

## FINDING RECORDS OF YOUR ANCESTORS, PART A

# NORWAY

1827 TO 1900



Beginning Norwegian researchers will also need: *Genealogical Word List: Norwegian* (34093).

If your ancestor lived in Norway between 1827 and 1900, follow the steps in this booklet to find the records of his or her family. These instructions will show you which records to search, what to look for, and what tools to use. One piece of information will lead to another until you have identified each family member and filled out a family group record.

1

Find your ancestor's [birth record](#) in church records.

2

Find your ancestor's parents, brothers, and sisters in [census records](#).

3

Find the [birth records](#) of your ancestor's brothers and sisters in church records.

4

Find the [marriage record](#) of your ancestor's parents in church records. This family is now complete.

Latter-day Saints: Now see additional instructions for submitting names for temple ordinances.



The steps and tools you need are described inside. ▶

# HOW TO BEGIN—PREPARATION

You should have already gathered as much information as possible from your home and family and filled out [family group records](#) and a pedigree chart. You may have checked FamilySearch™ or other computer files to see if others have researched your Norwegian family.

## To Begin:

A. From your pedigree chart, choose an ancestor who was born in Norway between 1827 and 1900. You must know the birth date and birthplace (parish) in order to find your ancestor's family. It is helpful to know the clerical district and county.

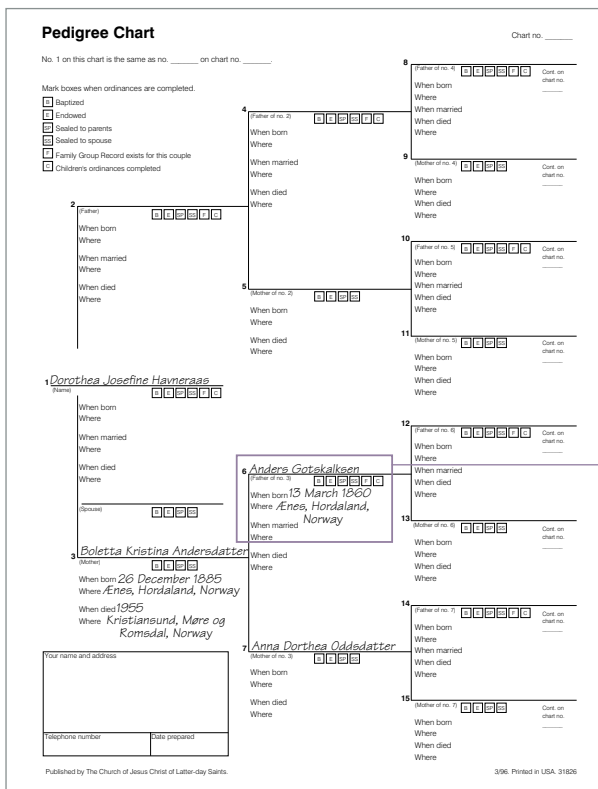
B. Write your ancestor's name in the children's section of a new family group record. Read through the instructions in this booklet. Then follow the steps below to find your ancestor's family.

## Tips:

If you don't know your ancestor's birth date:

- Start with a more recent generation. You will learn how to do research, and you will probably discover something you didn't know about your family.
- Find the records for the family in the example given. This will teach you basic research skills before you research your own family. This is a good class activity.

If you don't know the parish where your ancestor was born, see [Tips on page 6](#).



A. Dorothea's pedigree chart

**Family Group Record** # typing, set spacing at 1 1/2 Page # of #

**Husband** (Given name(s)) Last name(s)  See "Other marriages"

1 **Anders** Gotskalksen  
 Born (day month year) Place  Baptized  Temple  
 Christened Place  Endowed  
 Died Place  Sealed to parents  
 Buried Place  Sealed to spouse  
 Married Place  Deceased

**Wife** (Given name(s)) Last name(s)  See "Other marriages"

2 **Boletta Kristina Andersdatter**  
 Born (day month year) Place  Baptized  Temple  
 Christened Place  Endowed  
 Died Place  Sealed to parents  
 Buried Place  Sealed to spouse  
 Married Place  Deceased

**Children** List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth. LDS ordinance dates  Temple  See "Other marriages"

1 **Anders** Gotskalksen  
 Born (day month year) Place  Baptized  Temple  
 Christened Place  Endowed  
 Died Place  Sealed to parents  
 Buried Place  Sealed to spouse  
 Married Place  Deceased

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Born (day month year) Place  Baptized  Temple  
 Christened Place  Endowed  
 Died Place  Sealed to parents  
 Buried Place  Sealed to spouse  
 Married Place  Deceased

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Born (day month year) Place  Baptized  Temple  
 Christened Place  Endowed  
 Died Place  Sealed to parents  
 Buried Place  Sealed to spouse  
 Married Place  Deceased

Select **only one** of the following options. The option you select applies to all names on this form.

