

# THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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## SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT NAMES

**A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches... (Proverbs 22: 1)**

**A good name is better than precious ointment... (Ecclesiastes 7: 1)**

Did you know that some people believe that a person's name has something to do with their personality or behavior? Do you know someone who got stuck with a name they didn't like? Remember the old Johnny Cash tune called "*A Boy Named Sue*"?

You may have heard of the following nursery rhyme:

Monday's child is fair of face; Tuesday's child is full of grace; Wednesday's child if full of woe; Thursday's child has far to go; Friday's child is loving and giving; Saturday's child works hard for a living; Sunday's child is bonny and blithe and good and gay. *(If you want to know the day of your birth, consult a perpetual calendar).*

There is a tribe of people in Africa called the Ashanti. These people sincerely believe that the day a person was born has a direct effect of the behavior of that person throughout life. So strongly do they believe this that the day of a person's birth is included as a part of the person's name.

A man named G. Johoda did research on the Ashanti people over a period of five years and found that 13.5 % of boys in trouble had Wednesday as part of their name. They were responsible for 22 % of all violent acts. Mondays had 6.9 % of the juvenile delinquents. But he concluded that there is no connection between the day of birth and how a person turns out. He believes that people just live up to what society expects of them. Mondays were expected to be good and they were. Wednesdays were expected to be bad and they were. Because the day of the week was a part of the person's name, the expected behavior (according to what the Ashanti people believed) was reinforced every time the person's name was said.

Another study was done to see how teachers graded an essay written by their students. Did the name of the student have any effect on the way a teacher graded? Male students named David did best, followed by Michael, Elmer, and Hubert. Of the female students, Adelle did best, followed by Lisa, Karen, and Bertha.

The conclusion of the researchers was that teachers unconsciously favored students with the most popular names when grading an essay test. So, the name you have may have some effect on your life whether you realize it or not.

The most popular male names in Arkansas for 2001 were: 1. Jacob; 2. William; 3. Joshua; 4. Ethan; 5. Austin

The most popular female names in Arkansas for 2001 were: 1. Hannah; 2. Madison; 3. Emily; 4. Alexis; 5. Sara

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How do people choose the names for their children? A poll was taken and parents were asked the question- How did you choose the names for your children? The results:

1. Named after a relative- 16 %
2. Named after me or my spouse- 5 %
3. We liked the sound of the name- 54 %
4. Named after a famous person- 5 %
5. Other- 20 %

I thought it might be interesting to find out what names mean. I found a website where you can type in a name and it will give the meaning. Below are the names of subscribers of this paper. Following the name is the origin of the name and its meaning. If you would like to look up other names, the address of the website is:

[http://www.parenthood.com/parent\\_cfmfiles/babynames.cfm](http://www.parenthood.com/parent_cfmfiles/babynames.cfm)

### Name-Origin-Meaning

1. Jack-Hebrew-God is gracious
2. Marion-Latin-see Mary and Anna
3. Mary-Hebrew-the perfect one
4. Anna-Hebrew-gracious
5. Charles-German-man; strong
6. Patricia-French- regal; royal
7. Geneva- French- juniper berry
8. Barbara- Greek- foreign; strange
9. Vince- Latin- conqueror; victor
10. Andy- Greek- manly
11. Perry- French- pear tree
12. Joanne- Hebrew- God is gracious
13. Jerry- Hebrew- spear warrior
14. Jeanie- French- God is gracious
15. Leora- Greek- light
16. Sue- ???- form of Susan; lily
17. Clara- Greek- bright; clear
18. Doyce- (Not listed)
19. Jeff- ????- God's peace
20. Debbie-????- form of Deborah; a bee
21. Annie- English- gracious
22. Minnie- German- loving memory
23. Al- English- noble; bright
24. Dot- ???-a gift from God
25. Joseph- Hebrew- God adds
26. Aline- Celtic- fair; good looking
27. Mavis- Celtic- the thrush
28. Marie- Hebrew- the perfect one
29. Bill- ???-resolute guardian
30. Linda- Spanish- pretty

### Name-Origin-Meaning

31. Margie- Persian- child of light
32. David- Hebrew- beloved
33. June- Latin- from June
34. Laverne- French- spring like
35. Claudis- (not listed)
36. Oleta- English- winged
37. Nell- Greek- light
38. Olen- Norse- relic
39. Helen- Greek- bright one
40. James- Hebrew- one who supplants
41. Kay- Greek- pure; virginal
42. Vernell- French- green; flourishing
43. Eddy- ???- guardian of prosperity
44. Connie- Latin- to be knowledgeable
45. Becky- ????- tied
46. Gail- English- gay; lively
47. Millard- English- one who grinds grain
48. Herman- German- man of the army
49. Doris- Greek- a dorian woman
50. Robert- English- bright fame
51. Peter- Biblical- a rock or stone
52. Henry- German- ruler of the house
53. George- Greek- tiller of soil; farmer
54. Mable- English- loveable
55. Fred- German- peace
56. Lana- English- fair; good-looking
57. Don- Celtic- brown stranger
58. Nona- Latin- born ninth; name traditionally given to ninth child
59. Elloene- (Not listed)

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Another website will tell you how many people in the United States have your surname. When I typed in McKelvy, I found that the name ranked # 14,826 and there were 1900 people with that name in the United States. However, if I put the extra “e” in the name as some folks do, I found the name ranked # 5,187 and there were 6300 in the United States. The ten most common surnames in the United States are: Smith, Johnson, Williams, Jones, Brown, Davis, Miller, Wilson, Moore, and Taylor.

