

Scandinavian Research

Three Part Overview:

1. Common research guidelines
2. Country specific research strategies
3. Where to find the records?

Part One – Overview and common research guidelines

Research aids:

1. FamilySearch Wiki
 - a. Pathway to the Wiki: Create an account and/or sign n familysearch.org, click on the Search tab, select Research Wiki
 - b. Type in the country in the search box
 - c. You will find detailed information on the country and how to do research in that specific country.
2. Online classes on familysearch.org
 - a. After signing in on the website, click on the question mark inside the circle (upper right-hand corner)
 - b. Select, Help Center, in the pop up box.
 - c. Click on Learning Center
 - d. Enter the country you are interested in the Search Box.
 - e. Select the lesson you are interested in.
3. Word lists, in the Wiki or google a word list; ie, English Norwegian word list
4. Maps, FS Wiki, google Google Earth
5. Books

Types of records

1. Church

	Denmark	Norway	Sweden	Finland
Birth	Fodte	Fodte	Fodde	Fodda
Marriage	Viede	Viede	Vigde	Vigde
Death	Dobte	Dobte	Dod	Doda
Household			Husforhorslangd	

2. Census Folketaelling Folketelling Not taken until mid 1900's

3. Start of Civil Registration

1874	1876	1860	Follow
		1950	Swedish

Records

4. Emigration Records

	Denmark	Norway	Sweden	Finland
Passenger Lists	1869	1867	1869	1820
Depart	Copenhagen Hamberg	Kristiana Bergen Trondheim Stavanger	Goteborg Malmo Norkoping Stockholm	Hanko Sweden Norway
Travel Via	Hull Liverpool New York	Hull Liverpool New York	Hull Liverpool New York	Hull Liverpool New York

Emigration documentation

Denmark – Copenhagen Police Records of Emigration, 1868-1903

Finland – Passiluettelot, 1820-1920 (by County)

Norway – Emigrantprotokoller, 1867-1966

Sweden – Emigrantlistor, 1869-1920

Information given: Name, last place of residence, and other useful data.

5. Problems in tracing your ancestor from America to the “Old” Country

Repetition of names

Use of Patronymic naming system

Anglicizing or changing names

Poor research in the past

6. Overcoming Problems

First and the most important, thoroughly search for all the information you can find over here before going over there.

1900 US census – Has birth date and year of immigration

US Vital Records not kept until 1910-1920, look for other sources
(local church records)

Naturalization records

Passenger lists at US ports

Letters

Family Bibles

Etc

Now, start your search in the “Old” country; NOTE: you need to know the Parish your ancestor departed from!

Emigration records

Census records – Norway & Denmark

Household records – Finland and Sweden
Birth, marriage and death records in the parish
Learn about Feast days
Learn about Gothic script

7. Maps – Topographical maps are great, most include parish boundaries
Omni Resources

Burlington, North Carolina

Website: Omnimap.com

25 Km X 25 Km or 37.5 Km X 37.5 Km

Cost varies by country, not cheap
8. Google Earth – Internet application that can be used to view the towns and areas where your ancestors lived.

Part 2 – Country Specific research strategies

First, some general rules!!

1. The number one strategy that applies, not only to research in a specific country, to any family history research – search one generation at a time. Do not skip generations trying to connect to individuals who have the same surname in the same community or area.
2. Search each person in a family. You may find additional clues that will assist you finding additional information.
3. Usually, children were born at two to three year intervals. If there is a larger gap, there may be other children, not accounted for.
4. Thoroughly search the birth, marriage and death records for each person, as there may relatives attached as witnesses, etc.

Denmark

1. There are a number of records that have been digitized and/or indexed on familysearch.org
2. Wiki – Denmark
3. Search Copenhagen's emigration records from 1869-1911 (<http://www.udvanderarkivet.dk/udvanderprotokollerne/>). May provide the location of the person's last residence. These records have all been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library. Some emigrants (from Schleswig-Holstein and Jylland) left through Hamburg, Germany, see the Hamburg Passenger lists.
4. Ancestry.com has a number of digitized records.

5. MyHeritage is digitizing and index over 120 million records. Has Census records, 1890 to 1930.
6. Used the Patronymic naming system. In 1826, patronymics was abolished, but it wasn't until 1870 that that tradition finally stopped. Because of this, between 1826 and 1870, you may not be sure if the surname was patronymic or a family surname.

