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# How to use a Bygdebok

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*Tony and Teri Hjelmstad*

*Norsky.net/GedHjelmstad*

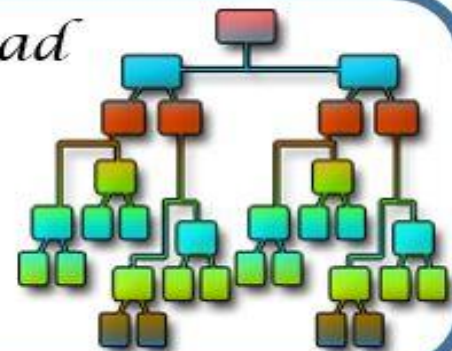
*Norsky.net/GedReed*

*GenealogyJottings.com*

*MusicalBelles.com*

*[teri@norsky.net](mailto:teri@norsky.net)*

*[tony@norsky.net](mailto:tony@norsky.net)*



# How to use a Bygdebok

## What is a Bygdebok?

- This talk should last about an hour.
- It's hard to show much online as there are not many online Bygdboks – and none of mine are.
- Please ask questions as we go – I'll either answer or defer if the subject comes up later.
- Have fun . . .



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# How to use a Bygdebok

## What is a Bygdebok?

- **Mostly Formal Organization – it contains**
  - One to several volumes
  - Covers a date range
  - History of the area
  - Information on churches (Kirke)
  - Biographies of the priests/pastors
  - Information on commerce & banking
  - Information on Schools
  - Chronological History of the farms (Gard og Ætt)
- Put together Much later – usually after 1900
- These are **SECONDARY** sources



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# How to use a Bygdebok

## What is a Bygdebok?

- **Bygdebok – or Bygdeboker – are compiled from Farm Books – gårdsbok**
  - Farm Books were kept by the main farm owners, and usually also contained all the sub-divided farm information – we'll talk on sub-divided farms in a moment.
  - Farm books showed – by date – people who owned, were landed tenants, were tenants, and who were workers who lived in cottages on the farm – and their families
  - For all families, they show where they came from, when they were born and often a death date, and where they went when they left.



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# How to use a Bygdebok

## What is a Bygdebok?

- **Bygdebok – or Bygdeboker – are compiled from Farm Books – gårdsbok**
  - **Bygdebok were compiled for profit – much like county or town histories in the United States**
  - **Bygdebok usually contain all the sub-divided farm information and a farm history.**
  - **Bygdebok show – by date – people who owned or were landed tenants. Some will show tenants, but few show workers who lived in cottages on the farm. Family members are usually shown.**
  - **Bygdebok often show birth and death dates for owners/tenants and sometimes for family members.**
  - **Bygdebok show where the owners came from and sometimes the same for tenants. They sometimes show where members of their families went. This is especially true if they went to another farm covered by the Bygdebok .**



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# How to use a Bygdebok

- Norway Political Organization – Church and State
- Church
  - **Bispedømme - Diocese**
    - **Prestegjeld – Parish**
      - **Sokn – sub-Parish**
        - **Menighet – congregation**
        - **Sokneprest – sub-Parish priest**



# How to use a Bygdebok

- **Norway Political Organization - Church and State**
- **State**
  - **Landsdeler - region**
    - **Amter (Amt) or Fylke – County**
      - **Kommune – municipality or township**
        - **Town**
        - **Farm – Gard – one to many bruks**
          - **Family Plot – Bruk - 5 to 15 acres**



# How to use a Bygdebok

- Organization of a “Farm”
- Major Farm – Haug
  - Gard - Farms – Nordre Haug, Sor-Haug, Haug nedre, Haug øvre
    - Bruk - Family Plot – Haugsveen, Haugum, Heggenhaugen
    - Family Plots could also be numbered
      - Haug Bruk #3
  - Neither Gards and Bruks did not have to have a derived name or could have no name – the Føllesdal farm has the Brukarer Plot and Bruk 2 Plot
- Most people used the major farm name as their farm name for records
- The common farm area containing cottages for the workers is usually named with the ieie extentsion – Haugieie, Haugie, Haugeie





