

Alternative Forenames

Some forenames that are used in old parish registers or early census records are interchangeable with others. Sometimes the alternative name is an obvious variation of the first recorded name, such as Christina or Christy for Christian, but in other cases the alternative name bears no resemblance to the original name. Perhaps the most confusing is the female forename recorded as **Marion** in Scotland but commonly recorded as **Sarah** in countries outside Scotland. You can search for your Sarah in Scottish Records for years and never find her, but if you search for Marion instead you will often find she was there all the time.

Some of the more common interchangeable forenames are listed below. New entries are always welcome.

Alexander	Alasdair, Sandy
Ann(e)	Hannah, Agnes, Nancy
Catriona	Catherine, Katharine
Christian	Christina, Cirsty, Kirsty
Donald	Daniel
Elizabeth	Isabel(la), Bessie, Betsie, Betty
Euphemia	Effie, Effy, Fanny
Ewen	Hugh
Giles	Julia
Henrietta	Harriet
Hugh	Ewen
Iain, Ian, Eoin	John
Isabel(la)	Elizabeth, Bessie, Betsie, Betty
Jane	Jean, Jessie, Jenny, Sinéad, Shona
Janet	Jessie, Sinéad, Shona, Nettie
John	Iain, Ian, Eoin
Mairi	Mary, Polly
Margaret	Meg, Peggy
Marion	Sarah, Sadie, Sally
Mary	Mairi, Polly
Morag	Marion, Sarah, Sadie, Sally
Neil	Niel, Niall
Roderick	Rory, Rodger, Roger