



## Finding ancestors in the Norwegian Bygdebøker (Farm Books) online

Liv H. Anderson CG, AG®

[andersonlh@familysearch.org](mailto:andersonlh@familysearch.org)

### OBJECTIVES:

Patrons will be able to find ancestors in the online Norwegian farm books (Bygdebøker).

### Background:

If you know the farm name and parish in Norway where your ancestor came from, it is often possible to find your family in these books for generations. The farm book is an excellent guide to locate ancestors, but you must verify the information you find in the original sources.

Farm books are available in book form and online. Most are in book form. It is rare that a book is in both book form and online.

Norway is rich in compiled sources for genealogy. Although there are many different types of compiled and printed sources, the farm book stands out. Since the majority of the people lived in rural areas and were supported by farms, you will see that only the rural community is covered in these books. It would be rather difficult to do the same thing for a city. You may find books covering the history of a city, but these books do not include the people living there.

Most people with Norwegian roots will be able to trace their ancestry back into rural communities. Norway was an agrarian society from the earliest times to around 1900, and relatively few people lived in the cities. Most of these communities have family history and historical societies; in Norway these are usually called *Slektshistorisk forening* or *Ættesogelag*. These societies, with an especially appointed committee, usually make arrangements to have the information for the farm book gathered, financed, and published. It is totally a local effort in each instance and new volumes are produced every year.

The concept of farm books started around year 1900 by the initiative of a respected person in a community/parish in Norway. The farm books written in the early 1900s to around 1960/70 may not always be as complete as the ones written in later years. The books that were written later

usually include more detailed information, but as these books are a compiled source, it is a good idea to verify the information you find in original church records.

The farm books generally consist of one or more volumes, with the history of the community usually in the first volume. This is followed by subsequent volumes that outline the individual farms, from the earliest known facts to more recent, and the genealogy of the people who lived on the different farms. Many different formats are used and some are better than others.

Many of these books are available at the Family History Library (FHL), as well as at libraries and colleges where Norwegians settled in the U.S. Nasjonalbiblioteket (The National Library) located in Oslo, Norway has a copy of all published farm books.

See website:

<https://www.google.com/#q=Nasjonalbiblioteket+i+Oslo>

For additional information about “bygdebøker” see the following websites:

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Norway\\_Farm\\_Books](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Norway_Farm_Books)

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~norway/na18.html>

## **Farm books online**

There are not as many farm books available online as there are in book form, however more are becoming available. You may search online by the name of the parish to find out if a volume is available.

Here is a short list of some of the bygdebøker that are available online.

Ål (Aal) bygdebok: <http://www.aal-bygdebok.no/>

Bygdebok for Lom: [http://www.snohetta.no/Lom/Bbok\\_Lom\\_forprosjekt.htm#List%20USA](http://www.snohetta.no/Lom/Bbok_Lom_forprosjekt.htm#List%20USA)

Bygdebok for Nittedal og Hakadal: <http://www.nittedal.kommune.no/bygdebok/>

Stokke en bygdebok: <http://www.vestfold-slekt.net/stokke/bygdebok/innhold.html>

Vaksdal en bygdebok: <http://www.neilelvick.com/Vaksdal%20Bygdebok/elvik.htm>

Nye slekter i Ramstad og Sovikdal (Sykkylven sogenemnd)  
[http://sykkylven.sogenemnd.no/gardssoger/nye\\_slekter\\_i\\_ramstad\\_og\\_sovikdal.pdf](http://sykkylven.sogenemnd.no/gardssoger/nye_slekter_i_ramstad_og_sovikdal.pdf)

Nøtterøy en bygdebok: <http://www.vestfold-slekt.net/notteroy/bygdebok/innhold.html>

Rana Bygdebok, Mo Prestegjeld gardshistorie:

<http://www.slekt.net/tng/showsource.php?sourceID=S57&tree=1>

Slektsforskning: <http://slektsforskning.com> /

## Norwegian Alphabet

**Upper case:** A-Z then three additional letters **Æ, Ø, Å**

**Lower case:** a-z then **æ, ø, å (aa)**

## A short glossary of words used in farm books

Norwegian	Abbreviation	English
barn, born, børn		child, children
begravet (begravede)		buried
datter	dtr.	daughter
den eldre	d.e.	the older
den yngre	d.y.	the younger
død (døde)		dead, died
dødfødt		stillborn
ektevied, viet		married
enke		widow
enkemann		widower
gift	g.	married
gift med	g.m.	married to
gårdbruker, bruker	gbr.	farmer
kår		retired
odel		birth right
skjøte		deed
utvandre	utv.	emigrate

**See also a more extensive wordlist in the family Search wiki for Norway.**

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Norway\\_Word\\_List](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Norway_Word_List)

**Map outlining the counties in Norway:**

<https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Norway>

#FHLwebinars

#FamilyHistoryLibrary