# How to use a Bygdebok

## • Bygdebok Farm Organization

- Farms are generally listed by:
  - Major Farm – Name – these have a Gardsnummer
    - Most will have a single name – Haug, FossumHol Rør, Hove
    - Older ones will have “stad” after them - Hjelmstad, but not all – note Fremstad below
  - Farm - Gard
  - Family Plot - Bruk
  - Common areas listed after the place they are common to – Some Bygdeboks do not include the common area. Others list it immediately after the Major Farm
  - **They usually are not be alphabetized**
- **Haug listed first.**
- **Then Haugiei,**
- **Then Nordre Haug,**
- **then Haugsveen, Haugum, Frydenlund, Fremstad**
- **Then Sor-Haug**
- **then Sor-Haugie, Heggenhaugen, Bruk #3**



# How to use a Bygdebok

- **Bygdebok Record Reading**

- *93. Føllesdal*

- History here

- **Brukarer**

- **Br. Nr. 1**

- **Bruk number 1 history – note bruk name not related to any name with farm**

- **Br. Nr. 2**

- **Bruk number 2 history – note no bruk name**



# How to use a Bygdebok

- **Bygdebok - Farm History**

- **Example – Farm Origination:**

- Føllesdal er nemd for fyrste gong i 1602, er ventelig bureist frå Havsås før den tida. I 1608 er g. kalla Fylesdal, i jordbøkene Føllesdal. Bygdefolket kallar g. for Bergehola el. berre Hola.
- Føllesdal is mentioned the first time in 1602, and was probably separated out from Havsås farm before then. In 1608 the farm was called Fylesdal, but in the written records of ownership is was called Føllesdal. People in the bygd call it Bergehola or just Hola.



# How to use a Bygdebok

- **Bygdebok - Farm History**

- **Example – Farm General Info:**

- In 1626 the yearly fee for leasing the land was 1 laup (an old measurement). In 1838 it was 3 skylddalar, 1 ort 19 skilling (old currencies) and it is now 3.91 skyldmark (old currencies). In 1626 the register of land ownership says that it was "a small farm up in the valley." The farm was originally part of the land that was owned by the Apostel Church in Bergen and changed ownership down through the ages as did the other land that was originally owned by the Apostel Church. In 1726 the priest P. R. Finde purchased the farm from Sev. Svanenhjelm at an auction. In 1820 N. Leganger purchased it from the priest Cl. Finde. The farm was one bruk until 1608, and after that it was two equally large bruk. It appears that two brothers divided the farm between themselves in 1608. In the 17th and 18th centuries it was difficult for the farmers on this farm. They were impoverished and the farm frequently changed ownership. At times one of the bruk would lay abandoned, and at other times the same person would farm both of the bruk.



