

# Using Timelines in The Master Genealogist

Prepared by Shane Baker for  
the August 2006 meeting of  
the Canberra TMG Users Group

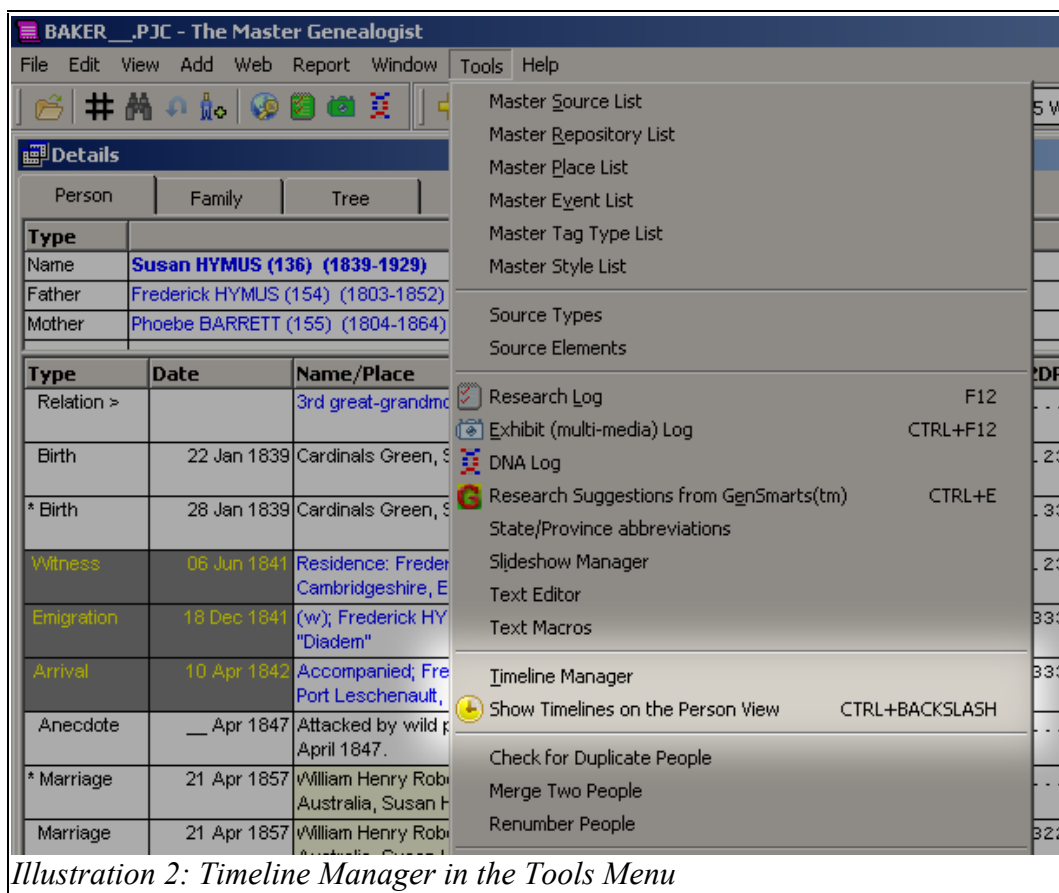
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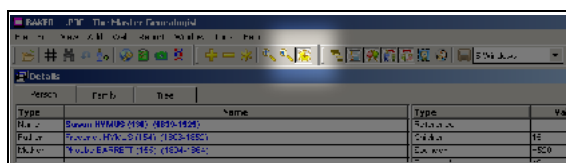
## Using Timelines in The Master Genealogist

### How do I activate Timelines in TMG?

The *Timeline Manager* is accessed through the *Tools* menu:



You will see that a keyboard shortcut (Control plus backslash (\)) will also activate Timelines, as well as the “clock” icon on the toolbar also switches timelines on or off:

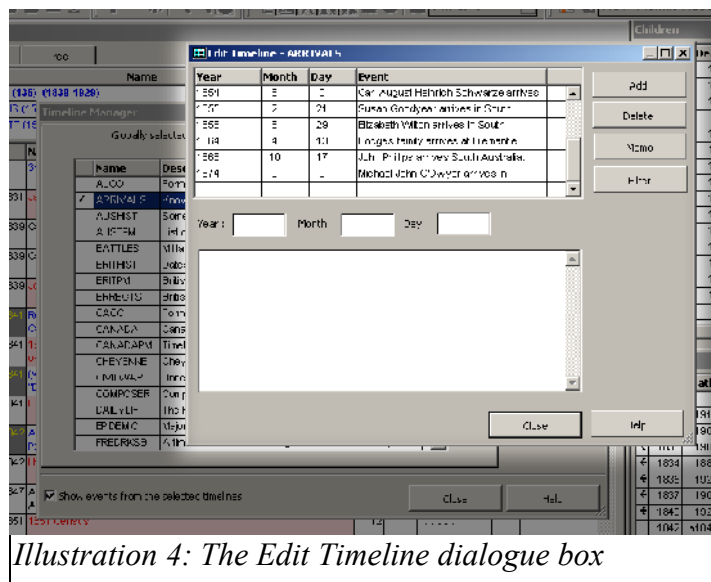


The *Timeline Manager* is simple to operate, with few buttons (see Illustration 3 below). In this case, the ARRIVALS timeline (complete with spelling error in the description) has been selected. Further down the list (not shown), a British Census timeline is also selected.