All this is very interesting. We can’t do much about the name we have unless we go to the trouble of having it legally changed. I guess we have the option of using a nickname. Our parents chose our names for some reason. Many chose names to honor a relative or ancestor. Hopefully, you are happy with the name you were given. Sometimes we don’t find out a person’s real name until it appears in their obituary. In my opinion, names were much more interesting in the old days. I have read that the trend today is toward the more unusual names. Remember that whatever name is chosen will last a lifetime, so choose carefully.

Just a glance through the cemetery records will reveal some unusual names. At Ebenezer Cemetery you will find Dorthula Orphelia Hesterly, Ammorilous Barksdale, Carlos Levander Dunn, and Tennessee Tunnell. Imagine having to learn to spell some of those names.

I read on the website about a fellow named Tonsillitis Jackson who enlisted in the army. He had a brother named Meningitis and sisters named Laryngitis, Appendicitis, and Peritonitis. That’s taking it a little bit too far.

I have heard that American Indians had a custom of naming their children after something they could see in nature such as Morning Star, Running Bear, Little White Dove, etc. Makes you wonder about Sitting Bull, doesn’t it? Naming customs varied among the different tribes, but I believe they attached some important meaning to the names they chose.

If you ever wondered about the names of animals, just read Genesis 2: 19-20. *“And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them; and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field...”*

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### TRIVIA QUESTIONS (answers on page 4)

1. How many blackbirds were baked into a pie?
2. In what year did Arkansas become a state?
3. What building is on the back of a nickel?
4. How many years is fourscore and seven?
5. What is a haberdashery?
6. What is the longest river in the world?
7. What was John Wilkes Booth’s occupation?
8. What was Paul Revere’s occupation?
9. Name of Roy Rogers’ famous horse?
10. What Little Miss Muffet sat upon?
11. What P.O.W. stands for?
12. What frightened Little Miss Muffet away?
13. Nickname for the Bowie knife
14. What was Little Miss Muffet eating?
15. First animal listed in the dictionary?

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The following poem was written by a thirteen year old Camden school boy in the early 1900s. A note with the poem says it was published so that the boy would be encouraged to develop his talent. However, the newspaper did not publish the boy's name.

### THE HUNTER AND THE SQUIRREL

The wily hunter of the squirrel  
Treads all day the forest green  
Light is his tread as he marches on  
And sober his forest mein.

A squirrel played upon a limb  
Unaware that the hunter sly  
Was watching him as he frisked about  
With a twinkle in his eye.

His gun he raises and quickly takes sight  
At the pretty grey squirrel on the limb;  
But a grey flash is seen, and the squirrel is gone,  
For the hunter has been sighted by him.

Straight to his hole does the squirrel fly,  
As lightning dashing from the sky  
So fast he goes that he is soon lost sight  
To the sly old hunter's eye.

He reaches the hole; he is safe at last,  
If there he will patiently lie,  
'Til the hunter tired will leave the tree,  
In which his game he cannot spy.

But below the tree he takes his stand,  
With a ready eye and gun in hand.  
As sentinel bold, who at his post,  
Searches for a hidden host.

The squirrel did soon impatient grow  
Within its crowded den.  
And seeing naught of its dreaded foe  
Came out to play again.

He slyly advances from the hole,  
And scampers down the limb.  
The sly old hunter's face then told  
That the squirrel had been seen by him.

But look! He sees him and raises his gun  
And now his gun he fires.  
Alas! The innocent little squirrel  
Upon the ground expires.

Thus all day long, does the hunter sly,  
Shoot the innocent ones and see them die.  
Thus all day long are the squirrels grey,  
Traacherously shot while at their play.

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### AN OLD NEWSPAPER ITEM FROM 1885

Nevada County Picayune (Jan. 29, 1885)

A sad accident in the Artesian community last Monday evening. Dr. Milam's little son, Charley was having chills and Mrs. Milam went to give him a dose of quinine, but through a mistake she gave him a heavy dose of morphine. The little fellow went to sleep, and after he had slept some time, and his mother went to wake him, she discovered the mistake she had made. A doctor was sent for, but Charley never awaked anymore.