# How to use a Bygdebok

- **Bygdebok - Reading Farm History** Br. Nr. 2

- *Jon Bergeson*, br. 1608, jfr. br. nr. 1.  
*Anders*, br. 1633. Han var "arm".  
*Jacob*, f. 1622, br. 1646, gm. Marte nemnd i 1646. Versonen  
*Abel Samuelson*, f. 1650, bygsla 1672 både br. nr. 1 og 2 er det likt til. G. hadde då lege øyde ei tid.  
*Jacob Abelson*, f. 1684, bygsla 1/2 l. av fru C. Kås i 1704.  
*Eirik Andersson* gjekk frå br. av armod i 1746.  
*Anders Simenson* bygsla 1746.  
*Ola Hallsteinson* bygsla 1750.  
*Torgeir Arneson* bygsla 1761, d. 1764, gm. Synnøve Andersd. d. 89 å. g. 1819.  
*Steffen Pederson*, br. 1780, d. 80 å. g. 1825, gm. Magdeli (Magnhild) Olsd. d. 82 å. g. 1828.  
*Martinus Torgeirson* bygsla av Cl. Finde i 1803, gm. 1) Oline Steffensd. d. 48 å. g. 1831, 2) Ågåte Rasmusd. Hjl.  
*Daniel Olson Lid* bygsla 1832, d. 90 å. g. 1897, gm. 1) Johanne Knutsd. Myrold, 2) Malene Pedersd. d. 87 å. g. 1891. Versonen *Jon Jonson Hanebr.* sk. 1910, d. 80 å. g. 1923, gm. Eline Danielsd. d. 72 å. g. 1915.  
*Daniel Jonson Føllesdal*, lærar, sk. 1910, d. 54 å. g. 1923, gm. Berte Sørensen, d. 66 å. g. 1937.  
*Sonen Alv*, f. 1903, lærar i Remedalen, gm. Pernille Vassbotn.
- *Sonen Magne*, f. 1902, sk. 1930, lærar og klokkar i Sth. gm. Jofrid Kristiansd. Høyenes, f. 1910, jfr. Orheim br. nr. 8,
- selde til *Kristian Rise* f. 1882. Han kjøpte br. til son sin, men har sjølv vore br. frå 1940.  
*Iver Kristianson Rise* f. 1933, sk. 1940.



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# How to use a Bygdebok

- Now we get to How to USE a Bygdebok ! ! !
- I'm going to use one to locate some family.
  - I have Ingeborg Larsdatter who was born on the Roterud Farm, Ringsaker, Hedmarken, in 1825 and she married Thore Andersen in 1848 and the couple immigrated in 1885 and she died in the U.S. in 1900.
  - I have a Bygdebok for Ringsaker Hovedsogn – a portion of Ringsaker, that lists the Roterud farm.
  - I start scanning the entries looking for Ingeborg

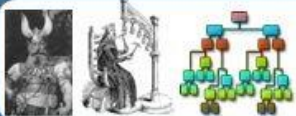


# How to use a Bygdebok

There she is, and there's Thore (Tore) of the Hvalstad (Walstad) farm – not in the Bygdebok – Darn!

This is a listing of the children of the “neste Bruker” – the next farmer - tenant or owner.

1. Jørgen f og d 1822 (2 mnd 25 dager).
2. Anders f 1823. Neste bruker.
3. Ingeborg f 1825 – d 1900, g 1848 m Tore Andersen f 1824 (Hvalstad). Tore livnærte seg som småbruker og lensmannsbetjent før ekteparet reiste til USA i 1885.
4. Erik f 1826 gm Oline Olsdtr Bogsti. De brukte Kolstadmoen før de i 1859 reiste til USA med to sønner. Se Kolstadmoen.
5. Helene f 1828 g 1854 m Kristian Johannesen f 1828. De brukte Berg lille før de reiste til USA i 1854.
6. Johanne f 1831.
7. Maria f og d 1833 (10 uker 1 dag).
8. Agnete f 1834, reiste til USA i 1860.
9. Lars f 1836, reiste til USA i 1859.
10. Johannes f 1839 – d 1859.
11. Mathias f 1841 – d 1843 (1 år 5 mnd).



# How to use a Bygdebok

Here's the parents and his parents. Lots of information shown here:

- Ingeborg's mother was Inger Andersdatter Skappel born 1790 and died 1864. ***“Lars got the deed from the father 1819. The purchase price was 200 spd advance for the parents. As a widow, Inger borrowed 600 spd from the Norwegian Information Service's fund in 1844 with 1st priority. A change of family was held in 1850”*** Note that Lars was born in 1791 and died in 1843 – right before Lars died.
- Right above Lars's entry we see Lars being Born to his parents. Note that the entry is in italics – which indicates you will find him below. It also list “Neste Bruker” for Lars – the next farmer - tenant or owner.

