

## WHAT'S IN A NAME? CHECKLIST

- \_\_\_ Write down all the possible spellings you can think of for the surname you are researching.
- \_\_\_ Don't ignore surnames that are similar to but spelled differently than the one you are researching.
- \_\_\_ Look for clues in your name that might indicate where an ancestor was born, or might indicate a possible occupational clue.
- \_\_\_ Watch for patronymics and learn how to use them to help you in your ancestral search.
- \_\_\_ If you come across a name that is spelled differently than how you think it should be spelled, write it down exactly as it appears in the research record.
- \_\_\_ Because a name sounds strange or odd to your 21st-century ears, that doesn't mean it wasn't very common in the era or area where you are researching.
- \_\_\_ Watch for middle names that might give a clue to a mother's maiden name.