

## **Scandinavian Names in New Family Search**

If you have done genealogical research using Danish, Swedish, or Norwegian records, you know that the Scandinavian naming systems requires that you use special research technics. This is also true for working in New Family Search. Scandinavian names present special challenges in working with that program.

Since January, I have been trying to put in order my Swedish records in New Family Search. While I am certainly not an expert, I have learned a few things that I hope will be helpful for other people with Scandinavian ancestry.

First, it is important to realize that while New Family Search is a great program, it is not a magic bullet that will automatically link all your ancestors correctly and completely. Computer technology has linked some of your ancestors by combining information from various sources into a single data base. However, not all information can be combined automatically. It is up to us humans to make the links, changes, and corrections that are difficult for computers to do. This is especially true for those of us who have Scandinavian ancestry.

Before getting too discouraged with some of the problems that you may encounter in working with this program, remember that it is a work in progress. Many improvements have been made since the program was released to the first few temple districts, and many more improvements are being made. Some of the problems mentioned in this handout may soon be resolved. But for now, you should expect to spend a lot of time making sure that your Scandinavian records in New Family Search are correct and complete.

### **What To Do First**

Before trying to find ancestors in New Family Search who need temple work and before adding new information to New Family Search, you need to make sure that all the information about your ancestors in New Family Search is correct and that all family members are properly linked. Do this by comparing the information on your ancestors in New Family Search with the information you have in your PAF file or your paper files. An easy way to compare information is to open and minimize your PAF file. You can then place it next to the family record in New Family Search and refer to it whenever you have a question.

#### Combining duplicate records

There are three ways to find and combine duplicate records in New Family Search.

1. A star next to an ancestor on the main pedigree chart at the top of the screen indicates that a person has more than one spouse or a child has more than one set of parents. By clicking on those stars you can see the duplicates and decide whether they should be combined.
2. By clicking on the "Spouses and Children" or "Parents and Siblings" boxes at the bottom of the screen, you can see whether there are duplicate spouses or children. If there are duplicates, click on the arrow in a circle next to the name and select the link to resolve duplicates. Be sure to click the "Compare in More Detail" box to make sure that the person is a duplicate before combining. Also be sure to notice the birth dates for children whose names are the same, as two children were often given the same name when the first child died.
3. You also will need to highlight each family member in turn and click on the "Find Duplicates" box. Although this can be tedious, it is important to do it for every family member. Compare the record with your PAF records to be sure that it actually is a duplicate before combining.

### Searching for and correcting errors

Click on the “Summary” box and the “Details” box. Look for any information that is significantly wrong, but do not worry about little things such as improper spelling. The summary box gives you the opportunity to select the most correct form of the name.

If you find significant problems, click on the “Combined Records” link at the bottom of the page. This will allow you to see all the records that have been combined and separate those that were incorrectly combined.

However, if the records were incorrectly merged in Ancestral File, you will not be able to uncombine them. You can dispute the information to indicate that a particular individual does not belong in a family, or that the information about that person is wrong. Add an explanation and include sources so that other people will be able to see why you are making changes to the record.

### Finding individuals to add to your family.

If a child is missing, or if other spouses need to be added to the family, look for the missing person by clicking on the link “Add or find child” or “Add or find spouse.”

## **Hints for Finding the Right Scandinavian Ancestor in New Family Search**

At present, finding Scandinavian ancestors in New Family Search is more difficult than finding them in the International Genealogical Index. Here are some ideas that may help.

### Keep in mind the peculiarities of the Scandinavian naming system.

Scandinavian names are very common. For example, it is quite common to find children with the same first and last name born in the same year in the same parish.

Spelling was not standardized in the early years and abbreviations were often used. For example, the same person might have her name spelled as *Katarina*, *Catarina*, *Katrina*, *Chaterine*, *Catr*: etc.

Interchangeable first names or nicknames were common. *Katarina* might be known as *Cajsa* or *Karin*. You can find spelling variations and nicknames for a specific name by looking in the International Genealogical Index.

Although the patronymic naming system was the most common, Scandinavians often took other names that might be used along with or in place of patronymic names. These include military names, Norwegian farm names, surnames for the upper classes and for people in a trade or living in cities. Patronymic names were changed to surnames during the late 1800s.

Before the time of computers, the female names were changed from *dotter* to *son* when they were submitted for temple work.

### Be aware of the types of records that are used in New Family Search.

Ancestral File and Pedigree Resource File are linked records, with many individuals being linked together in family trees and pedigrees. Temple records and records in the International Genealogical Index may or may not be linked as families, depending on when they were submitted. Extracted records and records submitted during the 1970s will have only the information that was on the original record—birth date and parents’ names for a birth record, marriage date and spouse for a marriage record.

### Be aware of the difficulties of using small place identifiers in New Family Search.

Because the names were so common, the Scandinavians used the names of small places within a parish as identifiers. These small place names were not used in the extraction program, and may or may not have been used in other records. At this time New Family Search does not allow a search using four names in the place field. If you are trying to find someone born in Sibbo, Karlskoga, Örebro, Sweden, you can search for either Sibbo, Örebro, Sweden or Karlskoga, Örebro, Sweden, but not for both Sibbo and Karlskoga.

### **Search Technics to Use When Trying to Find Your Ancestor**

1. Remember that less is more. If you are using a birth date to search for an ancestor, do not put in the name of a spouse.
2. Search by the name of the parish. If you do not find your ancestor, search by the name of the little place.
3. New Family Search does not accommodate spelling variations as well as the IGI does. For example, it may not list *Thomesson* as one of your top choices if you have spelled it *Thomasson*. You will need to be creative and use a variety of spellings. You will also need to search for females using both the *son* and *dotter* endings.
4. If you cannot quickly find your ancestor in New Family Search, find your ancestor in the IGI. Then search for your ancestor in New Family Search using the same spelling and other information exactly the way it is recorded in the IGI.

### **How to Know Whether the Ancestor You Have Found Is Really Yours**

1. Compare what you have found with your records. Does it look like a good match?
2. If you are not sure, check the original parish or census records. Danish and Norwegian parish and census records are online and free for anyone to use. Swedish records are online for a fee, but are available free at family history centers.  
Danish Census Records: Dansk Demografisk Database: [http://ddd.dda.dk/ddd\\_en.htm](http://ddd.dda.dk/ddd_en.htm)  
Danish Parish Records: <http://www.arkivalieronline.dk>  
Norwegian Census and Parish Records: Digitalarkivet: <http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/>  
Swedish Records: Genline: [www.genline.com](http://www.genline.com)
3. Try to get in touch with the person who submitted the record.
4. Do not combine records if you are not sure they are duplicates.

### **The Benefits of Using New Family Search**

In spite of some of its problems, New Family Search is a great program. It will allow you to make corrections in your records that will be available for everyone on your same lines to see. It allows families to work together. By working in New Family Search to combine duplicates and correct information, you will be able to keep others from duplicating temple work for your ancestors.

“Let us, therefore, as a church and a people, and as Latter-day saints, offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness; and let us present in his holy temple... a book containing the records of our dead, which shall be worthy of all acceptance.” (Doctrine and Covenants 128:24)