Darryl Francis
Mitcham, Surrey, England

Elvis Presley died on 16 August 1977—already fifteen years ago! In recognition of this anniversary, I have put together this short article built around the name ELVIS. One of Elvis Presley’s record albums (circa 1965) was called “Elvis for Everyone!”. It struck me that there was probably a logological slant to this album title, unbeknownst to Elvis Presley and the RCA record company at the time. What the album title really meant was that the letters of ELVIS could combine in turn with every one of the 26 letters of the alphabet in turn to form a valid word, name or term.

A sampling of my discoveries is revealed here. I have included obsolete spellings, geographic placenames, and telephone directory entries, just to give a feel as to the extent of the ELVIS trans-additions possible. Where a valid Websterian word is shown, I have not attempted to offer a complete list of the obsolete spellings and placenames for the added letter. I have included items which have the same sequence of letters but differ only because of the presence (or absence) of a capital letter, an apostrophe, etc. However, I have striven toward the magic figure of 26. There are no missing letters, although the V and Z examples are rather strained. The list contains exactly one hundred items. What additions? What improvements?

ALIVES (OED) in life, alive
AVILES (W3) debases, vilifies
A VILES (LTD) an initial-plus-surname form
ELVIA S (Rul) girls named Elvia (listed at Elva)
E VILAS (LTD) an initial-plus-surname form
LAIVES (W2) a variant of laves, remainders
SA VILE (Hyam) a surname of 14 notable individuals, the most recent being Bouchier Wrey Savile, an English theological writer who died in 1888
SEIVAL (TIG) a place in Brazil
SILVAES (W3) treatises on the trees of a region
VAILES (W2) an obsolete spelling of fails, vails, vales and veils
VALISE (W3) a travelling bag
V ASILE (TIG) part of the Rumanian placename Vasile Roaia
VLAIES (W3) temporary lakes
BEVILS (OED) the plural of bevil, an 18-19th century variant spelling of bevel, a mason’s tool; also, a form of the verb bevel, an 18th century variant of bevel, to cut away or bring to a slope
CLES (W3) a U-shaped piece of metal acting as a connection
CLIVES (W2) various plants such as the European agrimony and
the common burdock
CLIVES (RHD) boys named Clive
VELCS (OEDS) upper parts of the soft palate facing the nasopharynx
VESICL (W2) a reformed spelling of vesicle, a membranous cavity
DEVILS (W3) malignant spirits
DIVELS (W3) tears asunder
SLIVED (W3) moved furtively, sidled
VEILDS (OED) an obsolete Scots form of wields, brandishes
ELVIES (Rul) girls named Elvie (listed at Elva)
IEVELS (OED) the plural of ievel, a 16-17th century Scots variant
of javel, a rascal
LEIVES (OED) the plural of leive, a 16th century Scots variant
of leave, permissions granted to do something
LEVEES (OED) an obsolete plural of leave, dismissal (in a 1508
illustrative quotation "We suld ... gif all larbaris thair leveis,
quhan thai lak curage")
LEVIES (W3) assessments, duties, taxes
LEIVES (W3) gladly, willingly, freely
SLEIVE (OED) a 16th century Scots spelling of sleeve
SLEVE (EDD) a mountain
VEILES (OED) the plural of veile, a 17th century spelling of vail,
advantage
VESEL (TIG) a place in Czechoslovakia
LIFVES (Str) a 13th century genitive form of life, meaning "of
life or lives" (shown at lif)
GIVELS (OED) an obsolete verb meaning heaps up (only givelled,
the past participle, exists); alternatively, occurrences of the
word givel (citation form plural)
V GILES (LTD) an initial-plus-surname form which occurs several
times
ELVIS (W3) mischievous, spiteful
LEVISH (OED) an obsolete variant of lovage, a European herb
SHEVLI (TIG) the name of a place and a river in the former USSR
VISILE (W3) a visualizer
J LEVIS (MTD) an initial-plus-surname form
J LEVIS (LTD) an initial-plus-surname form
S VELJI (LTD) an initial-plus-surname form
VELJIS (LTD) persons bearing the surname Velji
V JILES (LTD) an initial-plus-surname form
KEVILS (W2) strong timbers for making fast heavier lines of a
vessel
KISLEV (W3) the third month of the civil year in the Jewish
calendar
LEVSKI (TIG) a place in Bulgaria
SELVIK (TIG) the name of an inlet in Iceland
EVILLS (OED) the plural of evill, a 14-16th century variant of
evil, a wrong (in a 1590 illustrative quotation "There may uppon

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evil, a wrong (in a 1590 illustrative quotation "There may uppon
dyvers accidents ensue such and so great evills unto your Majestie and Realme"

