



Slektforskingklubb

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**SONS of
NORWAY**

Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant 4 November 2023

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Tony and Teri Hjelmstad

Norsky.net/GedHjelmstad

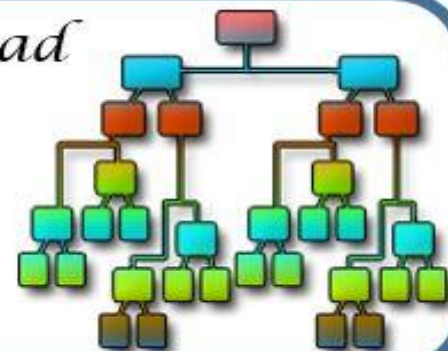
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GenealogyJottings.com

MusicalBelles.com

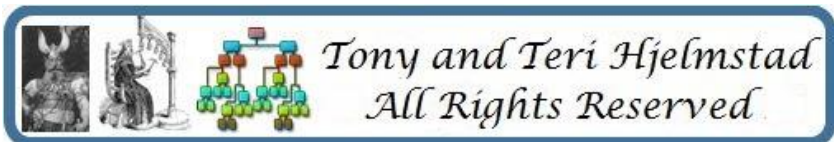
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Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

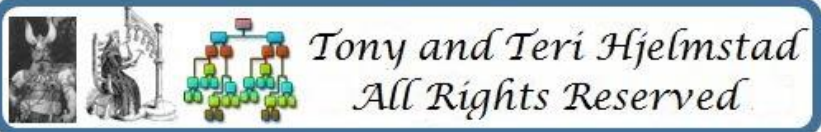
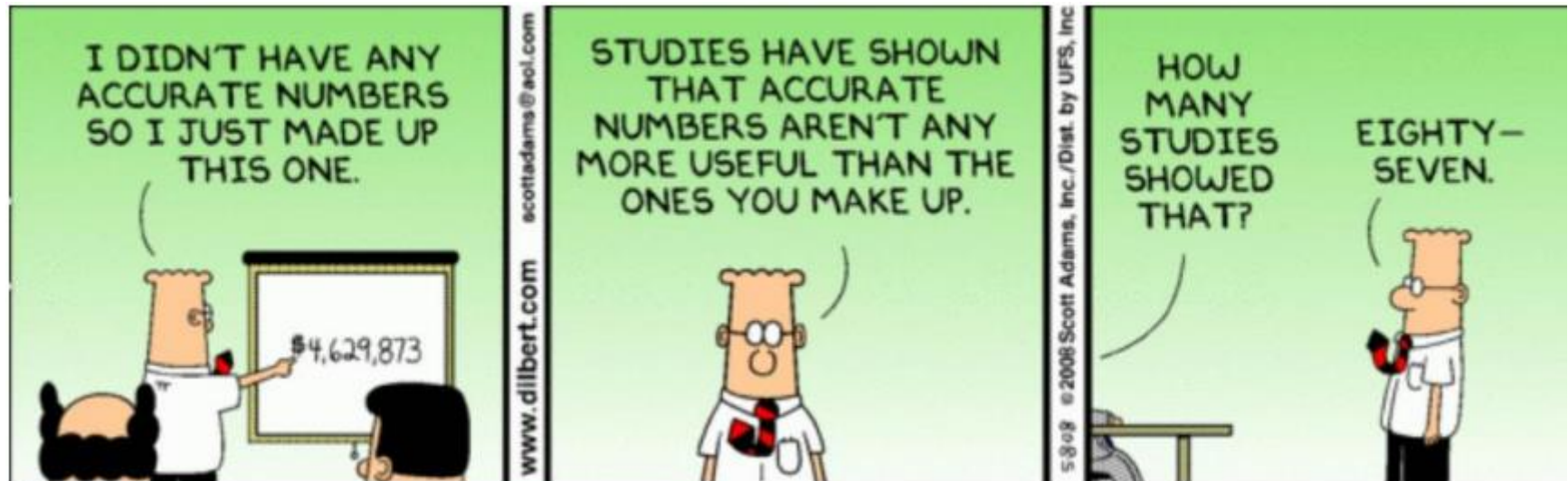
- This is a lecture
 - We'll do some demonstrations if we have time
 - We'll be discussing the process – there's a lot of information on the overview but not specific how to do.
- This is designed to take about an hour
 - Questions about each step will be taken and answered
 - Questions about your people will be handled after as time permits



