

In many historic documents, first names were abbreviated. For example, old street directories and city directories always abbreviated common first names. Parish records often abbreviated familiar Christian names. This was done to save space and paper. In some jurisdictions, census enumerators would also abbreviate common first names when going door to door to save time.

Knowledge of first name abbreviations can be very helpful in tracking down ancestors. For example, knowing that Chas is a short form for Charles, Geo represents George, My means Mary and Hy means Henry opens up many more possibilities when looking through historic ancestral records.

It took us several years to collect and compile a list of common abbreviations for first names. To our knowledge, this is the most exhaustive list available on an important but often overlooked aspect of genealogy.

We recommend going the list below to familiarize yourself with common first name abbreviations and then reference the list as required when searching for specific ancestors.

Please note that when looking at old handwritten letters and records, *the best indication of an abbreviation* is that the author would usually superscript (raise the lettering of) the last one or two characters of the word. For example, a typed record might show an abbreviation for Joseph as Jos, whereas the handwritten record would usually show it as Jo^s. Similarly for Elizabeth, it would appear Elizth in typed form and Elizth in handwritten form.

Some authors also showed abbreviations by handwriting a horizontal line *above or through the text*, as in ~~D~~y for Dorothy.

As part of their school writing lessons, our ancestors were taught how to abbreviate comon first names using superscripts and/or strike lines, as described in the article above. This image is titled [Back to School by Miles Whittingham](#). It is available to purchase as a print, greeting card or phone case.

Ab	Abraham
Abig	Abigail
Abr	Abraham
Abra	Abraham
Ad	Adelard
Adr	Adrian, Adrien, Adrienne
Agn	Agnes
Alb	Albert, Albina
Albt	Albert
Alc	Alice
Alex	Alexander, Alexandre, Alexandrine
Ale	Alethea
Alf	Alfred
Alfd	Alfred
Alph	Alphonse, Alphonsine
Am	Amanda
Amb	Ambrose
And	Andrew, André
Andw	Andrew
Ang	Angeline, Angelique
An	Anne, Anna
Ani	Annie
Ant	Antoine, Antoinette
Anth	Anthony
Anthy	Anthony
Arch	Archibald
Archd	Archibald
Art	Arthur
Arth	Arthur, Arthemise
Aud	Audrey
Aug	August, Auguste, Augustin, Augustine
Balt	Balthazar
Barb	Barbara
Bart	Bartholomew
Barth	Barthelemy
Bea	Beatrice

Ben	Benjamin
Benj	Benjamin
Bern	Bernard, Bernadette
Brid	Bridget, Bridgette
Car	Caroline
Cath	Catherine
Cathne	Catherine
Charlt	Charlotte
Chals	Charles
Chas	Charles
Chs	Charles
Chris	Christopher
Clem	Clement, Clementine
Clif	Clifford
Clifd	Clifford
Cons	Constance
Const	Constance
Corn	Cornelius
Cor'us	Cornelius
Cuthbt	Cuthbert
Dan	Daniel
Danl	Daniel
Dav	David
Deb	Deborah
Delbt	Delbert
Den	Dennis
Dom	Dominique
Don	Donald
Dor	Dorothy
Doug	Douglas
Dy	Dorothy
Eben	Ebenezer
Ed	Edward, Edouard, Edmund
Edm	Edmond, Edmund
Edw	Edward
Elis	Elisabeth
Eliz	Elizabeth
Eliza	Elizabeth
Elizh	Elizabeth

Elizth	Elizabeth
Elnr	Eleanor
Em	Emmanuel, Emma, Emily
Eml	Emily
Ern	Ernest, Ernestine
Esth	Esther
Etne	Etienne
Euc	Euclide
Eug	Eugene, Eugenie
Eugne	Eugene
Eus	Eustace
Ezek	Ezekiel
Fel	Felicite
Ferd	Ferdinand
Fern	Fernand, Fernande
Flo	Florence
Flor	Florence
Fra	Francis (male)
Fran	Frances (female)
Fred	Frederick, Frédéric
Fredk	Frederick
Fs	Francis (male)
Frs	Francis (male), Frances (female), François, Françoise
Frs. X	François-Xavier
Gab	Gabrielle
Gen	Genevieve
Geo	George, Georges, Georgette, Georgina, Georgiana
Geof	Geoffrey
Ger	Gerald, Geraldine, Gerard
Germ	Germaine
Gert	Gertrude
Gilbt	Gilbert
Godf	Godfrey
Graz	Graziella
Grif	Griffith
Gul	William (in Latin Gulielmus)
Guliel	William (in Latin Gulielmus)

