

Glossary of Old Terms

As you research times past, you may encounter unfamiliar words or phrases. If you are in doubt of the meaning of word, you can consult a dictionary that was in use about the same time as the documents were printed. The following examples of old words with brief definitions might also be helpful:

<u>Abatement</u>	The difference between the amount of the estate an heir is to receive as specified in a will and the amount actually received, due to property devaluation between the time the will was made and when the death occurred; 2) the entry of a stranger into the estate after the death of the possessor but before the heir or devisee can take control.
<u>Abjurer</u>	One who renounces an oath, as an alien seeking naturalization that was required to renounce allegiance to his former country or government.
<u>Abode</u>	A place of habitual dwelling or residence.
<u>Abolutionist</u>	A person supporting the immediate extinction of black slavery in the United States.
<u>Abolution Society</u>	An organization formed to work for the elimination of slavery and involuntary servitude (1820-70's).
<u>Aborigine</u>	An original, indigenous inhabitant of a country.
<u>Abraham Man</u>	1.) Originally a lunatic member of Abraham Ward, Bethlehem Hospital, London, allowed to beg in the streets; 2.) A vagabond beggar, usually feigning lunacy, who wandered the countryside, especially after the dissolution of the religious houses (16 th & 17 th century England).
<u>Absentee</u>	A Loyalist who, supporting the British Crown, left his residence and lived elsewhere, usually out of the county, during the American Revolution.
<u>Absolution record</u>	A book or list kept by a minister containing the names of those requesting absolution from sin.
<u>Abstract book</u>	Land record book containing information in condensed form which usually lists the names of land purchasers chronologically, and is kept in the district land offices or with the Bureau of Land Management.
<u>Abut</u>	To adjoin or border such as in land, estates, or farms.
<u>Abuttal</u>	A boundary where one's land joins or meets another's land.
<u>Acadian</u>	Inhabitant of Acadia (Nova Scotia); a descendant of French settlers of Acadia who live in Louisiana (Cajuns).
<u>Accommodation</u>	Land allotted to families in a town or settlement.

<u>Accommodation note</u>	A statement, draft, or paper drawn for the purpose of obtaining credit with no consideration.
<u>Accretion</u>	The right of inheritance by survival.
<u>Acre-dale</u>	A common field in which several proprietors held interest, not necessarily on equal basis.
<u>Acre-tax</u>	English method of taxing land at a certain amount per acre.
<u>Act Book</u>	A record of the sacramental acts of baptism, burial, confirmation, marriage, communion, etc., performed by the minister in various denominations.
<u>Acton</u>	A stuffed jacket made of quilted cotton and worn under a coat of mail; in later times, a jacket of leather or other material plated with mail.
<u>Adamatine</u>	1.) A hard wax candle; 2.) A member of the extreme faction of the Hardshells, the New York Conservative Democratic political party.
<u>Adamite</u>	1.) A supporter of John Adams, 2 nd President of the U.S. (1797 – 1801) or of his son John Quincy Adams, 6 th President (1825 – 1829); 2.) In pre-fifteenth-century Christian history, a religious sect wishing to establish a state of innocence that went naked (like Adam) and barred marriage as a sin.
<u>Addison File</u>	A file created (1848 – 1862) by a clerk in the Officers and Enlisted Men's Department which was transferred to the Enlisted Branch in 1862, concerning the military service of enlisted men.
<u>Addition</u>	A title or name added to a man's Christian or surname, to show his rank, occupation, or residence.
<u>Admitted Cherokee Freedman</u>	Cherokee freedman records.
<u>Adoption by arms</u>	A pre-1600 ceremony of presenting arms to a person based on merit or valor, who was then under an obligation to defend the giver.
<u>Adoption by hair</u>	A ceremony performed to indicate adoption by cutting off a piece of hair and giving it to the adoptive father.
<u>Adulterine</u>	A child born of an adulterous relationship.
<u>Adventurer</u>	One who purchased shares in the Virginia Land Company, at 12 pounds 10 shillings each, and received 100 acres in Virginia.
<u>Affiance</u>	Betrothal.
<u>Affidavit</u>	A written document created while under oath before an authorized officer such as a notary public, court officer, etc.
<u>Affinage</u>	A refining of metal.

<u>Affinity</u>	One's relationship to the spouse's relatives as opposed to the blood relationship of one's own relatives.
<u>Affirmation</u>	A declaration made by a person having conscientious objections against swearing an oath.
<u>Affusion</u>	Water poured upon the body, often as a method of baptism.
<u>After kindred</u>	Remote relatives.
<u>Age of consent</u>	Age at which persons can marry without parental consent.
<u>Age of reason</u>	Age at which a child is considered capable of acting responsibly, being commonly age seven or eight.
<u>Administrator</u>	The person (male) appointed by a court to settle the estate of a deceased person.
<u>Administratrix</u>	The person (female) appointed by a court to settle the estate of a deceased person.
<u>Absentee</u>	A loyalist who, supporting the British Crown, left his residence and lived elsewhere, usually out of the country, during the American Revolution.
<u>Absolution record</u>	A book or list kept by a minister containing the names of those requesting absolution from sin.
<u>Accipitrary</u>	(19th-century English) a falconer or keeper and tamer of hawks.
<u>Accretion</u>	The right of inheritance by survival.
<u>Admeasure</u>	To give each heir or claimant his or her rightful share of an estate, dower, or property.
<u>Adulterine</u>	A child born of an adulterous relationship.
<u>After kindred</u>	Remote relatives.
<u>Aght</u>	Possessions; property.
<u>Aghtand</u>	Eighth.
<u>Ague</u>	Originally the feverish stage, but afterwards more usually the cold or shivering stage of an acute or violent fever; a malarial fever.
<u>Agistment</u>	The keeping and feeding of cattle or livestock at a rate per head; the opening of a forest or meadow for a specified period of time to livestock.
<u>Aker</u>	Acre.

<u>Alabama Claims</u>	Claims for losses to Confederate privateer ships (1872) such as the Alabama, the Shenandoah, the Florida, and the Tallahassee.
<u>Alamode</u>	A plain, soft, lustrous silk used in the 18 th century for making hoods, mantuas, and for lining various garments.
<u>Albumen print</u>	Paper developed by L. D. Blanquart-Evard which was used for photographs from 1851 to 1895 and was extremely thin and smooth with high gloss and a sepia-brown color.
<u>Alcalde</u>	1) Old miner's courts established in the 1800's in the Old West which dispensed Justice in areas where there were no local or county governments; 2) A Spanish magistrate or mayor.
<u>Ale-draper</u>	An ale-house keeper.
<u>Alguaz</u>	A sheriff or law enforcement officer in regions under Spanish influence.
<u>Alien</u>	An individual who is not a citizen of the country in which he lives.
<u>Alien Draft Files</u>	Federal records (1862-1864) relating to aliens drafted into the United States Army and released - including documents such as depositions, draft notices, and correspondence about releases.
<u>Alien letters</u>	Federal records (1812-1814) written by U.S. Marshals relating to enemy aliens.
<u>Alien manifest</u>	Early 1900 records which show aliens employed as crew members on a ship.
<u>Allegation</u>	Application for license to marry.
<u>Allen</u>	A field or open land ploughed and left to grow weeds to be used as pasture land.
<u>Alms</u>	Charitable gifts given to the poor.
<u>Almshouse</u>	Workhouse; a house founded by private charity for the care of the poor.
<u>Alutation</u>	A tanning of leather.
<u>Amalgamation</u>	The fusion of the white and black races by intermarriage.
<u>Amalgamationist</u>	One who favors the union of the black and white races.
<u>Ambrotype</u>	A photographic process developed by Frederick Arches and Peter Fry in England (1855-1870), which displays the image on glass, usually backed with black material.
<u>Ambry</u>	A storehouse, cupboard, repository, or any place used for storage.