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- We've been talking about tracing your line back to your immigrant. Now you should have him.
- If so, you have one to several names he went by.
- If you are going to find your Immigrant – you must have
 - a good name or names he might have used while immigrating
 - a reasonably good idea of the year he came
 - Who came with him

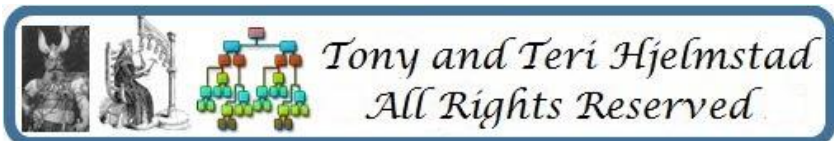
Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- There are two issues with starting research in Norway:
 1. Finding the name they were using there
 2. Getting the right location where you ancestors were from
- Most immigrants prior to 1882 used the patronymic names. Starting in 1882, some started using a surname. Between 1882 and 1910 or so, many mixed patronymic and surnames could be on their records.
- Many Fylkes have farms with the same names. Some parish names are duplicated in some of the Fylkes. Many times, an immigrant did not give anymore than “Norway” as where they were from. Other times, they gave the last place they lived in Norway – which could be the port or last place they worked to earn money for transport.



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- Note that the farm name is not important – yet. Unless your relative adopted it as a surname.
- Hopefully, you also have
 - a naturalization
 - a homestead application
 - One or more censuses
- Since you now have one or more names . . .



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- Surnames

- In Norway prior to the 1860s families did not use fixed surnames. They used a patronymic pattern in which children were named after their father.
- Norwegians only gradually adopted fixed surnames starting in the mid-1800s until they were required in 1923.
- The farm names or the current patronymic were the most common adopted surnames, but ancestral patronymics and farms were also used.



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- Immigrants coming after 1867 were often told they needed a surname by the booking agent.
- They often were standing in an office with a queue and had to think fast. Surnames were often picked at the spur of the moment and were either the farm name or patronymic of their father or grandfather.

Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- Patronymics

- The patronymic pattern - children were named after their father. For example, John Andersen = John, the son of Anders or Mari Andersdatter = Mari, the daughter of Anders. Anders himself would be named Anders Olafsen = Anders, the son of Olaf.
- The full family unit could include Anders Olafsen (father), Mette Evensdatter (mother), John Andersen (son) and Mari Andersdatter (daughter).



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- Patronymics
 - The wife - Mette Evensdatter - would not have a name corresponding to her husband.
 - Don't be confused if a female has the male “-sen” name ending - it means the same thing and is more common in recent translations or reference works and documents after 1875.
 - Common source for First Names:
 - Anyone famous or well-respected
 - First son: named after paternal grandfather
 - First daughter: named after paternal grandmother
 - Second son: named after maternal grandfather
 - Second daughter: named after maternal grandmother
 - If a child died young, the name would be re-used



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- The use of Farm Names
 - Patronymics get confusing when you encounter names as common as Ole Olsen or Nils Hansen, so they often used their farm names to clarify their identity when conducting official business or traveling.
 - In many records, they would append the farm name to the patronymic name to be more precise, for example “Anders Olafsen Sandness” (or “Anders Olafsen på (from) Sandness” if Anders merely worked at Sandness). “På” was often dropped.
 - Usually, if a farm name is included, it is the farm **at which they resided when the record was made.**
 - The use of farm names is very helpful to keep in mind when looking at old records, since Norway only gradually adopted fixed surnames from the mid-1800s until they were required in 1923.



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- After arriving in the U.S., they would find that this surname was too common or too hard to use or just not the best one and pick a different name.
- Some immigrants and even their children often thought they could pick a different surname from their parent – and did.
- This is why it was common to find U.S. records of the same person with several Surnames.



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- The patronymic name of my immigrant was Hans Jorgensen. He used Jorgensen and Hjelmstad as surnames.
- His son Anton used Hansen, Jorgensen, and Hjelmstad as surnames.
- His mother was living on the Hjelmstadeie farm at the time of his birth. His father and grandfather had also lived on the Hjelmstadeie farm.
- I have found these surnames on various homestead records, both naturalizations, and on various census records.



