

Rygh's Farm Names Gazetteer

Norway "How to" Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

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OBJECTIVE

This guide will teach you how to identify the parish and county of a given farm.

INTRODUCTION

Norwegian family history research is primarily done using parish registers. In order to identify the appropriate parish registers for your research you will need to know the name of the parish and county to which your ancestors' farm belonged. Therefore, *Norske gårdnavne* by Oluf Rygh is an essential guide, as it will allow you to look up a farm and find the parish and county where a farm is located.

INSTRUCTION

Please read the following article about gazetteers used in Norwegian family history research.

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Norway_Gazetteers

When using this gazetteer, please remember that some names are used by multiple farms, and each farm will be listed with its parish. When this is the case, you may have to search more than one parish to find your ancestor. Keep in mind that the standard spelling used in this gazetteer may differ slightly from the spelling used in the records of your ancestors.

Rygh's Norwegian farm names gazetteer lists the parish, clerical district, and county where a given farm is located.

This gazetteer is available online via the following link:

http://www.dokpro.uio.no/rygh_ng/rygh_form.html

The online database is based on the original book volumes, which are available in digital format via the FamilySearch catalog. You can find the digitized books in the FamilySearch catalog by doing a search for the call number (943.1 E2rg), or you can use the following link:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/58263>

Using the online database

NOTE: Norwegian contains three letters not used in English: Æ, Ø, and Å, which follow the

letter Z. In Rygh's time, however, the letter å was most often written as "aa". In the online version, you cannot substitute the closest English equivalents for these letters. For example, a search for "Sondre" will turn up no results, while a search for "Søndre" will list the farms of that name. If you do not have a Norwegian keyboard, the following table will help you input the Norwegian diacritics in the search boxes. Hold the Alt key down while typing the three or four digit number on the number pad. Release the Alt key when the letter appears. Use the table below to help you correctly input the following letters:

Æ	Alt+146	æ	Alt+145
Ø	Alt+0216	ø	Alt+0248
Å	Alt+143	å	Alt+134

- Open the website using the link: http://www.dokpro.uio.no/rygh_ng/rygh_form.html
- Read the description at the top of the page for information about modern counties and their pre-1905 equivalents.
- You should see seven boxes in the "Search form". This guide discusses how to use the first four. You will want to select the one that best suits your particular inquiry.
- Of the four search fields, listed and described below, you will probably use the farm name field most frequently.
 - **County** - Searching for a county will produce a list of all farms in that county.
 - **Municipality (Clerical District)** - Searching for a municipality will produce a list of all farms in that municipality.
 - **Parish** - Searching for a parish will produce a list of all farms in that parish.
 - **Farm name** - Searching for a farm will produce a list of all farms by that name.
- When you begin typing in any of the search fields, a list of potential search options will appear. You may want to use this feature if you are unsure how to spell the name of a locality.

Farm Name

Enter a farm name into the "Farm name" search field and then click "Search". The result is a list of every Norwegian farm with that name. The list of results tells you the farm number, parish, municipality, and county for each hit. To see more details about a particular hit, select the box or boxes you are interested in and click "Show". A new window will appear providing more detailed information on the farm or farms selected.

Parish

Enter the name of a parish into the "Parish" search field and click "Search". All farms in the parish will appear, followed by the old county name. It is helpful to have a list of all the farms in the parish where you are conducting research. When a farm is referenced in the parish records, you can look at this list to determine if the farm is in the same parish.

Municipality (clerical district)

Enter the name of a clerical district into the “Municipality” search field and click “Search”. All farms in this municipality will appear, followed by the old county name. The clerical district is the name of a group of 2-6 parishes served by a single pastor. Often, the parish and municipality for a given farm are the same. Despite having a common pastor, each parish has its own church and records.

County

Enter the name of a county into the “County” search field and click “Search”. Searching by county will produce a long list of farms arranged alphabetically within an alphabetical list of municipalities (clerical districts).

ACTIVITY

For this activity, use the online version of Olaf Rygh’s Farm Names gazetteer. To begin, go to the link: http://www.dokpro.uio.no/rygh_ng/rygh_form.html

1. Type “Gripne” into the “Farm name” search field and click “Search”. You should see that Gripne, farm number 119, is in Tysnes parish, Tysnes municipality (clerical district), in Søndre Bergenshus amt.
2. Click on your browser’s back arrow to return to the search form.
3. Now type “Ormbrekke” into the “Farm name” search field and click “Search”. You should see that Ormbrekke, farm number 63, is located in Høidalsmo parish, Laardal municipality (clerical district), in Bratsberg amt.
4. Click on your browser’s back arrow to return to the search form.
5. Now type “Onareim” into the “Parish” search field and click “Search”. You should see a long list of farms that are located in Onareim parish, Tysnes municipality (clerical district), in Søndre Bergenshus amt.
6. Click on your browser’s back arrow to return to the search form.
7. Now type “Tysnes” into the “Municipality” search field and click “Search”. You should see a long list of farms that are located in Tysnes municipality (clerical district), organized by parish and then alphabetically. By scrolling through the entire list, you can see that in addition to Onareim parish (see number 3 above), Opdal and Tysnes are also parishes in Tysnes municipality (clerical district).
8. Click on the box to the left of the first farm listed, farm 169 Aanuglen. A check mark should appear. Click on “Show”.
9. You will now see more detailed information about the farm, all in Norwegian. You can use a translation website such as <http://translate.google.com> to translate the information; be aware that the abbreviated words will not automatically translate to English.