

# Have Nordic Ancestors? Count Yourself Lucky - Nordic Records are Amazing

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## Scandinavian / Nordic

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- Shared yet unique and distinct histories, languages, cultures, geo-political forces, genealogical strategies and records.

## Denmark

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- History
  - Emerged as a unified country in the 10<sup>th</sup> century
  - Survived as a monarchy until 1849, at which time it became a constitutional monarchy
- Language
  - Danish is the official language
  - Faroese, Greenlandic, and German are recognized minority languages.
  - Æ, Ø, Å in Danish are sorted at the end of the alphabet after Z
- Geography & Administrative Districts
  - The main body of Denmark is comprised of a large peninsula and 443 islands
  - Greenland and the Faroe Islands are also part of greater Denmark
  - Divided into 5 Regions (*Regioner*) and further divided into Municipalities (*Kommuner*)
- Genealogical Records
  - Top Tier:
    - Church Records
      - Primary source for names, births, confirmation, marriages, deaths, burials, and residence
      - Parish registers began country wide in 1645
      - <https://www.sa.dk/en/>
    - Census
      - Primary source for names and residence. Secondary source for relationships, birth locations, genders, ages
      - <http://www.myheritage.com/research/category-Denmark/>
  - Second Tier
    - Military, Emigration, Probate
      - <http://www.udvandrerkivet.dk/udvandrertokollerne/>
- Resources, Links, Aids
  - Handwriting Help:
    - [http://www.sa.dk/content/us/genealogy/styles\\_of\\_handwriting](http://www.sa.dk/content/us/genealogy/styles_of_handwriting)
  - Naming Conventions:
    - [http://www.sa.dk/content/us/genealogy/danish\\_names](http://www.sa.dk/content/us/genealogy/danish_names)

## Norway

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- History
  - 1524 – 1814: Denmark—Norway. United Kingdoms of Denmark and Norway
  - 1814 – 1905: United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway
  - 1905: Kingdom of Norway. Independent constitutional monarchy
- Emigration
  - With the exception of Ireland, no nation sent a larger percentage of its people to the United States than Norway
  - Four major waves of emigration from Norway
    - 1866 – 1873, 1880 – 1893, 1900 – 1914, 1920 – 1929
- Language
  - Norwegian has two official written forms, *Bokmål* and *Nynorsk*
- Religion
  - Most Norwegians are registered at baptism as members of the Church of Norway. Official State church until 2012, Evangelical-Lutheran orientation
  - Since 1845 Norwegians have been able to legally withdraw from the State Church and join another (or no) church. Nearly 90% retain official membership
- Genealogical Records
  - Top Tier:
    - Church: Parish Registers (*kirkebøker*)
      - Births (*Fødte*), Christening (*døbt*)
      - Marriages (*Copulerede* or *Viede*)
      - Deaths (*død*)
        - <https://www.arkivverket.no/en/find-your-ancestors/parish-registers>
    - Census (*Folketelling*)
      - <https://www.arkivverket.no/en/find-your-ancestors/public-censuses>
      - <http://www.rhd.uit.no/indexeng.html>
  - Second Tier:
    - Land Records & Probate Records
    - Emigration
    - Cemetery
      - <http://www.disnorge.no/gravminner/index.php>
- Additional Links / Resources
  - *Arkivportalen*
    - <http://www.arkivportalen.no/side/forside>
  - City directories for Oslo and Kristiania (*adressbøker*)
    - <https://digitalarkivet.no/en/search/sources?s=Adresseb%C3%B8ker>
  - The Genealogical Society of Norway (*DIS-Norge*)
    - <http://www.disnorge.no>

# Sweden

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- History
  - Medieval Times – 17<sup>th</sup> Century: Unified Country
  - 17<sup>th</sup> Century: Sweden's power and reach expanded under the influence of King Gustavus Adolphus to include Finland and portions of Russia, Poland, and Lithuania
  - 18<sup>th</sup> Century: Sweden lost most of its non-Scandinavia territories (including Finland in 1809)
- Emigration
  - During the 1880s more than 1% of the population annually emigrated to the US (mostly to the Midwestern States)
  - Between 1846 and 1930 approximately 1.3 million people, about 20% of the Swedish population, left the country
  - Notable Swedish communities exist in the United States, Australia, Canada, Britain, and Argentina
- Religion
  - Until 1996 Swedes were registered automatically at birth as members of the Church of Sweden if at least one of the parents was a member
  - Church of Sweden. Official State church until 2000, Evangelical-Lutheran orientation
  - In 1972, 95% of Swedes belonged to the Church of Sweden.
- Genealogical Records
  - Top Tier:
    - Church & Church Records Extracts (after 1860)
      - Birth (*Födde*) and baptismal (*Dop*) records
      - Marriage (*Vigsel*) and banns (*Lysning*) records
      - Death and burial (*Död*) records
        - <http://sok.riksarkivet.se/svar-digitala-forskarsalen>
        - <https://www.arkivdigital.net/>
    - Household Examination Records (*Husförhörslängder*)
      - <http://www.myheritage.com/research/category-Sweden/>
  - Second Tier:
    - Taxation Records & Emigration
    - Population Registers
- Additional Links / Resources
  - National Archives Database
    - <http://sok.riksarkivet.se/nad>
  - Federation of Genealogical Societies of Sweden (*Sveriges Släktforskarförbund*)
    - <http://www.genealogi.se/>

# Finland

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- History
  - Medieval times – 1809: under Swedish rule
  - 1809 – 1917: as an autonomous grand duchy within the Russian Empire
    - 1809 – 1862: 50 years of consolidation during which Finnish authorities succeed in demonstrating the loyalty of all Finns to Russia
    - 1863 – 1898: 35 years of increased independence, re-establishment of the Diet of Finland and the elevation of Finnish from a language for the common people to a national language equal to Swedish
    - 1899 – 1917: 20 years of attempted Russification
  - 1918: Finnish Civil War
  - 1918 – Present: Republic of Finland
- Emigration
  - The Great “Finnish” Migration (1870 – 1930)
  - U.S. Immigration Act of 1924 – restricted to 500 Finnish immigrants per year
- Language
  - Finnish and Swedish are the official languages
  - Finnish Lutheran records were widely kept in Swedish until the late 1800s
- Religion
  - 1900: 98% Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
- Genealogical Records
  - Top Tier:
    - Church, church, & church. The most important genealogical records are those generated by the Church
      - Main & Confirmation Books (Finnish: *Pää-ja rippikirjat*, Swedish: *konfirmationslängder* or *Huvud-och Kommunionböcker*)
        - MyHeritage
          - <https://www.myheritage.com/research/category-Finland/>
        - National Archives Service of Finland
          - <http://digi.narc.fi/digi/puu.ka>
      - History books: Records of Births, Marriages, Deaths
        - The Genealogical Society of Finland – HisKi Project
          - <http://hiski.genealogia.fi/hiski?en>
    - Second Tier:
      - Census / Tax Lists (Finnish: *henkikirjat*, Swedish: *mantalslängder*)
      - Emigration and Immigration
        - Institute of Migration – Emigrant Register
          - <http://www.migrationinstitute.fi>
  - Resources, Links, Aids
    - Finland Family History Association: <http://www.sukuhistoria.fi/sshy/index.htm>