Digitalarkivet: Death Notices

Norway "How to" Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

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GOAL

This guide will teach you how to find a person in the *Dødsfallsprotokoll* (death notices) on the website *Digitalarkivet*.

INTRODUCTION

The most widely used database for Norwegian genealogical research is *Digitalarkivet*, found at http://arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet. This online archive contains various record types, including death notices.

Dødsfallsprotokoll, or death notices, are a source not often used in searching for ancestors in Norway, but they can list information about both families and properties not found anywhere else. Probate records (*skifteprotokoller*) are often used, but not everyone who died left a probate. However, there should be a death notice listed for every person. This includes the very young to the very old, and it does not matter if a person was rich or poor. At times, a whole family is listed in a death notice.

The *Sorenskriver* (judge) was usually the authority over both probates and death notices, but as he could not do everything himself, he relied heavily on the *Lensmann* (sheriff) and therefore gave him power of attorney to deal with such cases. As soon as a person died, the sheriff was to be notified and made an entry to keep a record in the *Dødsfallsprotokoll*. This dates back to a law of 1792 and is still the law today.

You may want to consult the following "How to" Guides before continuing:
- Inserting Special Characters

HOW TO

Many death notices are online at *Digitalarkivet*. Before searching for an ancestor, you must know where he or she lived and the year he or she died. Keep in mind that this is a work in progress; additional parishes are continually added. To access the *Dødsfallsprotokoll*, or death notices, complete the following steps:

1. Go to the *Digitalarkivet* website, found at this link: http://arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet. If the website is in Norwegian, click on the "English" box, located in the upper right corner.

2. In the middle of the website is a column labeled "Shortcuts". Under the heading "Probate records", choose the option "Digitised Probate Documents".

3. The page usually defaults to Norwegian. On the left side of the page is a series of drop-down menu boxes. Click on the box under the tab "Velg protokolltype", and choose "Dødsfallsprotokoll". Then click on the small brown box with the word "Utfør" (search).

4. After you click on "Utfør", notice that the county of Østfold is listed, followed by a list of parishes or legal offices. You must scroll down to find the other counties. The office is usually the same name as the parish. The cities of Bergen and Oslo are listed under their own jurisdiction, followed by *byfogd* (city bailiff). The counties are not listed alphabetically, but the parishes are listed in alphabetical order under each county. Keep in mind that the Norwegian letters Å, Æ, and Ø come after the letter Z. To learn how to insert these characters click here.

5. Scroll down or do a "Control + F" search until you find Vestfold (County), Andebu *lensmannskontor*. Choose the time span 02.07.1840-20.09-1899. The dates included in this time span are in European format, i.e. day, month year.

6. When you click on the years 02.07.1840 – 20.09.1899, you will see a list of every year in that range. Click on the year 1847.

7. You should now be in the image viewer, and should see some of the death notices for the year 1846 on the left side of the page, and for the year 1847 on the right side of the page. The page typically opens with an image size of 40%, as indicated in the dropdown menu at the top left corner of the page. To increase the size, click on the down arrow. There is no "Zoom" option to focus on one particular portion of the page.

   To move one page (forward or backwards) click on the brown box with the arrow pointing right or left. You can also move 5 pages, 20 pages, or to the very beginning or end by clicking on the corresponding arrow. To return to the list of death notices by county and *lensmannskontor*, click on "My selection" in the upper right corner; to return to the list of all probate record types, click on "New selection".

8. Click the next page icon until you have found the words "4d Qvartal 1847" (4th quarter 1847) in the top part of the left image; you should be on images 24-25.

9. The column headings at the top are translated as follows:

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5

Column 1	Date reported
Column 2	Death date
Column 3	Name of the deceased, age, last place of residence
Column 4	Heirs and relationship to the deceased
Column 5	Remarks

If there are any unfamiliar Norwegian words in any of these columns, please use the Norwegian Word List, found on the FamilySearch Wiki, by clicking on the following link: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Norway_Word_List

There are two options to print an image. PDF-1 will print both pages on one sheet; PDF-2 will print each page on a sheet, giving you a more detailed image of each page. When you are done printing the PDF-1 or PDF-2, click on the back button to return to the image viewer.

PRACTICE

1. Go to Digitalarkivet, found at http://arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet. If the page is in Norwegian, click on "English", found in the upper right corner of the website.

2. Under the middle section labeled "Shortcuts", click on "Digitised Probate Documents". From the drop down menu under "velg protokolltype", choose "dødsfallsprotokoll" and click on "utfør" (search).

3. Scroll down or do a "Control + F" search until you find the *lensmannskontor* for Andebu in the county of Vestfold. Click on the section containing the years 1840-1899.

4. Choose the year 1840 and hit the next page box until you find the entry for Gaardmand Abraham Christensen who died 9 December 1840. The entry is found on page 4-5, shown in the page box in the middle above the image. (Remember that you can change the size of the page from 40% to 60%, 75%, 100%, or 150% at the top left to enlarge the information in the death notices.) On the left page, find the fifth entry. Here you will find the following information:

Column 1: Reported December 10th [1840]
Column 2: Died December 9th. [1840]
Column 3: *Gaardmand* (farmer) Abraham Christensen, 70 *Aar* (age 70) [died] at the farm Døvlen.
Column 4: The widow Maren Gulbrandsdatter age 68. Son Christen Abrahamsen at farm Møland, *myndig* (of age, at least 25). Son Hans Abrahamsen at farm Stokken Wivestad, *myndig*. Daughter Maren Kattrine the widow of Christen Olsen at Wegger in Anneboe. Daughter Gunild Marie married to Hans Hansen of farm Kjæraas. Daughter Dorthea Olea married to Rasmus C. Flaatteie.

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this "How to" Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you've mastered the Guide! Click here to try out the Activity.