



Norwegian Printed Sources: an Overview

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In addition to wonderful parish registers and other genealogical sources there are many printed sources that can be helpful in tracing families and gather family information in Norway. What follows here are a small part of what is available.

Norway Family History Research:

1. How to trace your ancestors in Norway, by Yngve Nedrebø. 9th Edition, 2001
2. A History of Norwegian Immigration to the United States, by George Tobias Flom, 1909
3. Våre Røtter, by Nils Johan Stoa og Per-Øivind Sandberg, 1992 (in Norwegian)
4. Slektsgransking med dataveiledning, by Liv Marit Haakenstad, 2006 (in Norwegian)

Gazetteers:

A dictionary of place names. Helps locate farms or village within a parish or county. The most commonly used Norwegian gazetteers are:

1. Klaus Helsing og Ragnar Lundh. Norsk Stedfortegnelse, Norway: Postadressebog for Norge 1901 (alphabetical order: A-Z then Æ, Ø, Å). Includes the old and new county names with their abbreviations.
FHL book 948.1 E8ns 1901, film 123,205; fiche 6030038-49
2. Norge. Postdirektoratet, 1972. Norsk Stedfortegnelse 1972 (alphabetical order: A-Z then Æ, Ø, Å). Can be found online @ <http://da2.uib.no/cgi-win/WebBok.exe?slag=lesbok&bokid=nsf>
FHL book 948.1 E8ns 1972; fiche 6054629
3. Rygh, O; a collection of books organized by county – one county per book. Within the volumes the information is organized by clerical district, parish, and farm. The books give a brief history of the farm names, pronunciation of the farm names, and in some instances describes the terrain around the farms.

Encyclopedias and Dictionaries:

1. Kalkar, Otto: Old Danish language (<http://www.hist.uib.no/kalkar/>)
2. Store Norske Leksikon: (http://meta.snl.no/Store_norske_leksikon)
3. Einar Haugen's "Norwegian – English Dictionary"
(https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE7471814)

Maps:

“Various road atlases”

Maps on Familysearch.org:

www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Norway. Maps on each county page show the parishes within the county and their neighboring parishes.

Navneregister for Kart over Norge: (Index to names): 948.1 E7

Three volumes; each volume covers a geographic area of Norway. It has an alphabetical index of the place names. Includes “longitude and latitude” designations. Many of the bigger farms are included on these maps.

Norske bygdebøker (Norwegian Farm Books):

In addition to wonderful parish registers, Norway also has a very special source called “Bygdebøker”, or farm books. They are books filled with detailed local history and tremendous genealogical information.

Authors have used numerous sources: parish registers, census, probate, tax records, land, and court records. Some of the information given predates the parish registers. These books can be a real treasure for family historians, and others looking for their ancestors.

Many Norwegians live in small towns/communities and villages called “bygd”. The “bygdebøker” (“bygd + bok/bøker – book(s)”) give us information about the people living on the farms in these communities, and a history of the communities.

The books are found on the parish level. In order to see if your parish has a farm book go to the FHL Catalogue and type in your parish name. A category named “genealogies” will appear and that is where you will find information on possible farm books. Some farm books can be found online; just “google” your parish name and add “bygdebok”, and see what comes up.

Norsk Biografisk Leksikon (Norwegian Biographical Lexicon):

A biography is a history of a person's life. In a biography you may find an individual's birth, marriage, and death information, plus the names of family members. There can also be valuable life sketches and stories about a person as well as his family. Use the information carefully because there may be inaccuracies.

948.1 D36n

Norsk Personalhistorisk Tidsskrift (Norwegian Personal-Historical Journal):

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Genealogical information on numerous persons, often among the most notorious and prominent persons in Norway. 948.1 D25nt

Norsk Slektshistorisk Tidsskrift (Norwegian Family-Historical Journal):

Genealogical information about numerous families, mostly in Scandinavia. Can include a simple biographical sketch, pedigrees, probates, or stories, etc. 948.1 D25 ns

Scandinavian biographical index:

Collection A covers Denmark, Norway, and Iceland; collection B covers Sweden and Finland. 948.1 D32

Individual Family Histories:

Information varies, depending on author's interests and preferences. Search FHLC for the surname of interest to you.

Dødsfall i Norge (Deaths in Norway):

An alphabetical list of a few Norwegians who died 1763-1840. Information given was taken from obituaries published in Norwegian newspapers. Gives information on surviving spouse and children (heirs), occupation, and residence. 948.1 V42g

Scandinavian Biographical Index:

The first section: Danish, Norwegian, and Icelandic biographical sketches. The second section: Swedish and Finnish sketches. The information comes from many sources. Both sections are in alphabetical order. 948 D32o

Norwegian Genealogical Collections:

1. Delgobe Samlinger: (Charles Delgobe) 5400 families, pedigrees, letters, notes, newspapers, clippings, bios...(www.digitalarkivet.no – Genealogiske Samlinger) ...
2. Lassen: (Wilhelm Lassen): biographical extractions, sermons, guest books, pedigrees...(www.digitalarkivet.no – Genealogiske Samlinger)
3. Gerhard Munthe: research notes, pedigree charts, newspaper clippings, correspondence, probate records, censuses. Covers various families from Scandinavia, Germany, Holland, and British Isles. FHL film # 1693883