

AOH-	Ancient Order of Hibernians
BPOE-	Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks
CAR-	Children of the American Revolution
DAR-	Daughters of the American Revolution
FOE-	Fraternal Order of Eagles
FOP-	Fraternal Order of Police
F&AM-	Free and Accepted Masons
GAR-	Grand Army of the Republic
I.O.R.M.-	Improved Order of Red Men
IOF-	Independant Order of Foresters
IOOF-	Independant Order of Odd Fellows
IOJD-	International Order of Job's Daughters
J.O.A.M.-	Junior Order of American Mechanics
J.O.U.A.M.-	Junior Order of United American Mechanics
K.of C.-	Knights of Columbus
K.of P.-	Knights of Pythias
KT-	Knights Templar
LOM-	Loyal Order of Moose
M.W.A.	Modern Woodmen of America
N.O.W.	Neighbors of Woodcraft
RA-	Royal Academy
RA-	Royal Arcanum
R.A.M.-	Royal Arch Masons
*R.N.A.	Royal Neighbors of America
SAR-	Sons of the American Revolution
S.F.W.C.	Supreme Forest Woodmen Circle

U.S.A.- United States Army
 U.S.A.F.- United States Air Force
 U.S.M.C.- United States Marine Corp
 U.S.N.- United States Navy
 YMCA- Young Men's Christian Association
 YWCA- Young Women's Christian Association
 W.C. Woodmen Circle
 W.O.W. Woodmen of the World
 W.O.W. Women of Woodcraft

FRATERNAL ACRONYMS:

AAONMS Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (Masonic) ("The Shriners")
 AASR Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (Masonic)
 ABA American Benefit Association
 AF&AM Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
 AMD Allied Masonic Degree
 AMORC Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis (Rosicrucians)
 AMOS Ancient Mystic Order of Samaritans (see IOOF)
 AOF Ancient Order Of Foresters
 AOH Ancient Order Of Hibernians
 AOKMC Ancient Order Of Knights of Mystic Chain
 AOUEW Ancient Order Of United Workmen
 ALOH American Legion of Honor
 APA American Protective Association
 AUM Ancient Order of Mysteries (MASONS)
 AUSA Association of the United States Army
 AUV Association of Union Veterans
 BARE Benefit Association Of Railway Employees
 BAY Brotherhood of American Yeomen
 BKA Benevolent Knights Association
 BKofM Black Knights of Molders
 BPOE Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
 BPOEW Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World
 BofRTM Brotherhood of Rail Road Track Men
 BLE Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers
 BLF&E Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen & Engineers
 BRT Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen
 CBL Catholic Benevolent Legion
 CD of A Catholic Daughters of America
 CKofA Catholic Knights of America
 CMBA Catholic Mutual Benefit Association
 COOF Catholic Order of Foresters
 CTAS Catholic Total Abstinence Society
 CBKA Commandery Benevolent Knights Association
 CCTAS Crusaders-Catholic Total Abstinence Society
 DAC Daughters of the American Colonists
 DAR (NSDAR) National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
 DAV Disabled American Veterans
 D of A Daughters of America
 DoL Daughters of Liberty
 DAN Daughters of the Nile (Masonic)
 DOKK Dramatic Order Knights of Khorassan (Knights of Pythias)
 DOLLUS Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States
 DUV Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War
 ECV E Clampus Vitus
 EAU Equitable Aid Union
 EBA Emerald Beneficial Association
 FAM Free and Accepted Masons
 F&AM Free and Accepted Masons
 FCB Knights of Pythias

FLT Independent Order of Odd Fellows
FOE Fraternal Order of Eagles
FOAST Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers
FOF Fraternal Order of Firefighters
FOP Fraternal Order of Police
GALSTPTR German American Legion of St. Peter
GAR Grand Army of the Republic
GLAUM Grand Lodge Ancient Order of Mysteries- Masonic Order
GLDS Grand Lodge Daughters of Scotia
GUOOF Grand United Order of Odd Fellows
HZ Haro Zaro
IBBH International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths and Helpers
ICBU Irish Catholic Benevolent Union
IHSV Red Cross of Constantine
IOA International Order of Alhambra
IODE Independent Order, Daughters of the Empire
IOGT International Order of Good Templars
IOH Improved Order of Heptasophs
IOHH International Order of Hoo-Hoo
IOI Independent Order of Immaculates
IOKP Independent Order of Knights of Pythias
IOOF Independent Order of Odd Fellows
IOOF-PM Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Past Master
ISH Independent Sons of Honor
IOStL Independent Order of St. Luke
IOF Independent Order of Foresters
IORM Improved Order of Redmen (Sons of Liberty)
IOR Independent Order of Rechabites
IOV International Order of Vikings
IUOM Independent United Order of Mechanics
IWW Industrial Workers of the World
IOF Independent Order of Foresters
IOOF Independent Order of Odd Fellows
IOJD Independent Order of Job's Daughters
IORG International Order of Rainbow Girls (Masonic)
ISDA Italian Sons and Daughters of America
JOAM Junior Order of American Mechanics
JOUAM Junior Order of United American Mechanics
JAOUW Junior Order-Ancient Order of United Workmen
JOUAM Junior Order-Order of United American Mechanics
KC Knights of Columbus
KGC Knights of the Golden Chain
KGC Knights of the Golden Circle
KGE Knights of the Golden Eagle
KGL Knight Grand Legion
KLH Knights and Ladies of Honor
KM Knights Militant (See KKK)
KofC Knights of Columbus
KofFM Knights of Father Matthew
KFM Knights of Father Matthew
KofH Knights of Honor
KOL Knights of Labor
KofL Knights of Loyola
KM Knights of Malta (Masonic)
KMC Knights of the Mystic Chain
KOTM Knights of the Macabees
KPC Knights of Peter Claver
KofTM Knights of the Macabees
KP Knights of Pythias
KofP Knights of Pythias
KSC Knights of St. Columbkille
KG Knights of St. George

