



Warren County Genealogical Society

306 West Salem Indianola, Iowa 50125

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MEETINGS: 7:00 P.M. the third Monday of each month, except August and December, at the Indianola Public Library at 207 North B. Visitors are welcome.

NEWSLETTER: Published each month except August and December. We encourage members to send queries and articles for publication. Editor: Marieta Grissom.

DUES: \$6.00 single and \$9.00 family membership. Send to Treasurer: Enola Disbrow, 810 West Salem, Indianola, Iowa 50125

ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: Thelma Pehrson, 306 West Salem, Indianola, Iowa 50125.

FROM THE EDITOR:

This will be my final newsletter. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year in this position, and hope that when some of my other roles diminish, I will have time to be editor again.

Thanks to whomever it was who directed the enclosed articles my direction. I found them interesting and I hope you do too.

Above all else that you do, please keep on researching and writing, it will mean so much to future generations.

For sake of grandkids: Write it!

By RICHARD DOAK



If you could journey back and talk with anyone in history, who would it be?

My dad pondered that hypothetical question once and didn't hesitate a bit with the answer: his grandfather.

Not that his grandfather was what you'd call a historical figure. Scarcely anyone outside of Elk Creek Township in Jasper County could have heard of him, but he died before my dad was born, so Dad never heard the stories he might have told. There's a taciturn streak in the Doak family, but if great-grandfather ever opened up, perhaps on the front porch some Sunday evening, his stories would have been wonderful.

About all we know about William Doak was that he and his parents migrated to Iowa sometime in the 1850s. He was 20 when the Civil War began, and he enlisted in the 10th Iowa Infantry, a regiment that saw considerable action.

He re-enlisted in 1864 and was granted a furlough, during which he returned to Iowa to be wed. Then he returned to his regiment in time for Sherman's march to the sea. Was his new bride a childhood sweetheart? Did they carry on a courtship by mail? If there were letters, they were not preserved. What a pity.

The details of daily life for a young Iowan in Grant's and Sherman's armies would be priceless family treasures. In addition to the war experiences, it would be fascinating just to have some notion of everyday life on an Iowa farm in the 1870s and '80s.

What were the crops? How were they grown? What was the work like? What was the neighborhood social life in the country and the villages in those days? What was it like when the railroad came?

My dad might have a sense of what those days were like, because his own childhood might not have been greatly different. My children are lucky that they can hear from their grandpa about hitching the horses, about driving the hogs to town on foot, about the one-room country school, about running the trap line before school, about Model Ts and mud roads, about the first field planted with hybrid corn, about the great winter of '36.

Still, there's so much that will be lost. Too bad that more family memories are not in written form so that they can be passed through the generations — not just family trees but personal recollections of daily life, the kinds of things that are so routine that nobody ever bothers to write them down.

What was threshing oats like? Churning butter? Pumping water? A Grange meeting? Going to church by horse and buggy? The Saturday-night bath? What was it like before radio? Before electrification? When did the crank telephone and the party line arrive?

I've experienced some of those things, and have a rough sense of what life was like in my dad's childhood. My children will barely be able to comprehend it, even after hearing stories. Ways of life change so quickly.

At mid-life, I've experienced many things that won't come this way again. There were summertimes without air conditioning and life before television. There was dragging the clinkers from the coal furnace, doing dishes without a machine, running the clothes through the wringer and mowing grass without an engine.

There was writing on a manual typewriter, a machine now as obsolete as the butter churn, and editing with pencil and paste pot instead of computer terminal. There was reporting without the backstop of the mini-recorders everyone uses today, and without ready access to copy machines. How did we ever report without copy machines?

I remember the Kennedy assassination as if it were yesterday. To my children, it's a long-ago historical event. What's indelible in one mind, taken for granted, is beyond really knowing for another.

Someday I should write some of it down for my grandchildren.

Richard Doak is a Register editorial writer.

Thurs., May 9, 1985



IOWA BOY

It's kids' day in a cemetery

KNOXVILLE, IA. — It is the season for the elementary school field trip. There are farm visits, science center excursions, even still a few train rides.

In Knoxville, they go to the cemetery.

Or at least the fourth graders from Northstar Elementary did on Tuesday in what has become something of tradition — and one very innovative educational experience.

A sunny, warm day is a perfect time for anybody to get over the "creeps" that a lot of people, especially kids, feel in cemeteries, but the Knoxville students get much, much more.

