

Our Patron's Helpful Hints

If you have German ancestors you may be surprised to learn that they may have employed a naming convention to name their children. Following are three customs for naming children. A few words of caution; if a child died it was often customary for the parents to name their next child of the same sex the same as the dead child. Or in the event of death and remarriage of a spouse, the naming convention may start all over again. These events might lead to two children in the same family sharing a common name. If a person were fortunate to have a first name and a middle name, they were commonly called by their middle name.

Child	Custom 1	Custom 2	Custom 3
1 st Son	Paternal Grandfather	Paternal Grandfather	Paternal Grandfather
2 nd Son	Maternal Grandfather	Maternal Grandfather	Maternal Grandfather
3 rd Son	Father	Father	Father's Oldest Brother
4 th Son	Paternal Grandfather's Father	Paternal Grandfather's Father	Father
5 th Son	Maternal Grandfather's Father	Maternal Grandfather's Father	
6 th Son	Paternal Grandmother's Father	Paternal Grandmother's Father	
7 th Son	Maternal Grandmother's Father	Maternal Grandmother's Father	
1 st Daughter	Maternal Grandmother	Paternal Grandmother	Paternal Grandmother
2 nd Daughter	Paternal Grandmother	Maternal Grandmother	Maternal Grandmother
3 rd Daughter	Mother	Mother	Mother's Oldest Sister
4 th Daughter	Paternal Grandfather's Mother	Maternal Grandfather's Mother	Mother
5 th Daughter	Maternal Grandfather's Mother	Paternal Grandfather's Mother	
6 th Daughter	Paternal Grandmother's Mother		
7 th Daughter	Maternal Grandmother's Mother		

When reading old wills or other documents you may run across the following initials. If you didn't already, you now know what they mean

Abbreviation	Meaning
a.a.s.	Died in the year of his / her age (anno aetatis suae) (86 years old; died in year 86)
d.s.p.	Died without issue (decessit sine prole legitima)
d.s.p.l.	Died without legitimate issue (decessit sine prole masculina supesita)
d.s.p.m.s.	Died without surviving male issue (decessit sine prole masculina supersita)
d.s.p.s.	Died without surviving issue (decessit sine prole supersita)
d.unm	Died unmarried
d.v.p.	Died in the lifetime of his father (decessit vita patris)
d.v.m.	Died in the lifetime of his mother (decessit vita matris)
Et Al	And others (et alia)
Inst	Present month (instans)
Liber	Book or volume
Nepos	Grandson
Nunc	Nuncupative will, an oral will, written by a witness
Ob	He / she died (obit)
Relict	Widow or widower (relicta / relictus)

Sic	So or thus, exact copy as written
Testes	Witnesses
Utl	Late (ultimo)
Ux or vs	Wife (uxor)
Viz	Namely (videlicet)
The above was supplied by Mr. Jim Cochran	