

Easy instructions for using the FREE Norwegian Arkivverket Digitalarkivet — Digitised Parish Registers
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The original **old handwritten Norwegian Church Registers** for birth, baptism, vaccination, confirmation, banns, marriage, immigration, death and other records can be found **FREE on the internet, instead of having to use microfilms**. The images are not only clearer, but you can save them as high resolution jpgs and/or pdfs. The Digitised Parish Registers are a tremendous primary resource to verify the data found in the bygdebøker.

To find your ancestors hand written records in Norway, work through this one example of finding Snowshoe Thompson’s birth/baptism record and then try your ancestors! Be sure to share this NEW resource with your family and friends.

John A. “Snowshoe” Thompson certainly was a true flesh-and-blood character, but because of the countless stories written about him, it has become impossible to completely separate fact-from-fiction and history-from-legend. From 1856 to 1876, Snowshoe Thompson made his “Snow-Shoe Express” the counterpart of the “Pony Express” in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. However, a valuable clue of Snowshoe Thompson’s birth is given on his tombstone which reads: “In Memory of John A. Thomson, Native of Norway, Departed this life May 15, 1876, Aged 49 years 16 days, Gone but not forgotten.” Therefore, with a little math, Snowshoe Thompson was born 30 April 1827. Another clue is recorded on the Snowshoe Thompson monument at Donner Summit: “He was born John Tostensen at Tinn in Telemark.” To find Snowshoe Thompson’s full Norwegian name in the birth/baptism church records, use the following steps:

#1. Go to: <http://arkivverket.no/eng/content/view/full/629>

The screenshot shows a navigation menu with two columns: 'Find sources' and 'Shortcuts'. In the 'Find sources' column, 'Select Source' is highlighted with a blue box and an arrow labeled 'Or #4'. In the 'Shortcuts' column, 'Censuses' is highlighted with a blue box and an arrow labeled 'Or #3', and 'Digitised Parish Registers' is highlighted with a blue box and an arrow labeled 'Click #2'.

#2. see Shortcuts and click **#2 — Digitised Parish Registers**

#3. Other options — Use the Censuses, a tremendous resource

#4. Other options — Under Find sources use Select Source to select via period, category, geography and form

#5. For this example release arrow on (#5a) **Telemark** county [fylke], release arrow on (#5b) **Tinn / Atrå** parish, leave on (#5c) **All** and click (#5d) **Tinn / Atrå: 1815-1843, Parish register (official)**.

[Note—To save space in this article, I used Tinn / Atrå, but normally less is better, i.e., don’t select a parish, just scroll down the list, so you don’t miss any records]

The screenshot shows search filters for county, parish, and register type. 'Telemark' is selected for county (#5a), 'Tinn / Atrå' for parish (#5b), and 'All' for register type (#5c). To the right, a list of 5 registers is shown, with 'Tinn / Atrå: 1815-1843, Parish register (official)' highlighted and an arrow labeled '#5d' pointing to it.

#6. Another new window will appear giving records for: Birth and baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Death and burial, Immigration, Emigration, Stillbirth, and List of reference. **Click #6** Birth and baptism records **1827-1828 (050)**. Then click the forward arrow at the top and go to **page 52**.

	Type of records	Year (Page)	Year (Page)	Year (Page)
Source information County: Telemark Parish name: Tinn Atrå Register:	Birth and baptism records	1814 (002)	1822 (026)	1828 (051)
		1815 (003)	1823 (030)	1828-1829 (055)
		1816 (005)	1824 (033)	1829 (056)
		1817 (009)	1824-1826 (039)	1830 (057)
		1817-1819 (014)	1825 (035)	1831 (066)
		1818 (011)	1825-1826 (041)	1832 (068)
		1818-1819 (016)	1825-1827 (043)	1833 (072)
		1818-1820 (017)	1826 (042)	1834 (078)
		1819-1820 (018)	1826-1827 (046)	1835 (081)
		1819-1821 (020)	1826-1828 (048)	1836 (085)
		1820 (019)	1827 (047)	1837 (088)
		1820-1821 (021)	1827-1828 (050) #6	1837-1838 (091)
		1821 (022)	1827-1829 (053)	1839 (---)