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- Since his father Hans was the main immigrant – Anton was only 2 at the time – it's his Naturalization that gives me the arrival port and date.
- Newer Naturalization Applications will give the ship also. Older ones may not have any information.
- Some censuses will give the year immigrated, naturalized, or how long in the U.S.



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

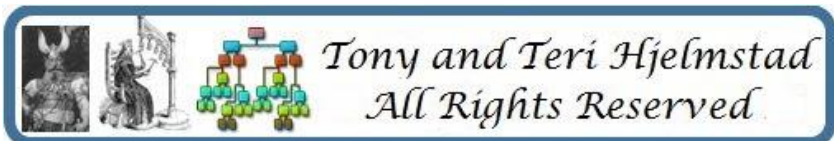
- Next steps:
 - Try Passenger Records
 - Major ports from Norway are Boston, Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Seattle, Vancouver, Quebec, and Montreal – See References
 - Try U.S. Immigration Records
 - New York - Castle Garden – 1855-1890, Ellis Island after
 - St Albans – 1895 on, Atlantic and Pacific Canadian passenger arrival to the U.S.
 - Then try the DigitalArkivet Emigration Records
 - Try departure ports that you relatives might have used:
Bergen 1874-1930, Larvik 1887-1930, Sandefjord 1904-1921,
Fredrikstad 1883 – 1890, Arendal 1903 – 1930, Kristiansund 1882 – 1930
Stavanger 1903 – 1928, Kristiansand 1873 – 1930, Trondheim 1867 - 1930
Kristiania 1867 - 1927 (additions), Oslo 1867 - 1930
Kristiania 1871 - 1930 (edited version), Tinn 1837 - 1907



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- Passenger Records

- Norwegian passenger lists (up to 1873) can be found at www.norwayheritage.com.
- The Immigrant Ships Transcribers' Guild has transcribed more than 61,000 passenger lists. www.immigrantships.net.
- The UK has 164,000 original passenger lists of 24 million passengers from 35 UK ports, which also included Ireland up to 1921, from 1890 to 1960 on www.findmypast.co.uk. The database is searchable by name, port, ship, and date.



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- Passenger Records
 - New York Passenger Lists 1820-1891 are published by the National Archives in the US on www.archives.gov. The website for the lists up to 1891 is www.castlegarden.org, while the lists 1892-1924, when Ellis Island was the arrival location, can be found at www.ellisisland.org and www.nps.gov/elis/learn/education/finding-arrival-records-online.htm.
 - Bremen has 3,017 passenger lists from 1920-1939 at www.passengerlists.de.
 - Ancestry and Family Search have passenger lists – See References



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- Immigration Records

- [New York Passenger Lists \(Castle Garden\) 1820–1891](#)

- <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1849782?collectionNameFilter=false&cid=bl-fsup-8025>

- [New York Passenger Arrival Lists \(Ellis Island\) 1892–1924](#)

- <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1368704?collectionNameFilter=false&cid=bl-fsup-8026>

- [St Albans - United States Border Crossings from Canada to United States, 1895-1956 • FamilySearch](#)

- <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1803785>

- [St Albans - Vermont, Canadian Border Crossings, 1895-1954 • FamilySearch](#)

- <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2185163>



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- DigitalArkivet Emigration records
 - Hopefully you've found an immigration and a passenger record. If you haven't, you still need to jump to Norway – but the process is much longer and requires a lot more diligence.
 - Now you need to look in the DigitalArkivet for Emigration records.