"Another teacher and I started this in 1976, and I think we've been back five times over the years," said Tom Smith, a veteran fourth grade teacher.

"We divide into small groups and start at 9 in the morning, and then through the day, we run nine different classes, each lasting 30 minutes. We get one faculty member in charge of each class, and we have some help from parents, too."

The classes include mapping, in which students follow directions to certain headstones where they find answers to questions posed about the people buried there; art, in which they do stone rubbings; two different math classes, one figuring ages from the birth and death dates and one stressing measurements of stones and graves; language arts, in which epitaphs are studied, and an alphabet names is compiled; science, which focuses on the plant life in the cemetery; social studies, in which the students are led in discussions of why so many people died in certain time periods, such as during wars and times of epidemics; guidance, in which conversations about the feelings the students

And what would those people think about all these high-spirited youngsters being out there for a day of fun learning?

"Since a lot of those people lived in a completely different era, maybe

they wouldn't understand. Maybe most of them would even disapprove."

Oh, I don't know. With all that vitality in their midst, I'll bet the dead, if they could, might smile.

Lester Dahms is the Parliamentarian for Warren County Genealogical Society.

Making sure you meet by the rules

By DAVE BROWN
Register Business Writer

Illegal motion in the backfield? The referee throws the flag. Illegal motion on the pitcher's mound? Balk, rules the umpire. But here you are, president of ABC Association, presiding at the annual business meeting, and from out in left field, back behind the table with the coffee and doughnuts, comes a deluge of conflicting motions — subsidiary motions, incidental motions, debatable motions, undebatable motions. It's a chairman's nightmare. Who drops the flag? Who issues the walk? Who decides what's in order and what's not? Well, it could be Lester Dahms of Norwalk or Cleon Babcock of Des Moines, whose company provides professional parliamentarians to refer-

"You Go In Sweating"
For Dahms and Babcock and their colleagues, the bang of a gavel is as adrenalin-pumping as the umpire's cry of "Play ball!" "You've got 500 people sitting out there and they want that answer right now," Dahms said. In cases where a client tells them "there's going to be trouble this year," Dahms added, "you go in sweating." But, like referees everywhere, they say it doesn't make a difference who wins and loses — it's how you play the game.

Dahms, a former Postal Service employee who has spent the last 25 years studying parliamentary procedure, is president of Dahms and Bierbaum Associates Inc. M. Eugene Bierbaum, the executive vice president, is a Dryden, N.Y., college professor. Babcock is secretary and heir-apparent to Dahms, 70, who is planning to retire.

Clients Nationwide
The men have traveled across the country providing advice on parliamentary procedures, receiving as much as \$400 a day, plus expenses, for their work. Dahms said he has lectured in Canada, West Germany and South Africa. In Iowa, clients include the Iowa Credit Union League and the Iowa Chiropractic Society.

M.L. Malone, executive manager of the chiropractic society, said the company was hired in 1986 because officials of the organizations were "uneducated" about proper procedure. She said the parliamentarian is available "to corral any disputes" that pop up. "Our members feel very secure with it," she added. "The meetings are run much more efficiently and quickly."

Lena Rocha, executive secretary to the president of the credit union group, agreed. She said Dahms sits at the head table at both the annual delegates' meeting and the annual convention. "He has proved very helpful to us over the years," she said. "He's very knowledgeable; it's amazing."

