

Please use the charts below to assist you with reading or transcribing Library of Virginia materials.

Common name abbreviations:

Andw = Andrew	Jos = Joseph/Josiah	SD = son of Daniel *
Archd = Archibald	Mich = Michael	SL = son of Lazarus *
Augt = August/Augustin	Nathe, Nathl, Natl = Nathaniel	SM = son of Martin *
Benj = Benjamin	Richd, Rich'd = Richard	SN = son of Nicholas *
Chas = Charles	Ro = Robert	SW = son of William *
Jas = James	SA = son of Arthur *	Thos = Thomas
Jno = John	Saml = Samuel	Wm = William
*is of Welsh extraction		

Common eighteenth- and nineteenth-century abbreviations and their full spellings include:

&c = et cetera	inst. = a date in this month (e.g., the 15th inst.)	ult. = a date in the previous month (5th ult.)
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Common military abbreviations:

Adj. = Adjutant	Brig. = Brigade	Capt. = Captain
Cav. = Cavalry	Col. = Colonel	Col. Inf. = Colored Infantry
HdQrs. = Headquarters	Inf. = Infantry	Lieut. or Lt. = Lieutenant
Maj. = Major	Prov. Gen. = Provost General	QM = Quartermaster
Regt. = Regiment	R.R. = railroad	Vols. = Volunteers

Common “misspellings” and writing conventions:

aforesaid = previously mentioned	attacted = attacked	do = ditto
evning = evening	evry = every	fiew = few
fs = ss (e.g. mifses = misses)	greaddeal or great eal or gread eal = great deal	mssr = monsieur mssrs = messieurs (plural)
perhapse = perhaps	verry = very	ware = were

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Contact us with any questions at makinghistory@viriniamemory.com.



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