Erik Jørgensen nedre Vik f 1757 – d 1831 (74 år 5 mnd 9 dager), var neste eier av Roterud. Det er mulig at den forrige eieren ikke har greid å betjene gjel- da si til Jørgen Eriksen Wiig, slik at han har tatt over garden for gjelda. Erik skal ha kjøpt Roterud av Pe- der Larsen i 1780. G 1 1780 m Eli Haavelsdtr Enger

f 1756 – d 1783 (26 år). Skiftebrevet etter henne ble avsluttet 11. oktober 1784. Garden var da taksert til 800 rd. Erik g 2 1784 m Ingeborg Larsdtr Skjerpen f 1761 (datter av Lars Haavelsen Haugom og Mette Larsdtr nedre Skjerpen, Veldre) – d 1850 (90 år 5 mnd 12 dager) som forråds-kone på Roterud.

Barn i 1. ekteskap:

1. Jørgen f 1781- d 1785 (4 år 3 mnd 7 dager).

Barn i 2. ekteskap:

2. Lars f og d 1785 (9 uker 4 dager).

3. Jørgen f 1786, 15 år i 1801.

4. Eli f 1789 – d 1790 (8 mnd 7 dager).

5. Lars f 1791. Neste bruker.

6. Eli f 1794 – d 1866, g 1812 m Tore Knutsen Rør/ Stav. Se Rør og Stav.

Lars Eriksen Roterud f 1791 – d 1843 (51 1/3 år), fikk tgl skjøte fra faren i 1819. Kjøpesum var 200 spd + forråd til foreldrene. G 1821 m Inger Andersdtr Skappel f 1790 – d 1864 (63 ¾ år). Som enke lånte

Inger 600 spd i Oplysningsvesenets fond i 1844 med 1. prioritet. Det ble holdt skifte i familien i 1850.

Barn:

1. Jørgen f og d 1822 (2 mnd 25 dager).

2. Anders f 1823. Neste bruker.

3. Ingeborg f 1825 – d 1900, g 1848 m Tore Andersen f 1824 (Hvalstad). Tore livnærte seg som småbr- uker og lensmannsbetjent før ekteparet reiste til USA i 1885.



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# How to use a Bygdebok

Here's the parents and his parents. Lots of information shown here:

- The top highlight shows Lars' parents – Erik Jørgensen from Lower Vik (Viig) with first wife Eli Haavelsdatter Enger and second wife and Lars' mother Ingeborg Larsdatter from the Skjerpen farm – whose parents are Lars Haavelsen Haugom and Mette Larsdatter neder Skjerpen - Veldre.
- The Skjerpen farm is not in my Bygdeboks, but the Enger, Lower Vik, and Haugom farms are. Since Eli Haavelsdatter Enger is not my ancestor, I'll ignore Enger for now.
- Translation of Erik's entry: It is possible that the previous owner did not manage to service his debt to Jørgen Eriksen Wiig, so that he took over the farm for the debt. Erik is said to have bought Roterrud from Pedar Larsen in 1780. . . . the promissory note after her was completed 11 October 1784. Garden was then valued at 800 rd.

**Erik Jørgensen nedre Vik** f 1757 – d 1831 (74 år 5 mnd 9 dager), var neste eier av Roterud. Det er mulig at den forrige eieren ikke har greid å betjene gjel-  
da si til Jørgen Eriksen Wiig, slik at han har tatt over  
garden for gjelda. Erik skal ha kjøpt Roterud av Pe-  
der Larsen i 1780. G 1 1780 m **Eli Haavelsdtr Enger**

f 1756 – d 1783 (26 år). Skiftebrevet etter henne ble  
avsluttet 11. oktober 1784. Garden var da taksert til  
800 rd. Erik g 2 1784 m **Ingeborg Larsdtr Skjerpen**  
f 1761 (datter av Lars Haavelsen Haugom og Mette  
Larsdtr nedre Skjerpen, Veldre) – d 1850 (90 år 5  
mnd 12 dager) som forårdskone på Roterud.