<u>Amice</u>	Cloth used for a loose wrap; an oblong piece of white linen, originally enveloping the head and neck, folded to lie around the neck and shoulders; part of the clothing of the religious orders.
<u>Amish</u>	A member of a Menonite group begun by Jacob Ammann (Amen) in the 1600's.
<u>Amnesty oath files</u>	Files including the oath, acknowledgment of warrants of presidential pardons, and an agreement to accept conditions of pardon (1863-1866).
<u>Ancillary</u>	Secondary or subordinate to, as in estate administration.
<u>Angle-berry</u>	A fleshy excrescence resembling a large strawberry found on the feet of sheep, cattle, etc.
<u>Anglosajone</u>	Anglo-Saxon – used derogatorily just before the colonization of Spanish Texas.
<u>Angwite</u>	A fine paid to settle out of court in cases involving bloodshed.
<u>Aniepi</u>	Alone, single – usually applies to unmarried persons.
<u>Anti bellum</u>	Usually, the time before the Civil War.
<u>Anti-abolitionist</u>	One who opposed the abolition of slavery.
<u>Anti-renter</u>	A person who was opposed to the paying of rent, particularly during the period 1839 to 1850 in New York when the tenants on the estates of the patron refused to pay feudal fees and render services.
<u>Apache</u>	Indian tribe of the southwest, particularly New Mexico and Arizona.
<u>Appalachee</u>	A tribe of Indians formerly of northwest Florida.
<u>Apprentice</u>	One learning a trade or profession, bound by a contract or other legal agreement to work for a specified length of time under the direction of a master workman in exchange for instruction and learning in the trade, some additional education, and support.
<u>Arapaho</u>	Central and western plains Indians inhabiting areas around the Platte and Arkansas Rivers.
<u>Arbiter</u>	A witness or judge.
<u>Argolet</u>	A mounted bowman.
<u>Argosy</u>	A large merchant vessel or fleet of ships.
<u>Arkansas Indians</u>	An Indian tribe allied with the Dakotas and living along the Ohio River.
<u>Armiger</u>	One entitled to bear arms, such as a knight or esquire.

<u>Arrack</u>	A colonial drink; alcohol or spirits made from rice or molasses.
<u>Ascendant</u>	An ancestor; one who precedes in genealogical succession.
<u>Ashkenazi</u>	Central or eastern European Jews.
<u>Assistant marshal</u>	Local census takers prior to 1880 who were assistant to the federal marshals.
<u>Associator</u>	In Colonial America, a man willing to go to war.
<u>Asylum</u>	A place of refuge for the care of orphans and, more usually, for the confinement of the insane.
<u>Atherton Gag</u>	From 1838 to 1844, a resolution in Congress stipulating that all bills or petitions dealing with slavery should, without debate, be tabled, which was introduced by C. G. Atherton (1804-1853), U.S. Representative and Senator of New Hampshire.
<u>Attest</u>	To affirm that something is true, correct, or genuine.
<u>Auger</u>	A tool for boring holes in wood.
<u>Auxiliary to the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War</u>	A group organized in 1883, originally as the 'Ladies Aid Society', for wives and widows of sons of veterans, mothers of sons, and all lineal female descendants.
<u>Axle-tooth</u>	A molar tooth; a grinder.
<u>Aztec Club of 1847</u>	A group organized in 1847 for lineal descendants of commissioned officers of the army, navy, or Marine Corps serving in Mexico or Mexican waters during the War with Mexico (1846-1848).
<u>Babery</u>	Finery to please a child; any trifling toy for children.
<u>Bailiwick</u>	A district in England under the jurisdiction of a bailiff.
<u>Baiting-place</u>	In Colonial America, referring to a stopping place for rest and food.
<u>Bane</u>	That which causes ruin or woe; a curse
<u>Bang beggar</u>	A constable who carries a strong staff (slang).
<u>Bank-rag</u>	paper money.
<u>Banks man</u>	1.) An overseer at a coal mine. 2.) A bank manager.
<u>Banns</u>	The spoken or published notice of an intended marriage.
<u>Bar album</u>	A register of guests at a hotel.

<u>Barratry</u>	The encouraging of lawsuits and quarrels in an attempt to cheat or defraud ship owners or insurers, such as sinking, deserting, or embezzling the cargo of a ship.
<u>Barrel weight</u>	A measure of weight being equal to 196 pounds.
<u>Barrow</u>	1.) A mound of earth or stones erected over a grave. 2.) A castrated boar. 3.) A long, sleeveless garment for a baby made of flannel.
<u>Barth</u>	A warm sheltered place for cattle or sheep.
<u>Baseborn</u>	Referring to a child born to parents of humble means; referring to one born of an illegitimate union.
<u>Base-son</u>	An illegitimate child.
<u>Bason</u>	In hat making, a workbench with a slab of iron or stone flag on it and a small fire underneath, used for the first part of the felting process.
<u>Bastardy bond</u>	A bond posted by the father of an illegitimate child to ensure that the child is supported without public expense.
<u>Bateau</u>	A light, flat-bottomed boat used on rivers and propelled by long oars or poles.
<u>Bawd</u>	A procurer or procuress for a house of prostitution; one who conducted criminal intrigues and provided women for lewd purposes.
<u>Bawdy-house</u>	A brothel.
<u>Bayman</u>	1.) Resident of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. 2.) A Yankee fishing ship.
<u>Bayou</u>	A stream forming a sluggish and marshy outlet or inlet to a larger body of water.
<u>Beaconage</u>	Money paid to maintain a beacon.
<u>Beakiron</u>	The tapered end of a blacksmith's anvil.
<u>Beaming knife</u>	A tanner's tool used in beaming or taking the hair off a hide.
<u>Bearing cloth</u>	A child's christening robe or blanket.
<u>Bearing tree</u>	In surveying, a tree marked or blazed to indicate boundaries.
<u>Beat</u>	County subdivision in Mississippi and other states.
<u>Beecher's Bible</u>	A Sharp's rifle named after Reverend Henry Ward Beecher who raised funds to purchase Sharp's rifles for anti-slavery emigrants settling the west in the 1800's.
<u>Bee gum</u>	A hollowed gum tree used as a beehive.

<u>Beetle</u>	A tool consisting of a heavy weight or head, usually of wood, for driving wedges, and ramming down paving stones, etc.
<u>Beldame</u>	A great-grandmother; a woman who has lived to see five generations of female descendants; a hideous old hag.
<u>Belladonna</u>	A medicine to calm the digestive system, derived from the Deadly Nightshade plant.
<u>Bellwether</u>	The sheep at the head of a flock.
<u>Belshire</u>	A grandfather; an ancestor.
<u>Bequeath</u>	To give personal property by means of a will; to hand down.
<u>Bequest</u>	A gift, personal property, or money handed down in a will.
<u>Bespoke work</u>	Custom made articles.
<u>Better</u>	A person who was higher on a social scale than another.
<u>Bettering house</u>	A reformatory or charitable organization essentially for the sick and poor; a workhouse for keeping wayward persons.
<u>Biennium</u>	A period of two years.
<u>Bier</u>	The moveable stand on which a corpse is placed before burial.
<u>Bilander</u>	A small merchant vessel with two masts, distinguished from other vessels of two masts by the form of the main-sail.
<u>Bilbo</u>	A long iron bar used as a hobble for prisoners.
<u>Bill</u>	An instrument used by plumbers, basket makers, and gardeners used for pruning trees, hedges, etc.
<u>Binding day</u>	The 2 nd Tuesday after Easter.
<u>Binding out</u>	The act of apprenticing or indenturing children.
<u>Bitters</u>	A tonic made of alcohol and a vegetable infusion.
<u>Black Law</u>	A law regulating the admission of blacks into a state or territory.
<u>Black-pudding</u>	A food made of blood and grain.
<u>Black rent</u>	Rents paid in corn and meat instead of money.
<u>Black tin</u>	1.) Tin ore that is dressed, stamped, and washed ready for melting. 2.) Black powder.