Finland

1. Family History Library has most of the Parish records on microfilm, some have been indexed, mostly the baptisms.
2. Indexed records for baptism and marriage were gathered through a record extraction process and, therefore, these names may be Family Tree, already. NOTE: I have discovered that some parishes were extracted incorrectly. Some individuals performing the record extraction did not understand the patronymic naming system and gave the father's surname to the child. If you know the names of the parents, search the Family Tree using the parents' names to bring up all the children listed in the program. You search records by the Parish name.
3. Patronymic naming system – If you drew a line north and south that divided Finland in two halves, the western half used patronymics and the eastern half use surnames.
4. The Church records are in Swedish until about 1863, after that they are, primarily, in Finnish.
5. Wiki – Finland
6. Online resources:
 - a. Hiski Project - <http://hiski.genealogia.fi/historia/indexe.htm>
This is a project attempting to create a searchable database of birth, marriage and death records. (Free)
 - b. Finland's Family History Assn - http://www.sukuhistoria.fi/sshy/index_eng.htm
Digitized parish records, not indexed. (Partly free, nominal subscription to see all the records, 10 Euros to join and 17 Euro membership fee)
 - c. My Heritage – Digitized and searchable records, subscription.
 - d. Digihakemisto – Digitized Church records, Free
7. Emigration records – No nationwide list of emigrants until 1970. From 1892 the Finnish Steamship Company kept passenger lists, these were microfilmed up to 1960. Prior to 1892, passport lists were maintained at the county level, but individuals usually got their

passports from the county they embarked from Finland. May not show their last residence.

Sweden

1. For genealogical purposes, Sweden is divided into counties (län). Counties are divided into parishes.
2. FamilySearch filmed much of the records of Sweden. However, these microfilmed records stop at about 1895 to 1900. Search for records by Parish name.
3. Wiki – Sweden
4. Online sources
 - a. FamilySearch – These are records that have been indexed from the microfilms.
 - b. Ancestry.com – Most of this collection was acquired from Genline, which were digitized from the FHL microfilms. Additional records have been added. Also, there are the Gothenburg Passenger Lists, which contains the majority of those who left Sweden, this record normally state the last place of residence of the person leaving.
 - c. SVAR - <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/>
Searchable, online site of the National Archives of Sweden. Free
 - d. Arkivdigital - <http://www.arkivdigital.net/>
Newly digitized records in color of Swedish church records, estate inventories, court records, tax/census records and other historical records. Recently, records of Swedish Churches in the United States have been added. Also, there is a searchable database of the Household Records from 1840 to 1949. Subscriptions vary according the length of subscriptions, full subscription is about US \$170 for access to everything.
5. Patronymic naming system – Surnames began to be used about 1860, and in 1901 a law was passed mandating the used of permanent surname. Between 1860 and 1900, you would have to look at the Church records (Household and Congregation Records) to determine the surname of individuals.
6. Emigration records were kept at the port of embarkation. See Ancestry.com

Norway

1. Records were kept by each Parish. There were two copies of all christenings, one by the Parish Priest and another by the Church Warden or Sexton. If one copy is hard to read, look at the other copy. Most christening records began in 1686 after King Chirtian's law. Check the marriage records. There was no required format for church records until 1814, when preprinted records were used. Search for records in the United States to try to pinpoint where your ancestor was born or lived in Norway.
2. Family Search filmed many of the Norwegian records up to 1910.
3. Wiki - Norway
4. Online sources

- a. FamilySearch.org – Has baptisms, burial and marriage records that are indexed.
 - b. Digital Arkhives - <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/content/79/emigrasjon-og-flytting>
Contains scanned Census records, Parish registers, Real Estate registers, Probate records, property tax records, and emigrant records. Free
 - c. Ancestry.com – Baptism, marriage and burial record, 1600's to 1920's
5. Patronymic System was used until about 1850 and by 1900 most people used a permanent surname. However, some still used patronymics until a law was passed in 1923 requiring all to take a permanent surname. Also, there were families that gave their children the same given name. Unless you find a death record, you can have children with the same given name living at the same time.
 6. Emigration records – Records are called passenger lists and were not kept prior to 1867. These records are on microfilm, microfiche and books at the Salt Lake FHL. There are, also, links on the Norwegian Archives, go to Norway page on the Family Search Wiki and click on Emigration and Immigration link on the right side of the page. There is a section called: Passenger Lists. Under each of the ports, there is a link that will take you to the national archives page, where you can search for a person.

Part 3

Where are the records?

1. Common websites that provide information
 - a. Wiki on familysearch.org – explains how to do research
 - b. Cyndislist.com – compilation of genealogical websites
 - c. Google
2. Danish Websites
 - a. Cyndislist.com
 - b. Wiki.familysearch.org - Select Denmark – Online Records
3. Finish Websites
 - a. <http://hiski.genealogia.fi/historia/indexe.htm>
 - b. http://www.sukuhistoria.fi/sshy/index_eng.htm
 - c. Cyndislist.com – Select Finland
 - d. Family Search – Wiki – Finland – Online Records
4. Swedish Websites
 - a. <http://www.arkivdigital.se/>
 - b. <http://augustana.net/general-information/swenson-center>
 - c. Cyndislist.com – Sweden
 - d. Family Search – Wiki – Sweden – Online Records

- e. Ancestry.com
 - f. My Heritage.com
5. Norwegian Websites
- a. <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/>
 - b. Cyndislist.com - Norway
 - c. Family Search – Wiki – Norway – Online Records