**Option 1—Family File** Send all names to my family file at the \_\_\_\_\_ Temple.

**Option 2—Temple File** Send all names to any temple, and assign proxies for all approved ordinances.

**Option 3—Ancestral File** Send all names to the computerized Ancestral File for research purposes only, not for ordinances. I am including the required pedigree chart.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date prepared \_\_\_\_\_

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B. Dorothea begins a family group record with Anders Gotskalksen listed as a child

## THE RESEARCH PROCESS

The following pages walk you through the research process. In the case study, Dorothea is looking for the family of Anders Gotskalksen. She takes her family group records and pedigree chart to a family history

center. Here she looks in the Family History Library Catalog for the records she wants and orders the microfilms she needs. She makes several visits to the center. Follow these same steps to find your family.

# THE RESEARCH PROCESS

Case study: Anders Gotskalksen, born in 1860 at Aarsand Farm, Ænes Parish, Kvinnherad Clerical District, Hordaland County, Norway.

Your ancestor: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Norway.  
 name birth date farm parish clerical district county

## 1 FIND YOUR ANCESTOR'S BIRTH (CHRISTENING) RECORD IN CHURCH RECORDS. (See "Church Records: Births" on page 9.)

A. At the family history center, Dorothea searches in the Family History Library Catalog for the parish in Norway where her ancestor was born (Ænes Parish, Kvinnherad Clerical District). Then she looks for church records. (See "Using the Family History Library Catalog" on page 8.)

B. She finds the FHL film number 1283392 and orders it. She finds birth and christening records

for Anders on the film. His surname is recorded as Gotskalksen. (See "Naming Customs in Norway" on page 13.) She photocopies the record for her files.

C. Dorothea writes on the family group record: (1) Anders's birth information on the front and (2) source information (such as parish name, film number, volume and years covered, and page number) on the back.

Parish	Number	Birth Date	Christening Date	Name	Legitimate or Illegitimate	Parents
B.	10.	Bilbada	6 April.	Anders Gotskalksen.	legit.	Aarsand P. Gotskalk Knudsen og Boel Knudsdatter Braathen.

## 2 FIND YOUR ANCESTOR'S FAMILY IN CENSUS RECORDS. (See "Census Records" on page 10.)

A. Dorothea now looks for the first census after Anders's birth. She looks in the Family History Library Catalog for Kvinnherad (the clerical district where Anders was born), Hordaland, Norway, and then she looks for the topic "Census—1865."

B. Dorothea finds the census on FHL film 0123068.

C. At the beginning of the film she finds an index of all the farms in Kvinnherad Clerical District. She finds the farm Aarsand (where Anders and his family were living in 1865) in Ænes (Enes) parish in the index; the number 103 is in front of it. She now looks for Ænes (Enes) in the actual census list and

looks for farm number 103 (farms are in numerical order). This census lists the entire family.

D. Dorothea estimates the birth year for each family member from the ages given in the census by subtracting the age of the person from the year of the census. (These birth years will be approximate.)

E. Dorothea writes on the family group record: (1) information about all family members on the front and (2) source information on the back.

F. In a similar way, Dorothea searches the 1875 census to see if there are any more children in this family.

Farm Number		Farm Name			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Specialist	Index	Parish	Number	Year	Page
4	103	Aarsand	2	3	16

Farm name index

Farm Name	Farm Number	Residence	Person's Name	Position in Family	Marital Status	Age	Male or Female	Place of Birth	Religion
Aarsand	103	Aarsand	Gjoffald Knudsen	Head of Household	Married	39	Male	Aarsand	Lutheran
			Boel Knudsdatter	Wife	Married	40	Female	Aarsand	Lutheran
			Anders Gotskalksen	Son	Single	5	Male	Aarsand	Lutheran

Census

**Family Group Record**      If typing, set spacing at 1 1/2.      Page      of

**Husband** *Gotskalk*      Last name *Knudsen*       See "Other marriages"

Born (day month year)	Place	LDS ordinance dates	Temple
Christened	Place	Baptized	
Died	Place	Endowed	
Buried	Place	Sealed to parents	
Married <i>15 Jun 1856</i>	Place <i>Aenes, Hordaland, Norway</i>	Sealed to spouse	
Husband's father Given name(s)		Last name <input type="checkbox"/> Deceased	
Husband's mother Given name(s)		Maiden name <input type="checkbox"/> Deceased	

**Wife** *Boel*      Maiden name *Knudsdatter*       See "Other marriages"

Born (day month year)	Place	LDS ordinance dates	Temple
Christened	Place	Baptized	
Died	Place	Endowed	
Buried	Place	Sealed to parents	
Wife's father Given name(s)		Last name <input type="checkbox"/> Deceased	
Wife's mother Given name(s)		Maiden name <input type="checkbox"/> Deceased	

**Children** List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.      LDS ordinance dates      Temple

**1** Sex *M*      Given name(s) *Knud*      Last name *Gotskalksen*       See "Other marriages"

Born (day month year)	Place	LDS ordinance dates	Temple
<i>25 Jan 1858</i>	<i>Aarsand farm, Aenes, Hordaland, Norway</i>	Baptized	
Christened <i>7 Feb 1858</i>	Place <i>Aenes, Hordaland, Norway</i>	Endowed	
Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
Spouse Given name(s)		Last name	
Married		Place	
		Sealed to spouse	