<u>Bletonist</u>	One who possesses the ability to perceive water underground by sensation.
<u>Blinky milk</u>	Sour milk.
<u>Bloman</u>	A Negro or blackamoor (an African Negro).
<u>Blown</u>	Swollen or inflated.
<u>Blown meat</u>	Maggot infested meat.
<u>Boaster</u>	A broad-faced chisel used by masons to smooth the surface of a stone.
<u>Boatswain</u>	An officer in charge of the sails and rigging.
<u>Bodkin</u>	1.) A dagger. 2.) A type of rich cloth. 3.) Awl-like tool used to pick out letters in correcting set-up type.
<u>Bole</u>	1.) A small square recess in the wall of a room used as a small shelf; a small opening in the wall of a castle or cottage to let in light and air. 2.) A smelter for refining lead.
<u>Boll</u>	A measure for grain.
<u>Boller</u>	A drunkard.
<u>Bolus</u>	A larger than ordinary pill.
<u>Bonded passenger</u>	Passengers convicted of various crimes.
<u>Bondmaid</u>	A female slave; a bound servant not due wages.
<u>Bondman</u>	A male slave; one bound to service without wages.
<u>Bonny-clabber</u>	Milk that has become thick in the process of souring.
<u>Bookman</u>	A student.
<u>Boones's Trace</u>	An early road or trace in Kentucky from the Cumberland Gap to Boonesborough.
<u>Boulting mill</u>	A mill for refining flour further by sifting the bran out; part of a grist mill.
<u>Bound</u>	Being obligated to serve another for payment, passage, instruction in a trade, etc., in return.
<u>Boundary rider</u>	One who rode boundary fences on property to make sure they were in good repair.
<u>Bound out</u>	The condition of apprenticed or indentured children.

<u>Bounds</u>	Natural, man-made, or artificial physical features such as water courses, shore lines, fences, roads, trees, rock that define the boundaries of a parcel of land.
<u>Bounty</u>	Money paid by a city or town to volunteers for army service as an inducement to serve.
<u>Bounty land</u>	Land given by the government as a bounty.
<u>Bounty land warrant</u>	A right to a specific number of acres of unallocated public land granted for military service.
<u>Bout</u>	The distance from one side of a field to the other, and back again, when ploughing.
<u>Bovate</u>	A land measure known as an oxgang, or as much land as one ox could plough in a year, varying in amount from ten to eighteen acres.
<u>Bowery</u>	A farm or plantation.
<u>Bowie knife</u>	A steel hunting knife with a single edge about fifteen inches long, invented for Colonel James Bowie by his brother.
<u>Boxing Day</u>	The first week-day after Christmas Day.
<u>Braddock's Road</u>	An early route to the West from Baltimore, Maryland to Wheeling, West Virginia.
<u>Brake</u>	1.) An instrument of torture. 2.) A baker's trough for kneading dough.
<u>Brash</u>	Fragile, brittle wood, too brittle to be used in basket weaving.
<u>Brevet</u>	Honorary military rank.
<u>Brighamite</u>	A nickname given to a follower of Brigham Young.
<u>Brinser</u>	A follower of Matthias Brinser who, in 1855, led in organizing United Zion's Children.
<u>Broadcloth</u>	Plain-woven, double-width black cloth used mostly for men's clothing.
<u>Broadhorn boat</u>	A flat river boat for carrying coal.
<u>Broadside</u>	A newspaper or poster placed in a public place, for announcements.
<u>Bromide paper</u>	The predecessor of present day photographic paper introduced in the 1890's in a variety of textures using blue or blue-black tones and having a bronzed metallic silver look.
<u>Brunswick dress</u>	A riding-dress for ladies, with a jacket resembling a man's in construction.

<u>Bucket shop</u>	1.) A place where liquor could be purchased and put in buckets, bottles, etc., brought by the patrons. 2.) A brokerage firm that holds the money of the customer rather than purchasing his order.
<u>Buffalo soldier</u>	A black soldier serving in the American west.
<u>Buffalo trace</u>	A road or path made by buffalo herds used as roads by frontiersmen and pioneers.
<u>Buffer</u>	A person who took a false oath for a consideration.
<u>Bummer</u>	A soldier who deserted the ranks to raid and plunder without discrimination.
<u>Bundling</u>	A custom involving persons of the opposite sex sleeping in the same bed with their clothes on.
<u>Bunker</u>	The coal bin of a steam-driven vessel.
<u>Burgess</u>	A delegate, freeman, or representative in a borough.
<u>Butterice</u>	A farrier's tool used to shape or pare a horse's hoof.
<u>Cabinet print</u>	A large size (4 x 7 inches) albumen photograph on card stock.
<u>Cabin-parloured</u>	A home with a parlors not larger than a cabin on a ship.
<u>Cabriolet</u>	A two-wheeled chaise pulled by one horse, having a top of wood or leather and a large apron to cover the lap and legs.
<u>Cachet</u>	A seal.
<u>Cadastre</u>	A register kept for taxation purposes containing amount, value, and ownership of land; a poll (head) tax record of those qualifying to vote; a Domesday book.
<u>Caddie</u>	A man in pursuit of an odd job as messenger, errand boy, errand porter, etc.; more specifically, a member of a corps of commissionaires in 18 th -century Edinburgh.
<u>Caddis</u>	Cotton, wool, or floss silk used in padding; lint used in surgery; a worsted tape or binding used for garters.
<u>Cadette</u>	A younger daughter or sister.
<u>Cadre</u>	Permanent group of men who form the basic framework of a regiment.
<u>Caffa</u>	A silk cloth similar to damask.
<u>Cahokia</u>	A French fort established in 1699 in the Mississippi Valley.
<u>Cairn</u>	A pyramid made of stones used as a boundary marker or burial monument.

<u>Cajun</u>	Persons of French descent living in Louisiana.
<u>Cakewalk</u>	A parade or walk-around where one's fanciest dance steps were displayed and the winner received a cake.
<u>Calash</u>	A light carriage with low wheels and a removable folding top; a woman's hood made of silk with whalebone or cane hoops.
<u>Calcimining brush</u>	A brush used to apply whitewash.
<u>Calefactory</u>	A warming pan; a ball of precious metal containing hot water; a room in a monastery in which to get warm.
<u>Calibogus</u>	A drink consisting of a mixture of rum and spruce beer.
<u>Caliphe</u>	A sailing vessel.
<u>Calligraphy</u>	Beautiful, elegant penmanship practiced as an art or profession.
<u>Callimanco</u>	A fashionable woolen material.
<u>Calliope</u>	A musical instrument similar to an organ but using a series of steam whistles to make music.
<u>Calotype</u>	A process developed in 1839 by Fox Talbot, that used negatives to make positive prints on paper.
<u>Cambric</u>	Fine white linen used in making handkerchiefs.
<u>Camerist</u>	A lady's maid.
<u>Camlet</u>	A soft material (silk or wool) used especially for cloaks and petticoats.
<u>Can</u>	A tankard or mug, with or without a lid.
<u>Candle-shears</u>	Snuffer.
<u>Candlewood set</u>	A splinter of resinous wood burned to give light.
<u>Cant</u>	Language used by gypsies, thieves, professional beggars, etc., for secrecy; an auction chant or singing musical sound.
<u>Canter</u>	1.) A speaker using professional or religious cant. 2.) A nickname for the Puritans in the 17 th century.
<u>Canuck</u>	A French Canadian.
<u>Cape merchant</u>	The head merchant in a factory.
<u>Capitation tax</u>	Head or poll tax, based upon population.

<u>Carding</u>	The dressing or combing of wool, cotton, etc., by hand or in a carding machine.
<u>Carl</u>	A country man; one of low birth or rude manners.
<u>Caroche</u>	A luxurious coach or chariot.
<u>Carpetbagger</u>	Northerners who went south after the Civil War and tried, by the black vote or otherwise, to obtain political influence – generally applied to anyone interfering with the policies of a locality where he has no permanent or genuine connection.
<u>Carriage</u>	A tax or toll on the transport of goods through a country or territory.
<u>Carte-de-visit</u>	An Albumen type photograph mounted on card stock.
<u>Caruage</u>	Ploughing.
<u>Carucate</u>	A measure of land, it was as much as could be tilled with a team of eight oxen in one year.
<u>Cater-cousin</u>	Persons who were cousinly, intimate friends, or very familiar with each other, but who were not cousins by blood.
<u>Catgut</u>	A cloth used for lining garments and embroidery.
<u>Catshead hammer</u>	A hammer with a broad head.
<u>Causey</u>	1.) An embankment to retain a river or pond. 2.) A raised footpath beside a carriage road likely to be submerged in extreme weather.
<u>Cautioner</u>	One who gives or becomes security for another person.
<u>Census Marshall</u>	Assistant Marshall.
<u>Cere Cloth</u>	A cloth smeared or saturated with wax or glutinous matter and used for wrapping a dead body.
<u>Cession</u>	Yielding or surrendering rights or property.
<u>Chain</u>	A lineal measure of land of 66 feet, 100 links of chain, or 4 poles, and equal to 1/80 of a mile.
<u>Chaise</u>	A four-wheeled, horse drawn, enclosed carriage for transporting mail and/or passengers and a few goods.
<u>Chalk</u>	25 cents – i.e. \$1.25 was five chalks.
<u>Chandry</u>	A place in the home where candles were kept.
<u>Change house</u>	A small inn or alehouse.