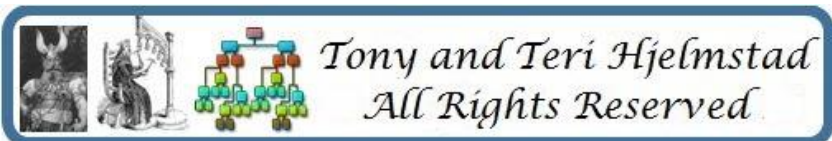
Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- DigitalArkivet Emigration records – No records
 - Early Emigration (1600-1700)
 - From early times Norwegians have traveled the seas and have been known for their expertise as sailors. The emigrants who left Norway before 1825, generally traveled to other countries and ports in Europe and left from there.
 - 1600s: the Dutch were known as the leaders of all oceans and occupied around one third of the world's ships which at that time included about 15,000 ships. The Dutch would travel to Norway to obtain timber and building materials. There was a saying in the 1600s "Amsterdam is on Norway". In 1622 the population of Amsterdam was 100,000, and in 1662 the population was 200,000.
 - Norwegians traveled to Holland (some settled there), people from Holland traveled to Norway (many settled there), and several Norwegians immigrated to America with the Dutch. History states that Norwegians serving in the Dutch Marine were the Netherland's best sailors.
 - 1624: Norwegians traveled with the Dutch to New Amsterdam (New York). In 1624 there was a colony of Norwegian immigrants in New Jersey, at the site of the present city of Bergen.
 - 1633: In 1633 in the early days of the New Netherland's colony, Norwegians came over in Dutch ships and settled in the Dutch colony. In 1700 there were a number of families of Norwegian and Danish descent living in New York. In 1740, Norwegian Moravians took part in founding a colony at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.
 - 1747: one colony was settled at Bethabara, North Carolina.



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- DigitalArkivet Emigration records – No records
 - Sloopers: The undersized sloop “Restauration” sailed from Stavanger, Norway on July 4th, 1825. Onboard were 52 persons from the religious community of Quakers, Haugeans (followers of Hans Nielsen Hauge, who had been assassinated). This group of dissenter families left Stavanger after a particularly fierce religious strife with the Norwegian State Church.
 - The Sloopers and other early emigrants wrote to relatives and friends in Norway about their conditions in the new land, but it was the writing of Ole Rynning (1809-1838) who emigrated on the ship “Ægir” who energized Norwegian immigration. Every spring sailing ships left from ports all over Norway. During the sailing ship period the emigrants, most of the time, had to provide themselves with food and commodities.



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- DigitalArkivet Emigration – records
 - 1836-1867: An estimated 200,000 emigrants left Norway during this period. The emigration movement took root all over the country. Groups of emigrants came from every county and most communities. Every spring, ships left from ports all over Norway. In this early period the emigrants sailed to their various destinations, supplying themselves with food and commodities for a trip that could last as long as three months. Ninety-five percent of these went to the United States. Records – if they exist – are in the Parish records
 - 1867-1920: During this period, 700,000 people left Norway on steamships. Most emigrants sailed to Hull, England; then traveled by train to Liverpool, England. From there they sailed to the United States and Canada. Records – DigitalArkivet may have these in the Emigration Section. Parish emigration records slowly become less useful to non-existent by the 1890s.



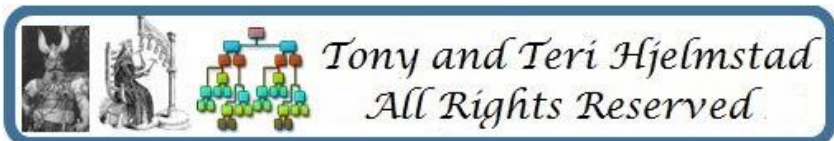
Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- DigitalArkivet Emigration – records
 - Emigration register or Index to emigration register
 - After May 22nd, 1869, shipping agents had to sign a written contract with the emigrants. The contract was to specifically state everything included in the ticket. Before the contract was valid, it had to be shown before the police commissioner, and it was then signed by both the agent and the police commissioner.
 - Some jurisdictions only have an index. Others only have scans – not searchable. You may have to use both.



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- DigitalArkivet Emigration – records
 - List of emigrants
 - Only Includes an index of Emigrants from Tinn 1837-1907
 - Passport register
 - Generally, only business people who were planning to come back to Norway applied for passports
 - List of ship passengers
 - Not very useful, but another index. Only gives person and class of sailing. In some cases, only the ship name.
 - White Star list are not indexed – browse only



Tracing your Immigrant to Emigrant

- DigitalArkivet Emigration – records
 - List of ship passengers
 - Passenger list for Drammen-Hawaii with "Beta" 1880
 - Passenger list for Drammen-Hawaii with "Musca" 1880
 - Ships' lists for Bergen-Quebec (Canada) 1865-1873
 - Ships' lists for Bergen-New York 1871-1873
 - White Star Line (Kristiania office), Passenger records, no 2: Passenger records, Southampton - New York, 1924-1927
 - White Star Line (Kristiania office), Passenger records, no 3: Passenger records, Liverpool - Canada, 1924-1938, and Southampton - Canada, 1924-1938
 - White Star Line (Kristiania office), Passenger records, no 4: Passenger records, Southampton - New York, 1928-1938
 - White Star Line (Kristiania office), Passenger records, no 1: Passenger records, Liverpool - Boston - Philadelphia, 1925-1930, Liverpool - New York, 1924-1937, and "Various bookings", 1925-1936