**2** Sex *M*      Given name(s) *Anders*      Last name *Gotskalksen*       See "Other marriages"

Born (day month year)	Place	LDS ordinance dates	Temple
<i>13 Mar 1860</i>	<i>Aarsand farm, Aenes, Hordaland, Norway</i>	Baptized	
Christened <i>6 Apr 1860</i>	Place <i>Aenes, Hordaland, Norway</i>	Endowed	
Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
Spouse Given name(s)		Last name	
Married		Place	
		Sealed to spouse	

**3** Sex *M*      Given name(s) *Hans*      Last name *Gotskalksen*       See "Other marriages"

Born (day month year)	Place	LDS ordinance dates	Temple
<i>24 Jun 1862</i>	<i>Aarsand farm, Aenes, Hordaland, Norway</i>	Baptized	
Christened <i>6 Jul 1862</i>	Place <i>Aenes, Hordaland, Norway</i>	Endowed	
Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
Spouse Given name(s)		Last name	
Married		Place	
		Sealed to spouse	

Select **only one** of the following options. The option you select applies to all names on this form.

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**Option 2—Temple File** Send all names to any temple, and assign proxies for all approved ordinances.

**Option 3—Ancestral File** Send all names to the computerized Ancestral File for research purposes only, not for ordinances. I am including the required pedigree chart.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_      Date prepared \_\_\_\_\_

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Front of family group record

<b>1</b>	Sources of information Add further information on attached sheets as necessary.	
	Microfilm #1283392 item 4 page 7 entry no. 10 (birth)	Microfilm #1283392 item 4 page 4 left side entry no. 2 in 1858 (birth)
	1865 Census	
<b>2</b>	Kvinnherad Clerical District	Microfilm 1283392 item 4 page 80
	Microfilm #0123068 Item 1	1st entry C. Aegteviende-Marriages 1856

Back of family group record

# THE RESEARCH PROCESS

3

## FIND BIRTH (CHRISTENING) RECORDS FOR YOUR ANCESTOR'S BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHURCH RECORDS.

(See "Church Records: Births" on page 9.)

A. Now that she has an estimated birth year, Dorothea looks for the birth record of Anders's brother, Knud. In the Family History Library Catalog, Dorothea finds FHL film 1283392. She finds the film and the birth record.

B. Dorothea writes on the family group record: (1) information from the birth record on the front and (2) source information on the back.

C. Dorothea browses the years before and after to see if there are any other brothers and sisters. She does this because children who were born and died between censuses would not be in a census record.

Parish	Number	Birth Date	Christening Date	Name	Parents
C.	2.	25 Januari	7 <sup>de</sup> Februar	Knud Gottfridsen.	Stafand. Gifte. Gifte. Knudsen og Balle Knudsdatter.

4

## FIND THE MARRIAGE RECORD OF YOUR ANCESTOR'S PARENTS. (See "Church Records: Marriage" on page 11.)

A. Dorothea looks in the catalog for records of marriages performed where the oldest child was born. In the church records of Ænes Parish, Kvinnherad Clerical District, the marriage records are on the same film as the birth records, but in another section (FHL film 1283392 item 4).

B. Dorothea starts with the date of the first child's birth and searches earlier records until she finds the marriage. If she couldn't find it, then she would search later

records. (If she couldn't find the marriage in this parish, she would try neighboring parishes or the parish where the parents were born, as shown in the census.)

C. Dorothea writes on the family group record: (1) the marriage information on the front and (2) source information on the back.

D. Dorothea has the information she needs for this family.

Number	Marriage Date	Groom's Name	Bride's Name	Place of Birth	Age	Groom's Father	Year of the Marriage	Bride's Father	Witnesses
C. Agtvielde.									
11.	Bridgomenens. Vielses. Dagen. Brudens Navn.	Bridgømens. Fødsel. og Op. holdsted. Brudens. Fødsel.	De. vielses. Heder.	Bridgømens. Fødsel. Navn.	Brudens. Fødsel. Navn.		18.	Forlovenes. Navn. og. Op. holdsted.	Tilsynings. Dagen.
1.	15 <sup>de</sup> Juni 1858. Stafand. Knudsen. Gifte. Balle Knudsdatter.	Stafand. Enes. 30. Nov. Knud Thomasen.	39. Nov. Knud Gottfridsen.	Knud Thomasen.			56.	Ole Knudsen Enes. Ole Johnsen Stavrig.	

Latter-day Saints now have the minimal information required for this family's temple submissions. See additional instructions for submitting names for temple ordinances.

## NOW YOU CAN REPEAT STEPS 1 THROUGH 4 TO FIND ANOTHER FAMILY.

Look for the families of each of your ancestor's parents. Start with a new family group record, and look first for a birth record.

# HELPS FOR FINDING RECORDS

## Finding Places

To find records in the Family History Library Catalog and to search Norwegian church and census records, you need to know the parish, clerical district, and county in Norway where your ancestor lived.

### Place Levels (Jurisdictions)

Places are usually written from smallest to largest on family group records. Clerical districts (there are several in a county) may be listed.