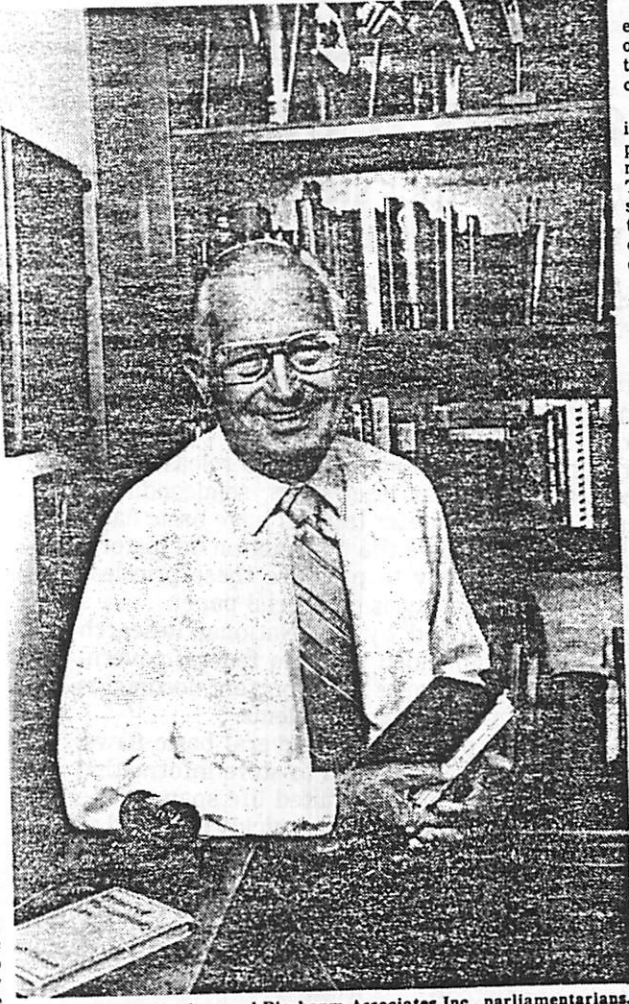
Parliamentary Meltdown
Babcock once advised the mayor of Fort Dodge on the subtleties of parliamentary procedure involved in a controversy over the appointment of police and fire chiefs, and Dahms was called as an expert witness to help resolve a parliamentary meltdown in Providence, R.I., that had brought city government to a standstill. Although their consulting company was formed only six years ago, Dahms and Babcock said their interest in parliamentary questions goes back many years. Dahms said his interest was kindled when, at a long-ago

meeting, he was told he was "out of order." "I wasn't out of order," he said, "the motion was." Curious about the rule he had unknowingly broken, he began studying.

Babcock traces his interest to being a class officer in elementary school. The men met through the Toastmasters club.

Consultants, Seminars
Dahms was executive director of the American Institute of Parliamentarians until 1983, when he and Bierbaum broke away to form their consulting company. Dahms said the AIP was not doing enough to provide professionally trained parliamentarians.

GARY FANDEL/The Register



Lester Dahms of Dahms and Bierbaum Associates Inc., parliamentarians.

Besides providing consultants, expert testimony or written opinions on parliamentary questions, the Norwalk company also conducts educational seminars.

The men say that participating in a business meeting as a professional parliamentarian is not a task for the faint of heart. They are expected to provide instant answers for sometimes tangled questions of proper procedure, where the wrong advice could result in litigation.

Armed with advance homework on the organization's bylaws and the agenda for the meetings, plus their wits and the profession's bible — Robert's Rules of Order Revised — the parliamentarian sits at the head table, ready to render opinions.

Fairness Needed
"You have to follow everything that's going on," Babcock said.

"You have to be constantly alert," Dahms added.

"For some of these situations there's no answer in the book," he says, putting a premium on the parliamentarian's ability to be fair and impartial.

"You really have to know the book," Babcock warns. "If you hedge at all, they know they have you."

The parliamentarian must sort out procedural gaffes such as a motion to table an issue until the next meeting. "There is no such thing," Dahms said. "I always interpret it to mean 'postponing until the next meeting.'" Another common error for a delegate to "move the previous question," Dahms said when he or she really is offering a motion to end debate and vote.

Dahms and Babcock's business is only part-time work. Babcock is a loss-control specialist for Farland Insurance Co. and Dahms is retired from the Postal Service.

The company refers inquiries about other consulting jobs to its affiliated parliamentarians, who pay fees to Dahms and Bierbaum for the referrals.

Their only advertising is word of mouth, but the men said they have been contacted about marketing their services more aggressively. Dahms, however, worries that there are not enough parliamentarians available to fill a large increase in demand. "Truly qualified parliamentarians are few and far between," he said.

But he and Babcock say a parliamentarian should be as much a fixer of official meetings as a lawyer.

Using parliamentary procedure "is a way of preserving democracy; everybody gets a chance to be heard," Dahms said.

"It's not so important what the rule is, but that there is a rule."

have about death and graveyards; and history, in which they learn who some of the people were and what roles they played in the community's past.

"We wind it up at the end of the day by having an ecology session," said Smith. "We pick up trash, sticks, cans and anything else to kind of assist in the preparations for Memorial Day."

All this happens in Greenwood Cemetery, located about two miles north of town, shaded by huge trees and steeped in history. The earliest graves date to the 1850s.

The way the kids respond is fascinating. As teacher Sally Godwin was pointing out an 1852 grave, young Dustin Ellis asked, "Was that when you could drive 75 miles an hour?"