<u>Charet</u>	A carriage or cart.
<u>Charge-house</u>	A boarding school.
<u>Charter chest</u>	A small chest used to keep important papers.
<u>Chattel</u>	Any kind of moveable personal property.
<u>Chemise</u>	A woman's shirt-like undergarment.
<u>Chester</u>	1.) A city or walled town. 2.) One who puts a corpse into a coffin.
<u>Chillumchee</u>	A wash basin made of brass or tinned copper.
<u>Chiminage</u>	A toll paid for the right of passage through a forest.
<u>Chimney-money</u>	Hearth-money; a duty or tax (two shilling per annum) paid for each chimney or hearth.
<u>Chinese Exclusion Act</u>	The 1882 act passed to withhold citizenship from the many Chinese immigrants who had come to work on the railroad.
<u>Chinook</u>	An Indian tribe which lived on the Columbia River; the jargon which resulted from the attempts of the employees of the Hudson Bay company to relate to the Indians in the area.
<u>Chiragrical</u>	Being subject to gout or having gout in the hand.
<u>Chit</u>	A signed note, usually for food or lodging.
<u>Choak-damp</u>	Carbonic acid gas that accumulates in old coal-pits, the bottom of wells, quarries, and caves.
<u>Chorea</u>	St. Vitus's dance, the dancing madness (choreomania); an epidemic characterized by contortions, convulsions, and dancing.
<u>Churching</u>	The first public appearance of a woman after childbirth, at the church where she receives blessings and gives thanks.
<u>Church-litten</u>	A church yard.
<u>Churn milk</u>	Buttermilk.
<u>Churtos</u>	A Jew not opposed to eating pork.
<u>Ciphering</u>	Elementary arithmetic or calculating.
<u>Cistern</u>	An artificial or natural reservoir for collecting water, usually underground.

<u>Civil death</u>	A condition in law in which a man is cut off from the rights and privileges of society through banishment, outlawry, excommunication, or entrance into a monastery.
<u>Cleft</u>	Split wood used for fuel.
<u>Cleveland Grays</u>	A group organized in 1852 in honor of the Cleveland Grays (the military organization formed in 1837 for the defense of New Connecticut, or Western Reserve Territory); the Cleveland Light Artillery Association.
<u>Clevis</u>	A piece of iron bent in the shape of a horseshoe with the ends perforated to receive a pin, used on the end of plows or wagon tongues.
<u>Clicker's awl</u>	A tool used by a shoemaker.
<u>Clipped coin</u>	A gold or silver coin from which a small part was clipped and saved.
<u>Clipper ship</u>	A fast sailing vessel with sharp, forward-raking bow.
<u>Clob</u>	A mixture of peat and clay used for building materials.
<u>Clock-jack</u>	Spring-wound clock works used to turn a spit in a fireplace.
<u>Clod-mail</u>	A wooden hammer used to break clods of sod.
<u>Clog</u>	A wooden soled overshoe or sandal worn to protect the feet from wet and dirt; a block or heavy piece of wood attached to the leg or neck of a man or beast, to slow down or prevent escape.
<u>Cloom</u>	Sticky mud or clay.
<u>Close</u>	Enclosed land around or beside a building, courtyard, farm yard, or the precinct of a cathedral.
<u>Coaly</u>	A coal-heaver.
<u>Coatee</u>	A tight-fitting coat or jacket with short tails used mostly in the military.
<u>Cockney</u>	1.) The dialect of London. 2.) A prudish woman.
<u>Cock's comb</u>	A cap worn by a professional fool resembling a cock's comb in shape and color.
<u>Cod</u>	A pillow or cushion.
<u>Codicil</u>	A supplement to a will.
<u>Coffle</u>	A group of slaves chained together.
<u>Coistsell</u>	A groom in charge of the care of a knight's horses.

<u>Collarage</u>	A tax assessed for the collars of wine-drawing horses.
<u>Collateral ancestor</u>	A relative not in the direct line, such as the brother, sister, niece, nephew, aunt, or uncle of a direct ancestor.
<u>College scrip</u>	Land scrip issued and sold in order to establish colleges.
<u>Colonial Dames of America</u>	An organization founded in 1890 for women descended from an ancestor who served one of the thirteen original colonies in a public office or in the armed forces.
<u>Colonial Order of the Acorn</u>	A group organized in 1894 for males of lineal descent of residents of an American Colony prior to July 4, 1776.
<u>Comfit</u>	Sweetened dried fruit.
<u>Common</u>	An open ground which is used by all the inhabitants of a community.
<u>Common law marriage</u>	A marriage without ceremony, civil or ecclesiastical, which may or may not be recognized as a legal marriage.
<u>Commother</u>	The relationship of a godmother to the other godparents and the parents of a child.
<u>Competent</u>	Legally qualified or able to act.
<u>Comprobate</u>	To prove or sanction.
<u>Concord coach</u>	A vehicle, commonly known as a stagecoach, manufactured in Concord, New Hampshire around 1820.
<u>Concords</u>	An agreement, made by permission of the court, between the parties when a fine is in consideration.
<u>Condemned land</u>	Private property taken for public use and compensated justly under laws governing eminent domain.
<u>Confiner</u>	One who lives near the border of a county.
<u>Conjoined</u>	United.
<u>Conjugal</u>	Pertaining to marriage or the married state.
<u>Connecticut Western Reserve</u>	3,840,000 acres in northeastern Ohio between Lake Erie and Pennsylvania.
<u>Consanguineous</u>	Of the same blood; descended from a common ancestor.
<u>Conservator pacis</u>	Keeper of the peace.
<u>Consort</u>	Companion; a wife or husband; spouse; mate.

<u>Continental</u>	One who supported the revolution in America; of or belonging to the colonists; during and immediately after the War of Independence.
<u>Continental Establishment</u>	Those who served the cause of the union during the Revolutionary War in any of its organizations.
<u>Continental line</u>	The regular Army of the United States during the American Revolution.
<u>Continuation</u>	Gaiters (cloth or leather coverings for the instep and ankle, which sometimes continued up the leg over the calf) continuous with knee breeches.
<u>Contraband</u>	1.) Goods prohibited by law or treaty from being imported or exported. 2.) A Negro that escaped from slavery.
<u>Contraband camp</u>	A place where slaves were kept during and after the Civil War to await assistance in getting started by the Freedman's Bureau.
<u>Conveyance</u>	The legal document by which the title of property or land is transferred.
<u>Cooking iron</u>	Household cooking utensils of heavy cast iron similar to Dutch ovens.
<u>Copeman</u>	1.) A dishonest merchant, especially in horses. 2.) A receiver of stolen goods.
<u>Coping</u>	1.) The upper part of masonry or brickwork usually sloped. 2.) The trimming or cutting of a hawk's beak or talons.
<u>Coping iron</u>	An instrument used for cutting a hawk's beak or talons.
<u>Copperhead</u>	A Northerner who was sympathetic with the Southern cause during the Civil War.
<u>Coppers</u>	1.) A ship's cooking utensils. 2.) A bronze or copper coin.
<u>Cord</u>	A measurement of wood, eight feet by four feet by four feet.
<u>Cord bed</u>	A bed supported by cords tied at intervals between the side frames.
<u>Cordon bleu</u>	Offspring of a black woman and a Frenchman (slang).
<u>Corduroy road</u>	A road made of tree trunks laid across a swampy area; bridges made in the same manner.
<u>Corn-cracker</u>	A poor white in the South (slang).
<u>Cornet</u>	Lowest grade of commissioned officer in cavalry, whose duty was to carry the standard.
<u>Cornlaiters</u>	A newly married couple who upheld the custom of begging corn to sow their first crop.

