

**Commonly Confused  
Upper Case Letters**

F - H  
J - I  
K - R  
S - L  
O - Q  
P - R  
U - V  
W - M, UU

**Commonly Confused  
Lower Case Letters**

b - f  
d - el  
j - i  
k - t  
s - l  
t - c  
ss - fs, ps  
w - vv  
y - g



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**UNDERSTANDING  
OLD HANDWRITING**



A A te te

The Letter A in different forms

Old Style Abbreviations - Proper Names

UNDERSTANDING OLD HANDWRITING STYLES

Ab <sup>m</sup> = ABRAHAM	He <sup>m</sup> = HENRY	S. d <sup>m</sup> // = OTTO MARKS
Ab <sup>rd</sup> = ABRAHAM	H <sup>m</sup> = HENRY	S. F = FEMALE
Am <sup>nd</sup> = ANDREW	J <sup>d</sup> = JAMES	P = FOR
Ben <sup>y</sup> = BENJAMIN	J <sup>os</sup> = JOSEPH	P <sup>son</sup> = PERSON
Cha <sup>m</sup> = CHARLES	Jer <sup>m</sup> = JEREMIAH	P <sup>ish</sup> = PISHAN
Ch <sup>d</sup> = CHARLES	Jo <sup>m</sup> = JOHN	Inf <sup>m</sup> = INFANT
X <sup>ph</sup> = CHRISTOPHER	J <sup>er</sup> = JEROME	John Tr <sup>ist</sup> = JOHN TRIST
C <sup>th</sup> = CHRISTOPHER	M <sup>att</sup> = MATTHEW	Att <sup>o</sup> = ATTORNEY
K <sup>u</sup> = KENNETH	N <sup>ic</sup> = NICOLAS	Ap <sup>o</sup> = APOSTLE
Ed <sup>m</sup> = EDWARD	N <sup>ich</sup> = NICOLAS	Ch <sup>o</sup> = CHURCH
E <sup>d</sup> = EDWARD	N <sup>ich</sup> = NICOLAS	W <sup>o</sup> Ric <sup>o</sup> = FOR RICH
Er <sup>m</sup> = ERNEST	Sam <sup>e</sup> = SAMUEL	C <sup>o</sup> = CONTINUED
Ez <sup>m</sup> = EZRA	Rob <sup>t</sup> = ROBERT	ff = "UPPER SCRIPT" (as written above)
El <sup>z</sup> = ELIZABETH	Sam <sup>e</sup> = SAMUEL	W <sup>o</sup> Ric <sup>o</sup> = "UPPER SCRIPT" (as written above)
El <sup>z</sup> = ELIZABETH	Sam <sup>e</sup> = SAMUEL	Test = "TEST" (as written)
Em <sup>l</sup> = EMILY	Tho <sup>m</sup> = THOMAS	Ed <sup>m</sup> = EDWARD
Fr <sup>an</sup> = FRANCIS	Tr <sup>ist</sup> = THOMAS	Ed <sup>m</sup> = EDWARD
Fr <sup>an</sup> = FRANCIS	Tr <sup>ist</sup> = THOMAS	Ed <sup>m</sup> = EDWARD

Ab<sup>m</sup> Abra. Ab<sup>r</sup><sup>m</sup>

Abraham

Alex.<sup>r</sup>

Alexander

Ch<sup>o</sup>

Charles

Geo. Geo.

George

Ja: Jas

James

Jesse

Jesse

1785  
1785

1785



THIS IS A SMALL SAMPLING OF THE MANY NAMES AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE <http://www.amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand.html>. GO TO IT FOR MORE NAMES.

USE THIS INFORMATION AND THE LIBRARY WEBSITE LINK (<http://library.franklincountyva.gov>) UNDER GENEALOGY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS WRITTEN IN THE OLD DOCUMENTS. ONCE YOU CAN READ THE INFORMATION YOU CAN LEARN MANY NEW THINGS ABOUT YOUR ANCESTORS.