2,578 WORDS FROM OLD RECORDS

The Old Records Dictionary

LARGE PRINT EDITION

Every old word from the records, in one book

Engraver

Cut designs into metal or printing plates. From the drawer "Old occupations".

Drowned

Died by drowning. From the drawer "Old causes of death".

Grandmother

Mother of your father or mother. From the drawer "Relationship words".

Daily Ancestor

Read the records your ancestors left behind

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

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The words are filed in drawers, the way they turn up in records: occupations in the census, causes of death in death records, Latin in church registers. Each drawer runs A to Z. The bold line is the short meaning; the line after it tells you more.

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DRAWER

Abbreviations

Shorthand for names, dates and record words.

&c. And so on (et cetera). &c. is the old way of writing etc. (et cetera), meaning "and so on" or "and the rest."

[sic] Thus: the error is in the original. Sic, often in brackets as [sic], is Latin for thus and means the odd spelling or error is copied exactly as in the original.

A.M.E. African Methodist Episcopal (Church). A.M.E. stands for African Methodist Episcopal, the church founded by Richard Allen, as in A.M.E. Church or Bethel A.M.E.

Ab Temporarily absent (1940 census). Ab after a name in the 1940 census means the person was temporarily absent, but was still counted as part of that household.

Abig. Abigail. Abig. is an old abbreviation of the first name Abigail, found in deeds, wills, church registers and census pages.

Abr. Abraham. Abr. is an old abbreviation of the first name Abraham, common in deeds, wills, church registers and census pages.

abt. About (an estimated date). Abt. means "about": the date or age that follows is an estimate, not an exact figure.

acct. Account (as in an estate account). Acct. is short for account, as in an executor's account of money received and paid out for an estate.

Adjt. Adjutant (officer who ran unit paperwork). Adjt. or Adj. in a military roster means adjutant, the officer who helped the commander run the unit's administration and records.

admon. Letters of administration. Admon. (also admin.) means letters of administration, the court document that let someone settle the estate of a person who left no will.

admr. Administrator of an estate. Admr. is short for administrator, the person a court appointed to settle the estate of someone who died without a will.

admx. Administratrix (female administrator). Admx. is short for administratrix, a woman appointed by a court to settle the estate of someone who died without a will.

aet. Aged (at the age of). Aet. (also æt.) is short for aetatis, Latin for "of age" or "aged": aet. 63 on a gravestone means the person was 63.

Agric. Agriculture. Agric. is short for agriculture, one of the twenty abbreviations allowed in the occupation column of the 1900 census.

Agt. Agent. Agt. is short for agent, and was one of the official abbreviations allowed in the occupation column of the 1900 census.

Al Alien, no steps to citizenship (census code). Al in the citizenship column of the 1900 to 1920 census means alien: the immigrant had taken no steps toward citizenship.

Ala. Alabama. In a census birthplace column, Ala. is the abbreviation for Alabama.

Alexr. Alexander. Alexr. is an old abbreviation of the first name Alexander, common in deeds, wills, church registers and census pages.

Alfd. Alfred. Alfd. in a name column is an old abbreviation of the first name Alfred; the shorter Alf. can also mean Alfred.

Am. cit. American citizen born abroad (1900 census). Am. cit. after a foreign birthplace in the 1900 census means American citizen: the person was born abroad of American parents.

Andw. Andrew. Andw. or And. in old records is an abbreviation of the first name Andrew.

Ant. Anthony. Ant. is an old abbreviation of the first name Anthony, found in deeds, wills, church registers and census pages.

AOH Ancient Order of Hibernians (Irish Catholic). AOH means Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish Catholic fraternal order founded in the United States in New York City in 1836.

AOUW Ancient Order of United Workmen. AOUW means Ancient Order of United Workmen, a fraternal society founded in Pennsylvania in 1868 that paid insurance benefits to members.

AP Born abroad to American parents (census code). AP in the 1950 census citizenship column means the person was born abroad or at sea to American parents; 1900 wrote Am. cit.

Archd. Archibald. Archd. in old records is an abbreviation of the first name Archibald.

Ark. Arkansas. In a census birthplace column, Ark. is the abbreviation for Arkansas.

Art. Artillery (in a roster); Arthur (a name). Art. in a military roster means artillery, as in 1st Art.; in a name column, Art. is an abbreviation of the first name Arthur.

Asst. Assistant. Asst. means assistant, as in Asst. Supt. or Asst. Surg.; it was an approved abbreviation in the 1900 census occupation column.

Atty. Attorney. Atty. means attorney: a lawyer, or a person given power to act for someone else.

b. Born. B. most often means "born" in a genealogy, as in b. 1784, though older English records also use it for baptized or buried.

B.V.M. Blessed Virgin Mary. B.V.M. stands for Blessed Virgin Mary, often seen in the names of Catholic and Anglican parishes and religious orders.

bapt. Baptized. Bapt. (also bp.) means "baptized": the date given is the christening, which may be days, weeks or years after birth.

Bart. Bartholomew. Bart. is an old abbreviation of the first name Bartholomew, found in deeds, wills, church registers and census pages.

bds. Boards (lives as a boarder at). bds. in a city directory means boards: the person boarded at that address instead of keeping his or her own house.

Benj. Benjamin. Benj. is an old abbreviation of the first name Benjamin, common in deeds, wills, church registers and census pages.

bkpr. Bookkeeper. bkpr. in a city directory means bookkeeper, a clerk who kept a firm's account books.

Box Boxer Rebellion veteran (1930 census). Box in the 1930 census veterans column means the man served in the Boxer Rebellion in China.

BPOE Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. BPOE means Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, a fraternal order known as the Elks, founded in New York City in 1868.

Bro. Brother (a family or church title). Bro. means brother; in church minutes and lodge records Bro. before a name is a title for a fellow member, not proof of a blood relationship.

Bug. Bugler. Bug. in a military roster means bugler, the soldier who sounded calls on the bugle.

bur. Buried. Bur. means "buried" or "burial": the date given is the burial, which was usually a day or a few days after death.

C-4 Years of college (1940 and 1950 census). C-4 in the 1940 census education column means four years of college; C-1 to C-5 count years of college or professional school.

C.S.A. Confederate States (of America, or its Army). C.S.A. stands for Confederate States of America or its army, and on a gravestone marks a Confederate soldier.

CA Confederate Army survivor (1910 census). CA in the 1910 census means the man was a survivor of the Confederate Army; CN marked a survivor of the Confederate Navy.