<u>Corregidor</u>	A principal town official in Spanish territory.
<u>Cot</u>	1.) A small cottage. 2.) A man who does housework usually done by a woman. 3.) A child's bed.
<u>Cot-betty</u>	A man who participates in the part of household affairs usually reserved for women.
<u>Coterie</u>	An organized association or club.
<u>Cottonade</u>	Coarse cotton cloth.
<u>Cottondom</u>	The Southern states.
<u>Cotton lord</u>	A person who has become wealthy from the cotton industry.
<u>Coulee</u>	A deep ravine caused by erosion and usually dry in the summer.
<u>Coulter</u>	A heavy, knife-like part on the front of a plow for cutting soil.
<u>Country mark</u>	An identifying mark or scar put on a slave to show which part of Africa he/she came from.
<u>County home</u>	A poor house where people who needed help were placed.
<u>Coupe</u>	A light four-wheeled carriage.
<u>Courtesy right</u>	A husband's right to his wife's inherited estate.
<u>Court leet</u>	A court of record held periodically and attended by the residents of the district.
<u>Covenant chain</u>	A chain belt which symbolized peace between the colonists and the Indians.
<u>Coverlid</u>	A woven bedspread.
<u>Cowboy</u>	Tory partisans of Westchester County, New York, who plundered and killed their opponents who favored the American cause.
<u>Cow-brute</u>	A bull.
<u>Cow-common</u>	Community pasture; land common to all for grazing animals.
<u>Cowl</u>	A large vessel for water, such as a tub.
<u>Coxey's Army</u>	Several hundred unemployed persons who marched to Washington under the leadership of J. S. Coxey in 1894 asking for legislative help.
<u>Cracker</u>	1.) A back woodsman or border ruffian. 2.) A poor white in the South.
<u>Cracky-wagon</u>	A springless wagon drawn by one horse.

<u>Cramp bark</u>	Bark of the American Cranberry tree, often used as an anti-spasmodic.
<u>Creole</u>	1.) A person of European descent (French or Spanish) born in Louisiana. 2.) A black born in the western hemisphere, rather than Africa.
<u>Cresset</u>	A vessel made to hold grease or oil, to be burnt for light, usually mounted on a pole or building, and often used for light on a wharf.
<u>Crier</u>	1.) A court officer. 2.) A man appointed by a village to make announcements. 3.) An auctioneer or hawker.
<u>Croft</u>	A small piece of ground, usually attached to a house, used for farming or pasture.
<u>Crofter</u>	A tenant who works a small piece of ground, having another vocation, such as fishing.
<u>Crooked whisky</u>	Whisky on which the tax has not been paid nor a license issued.
<u>Cropper</u>	A tenant who works a piece of ground and gets a portion of the crop in payment.
<u>Crossroads wedding</u>	A marriage held at a crossroads after the sun had set, with the bride wearing only her shift (a type of slip worn under her clothing) to show that she had no debts to bring to the marriage.
<u>Crouter</u>	A person with Dutch or German heritage.
<u>Croze</u>	A tool used by a cooper for making the groove in cask staves.
<u>Crypt</u>	A room or vault beneath a church.
<u>Cucking stool</u>	The stool upon which one was seated when in stocks for punishment; a machine or device used for punishing offenders by seating a person on the stool and immersing him or her in water.
<u>Cuffy</u>	1.) A Black in America (slang). 2.) A bear.
<u>Cumberland Road</u>	See National Road.
<u>Curation</u>	Guardianship over orphaned minors usually over the age of fourteen for males and twelve for females, and under twenty-one.
<u>Curator</u>	A guardian who was appointed to take care of a minor or incompetent person and to take care of their property.
<u>Curricule</u>	A two-wheeled carriage pulled by two horses abreast.
<u>Cartilage</u>	The grounds adjoining or surrounding a dwelling house.
<u>Curtle-ax</u>	A cutlass.

<u>Cut money</u>	Pieces of a coin which had been cut up into segments.
<u>Cyanotype</u>	Blueprint type paper used for photographs between 1855 and 1910.
<u>Daguerreotype</u>	Photographic process in which pictures were reproduced on silver plates by sensitizing them with iodine and then developing them with mercury. Invented by L. J. M. Daguerre (1789 – 1857), a French painter.
<u>Dairy house</u>	A barn or building used as a dairy; the home of a dairyman.
<u>Dancing exercise</u>	Twitching and jerking induced in people by intense emotional excitement, aroused at revivalist religious meetings.
<u>DAR</u>	Abbreviation for the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution.
<u>Dark-house</u>	A madhouse or insane asylum.
<u>Day coach</u>	A railroad car without sleeping quarters.
<u>Dead house</u>	A place where bodies were kept while waiting for burial.
<u>Declaration of intention</u>	The first paper or sworn statement made by an alien who intends to become a citizen.
<u>Degree of consanguinity</u>	Degree of blood relationship used to determine right of inheritance.
<u>Demijohn</u>	A glass or stoneware bottle with a thin neck which holds about ten gallons.
<u>Devise</u>	To give real property by a will.
<u>Devolution</u>	The passing of property, title, legal rights, or interests to another by legal processes.
<u>Dicker</u>	A number or lot of ten (i.e. a dicker of hides, a dicker of gloves).
<u>Died without issue</u>	Died without having children.
<u>Dingy</u>	A small rowboat (also dinghy).
<u>Dirk cane</u>	A cane containing a short, straight dagger, known as a dirk (was a taxable item in 1860).
<u>Discover</u>	An unmarried woman or widow; a woman not under protection of a husband.
<u>Disend</u>	A rough sketch map of Spanish and Mexican land grants in California, contained in the case files.
<u>Disownment</u>	In church records, one who has been terminated from the church.

<u>Dittybag</u>	A bag carried by sailors in which to store their smaller personal possessions.
<u>Diurnal</u>	A journal or diary – a record of daily happenings published every day.
<u>Diversory</u>	A temporary lodging place such as an inn.
<u>Dog-days</u>	The days between the last part of July and the first part of September, when Sirius, or the dog star, rises and sets with the sun.
<u>Dog leg</u>	A fence made laying logs or trees horizontally on supports crossed in the shape of an ‘X’.
<u>Dohrman’s Grant</u>	A land grant established in 1801 and located half in Tuscarawas County and half in Harrison County, Ohio.
<u>Dole</u>	Money or food distributed to the poor.
<u>Domescart</u>	The executioner’s cart.
<u>Domestic</u>	1) A sister, female relative, or female servant (not necessarily related to the head of a household) who lived with a family and helped with the housework.
<u>Donation tract</u>	Donation land grants given in 1792 and situated in Washington and Morgan counties in Ohio.
<u>Doughface</u>	A Northern politician who favored the South in the matter of slavery.
<u>Dower</u>	The legal right of a wife to use or own a portion of her husband’s estate (the percentage varies from place to place and from time to time but often one third) for her support should she survive him.
<u>Dower chest</u>	A wooden chest used like a hope chest.
<u>Dowery</u>	Any land, money, goods, or personal property brought by a bride to her husband in marriage.
<u>Dowlas</u>	Heavy linen made in England.
<u>Dowser</u>	A water-diviner – one who makes use of a divining rod to find water.
<u>Dowsing rod</u>	The divided rod or stick used by a dowser.
<u>Doxy</u>	The unmarried mistress of a beggar or rogue.
<u>Dragoon</u>	Heavily armed mounted infantrymen.
<u>Dram</u>	One eighth of a fluid ounce.
<u>Draper Manuscripts</u>	A collection of manuscript documents (correspondence, newspaper extracts, muster rolls, interviews, etc.) which cover the period from 1755 to 1815 in the western

Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, the entire Ohio River Valley, and parts of the Mississippi River Valley – by Lyman Copeland Draper (1815 – 1891).

