



Recognizing and Extracting Genealogical Information from Norwegian Church records

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The objective for this class is to increase your ability to do the following:

1. Recognized important Norwegian genealogical words and terms
2. Recognize various Norwegian genealogical documents
3. Extract pertinent genealogical information

Gothic Handwriting is a collective designation for a specific type of writing within the Latin alphabet. The writing style started during the 900's. Variations of the Gothic handwriting dominated the handwriting in Scandinavia during 1600-1800. It was found in Scandinavia, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, and places where the Scandinavians and Germans settled i.e. parts of the Russian empire. In order to be able to read and analyze the Norwegian parish registers some understanding and recognition of the Gothic handwriting is necessary.

Reading the Records

In order to be able to recognize and extracting information from the Norwegian genealogical documents you need to be able to read and become familiar with the letters/words.

The church was the record keeping jurisdiction and the priest the main record keeper. In earlier times monks or paid scribes would keep the records. For our purposes the scribes would be the local priest.

Most priests have their own style. Even though the priests learned the same basic handwriting, they ended up with their very own specific handwriting (just like we do), often very different from the priest who served before him and the priest who followed him!

As you read through the records you will learn to recognize the priest's particular words, patterns, and format.

Things to look for would be:

- Is the name of the child/ father/ groom/bride *underlined* or *written in the margins*?
- Are the names written in the *Roman style* of handwriting and the text in *Gothic script*?
- Is the given name written larger?

- Is the occupation or residence written before the father's name, or after?
- Are there any special remarks in the margins or after the entry?

(...and then as you become familiar and comfortable with the parish priest's hand- writing, he dies and another priest takes over the books, and you have to start over again, becoming familiar with his particular hand-writing☺)

The same words and names could be spelled different ways, even in the same documents. The word "had" could be spelled: *hadde, havde, hafde, haffuede, ect.*

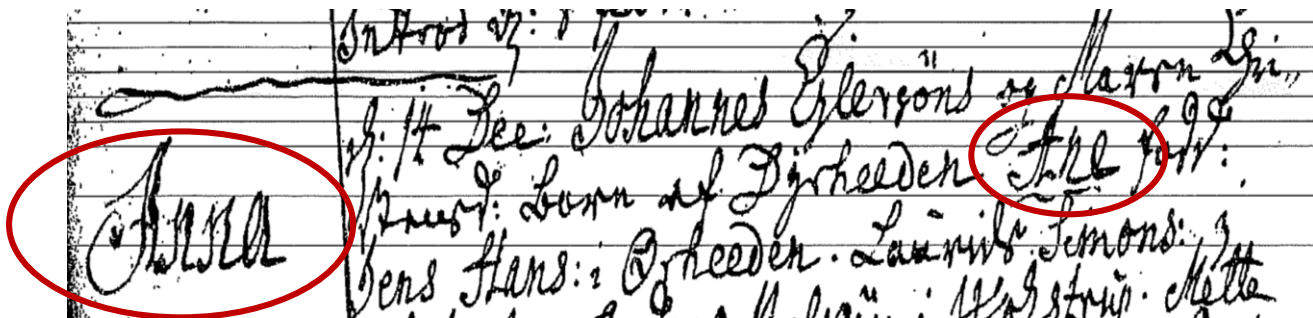
There was no standardized spelling.

The record keepers recorded the names and words the way they heard them; they spelled phonetically!

It is very helpful to have an understanding of the letters and words, and how they are pronounced.

Study the alphabet!

*Names could also be spelled differently in the same record. This is a christening record from 1733:



There were interchangeable names as well:

Johan, Jon, Jan, and Johannes; Per, Pehr, Petter; Ole, Ola, Olaves, Olaus, Oluf, Olof; Anne, Ane, Ann, Anna; Sissel, Sidsel, Zidsel, etc.

There could be abbreviations: Faddr(ene), Fad(er), Mod(er), Sal(ig), Hsm (husmand), Inh(inhyses), Pig(en)

It is very important to find the same person in a different type of record. Search all records that would be applicable for your particular person. Some records include more information than others!