Aarsand, Ænes, Kvinnherad, Hordaland, Norway  
(Farm) (Parish) (Clerical District) (County) (Country)

### Parish (Sogn)

- To find births, marriages, or deaths in church records, you need to know the parish where your ancestor lived.
- A parish is where a Lutheran minister served and kept records (similar to a Latter-day Saint ward).

### Clerical District (Prestegjeld)

- A clerical district consists of one or more parishes. The district may have the same name as one of the parishes.

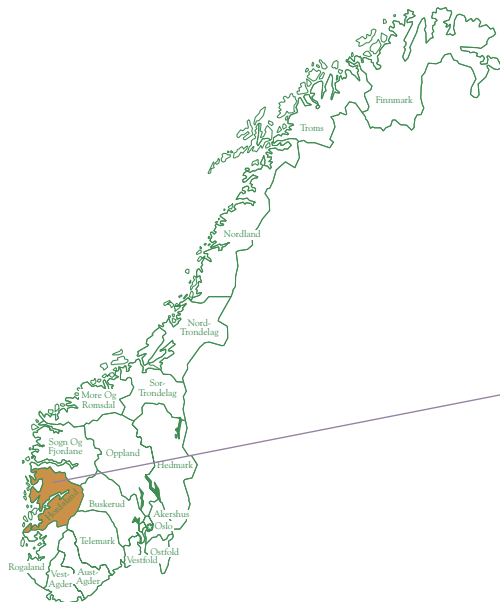
### County (Fylke or Amt)

- The country is divided into many counties.
- To find census records, you need to know the county and the parish or clerical district.

### Tips

To find your ancestor's parish (*sogn*), see the following:

- *Parishes, Clerical Districts, and Maps of Norway*, with an alphabetical list of places and maps of each county in Norway, FHL book 948.1 E77L; fiche 6068227.



The counties of Norway

- If you know the name of the Norwegian county, find the farm name and parish in O. Rygh's *Norwegian Gaardnavne* (published in 1901, FHL book 948.1 E2rg, volumes 1–18; FHL films 0908594–600 and 0924001). There is a volume for each county. Indexes to parishes and clerical districts are at the beginning of each volume; indexes to farm names are at the end. In these books, a clerical district is called a *herred*.
- If you know the name of the farm or village, find the parish and county in:
  - *Nork stedsfortegnelse* (in Norwegian). 1972. FHL book 948.1 E8ns; fiche 6054629.
  - The postal guide *Nork stedsfortegnelse: Postadressebog for Norge* (in Norwegian). 1901. FHL book 948.1 E8ns; film 0123205; fiche 6030038–49.

On family group records by genealogists:

- If four places are listed, the second place is usually the parish.
- If only three places are listed, the first place is usually the parish.
- Sometimes the name of a geographic area (such as Ringerike, Solør, or Vesterålen) is used instead of the county.



Hordaland County with clerical districts and parishes

# HELPS FOR FINDING RECORDS

Map of Norway, Counties

## Counties of Norway

- From about 1661 to 1918, the word for county was *amt*.
- From 1918 to the present, the word for county is *fylke*.
- The present border has existed from about 1661.
- Union with Denmark, 1319 (officially in 1387) to 1814.
- Union with Sweden, 1814 to 1905.

Søndre Trondhjem . . . Sør-Trøndelag

Smaalenene . . . . . Østfold

Stavanger . . . . . Rogaland

Tromsø . . . . . Troms

## Old Municipal Counties    New Municipal Counties

Kristiania, Christiania . . Oslo

Bergen . . . . . Bergen

## Old Counties

## New Counties

Akershus . . . . . Akershus

Bratsberg . . . . . Telemark

Buskerud . . . . . Buskerud

Finnmarken . . . . . Finnmark

Hedemarken . . . . . Hedmark

Jarlsberg og Larvik . . . Vestfold

Kristians . . . . . Oppland

Lister og Mandal . . . . Vest-Agder

Nordre Bergenshus . . . Sogn og Fjordane

Nordre Trondhjem . . . Nord-Trøndelag

Nedenes . . . . . Aust-Agder

Nordland . . . . . Nordland

Romsdal . . . . . Møre og Romsdal

Søndre Bergenshus . . . Hordaland



# HELPS FOR FINDING RECORDS

Using the Family History Library Catalog • Using Microfilm

## USING THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

Use the Family History Library Catalog to find any record available from the Family History Library. In the catalog, you can find the call numbers you need to order records. The catalog is available at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) and at family history centers.

To find the information you need in the catalog, click **Library**, and then click [Family History Library Catalog](#).

### 1. Click **Place Search**.

You will see:

Place

Part of (optional)

### 2. For the “Place,” type: **the name of the parish**

### 3. For “Part of,” type: **Norway**

### 4. Then find a topic, such as **Church Records**.

### 5. Click on the title you want.

### 6. Click on **View Film Notes**.

### 7. Look for the kind of record you want, such as *Døpte* (Christenings), for the years you want. Write the FHL film number.

For more help, see *Using the Family History Library Catalog* (30966).

## Tips

Use the place search to find Norwegian church and census records. Look in the parish or clerical district.

