

## Handwriting Helps

The best help in reading difficult script is comparison with other words or names in the same document. Picking out recognizable letters in the middle or end helps in figuring out the rest of the letters. It needs to make sense, a real name or word.

Spelling in early documents used phonics so "y" and "i" were interchangeable, "e" was added seemingly indiscriminately. A name was often spelled differently within the same record.

I and J were interchangeable. A vowel usually followed "J" and a consonant followed "I".

U, V and W were interchangeable both at the beginning of a word/name and within the word/name. Thus, Edward could be written Edvard.

The letter "y" at the beginning of a word, takes the sound of "th." It often has a raised "e" above it and means "The." It can also be used in other "th" words such as, this, there, that, etc.

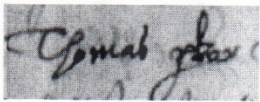
The letters "u" and "n" were often written similarly. Figure out which is right.

A straight line above a word or name indicated the omission of "m" or "n"

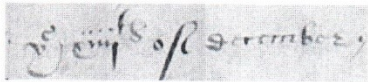
A raised letter above a name is a shortcut in handwriting and should be entered with the name.

A raised "d" or "th" etc, at the end of a name are the ending letters and are included.

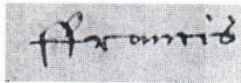
Old parish records sometimes used Latin, filius, son; filia, daughter; uxor, wife. Google the unknown words on "Latin to English" to find the translation.



Given name, Thomas: This "T" is often read as "C" & ending letter, "s" is often read as "b." Surname: is written pkar. The descending loop on the "p" represents an "er" or "ar" so, it is Parkar.



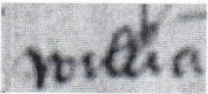
y<sup>e</sup> xiiii<sup>th</sup> of December - The 14<sup>th</sup> of December. Ending of the numeral 14 is a long "i" and is often misread or omitted.



Francis : A double ff is used as the capital letter F. Note the "r" "c" and "s" are old script. The "a" could be mistaken for "o" attached to an "m"



Thomas, with raised "a"



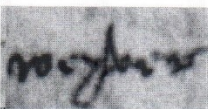
William, straight line over "a" meaning "m" at the end.



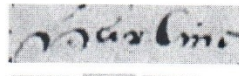
Surname Cross. Double ss with a long and short "s"



"Steven, line over "e" indicates "n" at the end.



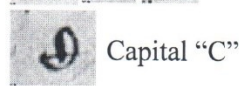
weyver (surname Weaver) phonics spelling, lower case "w"



Harline, open "a" with a diagonal line on top



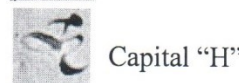
"R" & 2 lower case "r"



Capital "C"



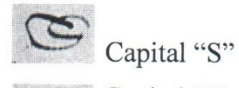
Capital "E"



Capital "H"



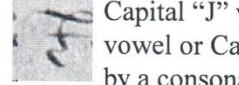
Capital "G"



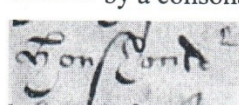
Capital "S"



Capital "K"



Capital "J" when followed by a vowel or Capital "I" when followed by a consonant



"Housholder" Note "u" that looks like "n" and raised "er" at the end.