The possible records could include:


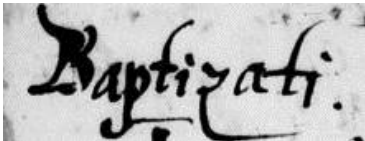

Birth/christening, introductions, confirmation, engagement, marriage, death/burial, vaccination, absolutions, moving in/out, census, probate records, and tax record.

Dates could be listed as Latin feast days: Dom. Quasimodo, Nytaars dag, Hellig 3 Konger(s) Dag, and Dom. Cantat. *see below

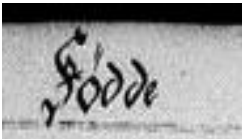



The following words are words you may want to remember. This will show you various ways the same word can be written in the parish records.


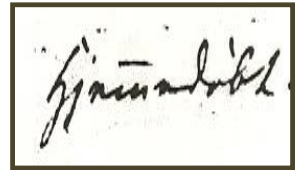
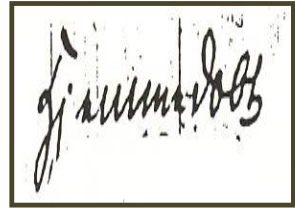
Christening: döbt (døbt), baptizati

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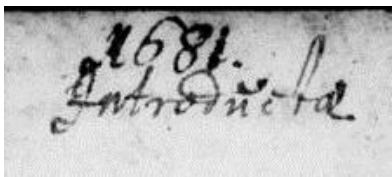
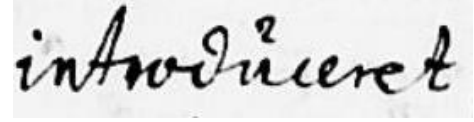
Births: födde (fødde)

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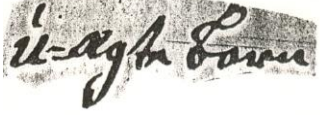
Home christenings: Hjemmedøbt, Hjemmedøbt (hjemmedøbt)

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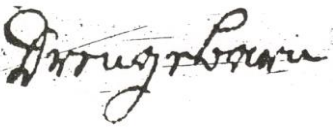


Introductions: Introductæ, introduceret

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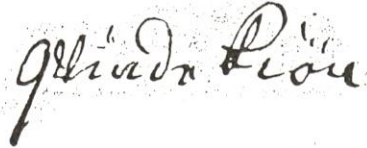
Illegitimate children: U=ægte barn, uægte

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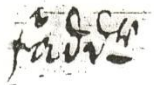
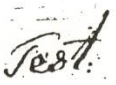

Male child: Drengbarn, mandkiön (mandkiøn), Dreng=Børn

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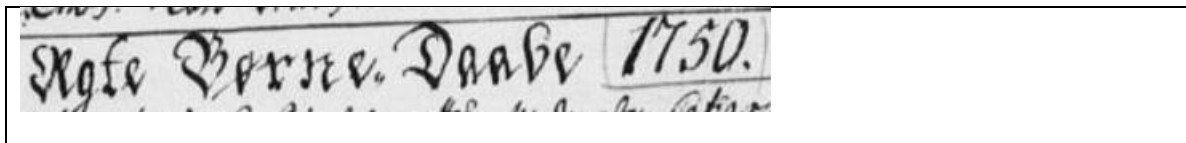
Female child: Pigebarn, p(ige):barn, pigebarn, pigen, qvindekiön (qvindekiøn)

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Godparents / witnesses: Faddr(erer), Test:, testes

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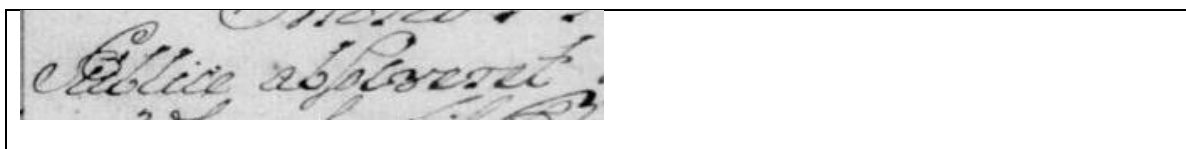
Legitimate children's christenings: ægte Børne=Daabe 1750