If no records are listed when you type in the place:

- Look for spelling variations of the place-name.
- Make sure you type the name of the parish or clerical district, not the village or farm.

When typing a place-name in the catalog, ignore diacritics (accent marks). For example, *Åfford* could be written as *Afford* or *Aafjord*.

## USING MICROFILM

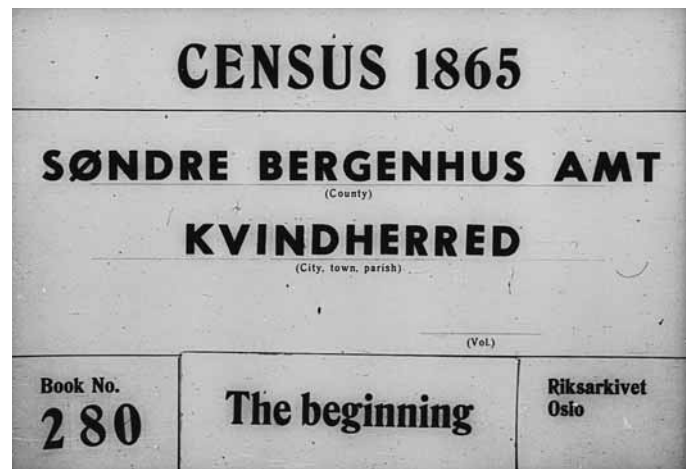
At this time, most of the Family History Library’s records are on microfilm. When you have found and ordered the microfilm you need, the family history center staff can help you find a microfilm reader and thread the film into the machine.

## Tips

When using the microfilm:

- If the image will not come into focus, make sure the film is between the two glass plates.
- Learn how to turn the handle to move the film backward and forward. Be careful not to roll the film off the reel.
- Make sure the years on the title page are the years you need. Three or four separate books may be on a single microfilm. If the first title page doesn’t cover the years you want, quickly spin through the film to the next black space. Then look for the next title page and the years covered.

**Items or books on a film may have a title page and an ending page.**



Title page for 1865 census records.



# CHURCH RECORDS: BIRTHS (FØDTE)

Late 1600s to Early 1900s

## Use Birth Records To:

- Find birth information for virtually every person who lived in Norway.
- Verify the birthplace of an ancestor.
- Establish a time and place of a family's residence.

If you don't find your ancestor's birth in one parish, look in nearby or other likely parishes.

Birth and christening information are on the same record. The Norwegian word *døbt* means christening. Genealogists usually call this a christening record.

Beginning in 1814, standardized forms were used to record vital information.

## Content

- Child's name
- Parents' names, occupation, and residence (which is also the child's birthplace)
- Godparents' names
- Birth date
- Christening (baptism) date

## Tips

- Write down the names and residences of the godparents. These may be relatives, friends, or important members of the community whose names may lead you to other relatives.
- Other church records give confirmations, marriages, deaths, burials, or movings.

- For help reading the records, see *Genealogical Word List: Norwegian*. (See "Where to Order Publications" on page 13.) Look for English translations of the record headings.
- There were often two sets of parish records. If you do not find your ancestor in one, search the other. Find these two sets in the [Family History Library Catalog](#). In front of the years, the type of record is indicated by a *b.* or *Kl. b.*
  - *b.* indicates the ministerial book kept by the parish priest.
  - *Kl. b.* indicates *klokker* or parish clerk's book.

## Searching Birth Records

Before searching, you must know:

- Your ancestor's name.
- The parish and county of birth or residence.
- The approximate birth date.

Located at:

- [Family History Library](#) or family history centers
- [Norwegian National and Regional Archives](#)

[Family History Library Catalog](#):

Place search:

Place

Part of

Topics to choose: Church Records

Search by:

1. Year of birth or christening.
2. Gender. Males (*Mannkjønn* or *Mandkjøn*) and females (*Kvinnekjønn* or *Kvindekjøn*) may be listed separately.
3. Name of child.
4. Parents' names.

Parish	Number	Birth Date	Christening Date	Year	Name	Legitimate or Illegitimate	Parents	Witnesses (Godparents)
E 2	25	7	Knud Gotskalksen	Legitimate	Aarsand, farmer, Gotskalk Knudsen and Boel Knudsdatter		Thomas Knudsen of Enæs, Ole Knudsen of Teigland. Peder Knudsen of Aarsand. Anne Knudsdatter of Enæs, Martha Hansdatter of Enæs.	

1858 Birth and christening record for Knud Gotskalksen (FHL film 1283392 item 4, page 4, entry number 2)

# CENSUS RECORDS (FOLKETELLING)

1663 to 1900

## Use Census Records To:

- Find family members and members of the household.
- Learn the names, ages, and birthplaces of brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents, and so on.

If you do not find your family in a census, look in nearby parishes.

The census will not list children who were born and died between censuses.

## Content

- Names
- Ages
- Relationships
- Birthplaces (beginning with the 1865 census)
- Occupations

Norwegian censuses are available for these years:

1663–1666 (most parishes, males age 12 and older), 1701 (most parishes, males only), 1801, 1805–1850 (several censuses, listed by year in the catalog), 1865, 1875, 1900

## Tips

- Later censuses have more columns and information than earlier censuses.
- For help reading the records, see *Genealogical Word List: Norwegian*. (See “Where to Order Publications” on page 13.) Look for English translations of the record headings.

