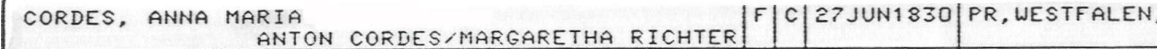


TIP 2: *In addition, don't assume that the given names of your ancestors are the only ones they had, or that the spellings were the same on original birth or baptism records as the ancestors later went by or under which they were recorded.*

Example: One of my ancestors was known to the family as Elizabeth Cordeau. Fortunately, I already knew her birth date and names of her parents. I found this entry on the International Genealogical Index (IGI) fiche of the Family History Library/Genealogical Society of Utah:



(The same data is now on the FamilySearch website.) A microfilm of the birth and baptism register confirmed this was "my" Elizabeth. Added bonus: the record also showed an alternate spelling of her surname, which helped me find additional ancestral records in her home town:

Geborne und Getaufte

Nr.	Kauf-Name des Kindes.	Tag und Stunde der Geburt mit Buchstaben und Ziffern.	Ob es e h e l i c h oder u n e h e l i c h.	Vor- und Zunamen des Vaters auch Stand desselben.	Vor- und Zunamen der M u t t e r.	
		Tag Stunde.				
10	Anna Maria Elisabeth Cordes Kraus	26 Junij gonggig Jubius	Margareth Richter	unehelich	Anton Cordes Lehrer Einwohner	Margaretha Richter

TIP 3: *Check locality codes to see if they match the area where a person or family was living at the time of a census, a child's birth, a marriage, or a person's death.*

Example: Did you know that numerical codes for census enumeration districts in 1930 and some indexes of births, deaths, and marriages correspond to the alphabetical order of the counties? In California, for example, Alameda is the first county, so statewide indexes show 01 for its locality code. Washington State has 39 counties, and King County is 17th in alphabetical order. Consequently, the E.D.s for King County were assigned 17-[X], and birth and death index codes showed 17, then 170 or 171 or 172, etc., the additional digit signifying a specific city (e.g., 171 = Seattle). Once you crack the code, your family records dreams may come true!



Next Month: Magic Symbols in Illinois.

This fact sheet is a public service to help people find records about their ancestors, particularly when the records have major errors and quirks that can mislead and disappoint researchers in their pursuits. Please feel free to share this with friends, fellow kin-seekers, and family history and genealogical organizations.

Kin Hunters is a genealogy and family history research service owned by Evelyn Roehl, who has been hunting for ancestors as a livelihood since 1995. She loves finding out where immigrant ancestors came from and provides research, translation, transcription, and data entry for individuals; heir searches for agencies and law firms; as well as presentations for genealogical societies and family reunions. She has been a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists for more than twenty years. Contact her by e-mail, kinhunters@gmail.com, or phone 206-634-1709.