<u>Draught</u>	1) Land which had been surveyed for which settlers drew lots. 2) A drink made of eggs and milk for those who were ill.
<u>Draught horse</u>	A work horse.
<u>Draw knife</u>	A knife with a handle on each used for scraping.
<u>Draw-latch</u>	A sneak thief.
<u>Draw shave</u>	A drawing-knife used for shaving spokes, table legs, etc.
<u>Dray</u>	A cart or sled without wheels used for dragging wood, etc.
<u>Dravage</u>	The fee charged for hauling goods by dray.
<u>Drayhorse</u>	A large, powerful horse used to pull a dray.
<u>Dresser</u>	1) One who dresses another. 2) A surgeon's assistant in a hospital.
<u>Driver</u>	The overseer of a group of slaves.
<u>Ducking stool</u>	A seat on the end of a long pole where one was tied and held out over water for ducking.
<u>Ducking tumbrel</u>	A ducking stool with wheels.
<u>Dungaree</u>	A coarse, inferior Indian calico.
<u>Dunkers</u>	German-American Baptists who administer baptism only to adults by dunking them three times.
<u>Durham boat</u>	A long keel boat, resembling an Indian canoe, used on east coast rivers in the U.S.
<u>Dutch West Indies Co.</u>	A company formed by the Netherlands to secure their claim to lands in North America in 1621. The first families were brought out by the company in 1623 and in 1626, where they founded New Amsterdam.
<u>Eagle</u>	A U.S. ten dollar gold coin.
<u>Ear</u>	To plough or turn up the ground.
<u>Earrike</u>	A fine or tax paid for an amount of ground ploughed.
<u>Easter Even</u>	The day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
<u>Eastertide</u>	The weeks following Easter Day and leading to Ascension Day.

<u>Edge leam</u>	An edge tool.
<u>Election court</u>	A 17 th century court in colonial New England which met to elect the officials of the colonies.
<u>Eleven-penny bit</u>	A coin commonly in use in colonial New York and Pennsylvania.
<u>Ell</u>	A measure of a length of cloth – about forty-five inches.
<u>Elsen</u>	An awl used by a shoemaker.
<u>Emancipated child</u>	A child who has reached the legal age to be free from his parent's control, and having the right to keep his own earnings and purchase property under his own name.
<u>Emblement</u>	A crop grown and produced by the labor and industry of a tenant, which legally belonged to the tenant.
<u>Emporium</u>	A trading center or market place.
<u>Endow</u>	To give a dowry or income for support of an institution or of a widow.
<u>Engross</u>	The use of a large clear hand to write or transcribe – the prescribed method for preparing an official document.
<u>Entail</u>	To put a restriction on how land could be passed on to descendants.
<u>Entailed estate</u>	An estate limited in the manner that it can be transferred, such as allowing the estate to be inherited only by a specific line of heirs and preventing one from transferring it outside of that line.
<u>Epigraph</u>	An inscription on a building or mausoleum.
<u>Eremite</u>	A hermit or recluse.
<u>Erite</u>	A heretic.
<u>Esquire</u>	1) A title of courtesy. 2) a candidate for knighthood. 3) a person of great wealth or influence.
<u>Estray books</u>	A record of missing livestock.
<u>Executor</u>	A person (male) designated in a will and appointed by a court to carry out the provisions of the will.
<u>Executrix</u>	A person (female) designated in a will and appointed by a court to carry out the provisions of the will.
<u>Expatriate</u>	One deported from one's native land.

<u>Expede</u>	To sign, seal, and deliver a document.
<u>Fallow</u>	Land which is plowed but not sown in order to enrich the soil.
<u>Fanega</u>	A Spanish bushel (two and one-half bushels).
<u>Fanning mill</u>	A blower or fan for removing chaff, husks, dirt, etc. from grain.
<u>Farandman</u>	A stranger or traveler, especially a traveling merchant.
<u>Farthingale</u>	A hoop made of whalebone used for women's petticoats and skirts popular in the 16 th and 17 th centuries.
<u>Farthingdeal</u>	An English measurement equaling one-fourth of an acre.
<u>Fashioner</u>	One who fashions or forms anything, especially clothing.
<u>Father-in-law</u>	Father of a spouse and also often a step-father.
<u>Fathom</u>	A measurement the length of outstretched arms or six feet.
<u>Federalist</u>	A member of the Federalist political party supporting a strong central government.
<u>Fee simple</u>	An inheritance in which the inheritor has unqualified ownership without conditions or limitations.
<u>Fee tail</u>	Land in which the inheritance is limited to particular heirs.
<u>Feme-covert</u>	A married woman dependant on and under protection of her husband having no legal rights to inherit, sell or buy property.
<u>Feme Sole</u>	A married or unmarried woman independent of her husband with respect to property.
<u>Ferriage</u>	The business of ferrying persons; the fare to be paid.
<u>Ferrottype</u>	An Ambrotype photographic process using thin metal resulting in black, deep gray, or chocolate positive images on a piece of japanned iron – popular from 1855 to 1900.
<u>Fiduciary</u>	An individual such as a guardian, executor, agent, administrator, attorney, conservator, or trustee empowered to act for the benefit of another.
<u>Field driver</u>	An officer in charge of catching stray animals and confining them.
<u>Figure Flinger</u>	An astrologer.

<u>Filibuster</u>	An irregular American soldier who promoted rebellions in Latin America. 2) A member of a motley assortment of con men, cutthroats, and some idealists who tried to take Texas from Mexico and Spain.
<u>Firkin</u>	A measurement equal to one-fourth of a barrel.
<u>Five civilized tribes</u>	The five Indian tribes considered to be the most civilized – the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole.
<u>Flagon</u>	A large pitcher-shaped vessel usually made of precious metal.
<u>Flail</u>	A tool with a free-swinging stick tied to another stick and used by farmers to thresh grain.
<u>Flathead</u>	A Chinook Indian.
<u>Flesh fork</u>	A fork used for lifting meat into a pot.
<u>Fleshing knife</u>	A tool used by a tanner to scrape the hair off hides.
<u>Flesh mark</u>	Marks such as cuts, slits, or holes in the ears, or brands made to identify livestock.
<u>Float</u>	A certificate issued by the federal government to Indians for acquired lands.
<u>Flummery</u>	A food with a jelly-like substance made of flour and oatmeal.
<u>Foolscap</u>	Writing paper varying from 12 by 15 inches to 13 ½ by 17 inches.
<u>Foot boat</u>	A ferry boat used to carry only foot-passengers.
<u>Foot-maiden</u>	A female attendant.
<u>Foot-pad</u>	A robber on foot.
<u>Forbes Road</u>	A route to the West built about 1780 which opened a passage between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
<u>Forbid the banns</u>	Public or formal objection to a marriage.
<u>Forstaller</u>	One who buys goods before they come to market with the intention of raising the price.
<u>Fortnight</u>	Two weeks.
<u>Forty</u>	One-sixteenth of a section of land (forty acres).
<u>Fosse</u>	A pool or moat for drowning lawbreakers.
<u>Foster dam</u>	A nurse, one who takes surrogate care of a child.

