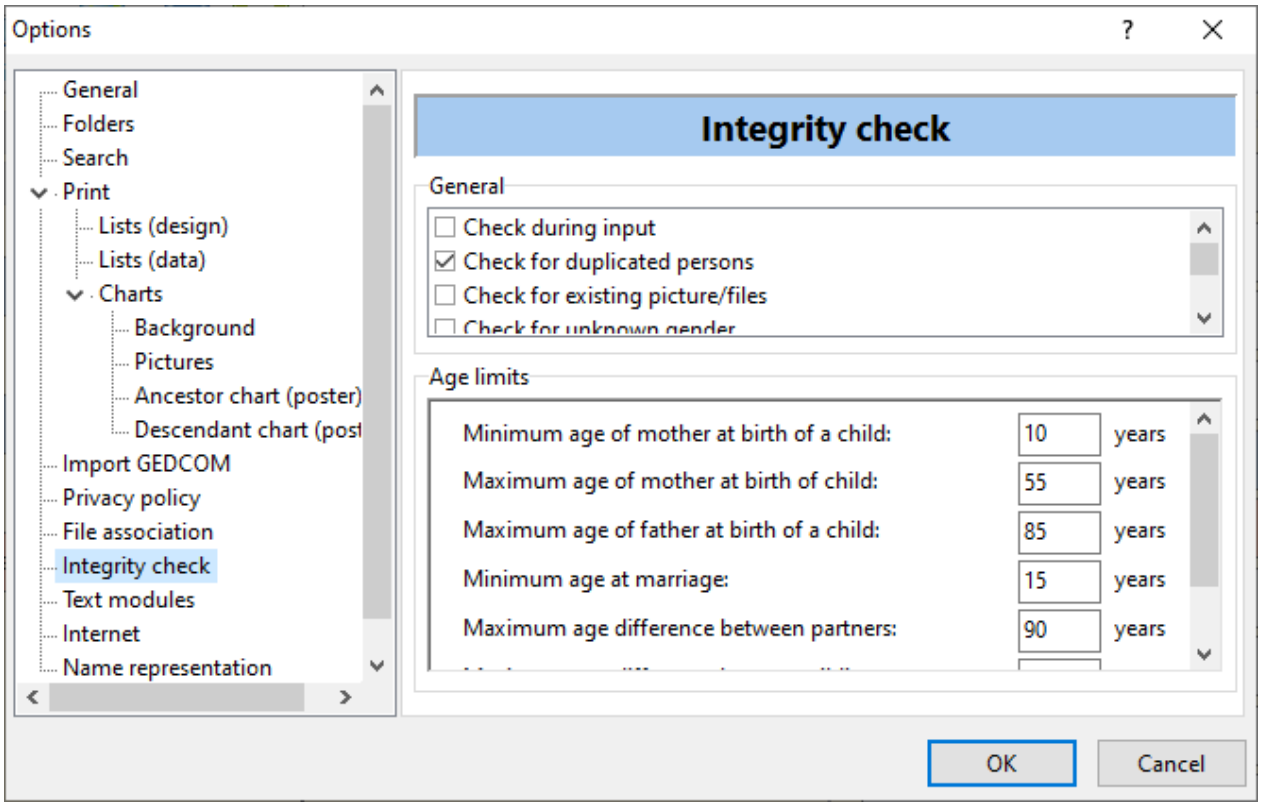
- Do not associate with Ahnenblatt
- If not associated, associate with Ahnenblatt
- Always associate with Ahnenblatt

These settings are checked at the start of the program by Ahnenblatt and communicated to Microsoft Windows.

An instant association can be achieved by clicking on "associate now."

Created with the Standard Edition of HelpNDoc: Easy CHM and documentation editor

[Integrity check]



- Check during input: Shows integrity errors as soon as a person is closed or switched to another person.
- Check for duplicated persons: Notifies you when two identical persons are identified. Two persons are considered identical if they have the same birth name, first names and at least the same date of birth or death.
- Check for existing picture/files: This option notifies about unfound files associated with persons. However, if you work with a "foreign" file, to which you do not have the picture files, these notifications can be disturbing. Therefore, this can be switched off.
- Check for unknown gender: This reports persons who are registered as gender "unknown".
- Report for persons without connections: This will report persons who have no reference to other persons. Since this may be intentional, it can be turned off.
- Check for the amount of underscores in the first name: The underscores in the first name field have a special meaning because they mark the main name (e.g. "firstname1 _firstname2_ firstname3"). They are therefore only allowed to occur not at all or exactly twice. Since individual or more than two underscores can be an error, they can be set to be reported with this option.
- Check if dates are in the future: Generate messages if a date in the future has been entered (e.g. five-digit year).
- Check if date entries are GEDCOM-compatible: It is checked whether the dates can be converted to a standard-compliant GEDCOM format, which only plays a role when saving in GEDCOM format. GEDCOM compliant can be referred to as dates in which day/month/year is given in numbers (e.g. 12/31/1999), dates consisting only of month/year (e.g. 12/1999), only annual figures (e.g. 1999) or combinations with the prefaces 'around' (e.g. around 1999), 'estimated' (e.g. estimated 1999), 'before' (e.g. before 1999), 'after' (e.g. after 12/31/1999), 'from ... to ...' (e.g. from 1999 to 2010) or 'between ... and ...' (e.g. between 12/10/1999 and 12/31/1999). Dates different from that (for example, autumn 1999), while saved correctly in a GEDCOM file, it can cause problems when opening in another program (changing or ignoring the date).
- Check if main name is part of given names: This reports person where the main name is not part of the first names. However, since main names do not always have to be part of the first names internationally, it may be helpful to switch off these messages. Under **Extras / Options... [General]**

there is the 'main name must be one of the first names' option, which allows you to enter any main name.

in addition, several age limits can be set:

- Minimum age of mother at birth of a child
- Maximum age of mother at birth of a child
- Maximum age of father at birth of a child
- Minimum age at marriage
- Maximum age difference between partners
- Maximum age difference between siblings
- Maximum age of a person

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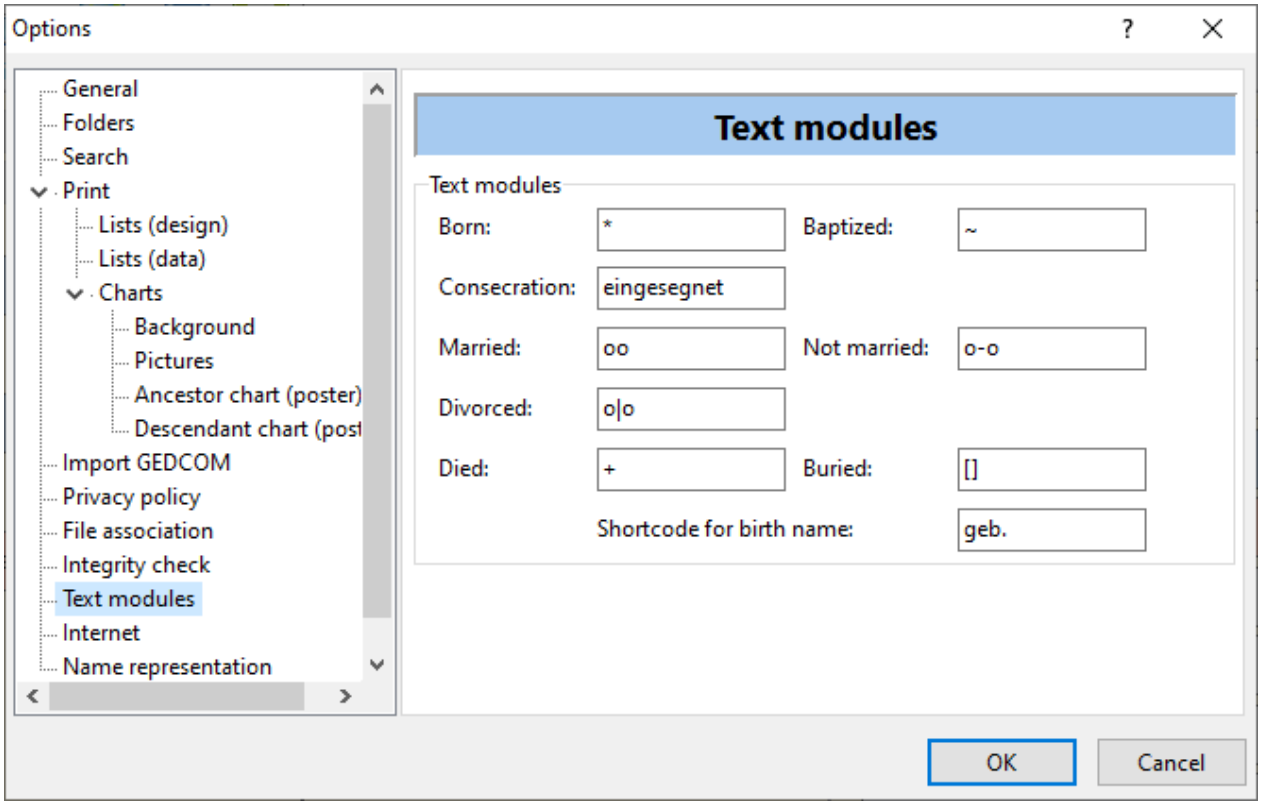
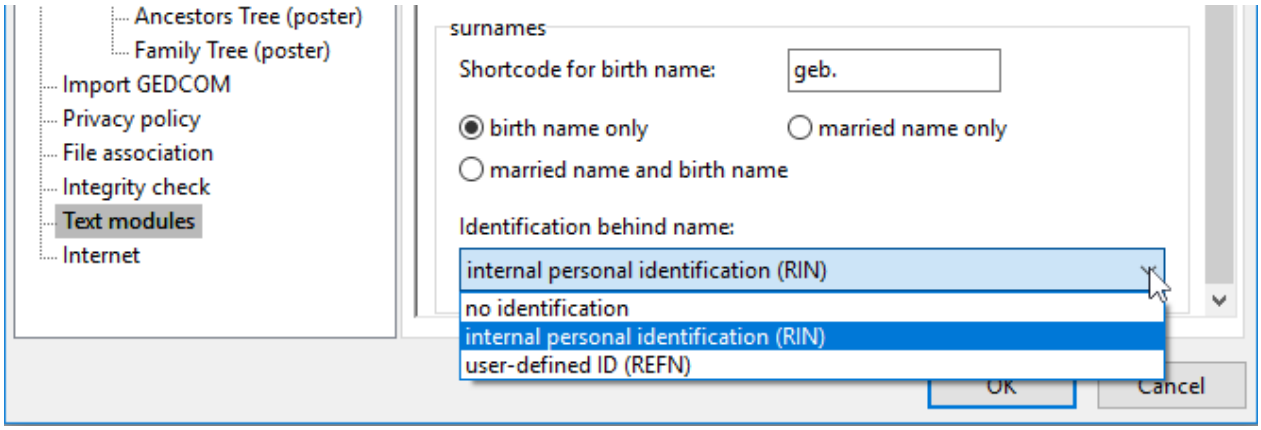
[Text modules]



Abbreviations for events can be defined here, which will be used e.g. in charts.

It is possible to determine how the surnames of the persons (in lists, tree charts and other exports) should be displayed. You can choose from 'birth name only', 'marriage name only' or 'marriage name and ‘birth name'. The last option then leads to the spelling 'marriage name born birth name', for example 'marriage name born birth name'.



At the very end you can still determine a "label after the name". This indicator is displayed in all dialogs, but also in lists or charts in square brackets after the name.

Default is "no identification", then there is the "internal personal identification", which automatically assigns each person's genealog themselves and has the format "AB: Ix" (x is a number), and the "user-defined ID" which corresponds with the same-named input field, which you can assign to each person (can be filled with free text).

The terms in brackets (RIN, REFN) are the GEDCOM tags that are used internally for tagging and stored in a GEDCOM file.

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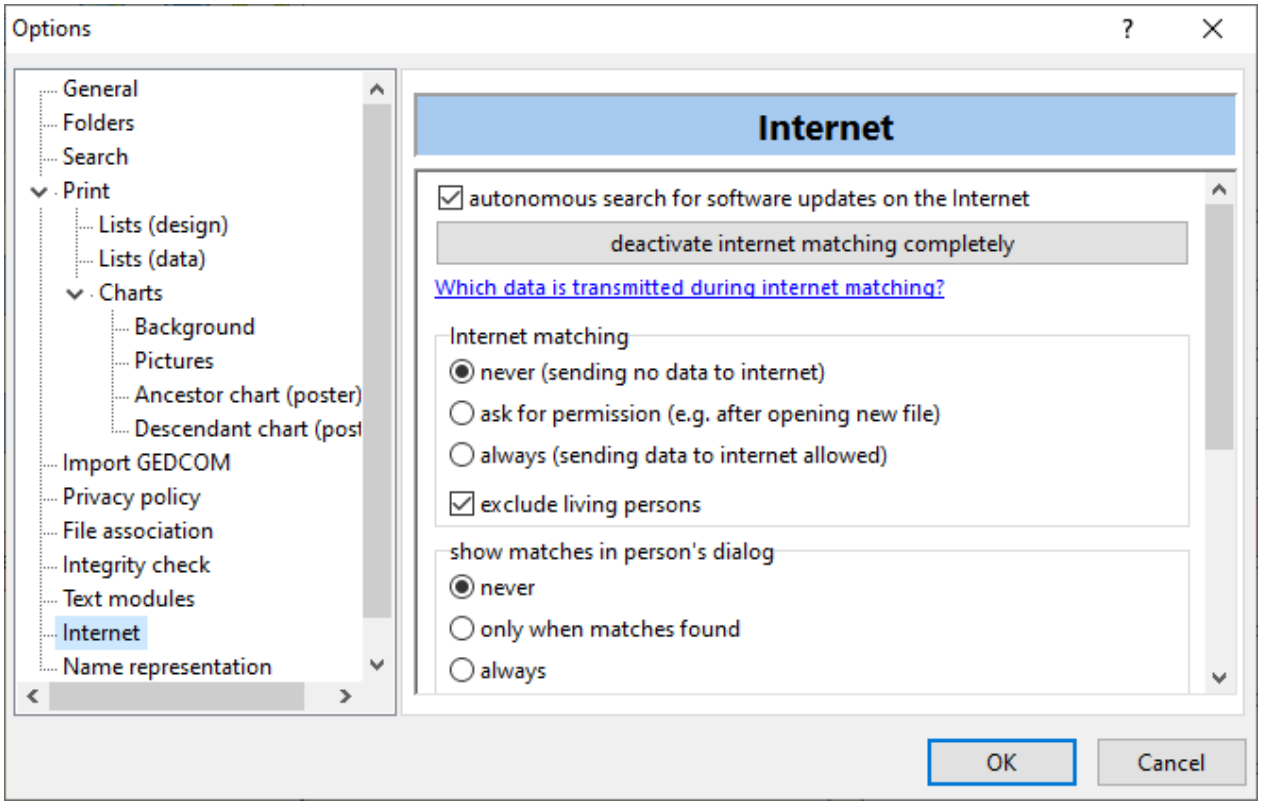
[Internet]

These are the settings for Internet matching.