Barn i 1. ekteskap:

1. Jørgen f 1781- d 1785 (4 år 3 mnd 7 dager).

Barn i 2. ekteskap:

2. Lars f og d 1785 (9 uker 4 dager).

3. Jørgen f 1786, 15 år i 1801.

4. Eli f 1789 – d 1790 (8 mnd 7 dager).

5. **Lars** f 1791. Neste bruker.

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Inger 600 spd i Oplysningsvesenets fond i 1844 med  
1. prioritet. Det ble holdt skifte i familien i 1850.

Barn:

1. Jørgen f og d 1822 (2 mnd 25 dager).

2. **Anders** f 1823. Neste bruker.

3. **Ingeborg** f 1825 – d 1900, g 1848 m **Tore Andersen**  
f 1824 (Hvalstad). Tore livnærte seg som småbr-  
ker og lensmannsbetjent før ekteparet reiste til  
USA i 1885.



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# How to use a Bygdebok

Following Erik Jørgensen of Vik in the Vik entry leads us to his parents and his father's parents and his grandmother's parents.

Note that I've used Google Translate to decipher some of the text. Most can be made out without that once you started reading some of these.

**Ifuer Wiig** var bruker 1682. Han var trolig far til neste brukers kone. I 1711 var Iver bruker med sin kvinne. De hadde 2 dotre. Til hjelp hadde de ei tjenestefente.

**Gjertrud Iversdtr** var gift med **Ole Torbjørnsen**. Skiftet etter Ole ble holdt i mai 1733. Brutto var boet på 241 rd, netto på 121 rd. Bare ett barn levde etter dem.

Barn:

1. **Christen f** ca 1717 (16 år ved skiftet etter faren). Neste bruker.

**Christen Olsen Nedre Vik f** ca 1717 har tatt over bygselen etter foreldrene. Han ble i 1738 troløvet med **Eli Olsdtr Løken**. Christen var den tida tambour ved kaptein Blichfeldts kompani. Han døde allerede i 1740 (22 år). Det var skifte etter ham i oktober 1740. Brutto var boet på 343 rd, netto 119 rd. Da var jord i Aas medregnet, 1 hud taksert for 220 rd (pant-satt). Eli g 2 1740 m **Jørgen Eriksen Kaas f** ca 1710. Han var enkemann da han døde på nedre Vik i 1783 (73 år).

Barn i Elis 1. ekteskap:

1. Ole f 1739, 1 ¼ år ved skiftet etter faren.
2. Mari f 1739, 1 ¼ år ved skiftet etter faren – d 1742 (3 år).
3. Kari f 1741, 6 uker ved skiftet etter faren – d 1741 (19 uker).

Barn i Elis 2. ekteskap:

4. Christen f 1742.

5. Ales f 1744.

6. Mari f 1746.

7. Erik f og d 1748 (8 mnd).

8. Ole f 1751 – 1754 (2 år 6 mnd).

9. Ole f 1754. Neste bruker.

10. Ingeborg f 1754 (tvilling med 9) – d 1755 (1 år 2 uker).

11. Erik f 1757 - d 1831, kjøpte Roterud i 1780. Se Roterud.



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How to use a Bygdebok

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# How to use a Bygdebok

So, to use a Bygdebok:

1. Find a record of your ancestor listing a birth or death date and a farm name in a Fylke and Parish
2. Find your Fylke and parish and look for Bygdeboks for it
3. If you find one, look for your farm name in it. Remember, there may be – not often – several bygdeboks published in the same area with different farm names in them.
4. Find the section on your farm and scan till you find entries for the date, and look for your person's name
5. If you find it, you can move both forward and backward by noting the names of the parents / children and where they came from or went.
6. Use Google Translate whenever you are not sure of what you are reading.



# How to use a Bygdebok

We'll look at some digitized Bygdeboks. Most digitalized Bygdeboks are in the Nasjonalbiblioteket or in the University of North Dakota Arne G. Brekke Bygdebok Collection – and most are not available.