<u>Founday</u>	Six days, the time iron workers needed to make eight tons of iron.
<u>Fourteenth Colony</u>	A settlement near Natchez, Mississippi founded by the King, Swayze, Thomas, Farrar, Cory, and Horton families from New Jersey (between 1772 and 1775).
<u>Fox Indians</u>	A tribe of Algonquin Indians who lived along the Mississippi River.
<u>Frank</u>	Free, not in bondage, to enable to pass or go freely or easily.
<u>Franklin</u>	The State of Franklin was organized in 1784 in the western part of North Carolina and ceased to exist in 1788.
<u>Fream</u>	Ploughed land that has been worked too much and needs to lie fallow.
<u>Freedman</u>	A male released from slavery – one who is emancipated.
<u>Freedom dues</u>	The payment of dues by the master to the apprentice or servant upon completion of an indenture or apprenticeship contract.
<u>Freedom right</u>	An indentured servant's right to a specified amount of acreage at the end of his term of service.
<u>Freeman</u>	1) A white male over 21 years of age, free to ply a trade, own land, and to vote. 2) Freed slaves or anyone who was taxable or could vote.
<u>Free man of color</u>	A black man free from the time of his birth, or who was freed later in life.
<u>Freemasons</u>	An organization begun in England in 1725 by stone cutters which soon came to include men of means and nobility. It puts forth social reform principles and the ideals of fraternity, equality of men, and peace.
<u>French Grant</u>	Land located in Scioto County, Ohio which was donated by Congress in 1795 to a group of French people who were swindled by a land company.
<u>French Spoliation Cases</u>	Cases brought before the U.S. Court of Claims from 1793 to 1801 to seek redress for American merchants who suffered the loss of ships and goods at the hands of French warships.
<u>Frigate</u>	1) A fast, lightweight warship of the 18 th and 19 th centuries which carried up to sixty guns. 2) any small sailing vessel.
<u>Frippery</u>	A shop where old clothes are sold.
<u>Froe</u>	A wedge-shaped cleaving tool.
<u>Full age</u>	An adult.
<u>Fulling mill</u>	A mill where cloth is fulled by means of pestles or stampers which clean, beat, and press it to a compact state.

<u>Furlong</u>	A distance equal to 1/8 th of a mile (forty rods, poles, or perches, 220 yards, 660 feet, or ten chains).
<u>Furniture</u>	Originally, the items necessary to equip a man and a horse – later, any kind of moveable property, including livestock.
<u>Fustian</u>	Originally, a coarse cloth made of cotton and linen – later, corduroy, velveteen, etc.
<u>Gabel</u>	1) To make a mark on a sheep's ear for identification purposes. 2) An excise tax.
<u>Gad</u>	A stake, spike of metal or sharp pointed rod.
<u>Gadsden Purchase</u>	The purchase of the southern Arizona area from Mexico in 1853.
<u>Gaffer</u>	1) An old man, usually from the country. 2) A headman or foreman of a work gang.
<u>Gaiter</u>	1) A spat or legging made of cloth or leather, usually strapped under the shoe. 2) A form of high-topped shoe.
<u>Gallows</u>	Man's suspenders.
<u>Galvanized Yankee</u>	A Confederate soldier who enlisted in the Union Army and saw duty on the western frontier.
<u>Gammer</u>	An old woman.
<u>Gangrel</u>	A vagrant or roving beggar.
<u>Gaol</u>	A jail.
<u>Garcion</u>	A serving man or groom, usually a young man or boy.
<u>Gardyloo</u>	A cry used to warn passers-by to beware of slop thrown into the street from a window.
<u>Gatehouse</u>	A lodge or house for a servant or gatekeeper near the entrance of a park or large estate.
<u>Gentle craft</u>	1) Fishing. 2) Shoemaking.
<u>Gentry</u>	Persons of good breeding; those between the nobility and the yeomanry.
<u>Gerrymander</u>	A division or arrangement of a voting district made to favor one candidate over another.
<u>Gerund grinder</u>	A teacher who instructs Latin grammar.
<u>Gig</u>	1) A taxable item in 1860. 2) An open, two-wheeled carriage pulled by a horse.
<u>Gill</u>	1) A one-fourth pint liquid measure. 2) Malt liquor medicated with ground ivy.

<u>Gladstone bag</u>	A hinged traveling bag that could be opened flat into two equal compartments.
<u>Good brother</u>	A brother-in-law.
<u>Goodman</u>	A man ranking below a gentleman but above a freeman.
<u>Good mother</u>	A mother-in-law or a step-mother.
<u>Good sister</u>	A sister-in-law.
<u>Goodwife</u>	The wife or mistress of a household.
<u>Goody</u>	A woman or housewife, especially an old woman.
<u>Goose</u>	An iron with a handle resembling a goose neck used by a tailor; a smoothing iron.
<u>Gore</u>	A county subdivision in Maine and Vermont.
<u>Gossip</u>	Was once a person who acquired spiritual affinity with another by acting as a baptismal sponsor. Mothers, Godmothers, fathers, and godfathers were gossips.
<u>Gossips wheel</u>	A spinning wheel designed to be used by two persons at a time.
<u>Gouge</u>	A chisel with a curved cutting edge.
<u>Grace wife</u>	A midwife.
<u>Grand Army of the Republic</u>	A group founded in Illinois in 1866, it became the largest organization of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Membership in the GAR dwindled until there were 65,000 members in 1923 and only one remaining veteran in 1956 when the society was officially disbanded.
<u>Graner</u>	A utensil used in a brewery or granary.
<u>Grange</u>	A farmhouse or small hamlet; a center of cultivation owned by a monastery, but too far away for the monks to work it.
<u>Grantor</u>	A person who gives or sells real property. The person who makes or gives a grant.
<u>Grapnel</u>	A device with a hook or pronged ends, used for grasping or holding things such as food and milk.
<u>Grass widow</u>	An unmarried woman with a child; a divorced or separated woman; a discarded mistress.
<u>Grayback</u>	A term used for Confederate soldiers during the American Civil War.
<u>Graybeard Regiment</u>	A Union regiment, the 37 th Iowa Volunteer Infantry, composed of old men, and assembled at Camp Strong, near Muscatine, Iowa.

<u>Great Genesee Road</u>	A route between Utica, New York and Cleveland, Ohio, as a path to the West.
<u>Great Valley Road</u>	A road leading to the South and the West beginning in southeastern Pennsylvania, going through the Shenandoah Valley, Knoxville, Tennessee, and into Huntsville, Alabama.
<u>Greenbrier Company</u>	A company which was granted 100,000 acres of land in Virginia in 1751. In exchange, they were to survey and sell all the land to settlers within a specified length of time.
<u>Griff</u>	A child having one black parent and the other parent a mulatto or a child of a black and an American Indian.
<u>Griot</u>	An African clan's story teller or oral historian.
<u>Grog</u>	A mixture of rum and water named after Old Grog, the nickname given to Admiral Vernon, who introduced the drink around 1745.
<u>Groggery</u>	A tavern.
<u>Groove</u>	A mine shaft or pit.
<u>Ground rent</u>	Rent paid on land.
<u>Gundalow</u>	Cargo carrying river sail boats.
<u>Gunter's chain</u>	A unit of measurement used by a surveyor (66 feet).
<u>Gutter-blood</u>	A base born or low bred person.
<u>Guttersnipe</u>	1) A slum child. 2) A small handbill used for advertising.
<u>Habitacle</u>	A dwelling or an alcove.
<u>Hackle</u>	A device that separates the coarse part of flax or hemp from the fine.
<u>Hackney man</u>	One who rents horses and carriages.
<u>Half-baptized</u>	Baptized at home instead of church.
<u>Half orphan</u>	A child who had lost only one parent.
<u>Hangby</u>	A dependent.
<u>Hank</u>	A measurement of cotton or woolen yarn (cotton 840 yards, wool 560 yards).
<u>Hardshell Baptists</u>	A strict sect of Baptists with extreme Calvinistic views.

<u>Hardy</u>	A chisel-like tool with a square shank set into a hole in an anvil, uses for cutting off pieces from iron rods.
<u>Hasty pudding</u>	Mush made of oatmeal or flour.
<u>Hatchel</u>	An instrument for combing flax or hemp.
<u>Head money</u>	1) A poll tax. 2) A bounty per head for captured prisoners.
<u>Headright grant</u>	A land grant system introduced to attract people to the colonies under which each head of family who emigrated to the colonies was given fifty acres of land providing he settled on it and improved the land and paid a fee to the Crown.
<u>Hectare</u>	A metric measure equal to 10,000 square meters.
<u>Hedge school</u>	An Irish school held in the open air, hence a poor, low-class school.
<u>Heel cutter</u>	A tool used for cutting out lifts for the heel of a boot or shoe.
<u>Heir apparent</u>	A person who is the rightful heir and most likely to receive the estate if he survives the ancestor.
<u>Heling</u>	A bed coverlet.
<u>Hessian</u>	1) German protestants native to the Hesse, Germany area who settled originally in South Carolina. 2) German troops sent to help King George III put down his rebellious colonies.
<u>Hewing dog</u>	A piece of iron made to hold a small log in place while it was shaped with an axe.
<u>High yellow</u>	A light colored black or a mulatto of superior birth or manners.
<u>Hobby</u>	A medium sized, vigorous horse.
<u>Hobbyhorse</u>	One of the early forms of bicycles propelled by pushing with the feet on the ground.
<u>Hocktide</u>	The second Monday and Tuesday after Easter.
<u>Hogshead</u>	1) A cask with the capacity of 60 to 140 gallons of liquid. 2) 750 to 1,200 pounds of tobacco.
<u>Holograph</u>	A document prepared completely in the handwriting of the person making the document and signed with their signature.
<u>Holographic will</u>	A will written entirely by hand and bearing the date and having the signature of the testator.
<u>Holy Thursday</u>	The Thursday before Easter.