Young ears perked up as the stories were told at the graves of two women who were slain in a yet-unsolved murder, a young man who died from a football injury and old Abram Cronkhite, an early sheriff of Marion County after whom Cronkhite Street in town is named. They loved the burial site of a John Harding, who died in 1963. Harding loved the horses he raised, the teachers explained, and that's why he had a horse engraved on his headstone and horseshoes engraved on the corner markers of the family plot.

The students were especially taken by the epitaphs. "Gone but not forgotten," said one traditional one. Others: "Though lost to sight, to memory I will we meet again" and "Our darling has gone before, to greet us on the blissful shore."

However, when it came time to write their own epitaphs, the youngsters seemed stymied, as well they should be at the prospect of summing up lives still shy of so many experiences.

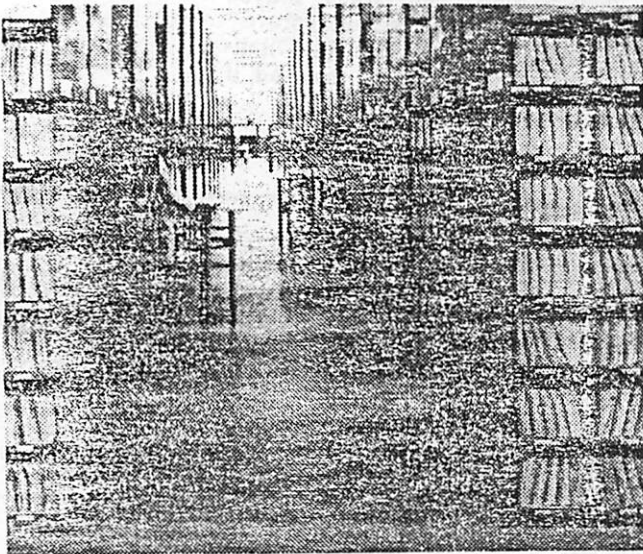
So some of the teachers tried to show the way. Smith penned, "School's out. I've passed." Guidance counselor Toni Morris offered, "I'm outta here!" And one was coaxed out of the columnist who was tagging along: "His soul belongs to God, but his heart is still in Iowa."

All of this happens, of course, with the consent of the cemetery board, of which Madge Crozier is president.

"When Mr. Smith first came to us several years ago and told us what he wanted to do," she said, "I thought it was strange, but I've come to think it's wonderful."

"For one thing, we have a lot of vandalism in cemeteries in this age. Beer parties, that sort of thing. I think if children learn early what is and isn't appropriate behavior in cemeteries, the vandals might spread, and some of the problems won't be there."

The 79-year old Crozier gets involved. She takes the teachers on earlier walking tours of Greenwood, providing information about the people buried there.



Tax returns at Federal Records Center in California

Historical records are best preserved on archival paper

Experts say paper storage beats
computer discs, chips, and tapes

By Donald L. Rheem
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 1986

Washington

Experts have found that the best way to store mountains of historical documents is not on computers — but on paper.

In a report to the National Archives released this week, experts found that laser discs, semiconductor chips, and magnetic computer tape all have basic flaws and are unsuitable to store the information on historic documents. The best way to preserve these priceless treasures, the panelists say, is on special paper.

The experts assembled by the National Research Council (NRC) recommended that the federal government begin using better paper for important documents to head off future preservation problems.

All the high-tech options have several basic flaws, they say. Either the medium used to store information (such as magnetic tape) has a limited life span, or the computer hardware and software is quickly outdated as new technology is developed. The National Archives is already having trouble using some recorded material because the machine needed to "read" the information is no longer available. Paper, on the other hand, can be made to last for centuries and needs nothing but a pair of eyes to be understood.

Today's equipment isn't expected to stay in service for more than 10 to 20 years. According to the report, two conclusions can be drawn: "first, the recording media may well outlast the hardware; and second, it will become necessary to recopy the tape record every 10 to 20 years on an ever changing, probably incompatible, new machine with a new format."

For the National Archives — with over 3 billion items to store — and other libraries and private holdings, the notion of converting all their historical data five or six times a century would bust their budgets. The scientific panel did say, however, that high-tech applications may make sense for small holdings, or for information that is needed quickly or used often. The

Library of Congress, for example, is using optical disc technology because its primary concern is with easy access, not preservation.

The National Archives has anticipated the increased storage need to maintain paper records, and is in the process of installing new, more compact shelving in the Washington building, as well as drafting a proposal for a new building that must be approved by Congress.