Details on data transfer for Internet matching are found here.



The option "autonomous search for software updates on the Internet" allows the search for a program update of Ahnenblatt.
This search will take place immediately after the start of the program, provided that the last search was more than 14 days ago.

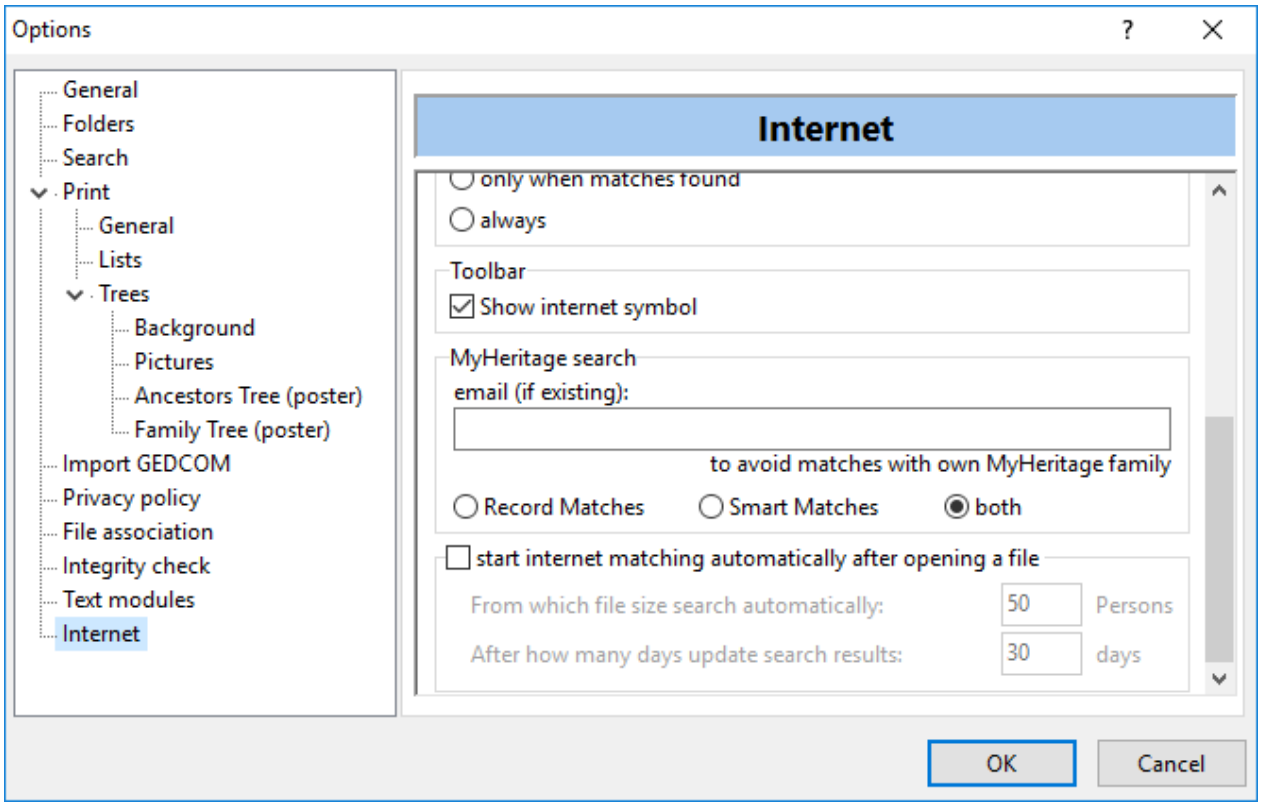
With the button "deactivate Internet matching completely", all Internet settings are made in such a way that the Internet matching function is nowhere to be selected.

By default, the options are set in such a way that no automatic Internet matching is carried out in the background, and any data transfer to the Internet has to be confirmed by the user (for example, if you call the Internet matching dialog and click "start"). As a result, no data is transmitted to an Internet service provider without the user's knowledge.

A detailed explanation is obtained by clicking on the text "Which data is transmitted during Internet matching?" **here**.

Under "Internet matching", Internet matching can be switched off or on. You can also exclude living persons from the search.

You can control whether you want to see hits found in the persons' input dialog. It can be convenient always to have them displayed. It can serve as a reminder to run the Internet matching function specifically for this person.



Whether the Internet matching icon is displayed in the toolbar at all can be set here.

If you are already a registered member of “MyHeritage” (there is a free but also a paid version) and you have already created your family tree there, then you might not want to get hits from your data. You can enter your e-mail address, which you have used to register with “MyHeritage” so that your data is excluded from the Internet matching.

You can choose whether to search only for RecordMatches (search in archives), only SmartMatches (MyHeritage user data), or both.

The option “start Internet matching automatically after opening a file” applies in combination with other "Internet matching" options and is only active if data can be sent to the Internet (with or without

confirmation).

The option “from which file size search automatically” is intended to prevent an Internet matching from being carried out in the case of small test files.

Ahnenblatt always stores the number of Internet hits per person with the Ahnenblatt file. To ensure that Ahnenblatt does not always search the Internet for new data, it is possible to determine after how many days a persons’ data is rechecked on the Internet. That reduces data transfer, especially since an Internet service provider does not have new data on a person very often.

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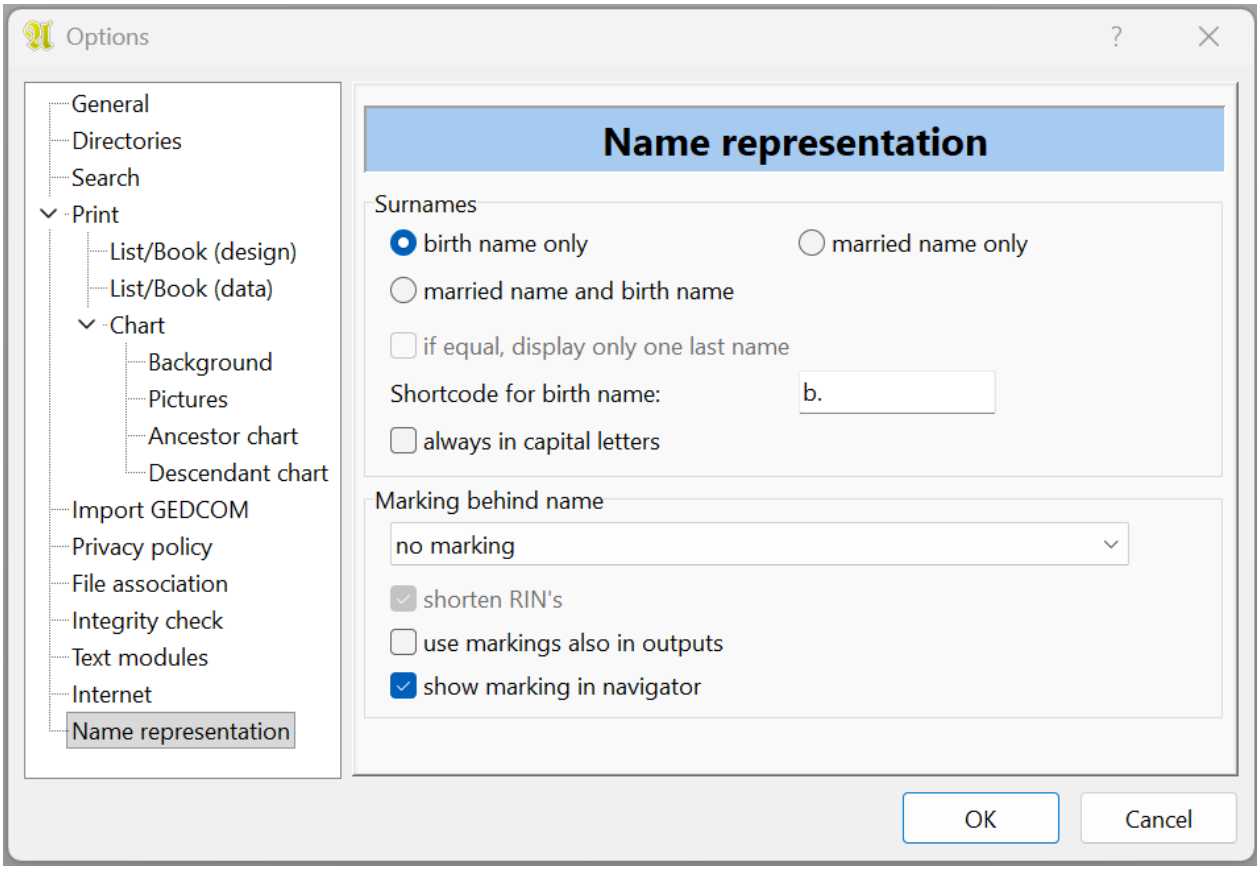
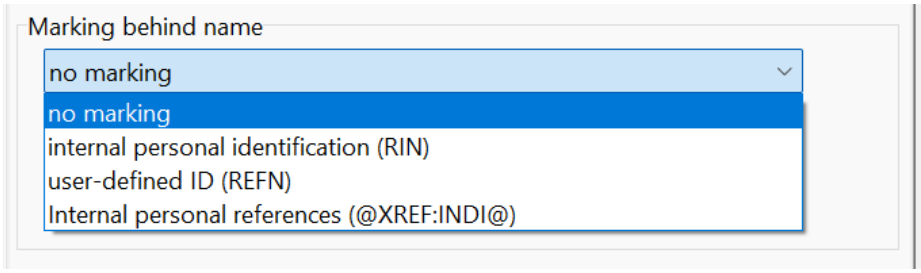
[Name representation]



Here you can set how people's surnames are shown (also in lists, tables and other outputs). You can choose between 'birth name only', 'married name only' or 'married name and birth name'. The last option has a resulting 'married name b. birth name'. To prevent the married name and maiden name from being listed twice when they are the same, there is an option to "show only one last name when they are the same." The prefix that is added to the maiden name in this case can also be customized here.

If the last name should always be displayed in uppercase for better readability, there is also an option for that. This means that maiden names do not have to be entered in a modified form, since the data entered and the display preferences should ultimately be independent of one another.



"Marking behind name" determines which tag is shown in square brackets after the name.

The standard is "no marking", then there is the "internal personal identification", which Ahnenblatt automatically assigns to each person and has the format "AB: Ix" (x is a number), and the "user-defined ID", coming from the same named input field, which can be assigned to any person if necessary (can be filled with text of choice by the user). Third, there is the "Internal personal reference" option, which differs from the "Internal personal identification" in that it remains unique even when multiple files are merged.

The terms in brackets (RIN, REFN, @XREF:INDI@) are the GEDCOM tags that are used internally for identification and are saved in a GEDCOM file.

Since Ahnenblatt always puts an "AB:" in front of the RIN, this can be omitted from the display using the "shorten RIN's" option. Only the part after the colon is then displayed. This also works, for example, with data that comes from other programs (e.g. MyHeritage, which uses the prefix "MB:"). This also applies to the @ symbols in internal user references, which can be shortened if desired. The "Shorten ID" option is not always available; it is only available for IDs that can be shortened.

With "use markings also in outputs" you can determine whether this identifier should also be used in lists, tables, CSV and HTML outputs.

You can also use the "show marking in navigator" option to display the marking in the person boxes in the navigator.

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Tools

The functions displayed under this menu item are created dynamically at the start of the program (partly depending on the Windows version used or additional tools installed). By default, the following functions are delivered with Ahnenblatt:

- **Burn CD:** if this function is used, it creates a directory into which an HTML website, the Ahnenblatt file itself (*.ahn), the data in GEDCOM format (*.ged), an auto-launch file and an icon file are written. This data can then be burned onto a CD (separate program necessary). When inserting the finished CD into a computer, the HTML website is automatically opened, and you can also view the data without using Ahnenblatt.
- **Burn CD [Windows]:** This menu item is only available for Windows XP or newer. It does not require a separate program to burn the data on a CD. Upon clicking this option, a Windows assistant will guide you thru the burning process.
- **Character map:** Shows the Windows character map (available in Windows NT and newer). It allows special international characters to be selected and copied into Ahnenblatt input fields. This menu item is only available for Windows versions that have Unicode support.

