

# Three Free Websites for Researching your Scandinavian Ancestry

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## Denmark

Rigsarkivet | [www.sa.dk/en/](http://www.sa.dk/en/)

### Pros:

- Decent indexes
- easy download of images

### Cons:

- indexes are not always attached to an image, so you may have to search for that separately
- No clear copy and paste citations, so you have to create the citation yourself

## Wildcards

### Census and Church book wildcards

- \_ (underscore) replaces one character in a word or name
- % (percent sign) replaces multiple characters in a word or name

### Daisy, Archival Online, NAIP Wildcards

- + (plus sign) between words means they can search in any order
- - (dash) can be used to indicate words that should not appear at all in the results
- \* (asterisk) replaces one or more letters at the end of a word
- || (double bar) acts as an OR, and you use it when it could be one word or another
- "..." indicate an exact order of words
- N~1 (approximate equation) equals the number of letters that can vary - for example: Nielsen~1 can yield results like, Nielson, Wielsen, etc.

## Church Records

Over 1 million names are indexed out of 2,634 church books (as of 2019), but the index is not comprehensive and should be supplemented with research in the images.

Contain birth, confirmation, marriage, death and moving records with good coverage for most of the country.

### Accessing the indexes:

1. Go to [Danish Demographic Database Churchbook Index](#) (Danish Only)
2. In the sidebar on the left, click on "Hvad kan du søge i"
3. In the "Amt" dropdown select your county, in the "Sogn" dropdown, select your parish, in the "Handling" dropdown, select the type of record you're looking for and click search  
Dåb = birth  
Konfirmation = confirmation

Vielse/Trolovelse = marriage/engagements

Begravelse = burials

4. If hits come up, then there is a collection you might be able to search and you can move to the next step. If no hits come up, no searchable collection exists.
5. In the sidebar in the left, click on "Simpel søgning - områdesforlsag"
6. Select the county and parish you would like to search from the drop down
7. Type in the name of the person you would like to search for, and click "Søg"

### Accessing the Scanned Images

1. Go to <https://www.sa.dk/en/>
2. Click on "Parish Registers"
3. Click on "Kirkebøger fra hele landetØ"
4. Use the drop down to find the right county and parish
5. From the available links that appear, click the plus button to get a further breakdown of years, and choose the one that includes the years you are looking for.

Note: if the collection says ***Ny Scanning i Farver***, it means the collection is a newer colored scan of the book, you will want to select this one if it is an option.

### Census Records

41% of Census images available on the website are indexed. The following years are indexed with 90% coverage or higher:

1787, 1801, 1834, 1845, 1850, 1860, 1880, 1885

Other years exist and can be searched but the coverage is not as good.

### Access the indexes:

1. Go to [https://www.ddd.dda.dk/kiplink\\_en.htm](https://www.ddd.dda.dk/kiplink_en.htm)
2. Click on "Simple Search"
3. Fill out the search criteria and click "Submit"
4. Look through the hits for relevant posts, if nothing appears, try refining or changing your search criteria

### Accessing the image:

1. Go to <https://www.sa.dk/>
2. Select "Census lists"
3. Find the year you would like to search as well as the general area (København is usually separated from the rural areas, or *Landdistrikter* and some of the outlying areas and territories are separate as well)
4. Use the drop down to select the correct Amt and Herred (if you found the person in the index first, this information will be on the index page)
5. From the content list that appears, choose the area that best matches the parish or small area your person was from.
6. Browse the set of images for the correct farm, house number or family.

## Norway

Digitalarkivet | [www.digitalarkivet.no/en/](http://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/)

### Pros:

- Ability to save records into folders on a free research account
- Easy downloading of records
- Easy copy and paste citations

### Cons:

- Images are not always clear
- site is not always super intuitive

## Wildcards

- + (plus sign) indicates words that must be present in the search result
- - (minus sign) indicates words that must be excluded from the search result
- \* (asterisk) can be used to replace multiple letters at the beginning, middle or end of a word
- | (bar/pipe) can be use to indicate an OR and allows you to search for multiple names at once
- ? (question mark) can be used to replace one unknown letter and multiple question marks can be used in a row
- ^ (caret) indicates letters that a word or name begins with
- \$ (dollar sign) indicates letters that a word or name ends with
- << (2 less-than signs) indicate that the search strings to the left of the symbols must come before the ones on the right.
- () (parenthesis) are used to group multiple terms and only search for those terms together

## Church Records

While many church books are indexed, these indexes are not comprehensive and should be supplemented with research in the images. Contain birth, confirmation, marriage, death and moving records with good coverage for most of the country.

[See this article](#) for more information about church books.