Of the 3 billion pieces of paper the archives has been entrusted to preserve, 160 million sheets have already suffered damage, and 530 million more are at risk of losing the information stored on them. Some of the most endangered materials are mimeographs and thermofaxes made in the 1950s and 1960s. Because of the paper, inks, and printing technology used, these documents deteriorate to illegibility in a relatively short time.

The NRC report, entitled "Preservation of Historical Records," does not deal with historical documents with intrinsic value — like the Bill of Rights or the Declaration of Independence. Only 25 percent of the National Archives' holdings have such a value. The vast majority of its records are only important for information. The report also does not deal with the storage problems which would result from records on paper.

It is possible to produce a high-quality paper that can survive for centuries. The scientists point out however, that even high-quality paper must be stored properly to ensure against long-term damage from air pollution. Pollutants common to most urban areas (ozone, sulfur and nitrogen dioxide, and small particles such as dust and soot) are difficult to remove from building air conditioning systems and can cause severe damage.

For example, books stored in Antarctica from 1912 to 1959 appeared new, while identical books subjected to higher levels of air pollution in London showed extensive deterioration. The scientists found that storing documents in acid-free file folders and boxes may provide more protection than expensive air conditioner filters.

Despite all the electronic storage options available, the panel simply recommends that important documents be photocopied on permanent (archival quality) paper, microfilmed, sealed in protective materials, or treated chemically to remove acid from the paper. These and other precautions "will preserve most papers for centuries," the study found.

READING OLD HANDWRITING TAKE THESE NEXT 2 SHEETS WITH YOU
WHEN YOU GO TO THE LIBRARY AND COMPARE THE WRITING. E.D.

This summary of the handwriting of our ancestors was written by Roy Colbert and published in the Amarillo Gen. Soc. "Reflector." Feel free to make copies of this article and keep them handy to take with you when you visit libraries and read old records.

Genealogical data depends almost entirely upon hand written records. You may have obtained some of your information from other printed sources or from books, however, nearly all of the statistics that you now have are based upon hand written original sources. The correctness of much of your material depends upon accurate translation by someone. If you have not progressed beyond the stage of microfilmed records, then you have not, as yet, been fully exposed to the vast display of mannerisms of letter design put forth by the scribes in recording the information. There were so many influences on early penmanship in America that probably no other country has ever experienced. Each nationality contributed to the total design which has evolved in the past two centuries. At the time of the revolution, the country was under the English influence in language and politics, but here and there small sections, or pockets, of other nationals added their mannerisms of letter design. This makes it important to not only study a document prior to translation, but also to recognize the area, or the influence, of the document's origin.

Census records are more easily deciphered as the format of each enumeration for a given census year was standard. If you follow back over the scribe's style until you locate recognized words or letters, you can then apply those to the word you are puzzling over. Probably the one most confused interpretation by a beginning researcher is the double "s" which appears more as the letter "p". Do you have a "Jipe or Jepe" named individual? - it should be Jesse, or, how about Capandra? - it should be Cassandra. This is the German influence from the β style of writing the double "s". So, when you see that letter "p", it may be a double "s", as: *sk sa se*

It would take a very large book to give you all of the mannerisms of letter design, but here is a list to watch for.

- A. This letter has changed little in centuries. Our present day design is quite precise, but you might also find: *cl el et #*.
- B. Another old classic, but watch for: *2 2b* ; small letter as: *β*
- C. The early records can easily be confused for an "o" as the letter design may close the letter entirely as: *o G G G* . Small letter may appear as an "r": *r s r*.
- D. This can be a dandy in both capitals and small letters, as: *o o l o o*. Now also watch for the low upper loop, as: *o o o*.
- E. It is getting worse! Watch for the old European "C" like letter with the small figure as a "z" in the center, as: *o o o o o* . The small case letters can be as an "o", or, as: *o o o r y e* . Now try this word: *o r y e o* (desesed for deceased).

F. You will find variations of both the open left and the open right faced stance, somewhat as written today and it is usually fairly familiar. Do watch for the "F" that can be confused for an "H" which probably originated from the double "f" French words, as: *H H H H*.

G. It gets tough as this: *B B B* or the small letter as: *y y y* which appears as a "y".

H. Can this really be an "H"? The larger case is difficult but the lower case "h" has a way of sort of drifting into nothing or part of another letter, as: *h h h h h h h h*.