## Adding and editing timelines

Timelines can be created by you, obtained from other users, and of course edited within TMG. Selecting *Edit* in the *Timeline Manager* brings up the *Edit Timeline* window (see Illustration 4 below).



*Illustration 4: The Edit Timeline dialog box*

## Creating your own timeline

Timelines can easily be created in the *Edit Timeline* timeline box. Clicking *Add* in the *Timeline Manager* box brings up a box which allows you to enter a name for the Timeline, and a description of the timeline.

This then takes you to the data entry box, and the timeline is created from there.

It is my experience that the timeline dialogues are flakey (in TMG version 6.09 at least), but despite some annoyances, it does seem possible to create working timeline files in TMG.

Note:

- ◆ the file name is limited to 8 characters,
- ◆ the year is entered in the form year, month and day, and numbers only are used, and
- ◆ according TMG help, in any field in which you can type, there is a right-click menu with cut, copy, paste, and spell checker. The Year, Month, and Day fields support the use of the F2, F3 and Ctrl + F3 hot keys. This is one of the flakey aspects in my experience.

## Using Timelines in *The Master Genealogist*

I should also mention the page on the TMG Tips web site entitled *Auto-creation of Timeline Files*. While this has attractions for the creation of large timelines, I could not follow how it worked. Firstly, it assumes that TMG reports can be exported in *Microsoft Excel* format. As far as I can ascertain, this is not the case. Secondly, it requires the use of a full-blown database program such as *Microsoft Access* (although it appears from a brief trial on my part that the *OpenOffice* database package would suit – and at zero cost).

## Sources on line

A great many Timelines can be found on the *TMG Tips* page at - <http://www.tmgtips.com/timelines.htm>

The Timelines downloaded from *TMG Tips* are in “Zip” file format. After downloading the files, they should be unzipped and placed in the **timeline** sub-folder in your TMG folder. (NB: In my installation, the default folder name was *The Master Genealogist*. All Timelines will work in all versions of TMG.

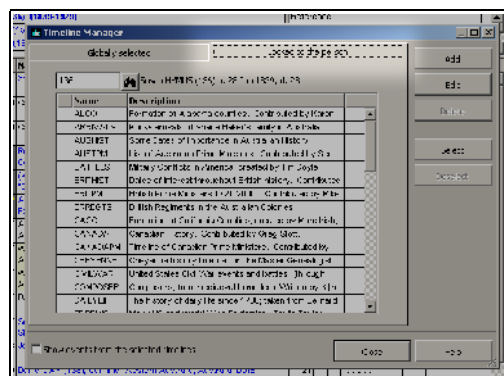
## Filters and searches

The **Filter** option in the *Edit Timeline* window does *not* operate as I would expect. Typing text within the filter window will produce a list of entries limited to those containing that text, but this does not carry across to the display in individual views in the main TMG screen. It would seem to be a timeline management feature, rather than a true filter.

## Applying timelines to individuals

Sharp eyed individuals will have noted the “Locked to the person” tab in the *Timeline Manager* window.

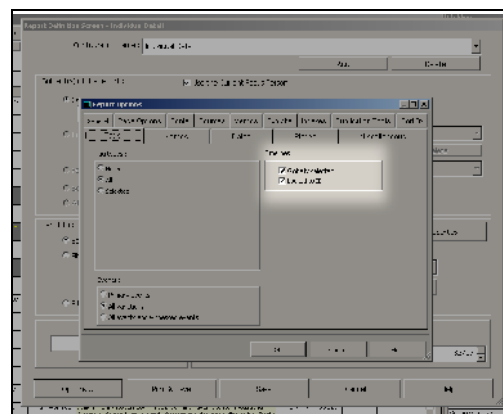
Essentially, this allows a timeline to apply to one or more individuals, in cases in which a timeline might not need to be applied to all records in your data set.



## Reports and Timelines

Some reports allow for timelines to be included.

The result can be seen in part of the report shown in Illustration 5 below. My “Arrivals” timeline and the UK Census results are shown.





## *Using Timelines in The Master Genealogist*

### **References**

Hoffman, Lee H (editor), *Getting the Most Out of The Master Genealogist*, Gould Genealogy, Modbury, SA, 2003.

TMG Tips web site: <http://www.tmgtips.com/index.html>

TMG Tips web site – TMG Timelines: <http://www.tmgtips.com/timelines.htm>

Wholly Genes, *The Master Genealogist Users Guide*, 2003.