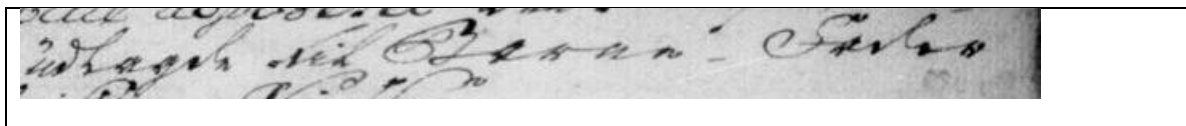
Stillborn: dödföde, dødfødt



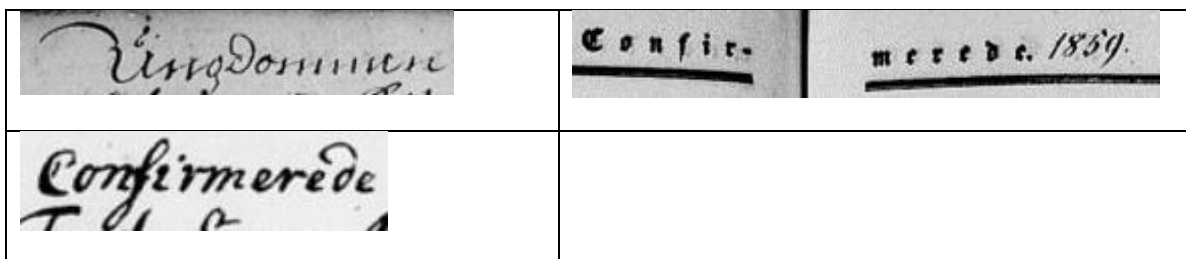
Absolutions: Publice absolveret






The child's father is said to be: udlagde til Barne - fader



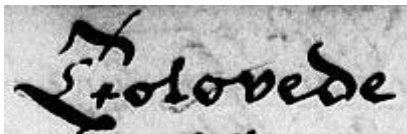

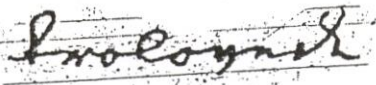
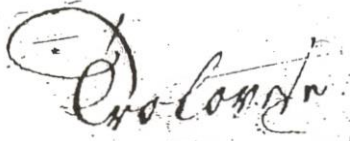
Confirmations: Ungdommen, confirmerede



Bachelor/farmhand:

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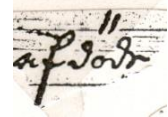
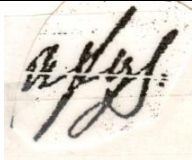
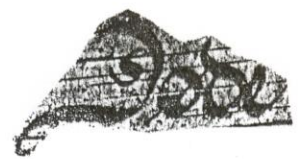
Engagement: Trolovede, trolovet: (look at the various ways to write the letter “T”)

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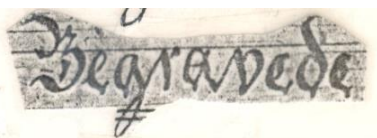
Marriage: Viede, copulerede udi Aaret—married in the year..., copulati, ægte=viede, Brude=folch, gifte, egteviede, bröllop (brølløp)

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Deaths: Døde, Humati, afdøde (afdøde), Afgs., Døde, Aflede udi Ao 1675

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Burials: Begravede, kastet jord paa (throw dirt on—"throw the dirt on the casket"), begravet (pay attention to the various "B")

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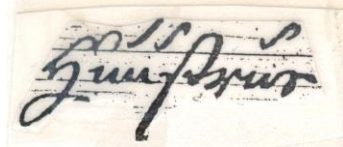


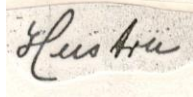


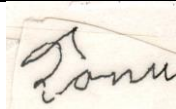
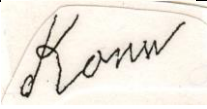
Widower: Enkm., Enkemanden

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Widow: Enke, Enken

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Wife: Huustrue, Hustru, Hust:, Hustru, Hstr, Kone, (pay attention to the vrious "H" and "K")

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