I. and J. Often written the same, also used for one another in the spelling of a word: *J J J J J J J J J J*

K. Ah, I know that one! *K K K K K*

L. Maybe translated as an "S" (possibly Lemuel originated in this manner). In the small letters, watch for the double "l" that may appear as the double "f" or as the "h" letter, as: *L L L L L L L L*

M. and N. Usually, some variation of the printed letters: *M M M N N N*

O. Has added extras on caps, maybe open topped on the small: *O O O o o o*

P. Watch for: *P P P P P P P P*

Q. The small letter as a "y" is the most difficult: *Q Q Q q q q*

R. How about: *R R R R R r r r*

S. Would you believe: *S S S S S s s s*

T. Many styles, here are a few: *T T T T T t t t*

U. and V. Usually the same in early words and engravings, watch for the long upward stroke that ends with a small curl at the top as it appears the same as the "s": *U U U u u u*

W. It could be an "M": *W W W w w w*

X. Watch for a closed letter: *X X X x x x*

Y. Also closed: *Y Y Y y y y*

Z. The "h" style is the most confusing: *Z Z z z*

Ditto - same as: *Z Z z z*

&. and - between parties: *& & & between*

Lessee: *Take* Lessor: *Leas* Birth: *Birth* Born: *Born*

As mentioned, the national origin of the settlers influenced the styles of hand used. Pennsylvania documents may vary considerably from those of Virginia or of the New England area. The German stress not only influenced the letter design, but also the arrangement of letters in a word. Und or unde could be written as with the bar taking up the "da" sound. Remember also that the instrument was a hardwood stick or a quill and was more adaptable to the single letter form similar to printing.

<i>abbcdddefogghhijjkkllmm</i>	<i>at</i>	- Abraham
<i>nnootppqrrsfsuuvvwxxyz</i>	<i>Abra</i>	- Abranam
<i>A B C D E F G H</i>	<i>Anth^s</i>	- Anthony
<i>I J K L M N O</i>	<i>Benj:</i>	- Benjamin
<i>P Q R S T</i>	<i>Cha^s</i>	- Charles
<i>U V W X Y Z</i>	<i>Ch^s</i>	- Charles
<i>♀ - Per - Par</i>	<i>Ch^r</i>	- Christopher
<i>♂ - Pre</i>	<i>Kather</i>	- Catherine
<i>♂ - Pro</i>	<i>Kath:</i>	- Katherine
<i>♂ - Per</i>	<i>Ed:</i>	- Edmund
<i>Inf^t - Infant</i>	<i>Edward</i>	- Edward
<i>Atto^s - Attorney</i>	<i>Eugene</i>	- Eugene
<i>af^s - Aforesaid</i>	<i>Ezra</i>	- Ezra
<i>Ch^r - Church</i>	<i>Elizth</i>	- Elizabeth
<i>Personal - Personal</i>	<i>Eliz:</i>	- Elizabeth
<i>Parish - Parish</i>	<i>Em^l:</i>	- Emily
<i>Presence of me - Presence of me</i>	<i>Fr^s:</i>	- Francis
<i>Person - Person</i>	<i>Franc.</i>	- Francis
<i>Performed - Performed</i>	<i>Hen:</i>	- Henry
<i>Persons - Persons</i>	<i>Hen^y</i>	- Henry
<i>5 Percent - 5 Percent</i>	<i>James</i>	- James
<i>Ditto Marks - Ditto Marks</i>	<i>Joseph</i>	- Joseph
<i>Female - Female</i>		

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Jere:</i> | - Jeremiah | <i>Thos</i> | - Thomas |
| <i>John</i> | - John | <i>Trisfm</i> | - Tristram |
| <i>Jr^o</i> | - Jerome | <i>Sam Smith</i> | - Sam Smith |
| <i>Math^w</i> | - Matthew | <i>W^r Rec^t</i> | - Per Receipt |
| <i>N^s</i> | - Nicholas | <i>C^d</i> | - Continued |
| <i>Nich^s</i> | - Nicholas | <i>ff</i> | - Supra Scriptum
(As written above) |
| <i>Nich^o</i> | - Nicholas | <i>Viz^t</i> | - Videlicet
(Namely-to-wit) |
| <i>Samel^a</i> | - Pamela | <i>Test</i> | - Teste
(Witness) |
| <i>Reb^a</i> | - Rebecca | <i>L.S. (seal)</i> | - Locus Sigilli
(Place of the seal) |
| <i>Robt</i> | - Robert | | |
| <i>Saml</i> | - Samuel | | |
| <i>Tim:</i> | - Timothy | | |

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Thelma Peterson