

NAVIGATING SCANDINAVIAN PATRONYMICS

Jenny Hansen, AG®
hansen.jenny@gmail.com
www.MyFavoriteAncestor.com

Purpose: At the end of class, each student should understand naming patterns in Scandinavian culture.

Surnames today link us to our ancestors. But our ancestors used surnames as a contemporary means of description in their society.

Patronymics: father's name. Patronymic surnames are used in many cultures, utilizing the father's name for a surname.

Patronymic tags by country:

Denmark

-sen and -datter

Norway

-sen and -datter

Sweden

-son and -dotter

When searching for a parent link in a record, look for the father's given name, rather than trying to find a matching surname.

Strong naming patterns in Lutheran Europe help when assembling family groups. The grandparents' names are used for the first-born children of each gender.

Women did not historically change their surname at marriage. In the 20th century we start to see name changes at marriage, but the surname at birth is frequently noted in the records.

Bibliography

Bukke, Inger. *The Comprehensive Genealogical Feast Day Calendar*. Bountiful, UT: Thomsen's Geanealogical Center, 1983.

Derry, T.K. *A History of Scandinavia: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland*. University of Minnesota Press, 1980.

Copyright 2023, Jenny Hansen, AG®

Johansson, Carl-Erik. *Cradled in Sweden: A Practical Help to Genealogical Research in Swedish Records*. Logan, UT: Everton Publishers, 1972.

Johansson, Carl-Erik. *Thus They Wrote*. Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Press, 1970.

Smith, Frank and Thomsen, Finn. *Genealogical Guidebook & Atlas of Denmark*. Bountiful, UT: Thomsen's Genealogical Center, 1986. (available for other countries, as well)

World Conference on Records: Preserving our Heritage, vol. 8, Scandinavian Family and Local History. Salt Lake City, UT: Family History Library, 1980. (Available in digital format via Family History Library Catalog, www.FamilySearch.org)

Websites

Google Maps: www.google.com/maps
Helps visualize proximity of towns

FamilySearch: www.familysearch.org
Records index can help with a quick check of parish records and census records

Timeline for Scandinavia: www.timelineindex.com
Enter Scandinavia for the search

Scandinavian Immigrant Experience: www.plu.edu/siec
Oral interviews of individual who emigrated from Scandinavian countries to the Pacific Northwest. These give a great picture of the immigrant experience.

FamilySearch Research Wiki: <https://wiki.familysearch.org> Request your country of interest. These pages include word lists, feast day calendars and basic research guides. These are a MUST for successful research.

Check growing collections of Scandinavian record images and new indexes on commercial sites including www.Ancestry.com and www.MyHeritage.com.

Denmark

Danish National Archives: <http://www.sa.dk>
All Danish parish records, census records, probates and more are included and available for free.

Danish Demographic Database: <http://ddd.dda.dk>
This includes the most complete index of the Danish census records and is available for free.

Copyright 2023, Jenny Hansen, AG®

Norway

Norwegian Digital Archives: www.DigitalArkivet.no

All Norwegian parish records and census records are included and available for free.

Norwegian National Archives: www.ArkivVerket.no

See the *Genealogical Research* section for great information about starting your research in Norway. They also have a great photo collection.

Sweden

Swedish National Archives: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/>

This houses all Swedish parish records. As of February 2018 the records are free.

Swedish church record images: www.ancestry.com and www.myheritage.com

Subscription service, free with LDS login. Growing collection of Swedish records with indexes.

Swedish church record images: www.arkivdigital.net

Subscription service, available free of charge at FHCs. Full color images of all Swedish parish records. Excellent search capabilities.