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• References – Available Passenger Lists on Ancestry and/or Family Search

- U.S. Passenger Lists From 1820, (FHL book 973 W33u) found in the U.S. and Canada reference areas for help in searching the index and records.
- Minnesota Passenger and Crew Lists, 1912-1956
- Minnesota, Baudette, Warroad, and International Falls Passenger Lists, 1910-1923
- United States Border Crossings from Canada to United States, 1895-1956
- United States Border Crossings from Mexico to United States, 1903-1957
- North Dakota Manifests of Immigrant Arrivals, 1910-1952
- California Immigration Registers of Japanese, Filipinos, and Hawaiians at San Francisco, 1928-1942
- California, Airplane Passenger Lists from Honolulu, Hawaii, 1947-1948
- California, Los Angeles Passenger Lists, 1907-1948
- California, San Diego Passenger Lists, 1904-1952
- California, San Diego, Airplane Passenger and Crew Lists, 1929-1954
- California, San Diego, Chinese Passenger and Crew Lists, 1905-1923
- California, San Francisco Airplane Arrival Card Index, 1936-1949
- California, San Francisco Passenger Lists, 1893-1953
- California, San Francisco Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving, 1954-1957
- California, San Francisco, Immigration Office Special Inquiry Records, 1910-1941
- California, San Francisco, Register of Chinese Immigrant Court Cases and Foreign Seamen Tax Cards, 1883-1924



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- **References – Available Passenger Lists on Ancestry and/or Family Search**

- Texas and Arizona Arrivals, 1903-1910
- Texas, Brownsville Passenger and Crew List of Airplanes, 1943-1964
- Texas, El Paso Alien Arrivals, 1909-1924
- Texas, El Paso Alien Arrivals, 1924-1952
- Texas, El Paso Manifests of Arrivals at the Port of El Paso, 1905-1927
- Texas, Indexes and Manifests of Arrivals at the Port of Del Rio, 1906-1953
- Texas, Laredo Arrival Manifests, 1903-1955
- Texas, Laredo Index of Arrivals, 1903-1929
- Texas, Manifests of Aliens Granted Temporary Admission at El Paso, ca. July 1924-1954
- Florida, Key West Passenger Lists, 1898-1945
- Florida, Knights Keys Passenger Lists, 1908-1912
- Florida, Port Everglades Passenger Lists, 1932-1951
- Florida, Tampa, Passenger Lists, 1898-1945
- South Carolina, Georgetown, Passenger Lists, 1904-1942



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• References – Available Passenger Lists on Ancestry and/or Family Search

- New York, Northern Arrival Manifests, 1902-1956
- New York, Ogdensburg Passenger and Crew Lists, 1948-1972
- Ohio, Passenger and Crew Lists arriving at Ashtabula and Conneaut, 1952-1974
- Michigan, Detroit Manifests of Arrivals at the Port of Detroit, 1906-1954
- Duluth MN
- Minnesota, Duluth and Wisconsin, Superior Passenger and Crew Lists, 1922-1958
- Wisconsin, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1922-1963, includes Duluth
- Michigan Passenger and Crew Lists, 1903-1965
- Michigan, Detroit Manifests of Arrivals at the Port of Detroit, 1906-1954
- Seattle WA
- Washington, Seattle, Passenger Lists, 1890-1957
- Washington, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882-1965 - Search - Ancestry
- Quebec
- Immigrants at Grosse Île Quarantine Station, 1832-1937
- NFHS Passenger Lists Indexing Project