Gwen	Gwendolyn
Han	Hannah
Har	Harold
Hel	Helen, Hellene
Hen	Henry
Henr	Henriette
Hep	Hephzibah
Herb	Herbert
Herbt	Herbert
Hest	Hester
Hon	Honour
Hub	Hubert
Hubt	Hubert
Hum	Humphrey
Humy	Humphrey
Hy	Henry
Ioh	John (in Latin)
Ir	Irene
Isab	Isabel, Isabelle
Isb	Isabel, Isabelle
Ja	James
Jabus	James (in Latin Jacobus)
Jac	James (in Latin Jacobus)
Jacq	Jacques, Jacqueline
J. Bte	Jean-Baptiste
Jas	James
Jean	Jean, Jeannette
Jer	Jeremiah
Jere	Jeremiah
Jerh	Jeremiah
Jermh	Jeremiah
Jn	John, Jean
Jne	Jeanne
Jno	John
Jnthn	Jonathan
Jon	Jonathan
Jone	Joan (sometimes misspelt)
Jos	Joseph, Joséphat
Josh	Joshua, Josiah

Jro	Jerome
Jsph	Joseph
Jud	Judith
Jul	Julian, Juliette
Kath	Katherine
Ken	Kenneth
Lan	Lancelot
Lau	Laurence
Lawr	Lawrence
Len	Leonard
Leo	Leopold
Leon	Leonard
Let	Letitia, Lettice
Ls	Louis
Lse	Louise
Luc	Lucian, Lucien, Lucienne
Lyd	Lydia
Mad	Madeleine
Marc	Marcelline
Marg	Margaret, Marguerite
Margt	Margaret
Mart	Martha
Margt	Margaret
Margy	Margery
Marm	Marmaduke
Mat	Matthias, Mathias, Matthew, Mathieu
Math	Mathias, Mathilde
Mathw	Mathew
Matt	Mathew
Mau	Maurice
Mgt	Margaret
Mic	Michael
Mich	Michael, Miche
Michl	Michael
Mill	Millicent
My	Mary
Nap	Napoleon
Nar	Narcisse
Nath	Nathaniel

Nathl	Nathaniel
Naz	Nazaire
Neh	Nehemiah
Nic	Nicholas, Nicole
Nich	Nicholas
Nicho	Nicholas
Nichs	Nicholas
Ns	Nicholas
Oct	Octave
Ol	Oliver, Olivier
Pama	Pamelia
Pat	Patrick, Patrice, Patricia
Patk	Patrick
Pen	Penelope
Pet	Peter
Ph	Phillip, Philippe
Phil	Phillip, Philippe
Phin	Phineas
Phyl	Phyllis
Pre	Pierre
Prisc	Priscilla
Pru	Prudence
Rach	Rachel
Ray	Raymond
Rayd	Raymond
Reb	Rebecca
Reba	Rebecca
Reg	Reginald
Regd	Reginald
Ric	Richard
Rich	Richard
Richd	Richard
Richdus	Richardus (Richard in Latin)
Robt	Robert
Rodk	Roderick
Rog	Roger
Rol	Roland
Ron	Ronald
Rowl	Rowland

Rph	Ralph
Sam	Samuel
Saml	Samuel
Sar	Sarah
Sid	Sidney
Silv	Sylvester
Sim	Simon
Sol	Solomon
Stan	Stanley
Steph	Stephen
Sus	Susan, Susanna
Susna	Susanna, Susannah
Suz	Suzanne
Syd	Sydney
Tam	Thomasin, Tamsin
Teles	Telesphore
Theo	Theodore
Ther	Therese
Tho	Thomas
Thos	Thomas
Ths	Thomas
Tim	Timothy
Tous	Toussaint
Tristm	Tristram
Urs	Ursula
Val	Valentine
Vic	Victor
Vinc	Vincent
Virg	Virginia
Walt	Walther
Wilf	Wilfred, Wilfrid
Wilfd	Wilfred
Wm	William
Xpher	Christopher (in Latin)
Xpr	Christopher (in Latin)
Xtianus	Christian (in Latin)
Xtopherus	Christopher (in Latin)
Zach	Zachariah