KSTG Knights of St. George
KSTI Knights of St. Ignatius
KofSJ Knights of St. John
KSTJ Knights of St. Joseph
KSL Knights of St. Lawrence
KSTM Knights of St. Martin
KofSTP Knights of St. Patrick
KSTP Knights of St. Paul
KSTP Knights of St. Peter
KSTT Knights of St. Thomas
KofSTW Knights of St. Wenceslas
KT Knights of Tabor
KofT Knights of Tabor
KT Knights Templars (Masonic)
KWM Knights of Wise Men
KGE Knights of Golden Eagle
KHC Knights of Holy Cross
KKK Knights of Klu-Klux Klan
KOTM Knights of Macabees
KSF Knights of Sherwood Forest
LAOH Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians
LDG Independent Order of Foresters
LGAR Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic
LKofA Loyal Knights of America
LOL Loyal Order Orange Lodge (The Orange Order){Orange Men}
LOM Legion of the MOOSE
LOOM Loyal Order of the MOOSE
LOVUS Legion of Valor of the United States
MBS Mutual Benefit Society
MOLLUS Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States
MOOSE Loyal Order of the Moose
MOPH Military Order of the Purple Heart
MOVPER Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Mystic Realm (Grotto)
(Masonic)
MRA Royal Arcanum
MCL Marine Corps League
MWA Modern Woodmen of America
NCOA Non-Commissioned Officers Association (Military Society)
NEOP New England Order of Protection
NOK New Order Knights (see KKK)
NL Navy League
NSDAR National Society Daughters of American Revolution
NSSUP National Society Sons of Utah Pioneers
NU National Union
OofA Order of Amaranth (Masonic)
OCF Order of Chosen Friends
OofUF Order of United Friends
OGC Order of the Golden Cross
ODHS Des Schwestern Verbandes (Sisters of the Federation
OES Order of the Eastern Star
OSC Order of Scottish Clans (St. Andrew's Societies)
OUAM Order of United American Mechanics
PFofA Patriotic Friends of America
PH The Order of Patrons of Husbandry (The Grange)
PM Patriarchs Militant (Independent Order of Odd Fellows)
POSA Patriotic Order of the Sons of America
RA Royal Academy
RA Royal Arcanum
RAM Royal Arch Masons
RC Republican Club
RMOKHSJ The Religious and Military Order of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of
Jerusalem

RSGF Royal Society of Good Fellows
 RSM Royal and Select Masons
 ROJ Royal Order of Jesters (Masonic)
 RSTV Rite of St. Vaclara
 RSTV Rite of St. Vita
 RK Roman Knights
 RTT Royal Templars of Temperance
 SAR Sisters of the American Revolution
 SAR Sons of the American Revolution
 SBCL Saint Bonifazius Catholic Union
 SBL Society B. Lafayette
 SCV Sons of the Confederate Veterans
 SofE Sons of England
 SMAA Scandinavian Mutual Aid Association
 SNA-AUM Shrine of North America
 SR Scottish Rite (Masonic Order)
 SofSt.G Sons of St. George
 ST Sons of Temperance
 ST.G SoNY St. George's Society of New York
 SUVCW Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
 SV Sons of Veterans of the United States of America
 TCL Tall Ceders of Lebanon (Masonic)
 TH Temple of Honor and Temperance-Independent Order of Odd Fellows
 TPLF Temple of Honor and Temperance, IOOF
 TROA The Retired Officer's Association
 UAOD United Ancient Order of Druids
 UCV United Confederate Veterans
 UDC United Daughters of the Confederacy
 UFL Union Fraternal League
 UFM United Friends of Michigan
 UOPF United Order of Pilgrim Fathers
 VFW Veterans of Foreign Wars
 WKSC White Knights of the Southern Cross (See KKK)
 WOW Woodmen of the World
 YMCA Young Men's Christian Association
 YWCA Young Women's Christian Association

Initials after ancestors' names may provide useful information. The following list includes initials you may come across when reading old wills or other documents.

a.a.s. died in the year of his/her age (anno aetatis suae) (86 y/o 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 mascula supersita)
 d.s.p.m.s. died without surviving male issue (decessit sine prole mascula 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)
 Rel. or Relict widow or widower (relicta/relictus)
 Res. or Residue widow or widower
 Sic so or thus, exact copy as written
 Testes witnesses