Some of these features contain their help texts that provide further information.

Additional tools can be installed, which are available at **www.ahnenblattportal.de** ('Downloads/Plugins').

Since these tools are not a component of Ahnenblatt, the respective authors of the plugins are responsible.

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Language

All installed and available language packages are listed here.

The user interface changes by selecting one of the languages. This process takes a few seconds.

It also allows foreign language exports to be generated (e.g. lists).

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?

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Tips for input...

Welcome...

Ahnenblatt website

Ahnenblatt's support website

Online manuals

Search for update...

Licensing software...

Info...

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Contents

Displays this help document.

Created with the Standard Edition of HelpNDoc: Create cross-platform Qt Help files

Tips for input...

You get straight into this help on the subject **How to start entering the family data?**.

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Welcome...

Shows a menu dialog, which is also shown at the start of Ahnenblatt, with the functions...

- **Open a recent file:** Shows the most recent file used, which can be opened directly. You can also choose between the last five files.
- **Create new Ahnenblatt file:** Start a whole new and empty Ahnenblatt file
- **Open Ahnenblatt file:** Shows the file dialog to open any ancestor file
- **Open GEDCOM file (e.g. from other programs):** Shows the file dialog to open any GEDCOM file. If family data has already been entered in another program, it can usually be exported in the GEDCOM file format to open the data with Ahnenblatt.
- **Open sample file:** Offers existing sample files to open to test the Ahnenblatt functions
- **Search family files on your computer:** Shows a dialog that allows you to search your computer for existing files. That is very helpful, among other things, if GEDCOM files were created with other

programs but the location on the computer is unknown.

- **Enter license keys:** This feature is only available in the demo version of Ahnenblatt and opens the dialog for unlocking to the full version.
- **Open help topic "How to start entering the family data?":** Opens the help chapter for input tips. This is especially recommended when using Ahnenblatt for the first time.
- **Open Help file:** Opens the help file.
- **Open Ahnenblatt website:** Opens a browser and shows the Ahnenblatt website.
- **Open Ahnenblatt support website:** Opens a browser and shows the support website, where you can get tips and suggestions from other Ahnenblatt users.

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Ahnenblatt website

This opens the Ahnenblatt website **www.ahnenblatt.com** in the default Internet browser.

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Ahnenblatt's support website

This opens the Ahnenblatt support website **www.ahnenblattportal.de** in the default Internet browser.

Created with the Standard Edition of HelpNDoc: Maximize Your Documentation Output with HelpNDoc's Advanced Project Analyzer

Online manuals

This opens the "Manuals" section of the Ahnenblatt website in the default browser.

There you will find some pdf manuals for downloading.

Created with the Standard Edition of HelpNDoc: Revolutionize Your CHM Help File Output with HelpNDoc

Search for update...

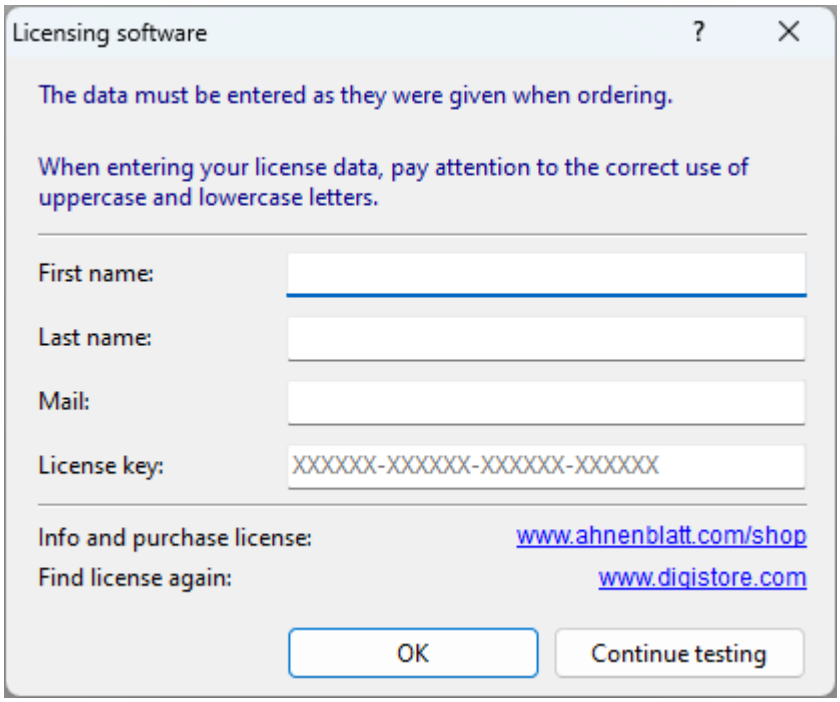
With this feature, Ahnenblatt searches the Internet to see if there is a newer version of the program.

If so, the changes to the newer version will also be shown.

Created with the Standard Edition of HelpNDoc: What is a Help Authoring tool?

Licensing software...

This feature is only available in the demo version of Ahnenblatt and allows unlocking to the full version. In the free version, watermarks are used when exporting lists or tree charts and the number of persons is limited to 50 persons.



The license information can be obtained when purchasing a license from Ahnenblatt on the Ahnenblatt website.
For this purpose, there is a link directly below the input fields and another link that allows you to find license data that is no longer available again.

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Info...

Here you will find the version number of the program, the Internet address of the Ahnenblatt website and the email address for possible support requests.

With the click on the mouse, you can either go to the Ahnenblatt website **www.ahnenblatt.com** or an email program.

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Other dialogs

Im folgenden diverse Dialoge, die nicht unmittelbar aus der Menüleiste aufrufbar sind.

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Format output

The "format" symbol in the print preview opens the "format output" dialog, through which you can determine the overall size of a tree chart.

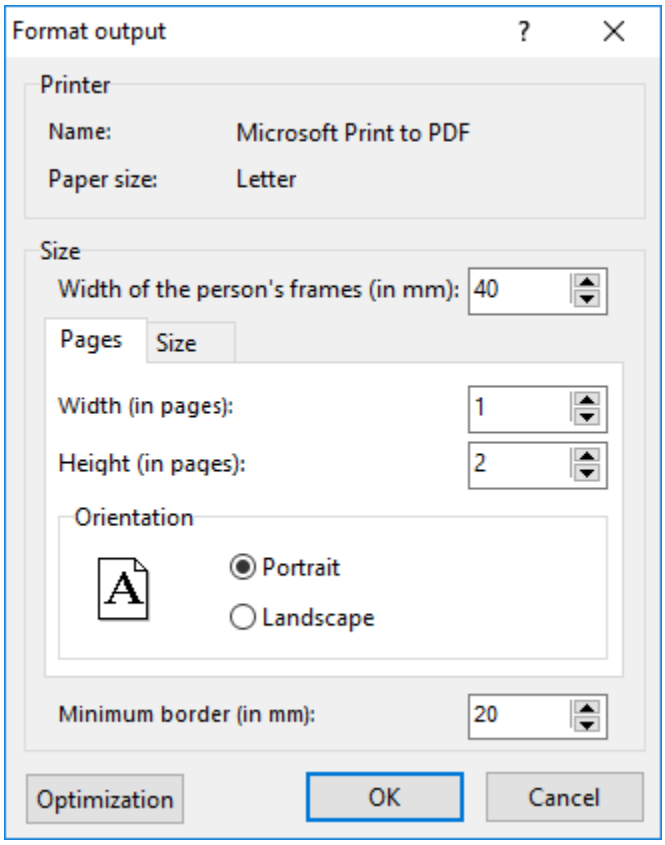
The input fields "width of the person’s frames", "width" and "height" influence each other when entering. Changing one of the input fields also automatically changes the other input fields.

With the "Optimization" button, the widest possible width of the person frames is calculated automatically, based on the "width" and "height" that are selected. "Orientation" needs to be adjusted if necessary.

These input fields under the "Pages" tab are particularly helpful if you plan to print the tree chart on

individual pages.

If, on the other hand, you want to create the tree chart in large format, for example, as a pdf file, then you'd better specify the overall size of the tree chart under the "Size" tab or select one of the predetermined formats.



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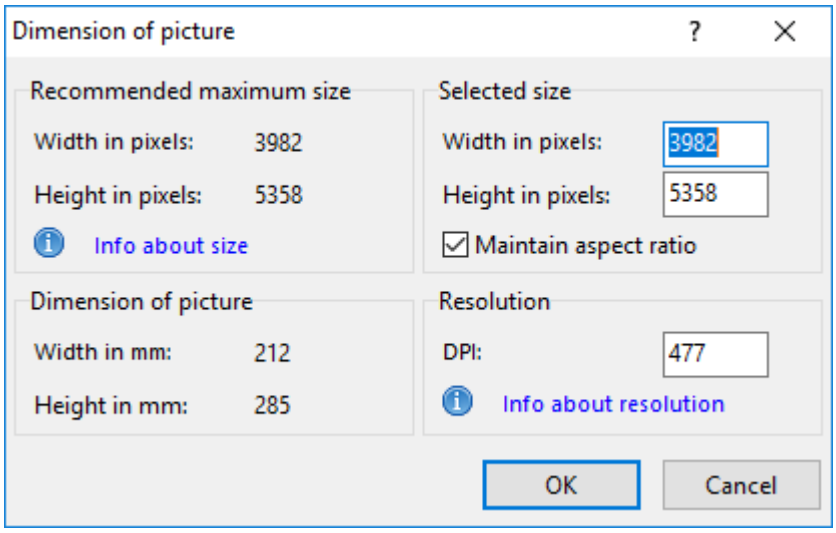
Dimension of picture

When storing a tree chart in one of the image formats (JPEG, PNG, TIFF, ...), the "dimension of picture" dialog appears, in which the width and height can be set in pixels.

Resolution of the picture is set in DPI ("dots per inch" or "pixels per inch"), which indicates the quality at the given image size. For printing, the resolution should ideally be 300 dpi or above. Otherwise, labels wouldn't be so good to read.

An optimal combination of size and resolution can only be achieved with for tree charts. For larger tree charts to go into large scale printing, it's better to use the PDF format.

The "Recommended maximum size" results from the fact that images with a high pixel count require an enormous amount of memory and can hardly be opened by graphics programs.



The image size (in mm) cannot be changed here. You can do this in the "**Format Output**" dialog.

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Person picker

In this dialog, you can choose a group of persons from all persons (e.g. for printing person sheets). You can select individual persons, but you can also use the "mark all" and "mark none" buttons.

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Person selection

If a new person is created and birth and first names have been entered, then Ahnenblatt checks whether similar persons already exist.
If so, they will be offered for selection (under the "proposals" tab). Furthermore, under the "all persons" tab, you have all the persons to choose from.
If the desired person does not exist, click on the "new person" button to create a new person.

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Parents

A dialog to select the parents of a new child.

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Second parent

Selection of the second parent of a new child.

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Children

If a partner is registered with a person who already has children and lacks a second parent to some of the children, then Ahnenblatt will ask for the children of the new partner.

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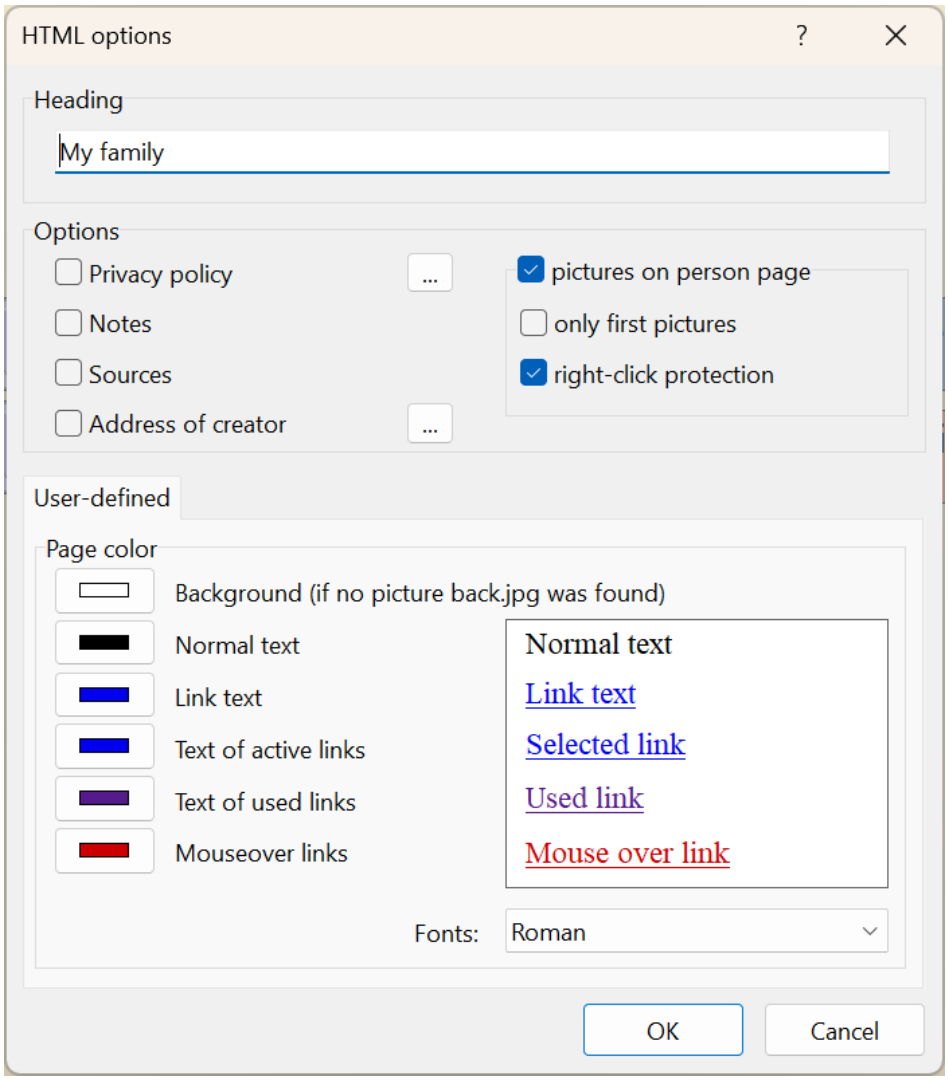
HTML options

In this dialog, more details can be set for HTML editions.