## Searching Census Records

Before searching, you must know:

- Your ancestor’s name.
- The parish and county and the approximate time he or she lived there.

Located at:

- [Family History Library](#) or family history centers
- [Norwegian National and Regional Archives](#)
- Online at <http://digitalarkivet.uib.no> (University of Bergen, Norway) or at <http://www.rhd.uit.no> (University of Tromsø, Norway)

## Family History Library Catalog:

Place search:

Place

Part of

Topics to choose: Census

When searching the 1865 census, find:

1. The clerical district.
2. The table of contents that lists the order of the parishes.
3. The farm name in the farm name index. Note the farm number in front of the farm name.
4. The parish.
5. The farm name and farm number where the family is listed in the census.

List Number	Farm Number	Farm Name	Number of Residences	Number of Households	Total Population of Each Household
4	103	Aarsand	2	3	16
5	138	Ense	2	4	19

Farm name index

Farm Name	Farm Number	Residence	Person's Name	Position in Family	Marital Status	Age	Male or Female	Place of Birth	Religion
Aarsand	103 1	Gotskalk Knudtsen	head of household	married	39	Ænes			
		Bol Knudtsdatter	his wife	married	40	Ænes			
		Knudt Gotskalksen	their son	unmarried	8	Ænes			
		Anders Gotskalksen	their son	unmarried	6	Ænes			

1865 Census record for Gotskalk Knudsen family (FHL film 0123068 item 1)

# CHURCH RECORDS: MARRIAGE (COPULEREDE OR VIEDE)

Late 1600s to Early 1900s

## Use Marriage Records To:

- Find a couple's marriage date and place and their ages.
- Find bondsmen, who may be family members.

If you don't find a marriage record, search nearby parishes. In large cities, marriage records may be in a separate book. In other places, marriages are in the same book as the baptism, confirmation, death and burial, and moving records. Records are usually in this order: births, confirmations, marriages, and then burials.

## Content

- Groom's name, age, occupation, residence
- Bride's name, age, occupation, residence
- Bondsmen
- Marriage date

Two "bondsmen" are listed in these records. Bondsmen are similar to a best man in a wedding party. Bondsmen knew the bride and groom and attested that they were legally able to get married. In later records, they were usually the fathers of the bride and groom; however, some records list both fathers and bondsmen.

## Tips

- To find a marriage record, look first in the parish where the first child was born. Then look in parishes where the parents were born (as listed in census records), then in nearby parishes.
- In the marriage record, you will often see that smallpox vaccinations were required for the bride and groom.

- For help reading the records, see *Genealogical Word List: Norwegian*. (See "Where to Order Publications" on page 13.) Look for English translations of the record headings.

## Searching Marriage Records

Before searching, you must know:

- The names of the bride and groom.
- The approximate birth date of the first child.
- The parish of residence.

Located at:

- [Family History Library](#) or family history centers
- [Norwegian National and Regional Archives](#)

[Family History Library Catalog](#):

Place search:

Place

Part of

Topics to choose: Church Records

Search for:

1. The parish.
2. The date, from earliest to most recent.
3. The couple's names.

Number	Marriage Date	Groom's Name	Bride's Name	Place of Birth	Age	Groom's Father	Bride's Father	Year of the Marriage	Witnesses
<i>C. Agetveide</i>									
	<i>Vielses Dagen</i>	<i>Bridgommens Navn og Handel</i>	<i>Bridgommens Fødsel og Opfolested</i>	<i>De vielses Heder</i>	<i>Bridgommens Fødsel og Handel</i>	<i>Briddens Fædres Navn</i>	<i>Forlovernes Navne og Opfolested</i>		<i>Tillysning Dagen</i>
	<i>1. 15<sup>te</sup> Juni</i>	<i>Knud Gotkalk Knudsen</i>	<i>Aarsand</i>	<i>29 Aar</i>	<i>Knud Gotkalksen</i>	<i>Knud Thomasen</i>	<i>Ole Baarsen Enæs</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>Ole Johnsen Aarvig</i>
1	15 June 1856	Bachelor Gotkalk Knudsen	Aarsand Enæs	29	Knudt Gotkalksen	Knudt Thomasen	Ole Baarsen Enæs		Ole Johnsen Aarvig

1856 Marriage record of Gotkalk Knudsen and Boel Knudsdr (FHL film 1283392 item 4)

# READING GOTHIC SCRIPT • SUMMARY

## READING GOTHIC SCRIPT

Even if you know Norwegian, reading the old style Norwegian script is one of the most challenging tasks for the beginning researcher. It may seem overwhelming at first, but you will find that although each scribe used a slight variation of the old style script, they were all quite consistent in their writing.

You will also find that after learning the most common given names and a few common terms, you will be able to read most of the documents you encounter.

The Norwegian alphabet has three letters not found in English: Æ, Ø, Å.

