

# Nicknames

Sometimes when we look for the first name of a female ancestor in a census, or other public record, she is not found there by the expected name. One common reason for this “missing person” is that she might have been listed as a child by some nickname. This is also often the case for our male ancestors, and sometimes these nicknames were assumed only later in their adult lives. This usually poses no problem for obvious nicknames like “Will” or “Bill “ for someone seen elsewhere as William. Likewise, “Liz” or “Beth” are easily recognizable as Elizabeth. However, it’s those less familiar nicknames or alternate spellings which require some imaginative searching. Some of these name variations had roots in European ancestral language name spelling, and the subsequent Anglicizing of them. Others seem to defy reason. Here are a few alternates you might try looking for:

## Females:

Adaline:	Ada, Addie, Lena
Agatha:	Aggie
Agnes:	Aggy, Inez, Nessa
Catherine:	Cat, Cathy, (or Katherine)
Charlotte:	Lottie
Elizabeth:	Betty, Beth, Liz, Liza
Frances:	Frannie, Fanny, Cissy, Sis
Hanna(h):	Anna, Nan, Nanny
Katherine:	Kate, Kitty, (or Catherine)
Lovina:	Lou, Lovey
Lucinda:	Cindy, Sinni, Lucy
Margaret:	Peggy, Maggie
Mary:	Polly, Molly
Martha:	Mattie, Pattie, Pat
Minerva:	Millie, Nerva
Rachel:	Shelly
Roberta:	Bobbie, Bert
Sarah:	Sally, Sallie, Sadie
Susannah:	Susan, Susie, Sukie
Virginia:	Ginnie, Jenny, Vinnie

## Males:

Albert:	Al, Bert,
Alfred:	Al, Alf, Fred
Alonzo:	Lon, Lonzo
Calvin:	Cal, Viney
Edmund:	Ed, Ned, Ted
Elijah:	Eli, (or Elisha)
Eric(k):	Rick, Ricky
Francis:	Frank, (or Frances)
Frederick,	Fred, Fritz
Geoffrey:	Jeff
Henry:	Harry
Isaac:	Ike, Zeke, (or Isiah)
Jacob:	Jake, Jay
Jeremiah:	Jerry
John:	Jack
Leonard:	Len, Leo
Nathaniel:	Nathan, Nat
Richard:	Rick, Dick
Woodrow:	Woody, Drew
Zimri:	Zimmie

Some of these are more familiar than others, and no doubt additional variations can be found.

Even these lists are no help in identifying vague listings like “Sonny”, “Bud”, “Teeny”, and maybe even the occasional “Squirrel” or “Daff”, by which this author was once known! But these nickname guides can be a help in identifying our otherwise “missing” ancestors in the precious few surviving records.

William D. “Bill” or “Daff” Kivett