These include a headline, person pictures, creator information (to be found at "**File / Properties...**"), colors and font.

Colors and fonts are shown in a preview window.
The colors can be selected by clicking on the corresponding color spot.
The font has only a few standard fonts to choose from, which are available on all operating systems.



If files with the file extension .css (Cascading Style Sheets = style templates for the HTML file) are found in the target directory, a dialog Select **CSS selection** also appears for selecting the style template to be used.

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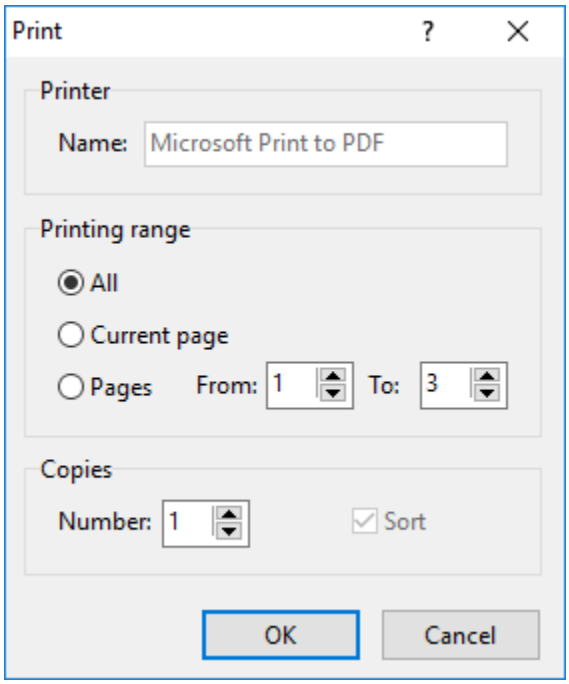
Print

You can use the "print" icon to print a tree chart or list from the print preview. The print area (i.e. Which pages to print) and the number of copies can be specified.



Usually, the standard windows printer is used, which can be set in the "printer setup" dialog ("Setup" icon).

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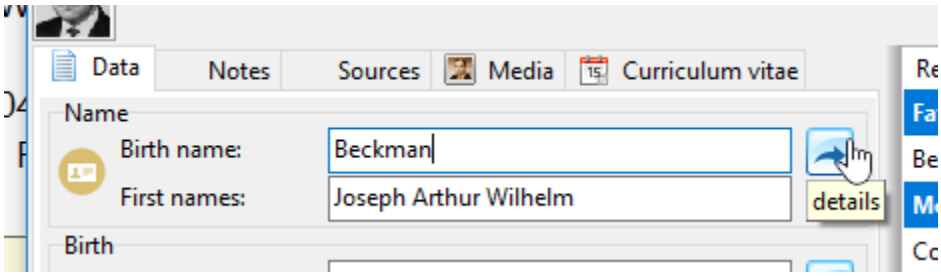
Details

If the **Input mode** is set to "simple", you can view and edit details in the input dialog by clicking the arrow buttons on the right.



You can enter details such as notes, sources or media.

As a special feature:
At the event “baptism” you can also enter info about the event “Confirmation”. For the event “wedding” you can also add info about the “divorce”.

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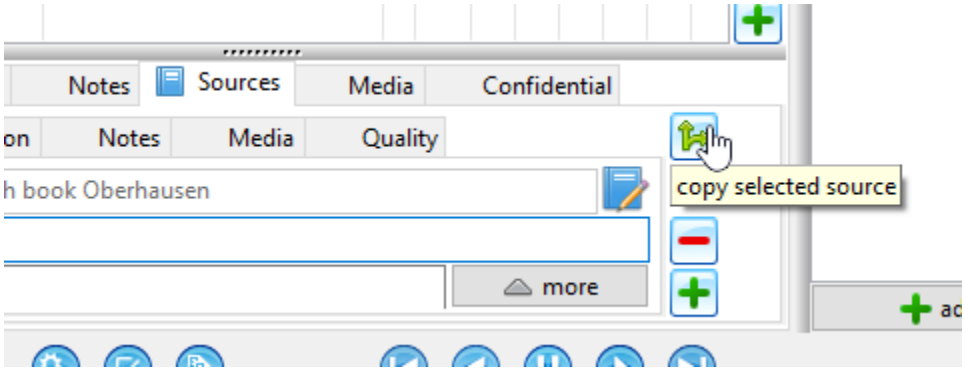
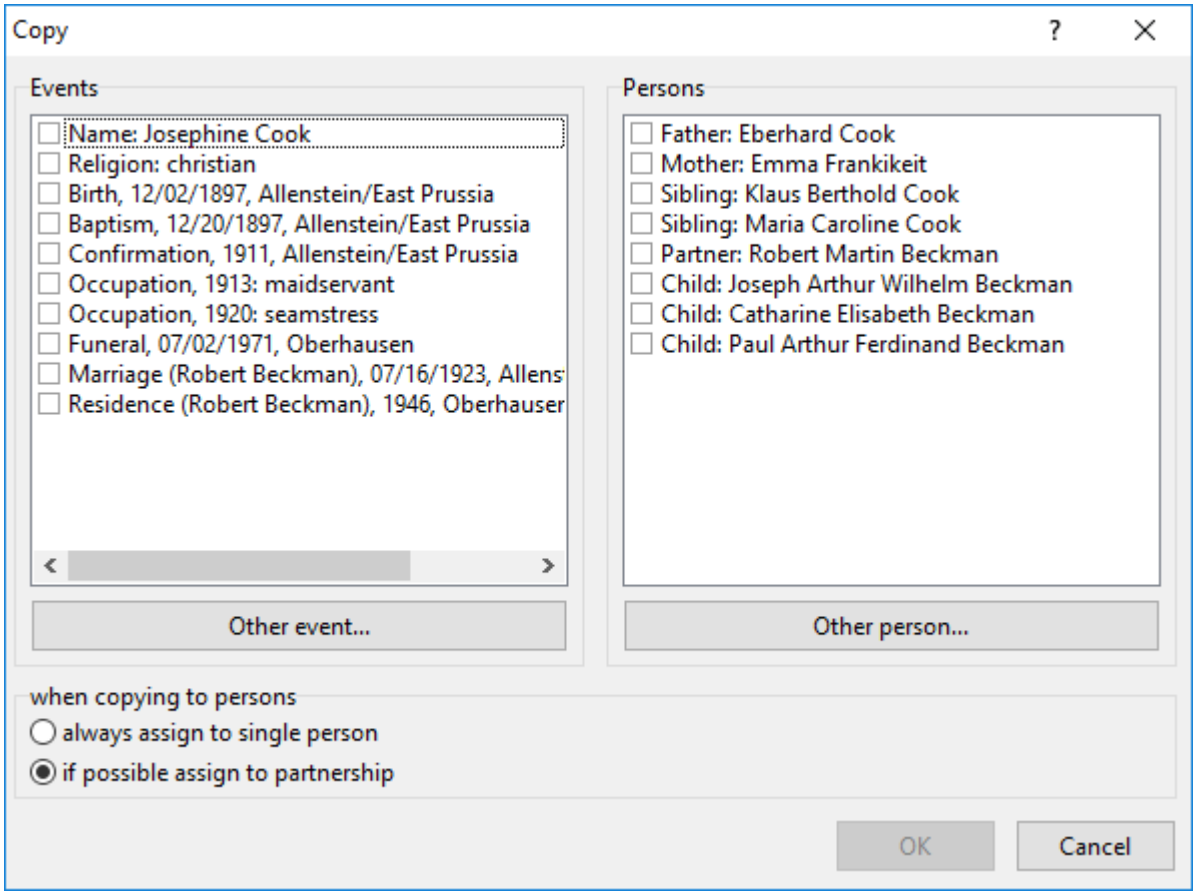
Copy (source/media)

From a person's input dialog, you can copy images or sources to other events or persons using an "arrow icon". for example, a scan of a church book is available, this church book can be a source for more than one information. It can contain the date of baptism and the names and birth dates of the parents at the same time. This function allows you to copy the source information to all of those events.



In the following dialog, you can select from existing events on the left and from connected persons on the right.
You can also add "Other events…" or "Other persons…".

As an option, when copying, you can assign the source or medium to a single person or to a partnership ("if possible assign to partnership").
This only makes sense if you in persons the parents (father and mother) selects. Then the source of either each person (under the tab "data") or the partnership (under the tab "partners/children") are registered. One finds this source or medium then always under the event "General".



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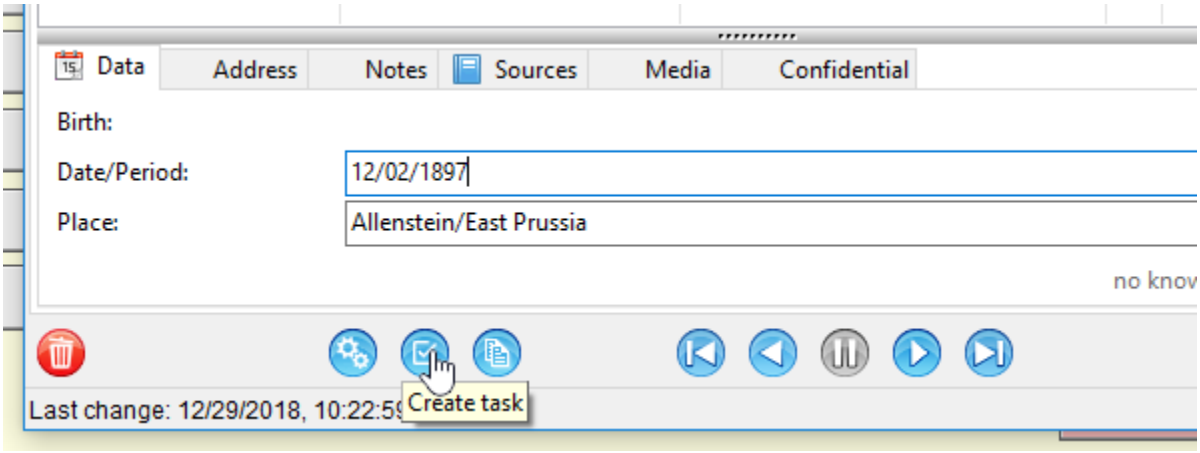
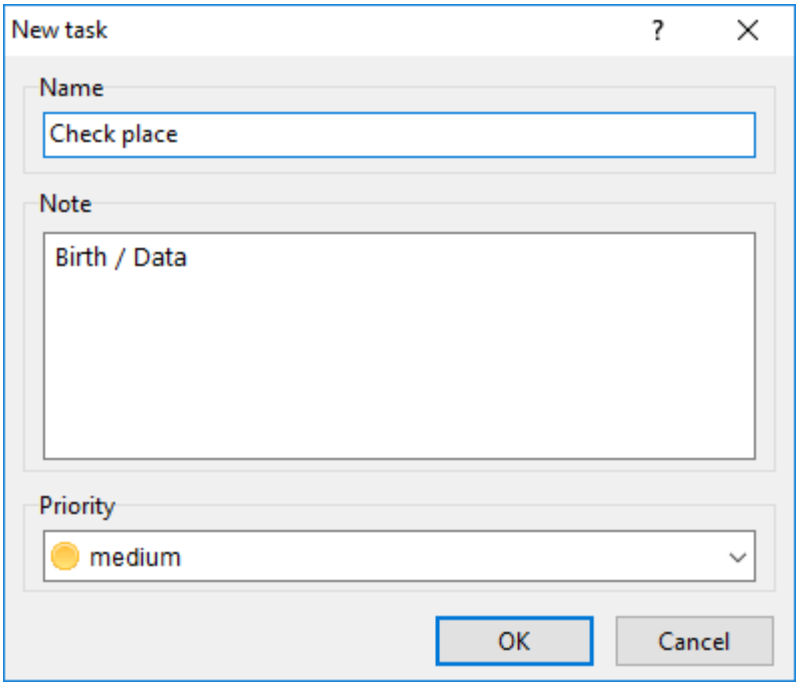
New task

The "Create task" symbol in the input dialog gives you the "New task" dialog.



Under "name" you can enter any text. In the case of a "note", the input area which is currently open will automatically be added. In this case, it is the tab "Data" of the event "Birth".



After confirming with "OK" this task is confirmed and can be accessed from the "tasks"- tab of the **Input dialog** of a person or in **Manage tasks**.

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Preview

In the picture preview, you can see pictures magnified. The dialog can be changed in size or can be set to full screen using the square symbol at the top right corner of the screen. The dialog is closed via the X-symbol in the upper right corner.

Windows side-by-side
This allows the preview to be arranged as large as possible next to the currently open dialog. This is a nice feature if you want to enter the text from an image directly into a dialog.

Open image externally
This opens the image in the standard program provided by Windows.

Adapting to Windows
This icon can only be seen if the image has been enlarged. It shows the picture in its original size.

Larger/smaller
The displayed picture size is changed by the magnifying glass symbols or changes in the slider.