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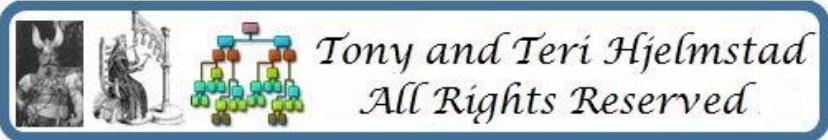
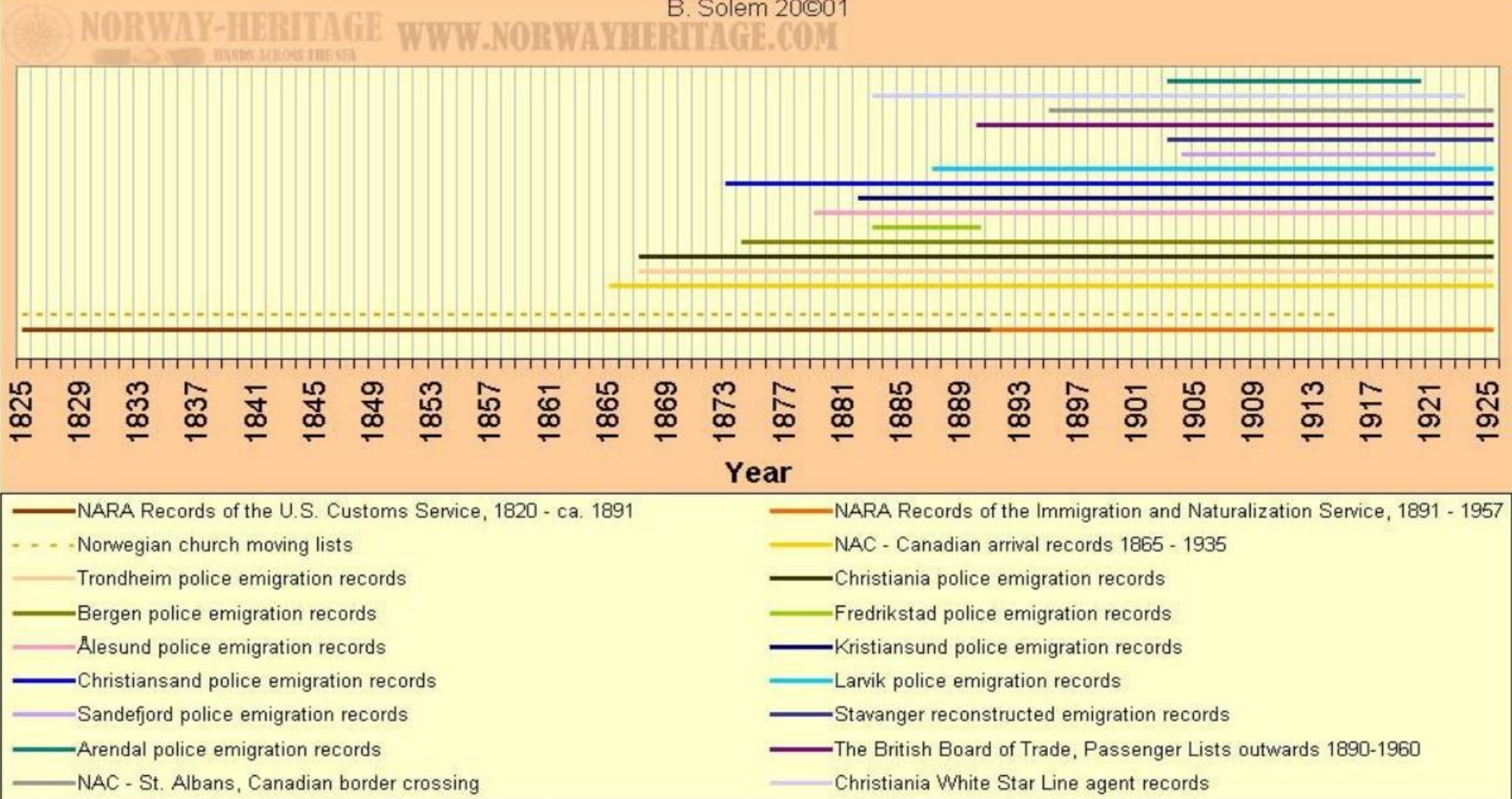
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- References – a Timeline of Norwegian Emigration Records

Time line - Records to Norwegian emigrants

B. Solem 2001





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 Bentsen and Reed
Ancestral Lines



Genealogy Jottings
The Happiness of Pursuit



Walzs from Mahanomen
Hjelmstads from Milton




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