Please note – DO NOT give up on seeing things in the Nasjonalbiblioteket! If the author has given permission, it will be there. So, you usually get:

[http://urn.nb.no/URN:NBN:no-nb\\_digibok\\_2015112508286](http://urn.nb.no/URN:NBN:no-nb_digibok_2015112508286)

But you can get:

<https://www.nb.no/nbsok/nb/e871d3efeb965372c7631ed8f7a4a81c?lang=no>

Some are in Google Books – some free and others need an account

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Nes\\_herred\\_i\\_Hallingdal.html?id=sxEoAQAAMAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Nes_herred_i_Hallingdal.html?id=sxEoAQAAMAAJ)

Hathi Trust has some - <https://www.hathitrust.org/>

[https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89009304064&view=1up&seq=9&sk\\_in=2021](https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89009304064&view=1up&seq=9&sk_in=2021)



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# How to use a Bygdebok

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[Nordic Family History Bygdeboker Farm Books](#)

<https://nordicfamilyhistory.com/bygdeboker-farm-books-2/>

[University of North Dakota Arne G. Brekke Bygdebok Collection](#)

<https://apps.library.und.edu/bygdebok/search>

[Rootsweb Bygdebøker](#)

<https://homepages.rootsweb.com/~norway/bygdebok.html>

Not all the links on these sites or the next page work anymore.



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# How to use a Bygdebok

## References

Bygdebøker Web Sites	<a href="http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~norway/bygdebok.html">http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~norway/bygdebok.html</a>
Digitalized bygdebøker – All Fylkes	<a href="http://www.genealogi.no/mediawiki/index.php/Liste_over_digitaliserte_bygdeb%C3%B8ker">http://www.genealogi.no/mediawiki/index.php/Liste over digitaliserte bygdeb%C3%B8ker</a>
Digitalized bygdebøker – Buskerud	<a href="http://www.genealogi.no/mediawiki/index.php/Liste_over_digitaliserte_bygdeb%C3%B8ker_%E2%80%93_Buskerud">http://www.genealogi.no/mediawiki/index.php/Liste over digitaliserte bygdeb%C3%B8ker %E2%80%93 Buskerud</a>
Digitalized bygdebøker – Nordland	<a href="http://www.genealogi.no/mediawiki/index.php/Liste_over_digitaliserte_bygdeb%C3%B8ker_%E2%80%93_Nordland">http://www.genealogi.no/mediawiki/index.php/Liste over digitaliserte bygdeb%C3%B8ker %E2%80%93 Nordland</a>
Digitalized bygdebøker – Hedmark	<a href="http://www.genealogi.no/mediawiki/index.php/Liste_over_digitaliserte_bygdeb%C3%B8ker_%E2%80%93_Hedmark">http://www.genealogi.no/mediawiki/index.php/Liste over digitaliserte bygdeb%C3%B8ker %E2%80%93 Hedmark</a>
Hedmark Bygdebøker	<a href="http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~norway/hedmarkbb.html">http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~norway/hedmarkbb.html</a>
Ål bygdebok - alfabetisk liste	<a href="http://www.norwayancestry.com/aal_bbk_alf1.html">http://www.norwayancestry.com/aal_bbk_alf1.html</a>
Nye Ål bygdebok	<a href="http://www.aal-bygdebok.no/">http://www.aal-bygdebok.no/</a>
Voss Bygdeboknemnd" 1933-1938	<a href="http://www.ullstad.com/index.htm?/vossaboki/vossaboki.htm">http://www.ullstad.com/index.htm?/vossaboki/vossaboki.htm</a>



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NORWAY**

# How to use a Bygdebok 2November2024

Bentsen and Reed  
Ancestral Lines



**Genealogy Jottings**  
The Happiness of Pursuit



Walzs from Mahanomen  
Hjelmstads from Milton



## Tony and Teri Hjelmstad

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[MusicalBelles.com](http://MusicalBelles.com)  
[teri@norsky.net](mailto:teri@norsky.net)  
[tony@norsky.net](mailto:tony@norsky.net)