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Select standard printer

This dialog will only appear if Windows does not have a standard printer.
Then all available printers will be available to choose from.
This requires Ahnenblatt to create a print preview - even if the tree chart or list is not to be printed at all.

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Add event/fact

If you want to add a new event/fact to a person from the input dialog, the "add one more fact" dialog appears.

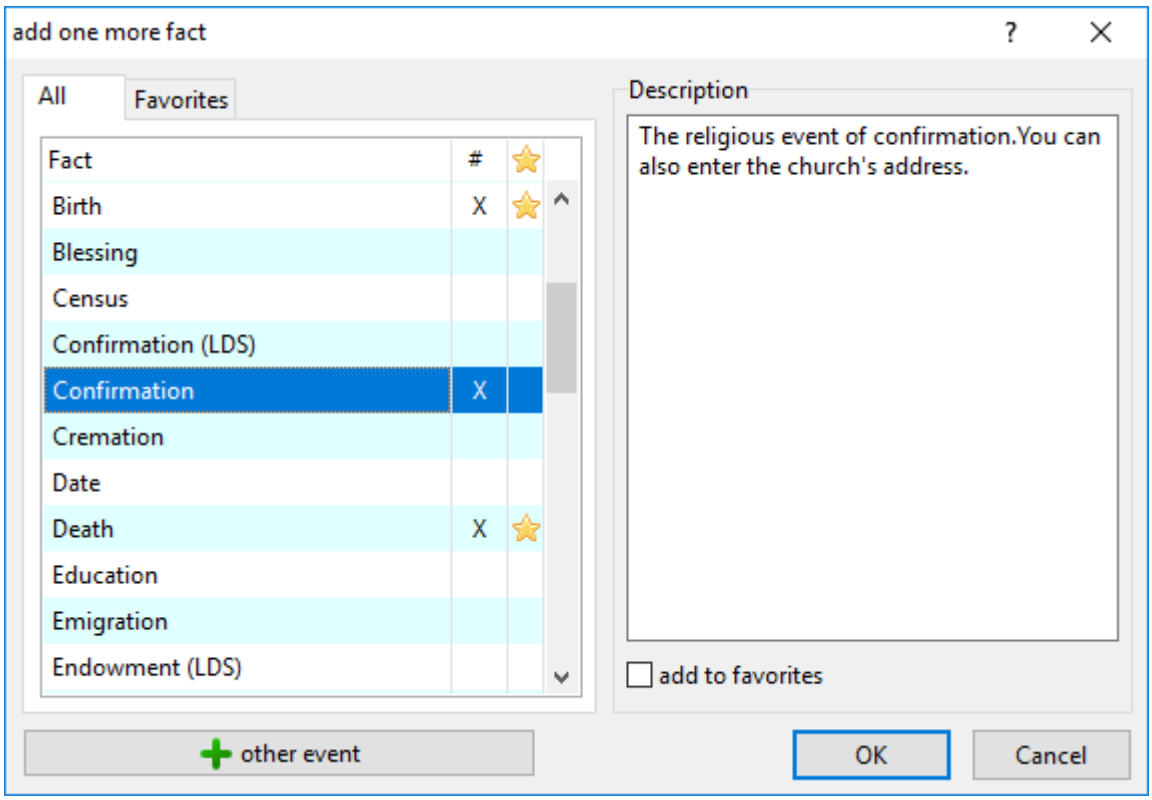
If this function is called from the "data" tab, only individual events/facts are offered. From the "partner/children" tab, you will see partnership events/facts.

The table on the left lists all possible events/facts, the previous occurrence for the person in question (x stands for 1 or "present") and a star for "favorites".

You can mark each event as a favorite (via the option "add to favorites"). Then this event/fact is always shown to each person in the input dialog, whether data already exists or not.

If you can't find suitable event/fact, you can use '**other event**" to create your events/facts. However, for reasons of compatibility with other programs (in the sense of future exchange of data), these should be used as rarely as possible or better be avoided.

On the upper left, there is a tab "Favorites", under which you will only see the favorite events/facts (the ones with a star) displayed.



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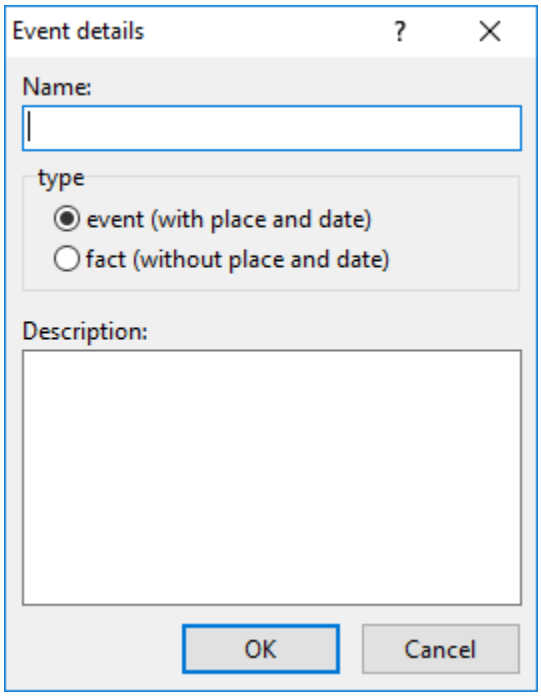
Event details

From the input dialog, you can add an event/ fact by clicking "**Add event/fact**". The "Event details" dialog will appear.

For "Name" you should enter a concise, short name of the new event/fact.
Under "description" you can then provide a more detailed explanation of the event/fact and its use.

In "type" you can select whether it is an event with a place and date (such as a birth or baptism) or a fact without place and date (e.g. a hobby or eye color).



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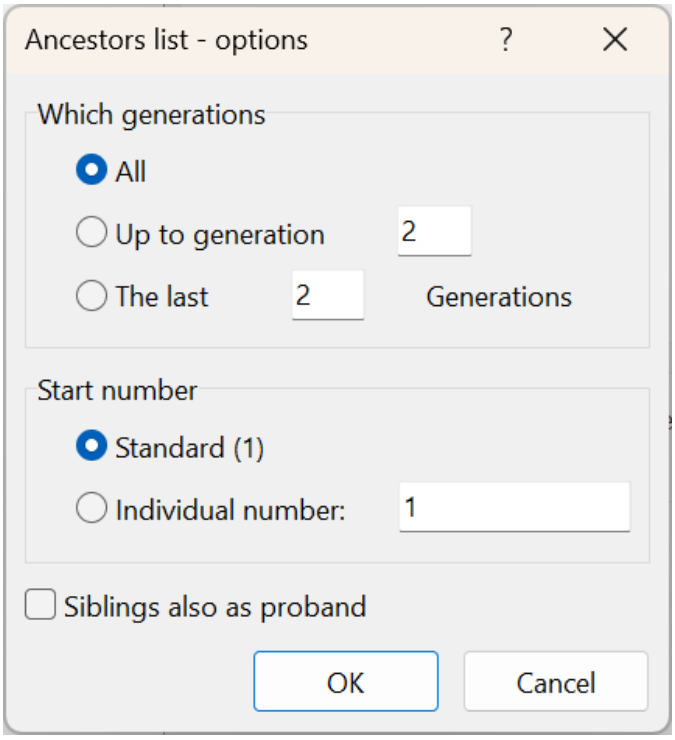
Ancestors list - Options

The Ancestor list options can be accessed via the "Options..." button. A dialog with additional settings will appear.

In “Which generations” you can select whether you want to include all generations, only up to generation X or only the last X generations.

With the "Start number" you can specify the number of the starting person. This can be helpful if you want to connect this ancestor list to an existing ancestor list.

Through "siblings also as proband”, you can specify that not only one person is at the beginning of the ancestor list. After all, siblings have the same ancestors.



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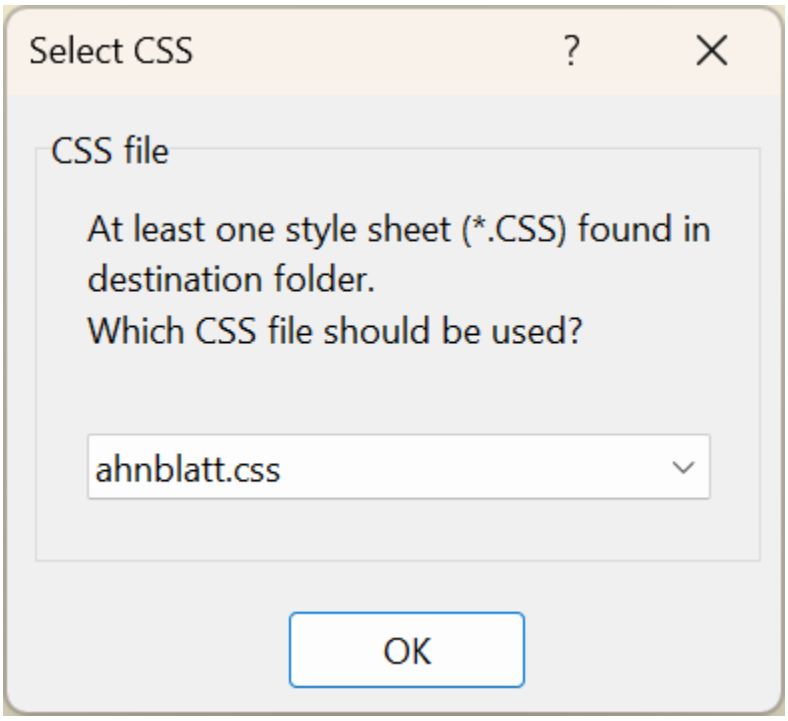
Select CSS

In this dialog, you can select a style sheet for HTML files when saving in HTML format (e.g. **HTML page, HTML website**). This allows you to customize the appearance of HTML pages (e.g. colors, fonts/sizes).

However, the dialog only appears if at least one file with the file extension .css (Cascading Style Sheets) exists in the selected target directory. You can then select in the dialog which of these files (optionally also "<no CSS file>") should be used.



Informationen zu CSS-Dateien finden sich hier: **https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CSS**

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Frequently asked questions

Installation

Does Ahnenblatt also run under MacOS or Linux?

Does Ahnenblatt also run on a tablet or smartphone?

Program

How to merge multiple files into one?

How can you split up an Ahnenblatt file or store only individual family branches?

How to create a GEDCOM file?

How can I transfer my Ahnenblatt data to a new PC?

When trying to delete a partner, the message "partnerships with children cannot be deleted" appears. How can the partner be deleted?

Why are the pictures assigned to the persons suddenly no longer found?

Tree charts

Is there a way to print all entered persons as a tree chart?

Why is the 'marital lamb' missing from the third partnership?

Why are some persons in a tree chart marked with small letters?

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Does Ahnenblatt also run under MacOS or Linux?

No, Ahnenblatt is a pure windows program.

However, I have been told about Linux users using Ahnenblatt with the help of a windows emulator (e.g. Wine). I, however, have no experience with this.

I am not aware of any such possibilities under MacOS. You have to look at alternative programs [see genealogy software for mac].

If you already have your family data in Ahnenblatt, you can store it in GEDCOM format, which can then be imported into any other genealogy program – whether Linux or MacOS. This saves the re-entry of all data.

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Does Ahnenblatt also run on a tablet or smartphone?

Ahnenblatt runs exclusively on windows and is therefore also available on a windows tablet – unless it is Windows RT.

Ahnenblatt does not run on iPad or Android Tablets. Same applies for Smartphones. However, if you export

data from Ahnenblatt to an image file or PDF file, you can view these files on most devices.

Or save the ancestral data on the PC in GEDCOM format (" **File / Save as...** / GEDCOM file") and look at it with a corresponding app on the tablet or smartphone.

You can also check for tablet and smartphone apps that support the GEDCOM format. You can find a similar app if you search for the term GEDCOM in the play store or app store. However, these apps must not be compared in functionality with genealogy programs on the PC. Few offer the ability to edit the data and are therefore only suitable as display programs.

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How to merge multiple files into one?

If you have opened an Ahnenblatt file, you can add another file using the function "**File / Add...**". If duplicate persons are recognized, merging of this persons' information is offered. I always recommend saving the data under a new file name using "**File / Save as...**" before attempting a merge because it is difficult to undo the merging process afterwards.

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How can you split up an Ahnenblatt file or store only individual family branches?

Of the way it works, Ahnenblatt works similarly to word processing. If you want to save only pages 20 to 50 from a 100-pages document, then delete all the unwanted pages and then save them under a new name.

In Ahnenblatt there is the function for this: "**Edit / Delete group...**". You can choose specific groups of persons. It can also be determined whether this group of persons or all other persons should be deleted. After deleting you should save the new file using "**File / Save as...**".

Alternatively, you can store the displayed persons in your file directly from a tree chart preview. Depending on the family constellation and representation, however, it may be that details in the preview are not fully represented and hence, will be faulty when saved into a new file.

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How to create a GEDCOM file?

Using the function, "**File / Save as...** /GEDCOM file".

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How can I transfer my Ahnenblatt data to a new PC?

If you get a new PC, it's not enough to install all the programs, but you must copy the created data from the old PC to the new one. Ahnenblatt is no different from other programs in that sense.

Download the Ahnenblatt program from the Internet again and install it on the new PC which will only take a few minutes. You don't have to worry about the program version, Ahnenblatt can always open files from older versions of the program.

You would now only need to copy the Ahnenblatt file (or several) from the standard directory of Ahnenblatt ("Ahnenblatt" under "Documents") on the old PC to the same directory on the new PC. However, Ahnenblatt does not save pictures but only remembers the directory they were in on the old PC. You will have to manually copy the pictures from the old PC to the new PC.