SEVILL (OED) a 17-18th century spelling of Seville, a city and province of Andalusia, Spain

VEILLS (OED) an obsolete Scots form of weals, wealths

VELLES (W2) cities, towns

VELIMS (OED) the plural of velim, a 15 and 17th century spelling of vellum, a kind of parchment (no illustrative quotations actually include this plural form)

VILMES (OED) the plural of vilme, an obsolete spelling of the noun film (although vilme appears as a main entry in the OED, no indication is given of this spelling at film)

ELVINS (OED) the plural of elvin, an 18th century variant of elvan, a type of rock of igneous origin

ELVINS (Rul) boys named Elvin

LEVINS (W3) flashes of lightning

LIVENS (W3) becomes more lively

SELVIN (TIG) a place in Indiana

SLIVEN (CED) a past tense of the verb slive, to slip

SLIVEN (TIG) a place in Bulgaria

SNEVIL (W2) an obsolete spelling of snivel

SNIVEL (W3) to speak or act in a whining manner

VILNES (OED) the plural of vilne, a 15th century Scots spelling of villainy, evil or wrongdoing (no illustrative quotations actually include this plural form)

VILNES (TIG) a place in Norway

VILSEN (TIG) a place in West Germany

OLIVES (W3) fruits of the olive tree

SOLIVE (CED) a joist or beam of secondary importance

VIOLES (OED) violates

VOILES (W3) fine soft sheer fabrics

PELVIS (W3) a basin-shaped structure in the skeleton

QVILES (Str) the plural of the noun qvile, a 15-16th century spelling of hwile, itself an early form of while, a period of time (shown at hwile)

LEVIRS (W2) brothers-in-law

LIVERS (W3) large glandular organs found in vertebrates

LIVRES (W3) former French units of value worth a pound of silver

RIVELS (W3) wrinkles, shrivels

SILVER (W3) a chemical element

SIRVEL (TIG) a place in India

SLIVER (W3) a splinter, a fragment

SILVES (W2) the plural of silve, an obsolete spelling of self

SILVES (TIG) a place in Brazil; also a place in Portugal

SLIVES (W3) moves furtively, sidles

LEVITS (OED) the plural of levit, a 17-18th century variant of levet, a trumpet call or musical strain

VILEST (W3) most physically repulsive

VILETS (OED) the plural of villet, a 16th century variant of violet,
a plant or flower of the genus Viola (in a 1598 illustrative quotation "Roses and violets strowing")

VI'LETS (OED) the plural of vi'let, a 17-19th century spelling of violet, a plant or flower of the genus Viola (in a 1697 illustrative quotation "He spoils the Saffron Flower's, he sips the Blues Of Vi'lets")

VILTES (OED) the plural of vile, a 13-15th century spelling of vileness (no illustrative quotations actually include this plural form)

VITELS (W2) an obsolete spelling of victuals

ELVIUS (Hyam) Peter Elvius was a Swedish mechanic and astronomer (1710-1759)

VELIUS (Hyam) Theodore Velius was a Dutch historian and poet (1572-1630)

VISUEL (W2) a visualizer

VIVEL'S (TIG) the possessive form of Vivel, which occurs in the placename Vivel del Rio Martin, a place in Spain

LEWIS V (Hyam) the title of two rulers: Emperor of Bavaria (1287-1347), King of France (967-987)

SWIVEL (W3) to swing or turn

WEVILS (W2) a variant spelling of weevils, beetles

WIVELS (OED) the plural of wivel, a 16-17th century spelling of weevil, a kind of beetle (no illustrative quotations actually include this plural form)

VEXILS (W2) large upper posterior petals in a pea flower

VIXES (EDD) the plural of vlix, a form of flax, the flax, Linum usitatissimum

SIVYLE (W2) an obsolete spelling of civil

ZLIVES (OED) the OED lists 'ZLIFE (note the leading apostrophe) at the main entry 'Z, and 'LIFE (note the differently-positioned apostrophe) at the main entry ZLEAD. Disregarding the position of the apostrophe, ZLIFE is an exclamation meaning "God's life"; it could be argued that ZLIVES is the plural form, meaning "different occurrences of the exclamation ZLIFE"

REFERENCES

W3 Webster's Third Edition
W2 Webster's Second Edition
CED Chambers English Dictionary
EDD The English Dialect Dictionary
Hyam A Dictionary of Universal Biography, by Albert Hyamson
LTD London Telephone Directory, 1989
MTD Merton Telephone Directory, 1990
OED Oxford English Dictionary
OEDS Oxford English Dictionary Supplement
RHD Random House Dictionary
Rul Name Your Baby, by Lareina Rule
Str A Middle English Dictionary, by Francis Stratmann
TIG The Times Index Gazetteer of the World