### Accessing the indexes

1. Go to <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/>
2. Click on "Find Source"
3. Under the "Category" column, click on "Church books/Parish registers" and then click on "Select all"
4. Under the "Geography" column, click on the region you would like to search, click on the county, and then click on the parish.
5. Click "Search" to bring up collections relevant to that parish

6. Use Ctrl+f to search for the correct set of years you would like to search and find click on the button that says "Search" to search an index for that area - if there is no search option, click on "Browse" to search the books page by page.

### **Browse Images**

1. Go to the FamilySearch Wiki - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page)
2. The the search bar, type "Norway" and click enter
3. On the Norway wiki page, scroll down to the Norway Clickable Map, find your county and click on it to open the county page
4. One the county page, scroll down to the clickable county map and find your parish, click on the parish name to open the parish page for your parish
5. Under the Church Records section on the parish page, you will see a link leading to collections from the Digital Archives of Norway. These do not give you access to the searchable indexed collections, but will give you the browsable collections for the parish.

### **Census Records**

Many censuses were taken purely for statistical purposes which made them harder to use for genealogical research until the late 1800s.

While the National Archives site makes them look abundant and easy to search, the following are well indexed and will be the most helpful to your research.

1801, 1865, 1870, 1875, 1891, 1900, and 1910

### **Accessing the Indexes**

1. Go to <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/>
2. Click on "Find Source"
3. Under the "Category" column, click on "Censuses" and then click on years you would like to search.
4. Under the "Geography" column, click on the region you would like to search, click on the county, and then click on the parish.
5. Click "Search" to bring up census collections for the area.
6. Click on relevant hits to open more information about the index
7. When you find a relevant hit you can check if the image is attached by going to the top right corner of the page and looking for the word "Scanned"
  - a. If the button is dark blue, you can click on it to open directly to the page where the entry is found.
  - b. If the button is light blue, do the following
    - i. On the right of the screen, find the box titled, "Source Information" and find the box titled "Rural Residence"
    - ii. Write down the information listed in this box
    - iii. Scroll down to the box titled "Digitized Version"
    - iv. Click "Show first page"
    - v. Browse, looking for the residence information you've written down to help you get to the correct page.

# Sweden

Riksarkivet | <https://riksarkivet.se/startpage>

## Pros

- Year index makes it easy to find the correct place in the book
- Easy image saving
- Easy copy/paste citations

## Cons

- Indexes are not as complete as other sites and may be difficult to find
- Site navigation can be confusing because of how different parts of the site are labeled
- Searches typically have to be exact or use wildcards correctly
- User account required to view data between 70 and 110 years old

## Wildcards

- Simple Search - all words in the search must be included in the post to give a hit
- \* (asterisk) can be used to replace multiple letters at the end of a word
- "" (quotation marks) indicates a search for an exact phrase in an exact order
- - (minus sign) indicates words that must be excluded from the search result

## Church Records

### Relevant Indexes:

[Birth Records](#) - contains birth records with good coverage for the counties of [Jämtland](#) and [Västernorrland](#).

[Marriage Records](#) - contains marriage records with good coverage for the counties of [Gotland](#), [Jämtland](#), and [Västernorrland](#).

[Death Records](#) - contains death records with good coverage for the counties of [Gotland](#), [Jämtland](#), [Västernorrland](#).

[SCB Births, Marriages, Deaths 1860-1948](#) - contains a searchable index of records extracted by the parish and sent to the government (Statistiska centralbyrån). These are not original sources and can contain errors, but they can help you locate your family in the correct parish, or work as a substitute for records that may have been damaged or destroyed.

[DDSS](#) - Website containing free searchable indexes for the regions of Halland, Skåne, and Blekinge (While this is not technically on the National Archives website, it is notable enough to be listed in the drop down of databases and mentioned here)

[Parish Extracts 1860-1940](#) - NOT NAME SEARCHABLE, but offers a census-like extract of the parish every ten years starting in 1860. Search for your parish and the year you would like to browse.

## Accessing Scanned Images

1. Go to <https://riksarkivet.se/startpage>
2. Select "Search the Collection"
3. Select "Digital Research Room"
4. In the sidebar on the left, find the box titled "Archive" and search for your parish (Remember to use special characters)
5. Find the hit result that includes the name of your parish followed by the word "kyrkoarkiv" and click on it to open the collection.

## Census Records

Regular censuses in Sweden started in 1940. The Parish extract collection above offers a type of household snapshot you would expect from a Census starting in 1860, but this will never have as much data as the household examinations, and congregation books have at the parish level. You can search in these extracts to identify your family and where they lived, and then go to the parish for more information.

[Census Database 1860-1940](#) - name searchable database of census-like information.

These records were created every ten years, when extracted data from the parish books was created by the parish and sent to the government (Statistiska centralbyrån).

[Parish Extracts](#) - Similar to the collection above, but not name searchable.