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Answers to trivia questions:

1. four and twenty 2. 1836 3. Monticello 4. 87 5. men's clothing store 6. the Nile 7. an actor  
8. silversmith 9. Trigger 10. a tuffet 11. prisoner of war 12. a spider 13. "The Arkansas  
Toothpick" 14. curds and whey 15. aardvark

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## HE BEAT THE ODDS

Very few people live to be over 100 years old. When my wife and I did our surveys of Nevada County cemeteries, we only found a handful of people who lived past 100 out of about 22,000 graves we surveyed. Anyone who passes this milestone deserves some sort of recognition.

Mr. John Samuel Rudeseal of Reader was one of the few who made it. I didn't know him personally, but an article appeared in *The Nevada News* in 1969 when he was celebrating his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. Mr. Rudeseal died in 1971 at the age of 102. (see obituary below)

According to the article about his life, Mr. Rudeseal was born in the northeastern part of Georgia in 1868. He attended school for three weeks and got three whippings a day. He lived in Arkansas since 1895, moving first to Clarksville. He married his first wife in 1895, but she died after only two weeks. His second wife died in 1940 and since then he referred to himself as a "bachelor". He lived in Ouachita County for 45 years before moving into the nursing home at Prescott. He had three daughters and two sons living in 1969 when the article was written.

One interesting thing about his life was the fact that he walked from Reader, Arkansas to Ft. Smith, Arkansas, a distance of over 200 miles after he was fifty years of age. The article doesn't say why he did this.

He held a variety of jobs. His first job was making sorghum syrup. He also worked as a farmer, blacksmith, and railroad worker. When social security went into effect, he was 68 years old and none of his work was covered by social security. In October, 1966, Social Security paid \$40 per month to people who never worked under social security provided they were not on the welfare rolls or on a government pension. Mr. Rudeseal received \$40/month while he was in the nursing home and agreed to tell his story to be published so others in similar situations could receive any benefits to which they might be entitled.

When asked the question, "To what do you owe your long life?", he said his painful left foot that had bothered him since he was a child. Besides his thorn in the flesh, he was remarkably healthy. Any of us who could hike 200 miles at age 50 and live to celebrate our 101<sup>st</sup> birthday would be more than willing to put up with a sore left foot.

Life expectancy is increasing and many people today live to pass 100. In many of the older newspapers a person age 70 was called an aged person or referred to as one of the oldest citizens of the county. Mr. Rudeseal was almost in a class by himself back in 1971.

*John Samuel Rudeseal, 102 of Reader died in a Prescott nursing home at 11 a.m. Tuesday. He was a retired farmer and a member of the Baptist church. Survivors include two sons, Luther Rudeseal of Ackerly, TX and J. J. Rudeseal of St. Louis, MO; three daughters, Mrs. Grace Harper and Mrs. Gertrude Lambert of Reader and Mrs. Georgie Chambers of St. Louis, MO; one brother, Henry Rudeseal of Mt. Airy, GA; 10 grandchildren; and several great grandchildren. Funeral will be at 2:30 p.m. Thursday at Proctors Chapel with graveside services at 3:45 at Turner Cemetery near Reader under the direction of Proctor Funeral Home.*

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## HOW TO BOIL WATER (OLD FASHIONED ADVICE TO COOKS)

In cooking the terms “boiling water” or “boil the water” are frequently used. The housewife sometimes thinks that the water is boiling when, unfortunately, the boiling point has not been reached. These suggestions will probably help her to understand the term “boiling”.

1. When water is placed in a pan and heated and the bubbles stick to the bottom of the pan, the temperature is around 160° F
2. When the bubbles rise to the top, the temperature is around 180° F.
3. When the water starts to move slowly about the pan, the temperature is around 200° F.
4. When the water jumps and tries to get out of the pan, the temperature is around 211° F to 212° F.

212° F is the exact temperature of the boiling point. All these temperatures are from sea level to 1000 feet above sea level.

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### TEA CAKES



Sent in by Vernona Irvin Rubarts of Rowlett, Texas (an old recipe)

2 cups sugar	about 6 cups of flour
1 cup shortning	1 rounded teaspoon soda
2 or 3 eggs	1 rounded teaspoon baking powder
1 cup buttermilk	1 teaspoon vanilla

Knead dough. Roll thin. Sprinkle with sugar. Cut with cookie cutter, put pecan half on each and bake at 350 degrees.

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### Another recipe from the 1944 Hempstead County Home Demonstration Clubs Cookbook

#### JELLY PIE

Mrs. Edgar Dorman-Union Grove H. D. Club

1 cup sugar	3 tablespoons of flour
½ cup jelly	½ teaspoon vanilla
2 eggs	½ cup sweet milk
4 tablespoons butter	

Beat egg yolks. Add sugar, flour, and butter which has been creamed together. Add jelly and vanilla. Fold in egg whites beaten stiffly. Cook in uncovered pie crust.

**I do not like broccoli. And I haven't liked it since I was a little kid and my mother made me eat it. And I'm President of the United States and I'm not going to eat any more broccoli. –George Bush, U. S. President, 1990**