The following approach to transferring the Ahnenblatt file and all images to the new PC has proven successful:

Start the Ahnenblatt on the old PC, open an Ahnenblatt file and then use "**File / Save as...**" to store the data to a USB stick. There will be a prompt asking you as to whether all pictures should also be copied to the USB stick. Answer this question with 'Yes'.

Start Ahnenblatt on the new PC and use "**File / Open...**". Then select Ahnenblatt file. Open the file from the USB stick. After that, use "**File / Save as...**" and select Ahnenblatt file. Then save it to the hard drive of your new PC. It may then be asked again whether all images should also be copied. This question, too, would have to be answered with 'Yes'.

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When trying to delete a partner, the message "partnerships with children cannot be deleted" appears. How can the partner be deleted?

If both partners have children together, then potentially one of the partners or maybe even both are not a parent of the children, which Ahnenblatt cannot decide independently. Therefore, you need to correct the entries of both the parents and the children (e.g. deleting the mother of a child) and only then delete the partnership.

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Why are the pictures assigned to the persons suddenly no longer found?

Ahnenblatt only remembers references to the original picture files when assigning images. Images are therefore generally not part of an Ahnenblatt file (.ahn) or GEDCOM file (.ged). If the images are renamed, moved or deleted later, they will not be found anymore. Also, when copying an Ahnenblatt file on a new computer, you always must make sure that you also copy the pictures. Otherwise, the pictures will not be found on the new computer either.

Ahnenblatt internally remembers not only the "absolute" file path (i.e. Including drive letters) but also the "relative" file path (in relation to the location of the Ahnenblatt or GEDCOM file). For example, if you have the Ahnenblatt file in a directory and all the pictures in a subdirectory, then the images are also found if you move the Ahnenblatt file and picture directory to another directory, drive or PC.

To reassign images, there is a function available in Ahnenblatt "**Extras / Remap images/files...**". You can copy all images or files into a common directory. Ahnenblatt then finds the images in this new directory. Provided the image files have not been renamed in the meantime.

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Is there a way to print all entered persons as a tree chart?

Yes. There is also a chart variant 'Complete kinship".

Starting from the central person in the navigator, all related persons are shown in one chart.

Groups of people not related to this person, so-called islands, are not shown in the chart. These groups can be found using the "Show Islands..." function.

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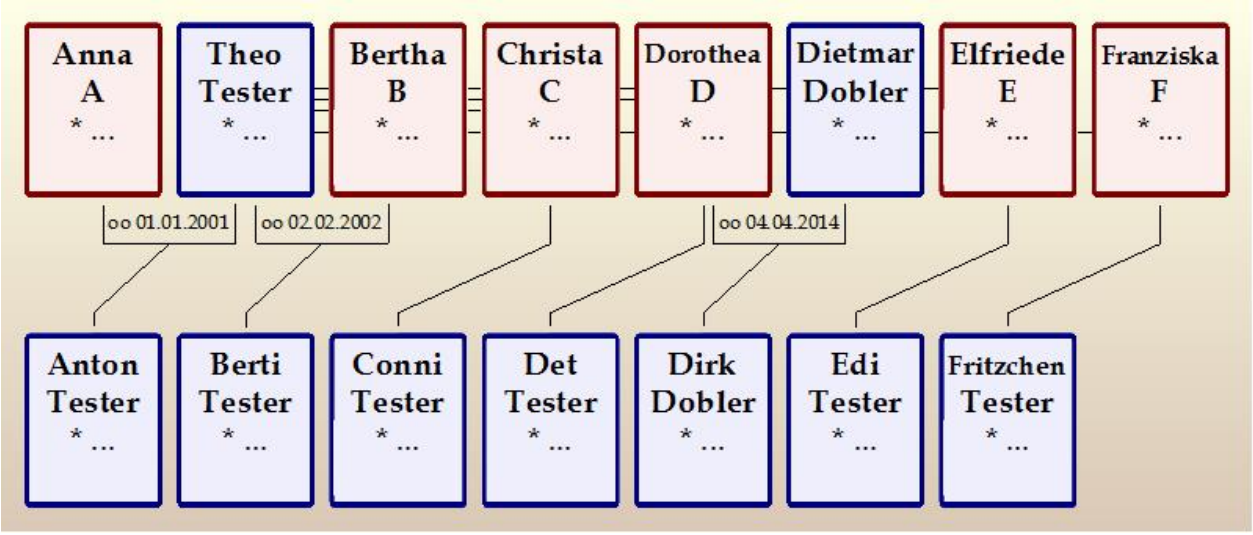
Why is the 'marital lamb' missing from the third partnership?



Ahnenblatt must cope with all sorts of family constellations, whether persons have more than two partnerships or marry close relatives, resulting in double ancestors. Especially with more than two partners, it was essential to find a compromise between representability and clarity. Therefore, from the third partnership onwards, the partner lines are always 'behind' the person frames. In such cases, the date of marriage is not shown, and some children no longer have lines to both parents. It may not look so nice, but it remains reasonably comprehensive.

Such representation is often reported to me by users as an "error". But how else would a constellation like the one shown in the illustration still be represented? In the example, Theo Tester has more than three female partners, one of whom has another partner.

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Why are some persons in a tree chart marked with small numbers?

This marking in the top right of a person's frame occurs whenever a person appears in the tree chart more than once. This can be the case, for example, if cousin and cousin marry. Then the grandparents are identical. The same persons receive the same number (continuously numbered from 1). At only one of this duplicate persons, further relatives (ancestors or descendants) are shown. In the tree chart preview, the status line at the bottom shows in this case the text 'x persons in y frames'.

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Tips & Tricks

How to start entering the family data?

How to print?

Share family data with others

Creating a top ancestors list ("oldest known ancestors")

Save ancestors as a website

Background image for a website

Drag & Drop support

How to import data from a spreadsheet?

How to import data from the program "Familien-Chronik"?

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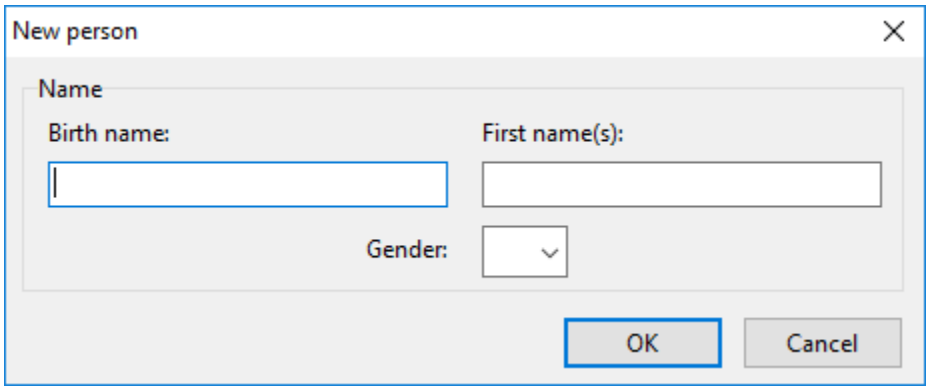
How to start entering the family data?

Before you start entering your data, you can familiarize yourself with the functions of Ahnenblatt by opening one of the sample files from the **Welcome Dialog**.

If you want to start entering your data at some point, then you will find the function "create a new family" in the welcome dialog. Outside of the welcome dialog, you can always start a new family in the menu function **File / New**.

As with each new person, a dialog appears in which you enter the birth name (does not have to match the current surname), the first name (separated by spaces if there are more) and the gender (male, female or unknown). It's best to start with yourself because you can spontaneously enter most of the data here.



After confirming with "OK", the input continues. Before the full input dialog is shown for the very first time, there is a prompt asking for the **Input Mode**. As a beginner, you should choose the input mode "simple", as an experienced genealogist the input mode "complete". No matter how you decide, you can change the input mode at any time (e.g. in the input dialog by clicking the "gear icon"). Besides, the differences in input modes are also addressed in their respective help sections.

After that, the person's full input dialog will appear, in which you can enter additional personal data.

In general, you enter data in a person's input dialog (e.g. the date and location of an event), but also relationships with direct relatives. Furthermore, you can switch to direct relatives without leaving the input dialog to enter or change data there if necessary. A person's input dialog can be accessed at any time to change, supplement or delete data or personal relationships.

To offer as many input options as possible in the dialog in a structured way, so-called "tabs" (comparable to index tabs) can be found in many places. You click on the corresponding tab and the corresponding "index card" with its input possibilities becomes visible. A small symbol next to the label of the tab indicates if data has already been entered in the tab.

It does not matter in which order you enter the data because you can open persons again at any time to change data.

To switch between the single input fields, you either click the mouse into the next input field or use the tabulator button on your keyboard (also called the "tab key" for short), which is two rows under the escape key (or Esc key) on the left side of the keyboard.

Some input fields have additional functionalities:

- **Birth name/marriage name/places/religion:** During the input, possible values from already entered values are suggested. Since you often enter the same surnames, places or religions, this function helps to save time and helps to avoid typos. You can accept the suggested text by switching to the next input box (at the click of a mouse or tab button).
- **Date fields:** Date entries are based on the date short format set in windows, which is "MM/DD/YYYY" in an English Windows (e.g. 02/13/2014). Four digits must be entered for the year. Missing zeros or points are automatically added when you leave the date field. Thus, an input "5/2/1955" automatically becomes a "05/02/1955" and a "05021955" (e.g. input via number block of the keyboard) also becomes a "05/02/1955" (in case of the "no-slash" variant, however, the zeros must be entered). It ensures that date entries follow a consistent format.
  Incorrect date entries are also possible. Thus, instead of a full date format, the day can also be left out (e.g. "10/1880" means October 1880, day unknown) or even day and month (e.g. "2000" for the year 2000 with unknown month and day). There are also various precursors (such as "before", "after", "about" or "ca.") or the possibility of entering periods (e.g. "from 1900 to 1910", "between 1880 and 1884" or "1880-1884"). These inputs are automatically standardized when leaving the input field.
  This function of unifying date entries can be switched off if necessary. From the input dialog, you can get to options by clicking the "gear icon".

If you switch to another person within the input dialog or close the input dialog, the persons' data is checked by the **integrity check**. Thus, errors in entries such as incorrect dates (e.g. "02/31/1955"), dates in the future or dates of events that precede birth are immediately detected and can be corrected or ignored.

Data input is always taken directly. They do not need to be confirmed (i.e. no "OK" button).

On the right side of the dialog, you always see the direct relatives of a person (parents, siblings, partners and children). The "add relatives(s)" button can be used to add another person. Using the "minus icon" next to a person, you can remove that person (removes the connection to that person – does not delete the entire person).
If you click on one of the persons in the list using the mouse, then you switch to that person without closing the input dialog.

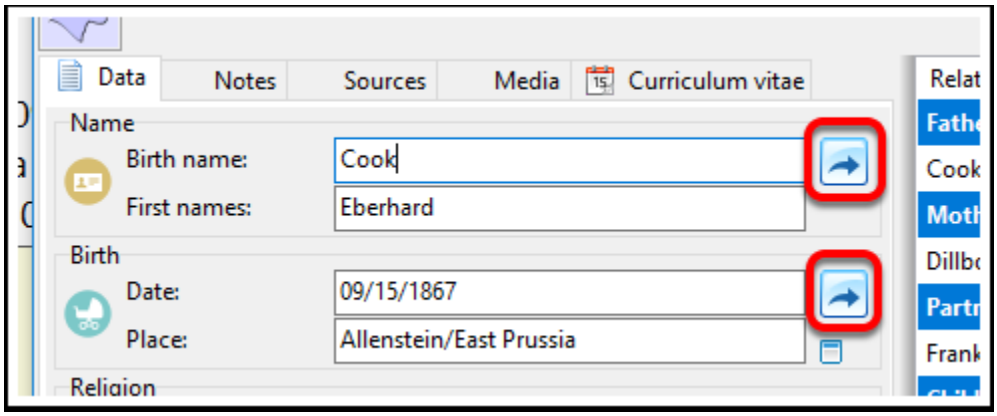
Input mode "simple"

Under the "data" tab, input fields for the following "events" can be found:

- Name (birth name/first name)
- Birth (date/place)
- Religion
- Baptism (date/place)
- Occupation
- Wedding (date/place)
- Death (date/place)
- Burial (date/place)

This is standard data which can usually be found in public records or church records.

To the right of each "event block", you see a button with an arrow icon to access more details.



An additional detail dialog appears that allows notes, sources, and media to be added.

For various events, you can also enter an address, which can be a hospital for birth or a church for baptism.

Furthermore, the following data can only be found in the details:

- **Gender:** In the details of the name
- **Confirmation:** In the details of baptism
- **Divorce:** In the details of a marriage
- **Unmarried:** In the details of a marriage
- **Homosexual:** In the details of a marriage

In the "notes" and "sources" tabs, an unformatted free text can be entered. Here, non-event-related information of the person (e.g. "won the lottery 1934", "lost an eye in the 2nd world war") and general source information (e.g. "oral tradition of Frieda Wolf") can be entered.

In the media tab, non-event-related images and other files can be added (by "plus symbol" or by drag & drop from the windows file explorer). The first image or the one marked as the "main image" is used in the input dialog and panels as a profile picture of the person.

In the Curriculum vitae tab, all events are listed with dates. This tab does not have an editing function.