These three Norwegian letters:

- Have no English equivalent.
- Are found at the end of the alphabet.
- Unlike German or French, are considered separate letters, not just an inflection of an *a* or *o*.

Å or Aa

In records of the 1800s, the letter Å was written Aa. Therefore:

- Å and Aa are interchangeable.
- Ålesund and Aalesund are the same town.
- A word beginning with Å and Aa may be filed at the beginning or end of the alphabet.

### Tips

- For help reading Norwegian and understanding handwriting, see *Genealogical Word List: Norwegian*. (See “Where to Order Publications” on page 13.)
- For help reading Gothic script, see *Danish Norwegian Paleography* (FHL fiche 6030017) or similar books.
- Practice writing the names of your ancestors in the handwriting style shown in the above publications. This will help you learn to read old Norwegian records much faster.
- Learn to recognize Norwegian names. About a dozen male and female names are used repeatedly.

## SUMMARY: FINDING A NORWEGIAN FAMILY, 1827–1900

(For detailed steps, see “The Research Process” on pages 2–5.)

1. Find your ancestor’s birth record in church records.
  - This verifies what you know.
  - Write down what you find, and record your source information.
2. Find your ancestor’s family in Norwegian census records.
  - Look for the first census following your ancestor’s birth. Check the census taken in your ancestor’s birthplace.
  - Look in a later census to see if there are other children.
  - Write down what you find (names, ages, birthplaces, etc.).
  - Estimate birth years from the ages.
  - Write down your source information.
3. Find birth records for your ancestor’s brothers and sisters in church records.
  - Using places and estimated birth years from the census, look for birth records.
  - Write down the information you find and your source information.
4. Find the marriage record of your ancestor’s parents.
  - Look for records of marriages in the parish where the oldest child was born.
  - Start with the date of the first child’s birth, and search backward and forward until you find the marriage.
  - Write down what you find, and record your source information.

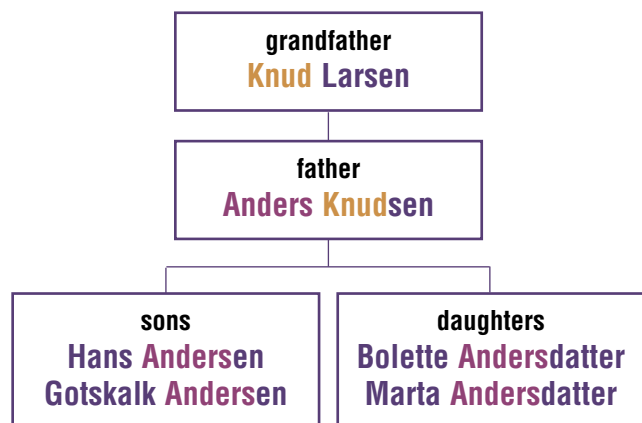
Then follow the same steps to find a parent’s family.

# ADDITIONAL HELPS

## Naming Customs in Norway

Until about 1875 Patronymics.

- A boy's surname was his father's given name and the suffix *sen*.
- A girl's surname was her father's given name and the suffix *datter*.
- The woman's surname did not change when she married.
- Sometimes a person used an occupation, town name, or other nickname in addition to his or her surname.



1875 to 1900 Transition period.

- Patronymic names began to be replaced by family surnames. Your ancestor's surname may change. There is no official registration of these name changes. This happened first in cities, then in rural areas.

After about 1900 End of patronymics (sometimes later in rural areas).

- Families now passed standard surnames to their children.

## Time Line

about 872 King Harald Fairhair united Norway into one kingdom.

about 995 King Olav I Trygvason introduced Christianity into Norway.

1016–1028 King Olav II Haraldsson tried to complete conversion of Norway to Christianity. He was killed at the Battle of Stiklestad and became patron saint of Norway.

1349 The Black Death struck Norway and killed one-half to two-thirds of the population.

1397 The Kalmar Union was formed as a result of the dynastic ties between Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. Eric of Pomerania was crowned king of the Union.

1523 Sweden left the Union.

1536 The Reformation entered Scandinavia in the form of Lutheranism through the Hanseatic port of Bergen.

1660 Peace of Copenhagen established modern boundaries of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

1663–1666 Early census of Norway began for the purpose of paying taxes to the Danish king.

1814 Norway entered the Union with Sweden. On 17 May the Norwegian constitution was adopted at Eidsvold.

1884 A parliamentary system was established.

1905 The union with Sweden was dissolved.

1905 Christian Fredrik Carl Georg Valdemar Axel, prince of Denmark, became King Håkon VII of Norway.

1914–1918 World War I. Norway declared neutrality but was effectively blockaded. The Norwegian merchant fleet suffered great losses.

1940–1945 World War II. Germany occupied Norway.

1957 King Håkon died. King Olav ascended the throne.

1968 Norway discovered oil in the North Sea.

1991 King Olav died. King Harald V ascended the throne.

## What's Next?

- Maralyn A. Wellauer, *Tracing Your Norwegian Roots*. 1979. FHL book 948.1 D27w.
- Knut Gjerset, *History of the Norwegian People*. 1915. FHL book 948.1 H2g; film 1440084.
- Internet: How to trace your ancestors in Norway. <http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/sab/howto.htm>

## More about Norwegian Research:

- Research Paper Series D. Scandinavia nos. 1, 11, 12, 13, and 28. Available at the Family History Library.
- *Research Outline: Norway* (34090).

