Digitalarkivet: National Censuses

Norway "How to" Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

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GOAL

This guide will teach you how to access and navigate through the indexes of the National Census 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 several national censuses.

While some earlier censuses exist, the 1801 Census is the first every-name census available on a national level. The 1801 and subsequent censuses are available on *Digitalarkivet* in both searchable database and scanned format. The search screens are similar for all indexed censuses.

Here is a summary of some of the information you will find in each of these censuses. Keep in mind that the scanned images may contain more information than the indexes.

- **1801** Census: name, age, family position, marital status, occupation, residence
- **1865** Census: name, age, place of birth, family position, marital status, occupation, residence
- **1875** Census (still not complete but in progress): name, year of birth, place of birth, relationships, residence, marital status, occupation, and will include the name of each person temporarily away from home.
- **1885** Census: towns and cities only
- **1890** Census: scanned format only, difficult to use, heavily statistical
- **1900** Census: name, year of birth, place of birth, family position, marital status, occupation, and persons both temporarily absent and temporarily present.
- **1910** Census: name, date of birth, place of birth, family position, marital status, occupation, address within city or parish, and names of persons that are visiting.

HOW TO

Go to the website for *Digitalarkivet* found at: http://arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet. This is the *Digitalarkivet* main page. If the website is in Norwegian, click on the 'English' link in the upper right corner. In the center column, under the column called "Shortcuts", find the heading labeled "Censuses". For some censuses, there are multiple entries for a single year. Any census that is digitally scanned is labeled "(Digitised)". For demonstration purposes, click on the link for 1865, not for 1865 (Digitised).

After you click 1865, a search page will appear. All counties are listed in the left column. The middle and right columns contain the search fields for the individual.

First we will learn how to use the "Geography" side of the page. A search for your person may be done in the whole country by clicking on the box to the left of "Choose All". When you check that box, every parish in every county in Norway is searched. Go ahead and click on the + sign to the right of any county. You will see every parish, or *Prestegjeld*, is checked and ready to be included in your search. Notice that the counties, as well as the parishes within the county, are not listed in alphabetical order. For now though, uncheck the "Choose All" box, and click on the (-) minus sign by the county you chose and close it.

You can also limit your search for a person geographically by county and/or by parish. To search an entire county, click on the box to the left of the county. If you click the (+) plus sign to the right of that county, you will see that every parish's box in that county is checked and ready for your search, but the rest of Norway is excluded. To search by parish or multiple parishes, click on the box to the left of the parish or parishes you want to include in your search. This is especially helpful if you're not sure of the specific parish, but know the general area your ancestors lived in. To deselect, uncheck the box next to the county or parish. For help with county and parish boundaries, go to the FamilySearch Wiki page, located at: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Norway. For parish boundaries within a county, click on the county you're interested in.

When typing in the search terms in the center or right columns, the search will default to exact searches. If you are not sure of a spelling of a name, such as Gunhild (it could also have been spelled Gunild, Gunil, Gunnhild etc.), the search fields allow the use of wild cards, using the asterisk (*). Instead of entering the name Gunhild in the "First name" field, you could use Gun* (asterisk) the computer will then search for any name starting with "Gun". You may also use the asterisk and the pipe or "|" to separate different spelling of a name such as Gunh*|Guni*|Gunn*. This searches for a name starting with Gunh, another starting with Guni and another starting with Gunn. To access the pipe, hold the Shift key and hit the backslash key. You can also separate complete names by using the pipe to separate each search.

PRACTICE

Let's look for a person, Gunhild Pedersdatter, who lived in the parish of Edøy, in the county of Møre og Romsdal.

1. Go to the website http://arkivverket.no/eng/Digitalarkivet. From the main page click on "1865". In the left column, under "Geography", choose the county Møre og Romsdal. Now click on the (+) plus sign to the right of Møre og Romsdal to access all the parishes in this county. Click in the box in in front of the parish Edøy. In the middle column, in the First name field enter Gunhild and in the Last name field enter Pedersdatter. Click on search.

2. You will now see one entry for Gunhild P. Pedersdatter in the Result Screen. Click on her name and you will see her listed with her parents and siblings in the 1865 census for Edø (Edøy). Look at the bottom left of the screen under the heading residence name and you will see the name Yttre Roksvog which is the name of the farm where they lived. Notice that the form is in English, but the information provided in the index is in

Norwegian. The following people are in the household:

- Peder Larssen age 55, born Edø Prgj. (*Prestegjeld* or parish) is the *husfader* (head of household) g (married), he is a *Gaardbruger og Selveier* (farmer and owner) of the farm Ytre Roksvog.
- Gunhild Justdatter age 41, born Edø, *hans kone* (his wife), g (married)
- Rasmus Pedersen age 22, born Edø, *deres søn* (their son) ug (unmarried)
- Just Pedersen age 17, born Edø, *deres søn* (their son), ug (unmarried
- Lars Pedersen age 11, born Edø, *deres søn* (their son), ug (unmarried)
- Knut Pedersen age 9, born Edø, *deres søn* (their son), ug (unmarried)
- Elisabet Pedersdatter age 19, born Edø, *deres datter* (their daughter), ug (unmarried)
- Brynhild Pedersdatter age 14, born Edø, *deres datter* (their daughter), ug (unmarried)
- Regine Pedersdatter age 6, born Edø, *deres datter* (their daughter), ug (unmarried)
- **Gunhild P. Pedersdatter** age 4, born Edø, *deres datter* (their daughter), ug (unmarried)
- Hanna Pedersdatter age 2, born Edø, *deres datter* (their daughter), ug (unmarried)
- Randine Pedersdatter age 1, born Edø, *deres datter* (their daughter), ug (unmarried)

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.