Input mode "complete"

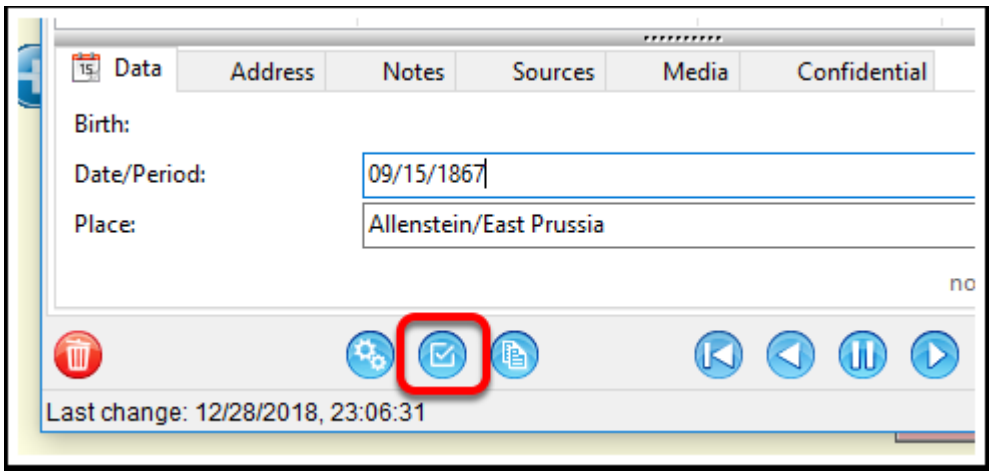
The following tabs are available:

- **Data:** List of all personal events and facts. For each person, a line "general" is available, which contains non-event-related data. There are also empty events (e.g. birth and death). These are "favorites". The "plus symbol" can be used to add more events and facts, but also to define "favorites". The "minus icon" can be used to delete the marked event. Depending on the event, you can add as many sources, media and notes as you like. All events "place of residence" from all persons are collected in the **address management** section. Events can also be used several times (e.g. occupation, place of residence).
- **Parent/siblings:** Here, parents, as well as other pairs of parents with status (e.g. real or adopted), as well as siblings can be registered.
- **Partner/children:** Here, partners and children can be added as well as partnership-based events and facts for each partnership. "Place of residence"- events can be entered, which will then appear in the **address management** section. Events can also be used several times (e.g. occupation, place of residence).
- **Notes:** An unformatted free text can be entered here, which is not associated with any event. This text can also be found under the "data" tab in the event "general". With the "details" button, you can jump directly to the "data" tab.
- **Sources:** An unformatted free text can be entered here, which is not associated with any event. This

text can also be found under the "data" tab in the event "general". With the "details" button, you can jump directly to the "data" tab.

- **Media:** Non-event-related images and other files can be added (by "plus symbol" or by drag & drop from the windows file explorer). The first image or the one marked as the "main image" is used in the input dialog and tree charts as a profile picture of the person.
- **Tasks:** With the "plus symbol" you can enter new tasks and delete them with the "minus symbol" if necessary. Each task consists of a one-line name, a priority (high, medium, low), a status (open, in process, done), and a note field. An overview of all tasks can be found in**task management**.
- **Curriculum vitae:** All events with dates are listed here. This tab does not have an editing function.

Only in this input mode, there is a "create task" button at the bottom of the input dialog.



You can use this to create a task to the input field that is currently in focus. The note is automatically preset. This can be very convenient if you encounter inconsistencies while typing that have yet to be resolved.

Conclusion

If you have entered all the data about a person and entered direct relatives, then you can switch to a person directly by clicking on it. Then you can continue to enter this persons' data.

The entry of data can be canceled or interrupted at any time by clicking on the round blue button with the checkmark at the bottom right or the X button at the top right in the dialog. Then an overview (called "Navigator") appears. The difference between both variants of dialog closing is that with the round checkmark button at the bottom right, the just edited person becomes the home person in the navigator. The X button at the top right only closes the dialog without changing the home person in the navigator.

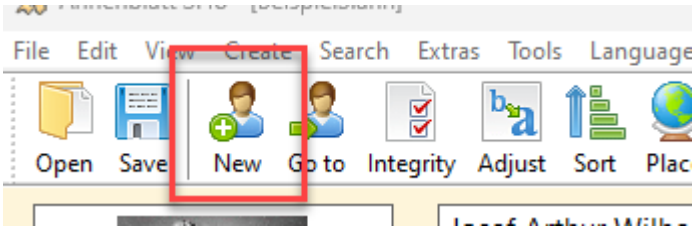
To resume typing, you can access a person directly from the navigator (click on the editor icon), through the function **Edit / Go to...** or via **Search / Find...**.

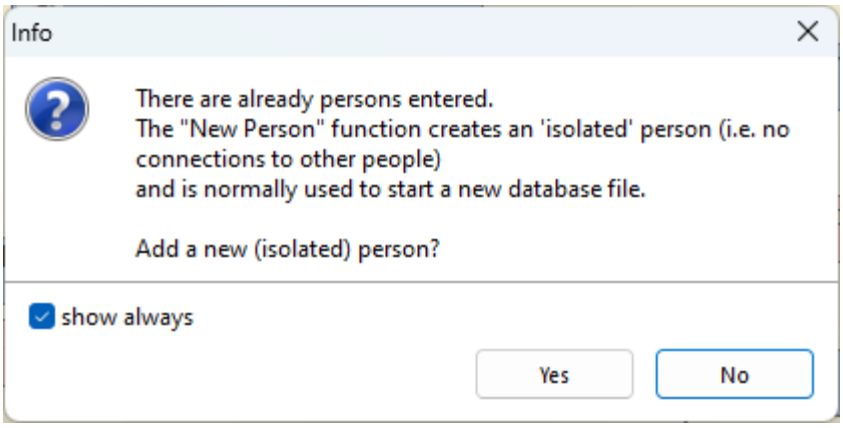
In between, you can use the function **Edit / Integrity check** to check for possible inconsistencies. You will then see the persons who have inconsistencies in the data (e.g. dates are in the future).

It is especially important not to forget to save the family file regularly. If you end Ahnenblatt, but you still have changes that have not yet been saved, you will be notified. In the title line of Ahnenblatt is a star sign behind the file name if there are unsaved changes.
When saving, you don't have to wait until all inputs are completed. You can use the **Save button in the toolbar** at any time. A "self- speaking" file name proves to be useful (e.g. "Family-Smith").

Tip: You can also enter new persons directly from the navigator. To do this, you just click on one of the empty fields (e.g. an empty children's field) and a dialog will appear to enter the name/gender. Then the complete input dialog will appear. This way you can also enter new parents, but it is not possible to "skip" generations to enter the grandparents directly, for example. You can also not enter any other partners from the navigator.

Entering individual persons:
Of course, persons can also be added to a family who are not directly related to any of the previous persons. This can sometimes be the case if you have found persons with the family name you are looking for whose affiliation to the previous persons has not yet been clarified. To do this, either select Edit/New person... from the main menu or click on the symbol "New" ("New person") in the toolbar. You will then be asked whether this is really a person without any family relations to persons already entered, which you confirm with "Yes". By deactivating the option "show always", this dialogue can also be switched off permanently. If a relationship to other persons (also persons already entered) can be proven later, the relationships can be established subsequently.





Created with the Standard Edition of HelpNDoc: Import and export Markdown documents

How to print?

To print a list, use **Create / List...** in the main menu. To print a tree chart, use **Create / Tree..**.

The lists show all the data of the persons, but it is a mere text representation. The numbering of the persons shows the relationship between the persons.

The following list types are available:

- **Ancestor list:** The ancestors of a selected person
- **Descendant list:** The descendants of a selected person
- **Family list:** All persons
- **Event list:** List of the birth, wedding and death days of all persons
- **Person sheets:** All personal data, one page printed per person

Tree charts are graphic representations that are more vivid but show only part of the data (name, birth, death and possibly wedding).

- **Ancestor chart (page-based):** The ancestors of a selected person spread over several pages
- **Ancestor chart:** The ancestors of a selected person spread over several pages to stick together
- **Descendant chart:** The descendants of a selected person spread over several pages to stick together

- **Hourglass:** A combination of ancestor and family tree (poster) for a person

Note: a graphical export of all persons does not exist so far.

First, a dialog appears, in which various adjustments can be made to the list or tree chart. After confirming the settings with “OK”, you may still have to select the main person.

Then a preview appears using the settings (printer, paper format) that are specified at **File / Printer setup...**. However, these settings can be changed.

In the print preview, you can use buttons to print the result (printer button) or export it to a file (save button).

By selecting the close button, the print preview is closed.

Created with the Standard Edition of HelpNDoc: Easy CHM and documentation editor

Share family data with others

E-mail ancestor file

Open the Ahnenblatt file and access the menu item Send as email... to send the file directly from Ahnenblatt to a recipient. For this purpose, the standard mail program is used, and the ancestor file is automatically added as a file attachment. Email address, subject and message text are then entered as usual.

For the e-mail recipient to open the Ahnenblatt file, it makes sense for the e-mail recipient to have Ahnenblatt installed as well.

The only limitation of this method is that picture files are not transmitted, as they are only linked within the Ahnenblatt file and are not part of the Ahnenblatt file.

Share Ahnenblatt files on a disk or USB drive

If you want to share the pictures as well, you can save the Ahnenblatt file together with all the pictures in a common directory and burn it to a CD/DVD or copy it to a floppy disk/USB stick/memory card. However, this method is only useful if the recipient has Ahnenblatt.

Share data using the GEDCOM format

If the recipient uses a different genealogy program than Ahnenblatt, the data can be saved as a GEDCOM file (see function **Save as...**). The GEDCOM format is specially designed for data exchange between genealogy programs and can be opened by almost all (including international) programs.

Similar to previous descriptions, you can share GEDCOM files either via e-mail or on CDs/DVDs or USB sticks etc. (Whether pictures can be opened depends on the program used by the recipient).

Share using a different file format

If the recipient does not have an ancestor research program and does not want to install any specific program for this purpose, the data can be saved in other formats. The function **Save as...**, among other things, offers an HTML export, which creates a single file that can be viewed with any Internet browser (also works with non-Windows systems).

Alternatively, you can create a family list and export it to the Word format (*.doc - but make sure that the recipient has Microsoft Word) or to the rich text format (*.rtf – can be read by all Windows-based word processors).

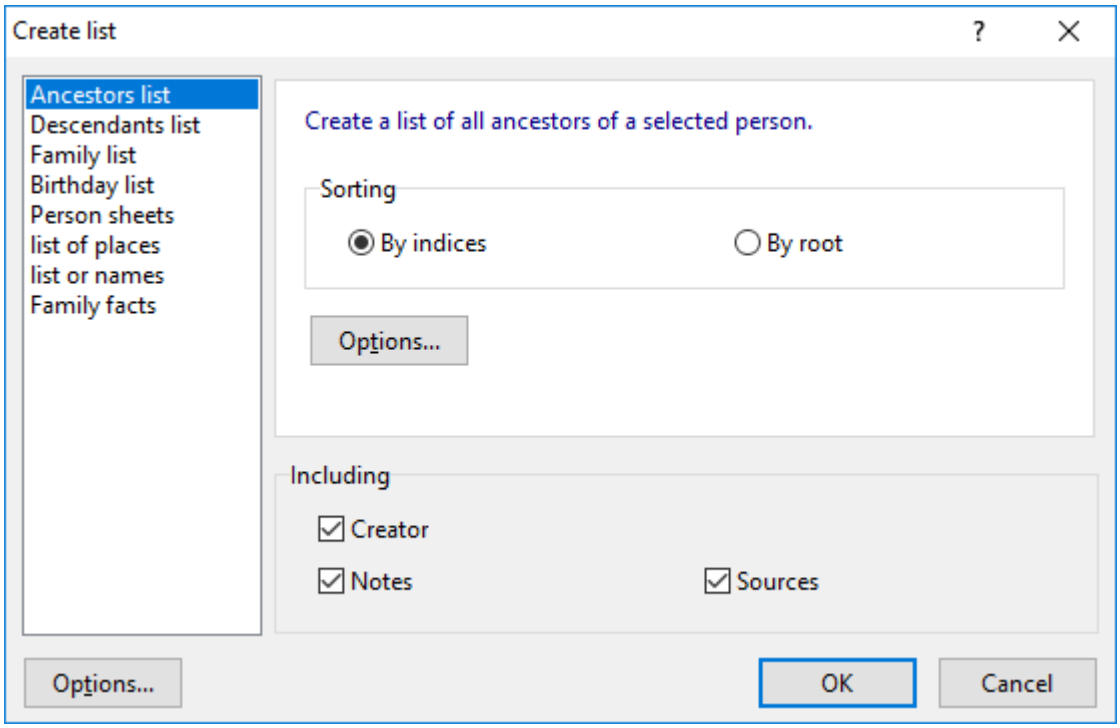
Print the data

If the recipient does not have a PC at all, then you can print the Ahnenblatt file completely. For this purpose, the family list is most suitable for a complete overview. All other lists and tree charts only print

partial aspects of the Ahnenblatt file on paper, which can be sufficient in some cases.