## Archives and Libraries

Family History Centers  
<http://www.familysearch.org>  
Tel. 800-346-6044

Family History Library  
35 N. West Temple Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400  
Tel. 801-240-2331

Norwegian National Archive (Riksarkivet)  
Folke Bernadottes vei 21  
Postboks 4013, Ullevål Stadion  
N-0806, Oslo, Norway  
<http://www.riksarkivet.no>  
e-mail: [riksarkivet@riksarkivaren.dep.no](mailto:riksarkivet@riksarkivaren.dep.no)

## Where to Order Publications:

- Internet: <http://www.familysearch.org>
- Salt Lake Distribution Services:  
phone 801-240-3800

All Family History Library publications are described in: Family History Materials List (34083).

# Family Group Record

If typing, set spacing at 1 1/2. Page      of

Write date as: 4 Oct. 1896

Write place as: Tryon, Polk, North Carolina, USA or St. Martins, Birmingham, Warwick, Eng.

<b>Husband</b>		Given name(s)		Last name		<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"	
Born (day month year)	Place			LDS ordinance dates	Temple		
Christened	Place			Baptized			
Died	Place			Endowed			
Buried	Place			Sealed to parents			
Married	Place			Sealed to spouse			
Husband's father Given name(s)				Last name		<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased	
Husband's mother Given name(s)				Maiden name		<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased	
<b>Wife</b>		Given name(s)		Maiden name		<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"	
Born (day month year)	Place			LDS ordinance dates	Temple		
Christened	Place			Baptized			
Died	Place			Endowed			
Buried	Place			Sealed to parents			
Wife's father Given name(s)				Last name		<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased	
Wife's mother Given name(s)				Maiden name		<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased	
<b>Children</b> List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.					LDS ordinance dates	Temple	
<b>1</b>	Sex	Given name(s)		Last name		<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"	
	Born (day month year)	Place			Baptized		
	Christened	Place			Endowed		
	Died	Place			Sealed to parents		
	Spouse Given name(s)		Last name				
	Married	Place			Sealed to spouse		
<b>2</b>	Sex	Given name(s)		Last name		<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"	
	Born (day month year)	Place			Baptized		
	Christened	Place			Endowed		
	Died	Place			Sealed to parents		
	Spouse Given name(s)		Last name				
	Married	Place			Sealed to spouse		
<b>3</b>	Sex	Given name(s)		Last name		<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"	
	Born (day month year)	Place			Baptized		
	Christened	Place			Endowed		
	Died	Place			Sealed to parents		
	Spouse Given name(s)		Last name				
	Married	Place			Sealed to spouse		
Select <b>only one</b> of the following options. The option you select applies to all names on this form.				Your name			
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Option 1—Family File</b> Send all names to my family file at the _____ Temple.				Address			
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Option 2—Temple File</b> Send all names to any temple, and assign proxies for all approved ordinances.							
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Option 3—Ancestral File</b> Send all names to the computerized Ancestral File for research purposes only, not for ordinances. I am including the required pedigree chart.							
				Phone (      )		Date prepared	

<b>Husband</b> Given name(s)		Last name	
<b>Wife</b> Given name(s)		Maiden name	
<b>Children</b> List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.			LDS ordinance dates
			Temple
<b>4</b>	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
		Born (day month year)	Place
		Christened	Place
		Died	Place
		Spouse Given name(s)	Last name
		Married	Place
			Baptized
			Endowed
			Sealed to parents
			Sealed to spouse
<b>5</b>	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
		Born (day month year)	Place
		Christened	Place
		Died	Place
		Spouse Given name(s)	Last name
		Married	Place
			Baptized
			Endowed
			Sealed to parents
			Sealed to spouse
<b>6</b>	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
		Born (day month year)	Place
		Christened	Place
		Died	Place
		Spouse Given name(s)	Last name
		Married	Place
			Baptized
			Endowed
			Sealed to parents
			Sealed to spouse
<b>7</b>	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
		Born (day month year)	Place
		Christened	Place
		Died	Place
		Spouse Given name(s)	Last name
		Married	Place
			Baptized
			Endowed
			Sealed to parents
			Sealed to spouse
<b>Other marriages</b> List other marriages and sealings of the husband, wife, and children on this form. List any necessary explanations.			
<b>Sources of information</b> Add further information on attached sheets as necessary.			

**Note:** Please take every reasonable step to see that the information on this form is as accurate and complete as practical. This will help maintain the integrity of Church family history files and reduce duplication of temple ordinance work.

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**Other publications you will need:**

*Genealogical Word List: Norwegian* (34093)  
*Using the Family History Library Catalog* (30966)

**For Latter-day Saints:**

Instructions for submitting names for temple ordinances.

**Please send suggestions to:**

Publications Coordination  
Family History Library  
35 North West Temple Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84150 USA  
Fax: 801-240-5551

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Fax: 801-240-2494

