



A monthly info-sharing service for you by
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FUN AND GAMES WITH NAMES

TIP 1: *Don't assume that names of people in published sources are accurate.*

If you saw the classic film *Lawrence of Arabia*, you may remember a scene in which a group of children pronounced the name of the protagonist *sans* the L, something like "oh-rants." Of course, what a word sounds like in one language can be spelled or interpreted quite differently in another tongue or dialect. This makes it fun for genealogists, whose brains need to be flexible, or what I refer to as having a "Gumby mind." (You might recall the bendable toy doll.) Here is a list of first names that I have occasionally found a bit twisted around:

AGNES	<i>recorded as</i>	AGNETS, AGNETY, ANN, ANNIS
ANN, ANNY	<i>mistaken as</i>	AMY (or vice versa)
CAROLINE	<i>mistaken as</i>	CATHERINE (or vice versa)
DAMASCUS	<i>recorded as</i>	THOMAS
DAN	<i>mistaken for</i>	DON (or vice versa)
DANIEL	<i>mistaken as</i>	DAVID (or vice versa)
EVA, EVE	<i>recorded as</i>	AVA, EFAU, EWA, EWE
FELTY	<i>substituted for</i>	VALENTINE
FRS. (Francis)	<i>mistaken as</i>	FREDRICK, FRIEDRICH
FRIEDRICH	<i>recorded as</i>	HEINRICH (or vice versa)
GEO.	<i>confused with</i>	JOE (Joseph)
HANNAH	<i>substituted for</i>	ANNA, JOHANNA
HUBERT	<i>also listed as</i>	HOBART, HUBBARD, ROBERT
JAS. (James)	<i>mistaken as</i>	JOS. (Joseph)
JEAN (John, in French)	<i>mistaken for</i>	female's name
JOANNE (John, in Latin)	<i>mistaken for</i>	female's name
JOES. (~ John, in Latin)	<i>mistaken for</i>	JOSEPH
JNO. (John)	<i>mistaken for</i>	JONATHAN
LEROY	<i>shortened to</i>	LEE or ROY or spelled LEEROY
LORENZ	<i>misinterpreted as</i>	SORENZ
MARG.	<i>mistaken as</i>	MARY (or vice versa)
MARTHA and MARTIN	<i>mistaken as</i>	MATHIAS (and vice versa)
MAY	<i>short for</i>	MARY
MICHAEL	<i>recorded as</i>	NICHOLAS (or vice versa)
NETTIE	<i>misinterpreted as</i>	NELLIE
RAY	<i>mistaken for</i>	ROY (or vice versa)
SUSAN, SUSANNA	<i>recorded as</i>	ANN, ANNA
XAVIER	<i>mistaken as</i>	EXOFER, HAVER, SAVIER, ZAVER

TIP 2: Do assume that the first names of people in published sources may be spelled as nicknames or variant / ethnic equivalents.

We all know that documents don't always list the full or formal names of people. The following list may help when you are searching on computer databases that do not match your first-name entry with an equivalent first name:

Abbey, Abbie, Abby, Abigail, Gael, Gail, Gayle
Ada, Adaline, Adelaide, Adele, Adeline, Aline, Del, Della, Ella, Elsa, Heidi, Ida
Anthony, Antoine, Anton, Antonio, Tony <i>fem.</i> Antoinette, Antonia, Nettie, Netty, Toni
Bess, Bessie, Beth, Betsey, Betsy, Betty, Elisabeth, Eliza, Elizabeth, Lisa, Lisbeth, Liza, Lizzie
Bill, Billy, Guillaume, Wilbert, Wilhelm, Will, William, Willie, Willy, Willis, Wilmer
Cat, Cate, Catharine, Catherine, Kate, Katharine, Katherine, Katie, Katrina, Kit, Kitty
Chris, Christian, Christophel, Christopher, Christly, Stophel, Xtian
Claas, Claus, Klaas, Klaus, Nicholas, Nick, Nickolas, Nicolaus, Niklas
Dick, Dickie, Ric, Ricardo, Rich, Richard, Richie, Rick, Ricky, Rico
Eileen, Eleanor, Elena, Elenora, Ella, Ellen, Ellie, Helen, Helena, Ilene, Lena, Maddie, Madeline, Magdalena, Matlina, Maudlin, Nellie, Nelly, Nora
Enrique, Hank, Heinie, Heinrich, Hendrick, Henri, Henry, Hy
Etienne, Stefan, Stefano, Stephan, Stephen, Steve, Steven <i>fem.</i> Stephanie, Stevie
Faronica, Franey, Frany, Frony, Veronica, Vironicy
Gary, Gerald, Gerard(o), Gerhard(t), Gerhart, Gerry, Jarold, Jerald, Jerrold, Jerry
Geoff, Geoffrey, Geov, Godfrey, Jeff, Jefferson, Jeffrey
Evan, Ewen, Gene, Giovanni, Hannes, Hans, Hunz, Iago, Ian, Jack, Jan, Jean, Jens, Jno., Joanne, Joannes, Jocko, Joes., Joh., Johann, Johannes, John, Johnnie, Jonathan, Jonnie, Juan, Owen, Sean, Shaun, Shawn, Zane <i>fem.</i> Hannah, Jan, Jean, Jeanne, Jeannette, Joanne, Jo-Ann, Johanna, Johanetta
Geo., Georg, George, Georgio, Görg, Jorck, Jorg, Jorge, Yorick
Giuseppe, Joe, Joey, Josef, Joseph, Jost, Yost, Yusef <i>fem.</i> Josefa, Josephine, Josie
Greta, Grete, Margaret, Margaretha, Margarita, Margie, Marguerite, Peg, Peggy
Jacob, Jacques, Jaime, Jake, Jakob, James, Jay, Jayme, Jim, Jimmy, Seamus, Shamus
Mame, Mamie, Mara, Maria, Mariah, Marie, Marilyn, Mary, Merry, Mimi, Miriam, Molly, Polly
Marta, Martha, Martie, Mattie, Patsy, Patti, Patty
Mathew, Mathias, Matt, Matthew, Matthias, Thies
Pedro, Perry, Peirce, Perkin, Peter, Pierce, Pierre, Pietro, Piotr



Next Month: Hey there, good lookin', want a Date?

This fact sheet is a public service by Evelyn Roehl to help people find records about their ancestors. Contact her by e-mail, kinhunters@gmail.com, or phone 206-634-1709. Please feel free to share this with friends, fellow kin-seekers, and family history and genealogical organizations.