<u>Holy Week</u>	The week before Easter in which the passion of Christ is commemorated.
<u>Home lot</u>	The plot of ground where the home was built on a large farm including the area around the house enclosed by a high fence on which a garden was grown and animals kept.
<u>Homespun</u>	Cloth spun at home.
<u>Homestead</u>	The house and adjoining land where the head of the family lives which passes to the widow when her husband dies and is exempt from the claims of his creditors. Minor children are also entitled to homestead if both parents are deceased. A wife may forfeit her right to the homestead if she is guilty of misconduct or abandonment.
<u>Hookah</u>	A smoking pipe with a long flexible stem that cools smoke by passing it through water.
<u>Hoosier</u>	A native in Indiana.
<u>Horse courser</u>	A man who keeps race horses.
<u>Horseways</u>	A cart road or a road on which a horse can pass.
<u>Hostel</u>	An inn or place of lodging.
<u>Hostilement</u>	A household item such as furniture, a utensil, or an implement.
<u>Hot house</u>	A bathhouse.
<u>Huguenot</u>	A French Protestant who migrated to America in 1721.
<u>Hundred</u>	1) A county subdivision in Delaware. 2) Originally, enough land to support one hundred families.
<u>Huron</u>	An Indian native to Canada and the north-eastern United States.
<u>Husking pin</u>	A peg or pin attached to the hand to help remove husks from corn.
<u>Hussar</u>	1) A robber. 2) A lightly armed cavalryman.
<u>Hussy</u>	1) A small sewing kit often carried by men in the military. 2) A housewife or thrifty woman.
<u>Hutterites</u>	A religious group founded by Austrian reformer, Jacob Hutter, in the 1500's which was part of the Anabaptist movement.
<u>Hypothecation</u>	The pledging of property such as land or a ship to secure a loan.
<u>Idlemen</u>	1) A gentleman. 2) One with no occupation.

<u>Ignoramus</u>	Originally, the word written by a grand jury on an indictment thrown out for lack of evidence.
<u>Imparle</u>	A delay in a court case in the hope of a settlement out of court.
<u>Incommode</u>	To inconvenience or cause distress.
<u>Indenture</u>	1) An agreement or deed between two or more parties conveying real estate, originally made in two parts so that it could be separated by tearing in a jagged line and matched later. 2) A contract by which one person was bound to serve another.
<u>Indentured servant</u>	A person who bound himself for a number of years to pay a debt. A frequent form of indenture was made between emigrants and the captain of the ship on which they sailed. The indentures were then sold at ports of entry.
<u>Independent city</u>	A city which no longer falls under the jurisdiction of the county in which it lies.
<u>Indigent</u>	A pauper.
<u>Infant</u>	Any person not of legal age.
<u>Inlot</u>	A lot surveyed and platted within a new or established town or village.
<u>Insolvent estate</u>	One in which the widow receives one third and the creditors the remainder.
<u>Instant</u>	The same time as is given.
<u>Interfactor</u>	A murderer.
<u>Intestacy</u>	To die without leaving a valid will.
<u>Intestate</u>	Having died without leaving a will.
<u>Inventory</u>	A list of all the goods and valuables in an estate which executors and administrators are required to make and file.
<u>Iroquois Trail</u>	A colonial highway between the Hudson and Niagara rivers.
<u>Irvingite</u>	An adherent of preacher, Edward Irving, of the Catholic Apostolic Church in England.
<u>Issue</u>	Lineal descendants of a common ancestor.
<u>Item</u>	A term marking the beginning of a paragraph in a will.
<u>Itinerant occupation</u>	An occupation practiced by a person who traveled around the country offering their services, such as dancing masters, lecturers, preachers, mimics, school teachers, magic shows, singing groups, etc.

<u>Jack</u>	1) A male donkey. 2) A common fellow, boy assistant, sailor, or lumberjack.
<u>Jackson Purchase</u>	An area in Tennessee, known as ‘Grants West of the Tennessee River’, acquired by the U.S. in 1818 (includes McCracken, Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman, Fulton, Graves, Marshall, and Calloway counties).
<u>Jade</u>	A worthless horse.
<u>Javel</u>	A vagabond.
<u>Jerico</u>	A place where a person would go if he/she wished retirement or concealment.
<u>Jim-crow</u>	A black man (used in a hostile way).
<u>Joe</u>	A four-penny piece.
<u>Johnnie</u>	A Confederate soldier in the American Civil War.
<u>Johnny-cake</u>	A cake or bread consisting of cornmeal or wheatmeal, toasted on a griddle.
<u>Joint tenancy</u>	The condition of two or more persons owning a piece of property.
<u>Juba</u>	1) Crest of a helmet in a coat of arms. 2) A dance with a lively rhythm and hand clapping performed by Southern blacks.
<u>Kaskaskia</u>	A French fort and Jesuit mission located on Kaskaskia Island in the Mississippi River, which was taken over by George Rogers Clark in 1776 and was the capital of the Illinois Territory from 1809 to 1818.
<u>Keeler</u>	1) A shallow tub. 2) A keelman.
<u>Keelhaul</u>	A method of punishment in which a person is hauled under the keel of a boat, through the water, from one side to the other.
<u>Keeping room</u>	A common room used by the family and where they spend the most time.
<u>Kentucky boat</u>	A small flatboat designed especially for use on the small rivers in Kentucky.
<u>Ketch</u>	A sailing vessel with two masts (a main and mizzen masts).
<u>Kidnapped</u>	Originally, to steal or carry off children or others in order to provide servants or laborers for the American plantations.
<u>Kimnel</u>	A large tub for general household use such as brewing, kneading, and salting meat.
<u>Kith</u>	Originally one’s friends, acquaintances and kinfolk, now usually just kinfolk.

<u>Kittaning Path</u>	An Indian highway which stretched between Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the Allegheny Valley, passing through the Juniata Valley and the Kittaning Gorge, westward to the Allegheny and Ohio rivers.
<u>Knobstick wedding</u>	A wedding of a pregnant woman to the father-to-be (under pressure of the parish vestry).
<u>Kyack</u>	A pack or pannier for horses.
<u>Lineal ancestor</u>	A direct ancestor.
<u>Loyalist (sometimes known as United Empire Loyalist)</u>	A colonist who remained loyal to Great Britain during the Revolutionary War.
<u>Lumber</u>	Junk, disused articles and useless odds and ends that took up space.
<u>Nuncupative will</u>	An oral will made before witnesses (often a deathbed will) and later written down by someone other than the testator.
<u>Patent</u>	A conveyance of land title by a government.
<u>Patentee</u>	A person who received a land title from a government.
<u>Posthumous</u>	Occurring after an individual's death.
<u>Redemptioner</u>	A person who paid for his passage by becoming an indentured servant.
<u>Relict</u>	Widow or widower, the surviving spouse.
<u>Restricted records</u>	Records whose use may sometimes be limited.
<u>Testator</u>	A person leaving a will in force at the time of his death.

sources: * *Pike County, Historical Society* newsletters Vol. 20, No. 3, June 1999 and Vol. 20, No. 4, August 1999 – Pike County, Indiana.

* *Concise Genealogical Dictionary* compiled by Maurine and Glen Harris, published by Ancestry Incorporated, 1989.