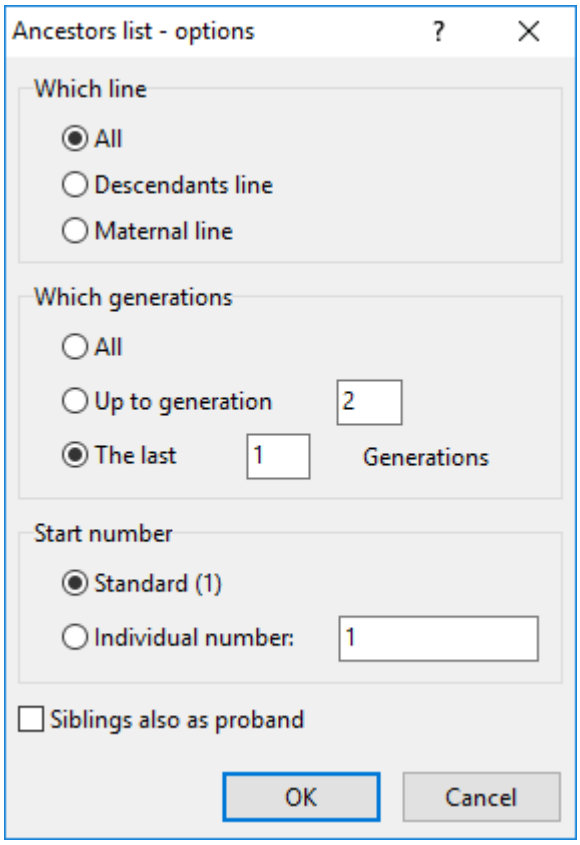
Created with the Standard Edition of HelpNDoc: Make CHM Help File Creation a Breeze with HelpNDoc

Creating an "oldest known ancestors" list



A top ancestors list is a particular form of an ancestor list with only the oldest known ancestors (-branches) mentioned.

You can call the function in the menu **Create / List...** and select the "ancestor list" and then click on the "options..." button.



In the dialog "**Ancestor list - Options**" you go to "Which generations" and select "the last ... X … Generations" option and specify 1.

If you close both dialogs with OK, the top ancestors list ("oldest known ancestors") is created.

Tip: Since the oldest name carrier in the list is often known only by name, but all other data, such as birthplace/date, date of death, etc., are unknown, this is not very meaningful (even if numbered according to Kekule). For archive research, therefore, I always choose a printout of the last **2** generations.

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Save ancestors as a website

To turn the ancestors into a website, i.e. HTML pages that can be viewed and clicked through with an Internet browser, the family is to be saved in **File / Save as...** in the format "HTML website".

The name of a home page is required, e.g. Smith.htm. This page creates an alphabetical list of all individual persons of the family. Each name is a reference to a separate HTML page for that person. Here, all of the person's data, including pictures and notes, appears.

For this purpose, a separate sub-directory is created, “Smith” in this case, which contains its own HTML page for each person of the family.

When the home page, i.e. Smith.htm, is opened, you can navigate through all persons of the family like you would do on the Internet.

To copy the resulting website to another location (how about your own family on a CD?), only the file Smith.htm and the Smith- folder with content has to be copied.

Attention: The HTML format can be exported but not imported again! To back up the research results, always use the file format "Ahnenblatt file (*.ahn)"!

Created with the Standard Edition of HelpNDoc: Make Documentation a Breeze with HelpNDoc's Clean and Efficient User Interface

Background image for a website

If you have saved the family as a website, you may want to enhance the result with a background image visually.

How about a background that looks like parchment paper?

All you need to do is copy an image called "back.jpg" into the same directory as the website's home page.

Such a wallpaper is included in the program, but it is relatively easy to find other backgrounds on the Internet.

Created with the Standard Edition of HelpNDoc: Elevate your documentation to new heights with HelpNDoc's built-in SEO

Drag & Drop support

Drag & Drop is a Windows functionality used by many programs.

It allows you to copy or move files in the explorer using drag and drop.

Ahnenblatt supports drag & drop in two places:

- **Open files:** You can slide an ancestor file (*.ahn or *.ged) onto the main window of Ahnenblatt by drag & drop and it will then be opened.
- **Assigning images:** In the input dialog (inside the “picture” tab), picture files can be inserted using drag & drop straight from the explorer.
- **Changing the tree chart background:** In the tree chart print preview, you can drag & drop an image file into the preview to make it the new background image.

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How to import data from a spreadsheet?

General

Ahnenblatt can both save and open the CSV file format. The CSV format is a text-based table format offered by almost all spreadsheet and database programs. CSV stands for character separated values, as the individual column values are separated by special separators (semicolon, commas or tabulators).

If you have already started a family list in a spreadsheet, you can save it as a CSV file and use it in Ahnenblatt. Go to **File / Open...** / CSV file.

That doesn't mean that **any** CSV file (= any "table") can be opened in Ahnenblatt! In the first row of the CSV file, Ahnenblatt expects the column headings, which are then interpreted.

You get an impression when you save a sample family as a CSV file and then open it in a spreadsheet. There may be a prompt asking for how the fields are separated. Ahnenblatt always uses the **semicolon** as a field separator.

Column

The column headings used are based on the identifiers of the universal GEDCOM format. The following column headings are used (with hints for an import):

- **REFN** - Sets a unique reference name for each person. This reference will be included in the following ...REFN columns used, for example, on the father (FATH.REFN) or the mother (MOTH.REFN). When

saving in Ahnenblatt, all persons are simply numbered continuously. However, any other unique alphanumeric text is allowed. If this column does not exist, the name column will be used as a reference when opening.

- **NAME** - The name of the person in the format "first name birth name". if a family list has already been inserted into a spreadsheet, then it may only be with coherent names, which Ahnenblatt then separates independently into first name and birth name. The last word in this column is always recognized as a birth name, the part before it as a first name. This column is not necessary if there are separate columns for first names (GIVN) and birth names (SURN). If all three columns exist and their contents are contradictory, then Ahnenblatt identifies these cases by placing the different parts of the name in brackets "(...)".
- **SURN** - The birth name of a person.
- **GIVN** - The first names of a person.
- **FATH.NAME** - The father's name.
- **FATH.REFN** - Reference of the father (i.e. The value of the REFN column of the associated father) or an empty field (father reference unknown or no father).
- **MOTH.NAME** - The mother's name.
- **MOTH.REFN** - Corresponding mother reference (see FATH.REFN).
- **SEX** - Gender of the person (M, m = male, W, w, F, f = female).
- **OCCU** - Profession of person.
- **BIRT.DATE** - Date of birth
- **BIRT.PLAC** - Birthplace
- **RELI** - Religion
- **CHR.DATE** - Baptism date
- **CHR.ADDR** - Baptism church
- **CHR.PLAC** – Baptism place
- **GODP** - Godparents as text (as one would enter in Ahnenblatt, i.e. Several persons separated e.g. by commas).
- **CONF.DATE** - Date of confirmation (communion or confirmation)
- **CONF.ADDR** - Church of the confirmation
- **CONF.PLAC** - Place of confirmation
- **DEAT.DATE** - Date of death
- **DEAT.PLAC** - Place of death
- **BURI.DATE** - Funeral date
- **BURI.PLAC** - Funeral place
- **NOTE** - Notes (without line breaks!)
- **SOUR** - Sources (without line breaks!)
- **MARR.DATE.1** - Wedding date. To be able to represent multiple marriages, the MARR columns are simply numbered continuously (MARR...1, MARR...2, ...).
- **MARR.PLAC.1** - Wedding venue (if necessary, several continuously numbered columns)
- **MARR.SPOU.NAME.1** - Name of the wedding partner (if necessary, several continuously numbered columns)
- **MARR.SPOU.REFN.1** - Wedding partner reference (if necessary, several continuously numbered columns)

There are no separate columns for siblings or children. Ahnenblatt determines this information from parental information (FATH.REFN, MOTH.REFN) automatically.

The columns can be used in any order. The above list shows all possible columns - but not all of them need to be used in the CSV file to open. Unknown column headings are ignored. Column headings are NOT case sensitive. It is important that the column headings are always in the first row of the CSV file!

When creating your CSV files (e.g. saving them from the spreadsheet), semicolon, commas or tabulator may be used as a field separator. Ahnenblatt automatically detects the field separator when opening the

file.

Similarly, it doesn't matter for CSV files to be opened whether quotation marks frame the texts or not.

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How to import data from the program "Familien-Chronik"?

Familien-Chronik is an out-dated German genealogy program from the manufacturer Data Becker. The program stores the family data in its files that use the same file extension as Ahnenblatt, namely “.ahn”.

However, the same file extension does not automatically mean that the files are compatible with each other. Ahnenblatt cannot read the files of family chronicle because a completely different file structure is used. If you try to open such a file with Ahnenblatt, the following hint is shown:

No Ahnenblatt file!

It is created with the program 'Familien-Chronik'.

Only limited data usage is possible (see the program help).

Unfortunately, since family chronicle does not support a GEDCOM export, there is only the following trick to avoid having to re-enter all the data completely:

You open ‘family chronicle’ and go to "Bearbeiten / Daten exportieren" and then click on "<< Alle hinzufügen <<" to select all data fields. The order of the fields always seems to be the same afterwards. Click on, "ANSI-Datei erstellen" and save the file.

The result is a text file (.txt), which should then be opened with a text editor. Now the following bold text is to be inserted into the text editor as the very first line:

SURN;GIVN;GIVN;;BIRT.DATE;BIRT.PLAC;CHR.DATE;CHR.PLAC;OCCU;MARR.SPOU.NAME.1;MARR.DATE.1;MARR.PLAC.1;DEAT.DATE;DEAT.PLAC;BURI.DATE;BURI.PLAC

It is best to mark the text with the mouse here in the help, then click into the marked text with the right mouse button and select "copy" in the context menu that appears.

After the new line of text is inserted into the file, the file must be saved with the file extension .CSV (alternatively rename it in the explorer after saving).

This additional line indicates which column belongs to which Ahnenblatt field.

The resulting file can be used in Ahnenblatt. Go to "**File / Open...** / CSV file".

The result is relatively reasonable and even some persons are linked. However, all married women now bear the marriage name (as birth names). Rework is necessary!

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Glossary

- **Ahnenblatt** - Actually, a form for entering a person's information that was mainly used in the pre-computer era. The input dialog of this program is modelled after this method. Hence the program is named "Ahnenblatt."
- **Ancestor research** - The search for one's own ancestors.
- **Ancestor list** - A form of a list that, starting with a person (the subject), represents the parents, grandparents, etc. The numbering of the persons is not continuous but follows the following scheme. The subject always starts with the number 1. The father of a person x then always gets the number 2 * x and the mother the number 2 * x + 1. If persons are not known, then the corresponding numbers are missing (see 'Kekule').

- **Ancestor tree chart** - A visual form of representation that, starting with a person (the subject), represents the parents, grandparents, etc.
- **Family research** - Tthe search not only for one's ancestors but for more distant family members.
- **GEDCOM** - GEDCOM (genealogical data communication) is a universal file format for the exchange of data from genealogy (file extension ".ged"). It is developed by the church of Jesus Christ of latter-day saints (Mormons), who are very active in the field of genealogy. Since it is one of the oldest file formats (since 1987) and has the most extensive distribution (supported by many genealogy programs as an import and export format), it is the standard for Ancestor data. This file format, therefore, provides essential usefulness when exchanging data with other family researchers, working with different programs, or when changing the program.
- **Genealogy** - Another term for family history
- **Heraldry** - Another term for heraldic science
- **Kekule** - Ancestor numbering system proposed by Stephan Kekule v. Stradonitz (1863-1933) and named after him (see 'Ancestor list').
- **Top ancestors list** - A particular type of Ancestor list in which only the last known name carriers are represented.
- **Family list** - A list that, starting with the oldest name carrier, represents all descendants, i.e. children, grandchildren, etc. from top to bottom. The numbering of the persons is ongoing. The spouses are listed with either all information directly in the text or as an appendix.
- **Family tree chart** - A graphic form of the family list.
- **Sütterlin** - Ludwig Sütterlin (1865-1917), German graphic artist and inventor of the Sütterlin- scripture (also known as sütterlin), which was a teaching subject in the 1930s. It is a further development of the long-used Kurrent font. Old handwritten church books and registry records have been written in this scripture.
- **Tinytafel** - A file format that represents a summary of your own family. There is not every person, but only the surnames (in phonetic spelling for better search regardless of spellings changing over centuries), places and periods (for which name carriers are known). Furthermore, a TinyTafel file always contains a contact address (postal/e-mail) of the genealogist who created the file. That way you can contact him/ her if there are matches within your own family. Nowadays, however, the TinyTafel file format has lost its importance.

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License/Disclaimer

The Ahnenblatt program (version 3.0 and above) behaves like a function-restricted demo version after installation.
A license key can unlock the full functionality. This key can be found and purchased on the Ahnenblatt website (**www.ahnenblatt.com**). The license key is issued for one specific person. It is not permitted to share a license key with other persons.

The rights of the program lie solely with the author, Dirk Böttcher. It must not be changed, either by adding, removing or modifying files.

No liability is assumed for any damage caused by the Ahnenblatt program (software/hardware defects, data loss, ...). Although the program is audited to the best of knowledge before publication, the use is at your own risk.

If the program or parts of the program contain text or graphics that violate the rights of third parties, I must be informed of this immediately. I will then amend the program within a reasonable time.

Program errors can be reported to the author, Dirk Böttcher (**dirk.boettcher@ahnenblatt.de**), at any time, but there is no obligation to eliminate them.

A link to my program on the Internet to download (demo version) is generally welcome, but there should always be a link to the author's website (**www.ahnenblatt.com**) as well.

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Credits

My special thanks go to...

The Ahnenblatt portal - **www.ahnenblattportal.de**

A forum for users to users - Questions are answered, suggestions and wishes are collected, and beta-tests take place occasionally

Bill Menees - **www.menees.com**

Programmer of the Delphi component TPagePrinter, which is the main part of the print preview.

Jordan Russell - **www.jrsoftware.org**

... for the free windows installer inno setup that created the installer.

Fatcow - **www.fatcow.com/free-icons**

... for the free "farm-fresh web icons", from which the icons of the toolbars originate.

Dustin Schmieding - **lostandtaken.com/blog/2013/1/4/7-free-antique-paper-textures.html**

... for the panel background 'antique paper', which is from the set '7 free antique paper textures'.

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