



## Finland: Lesson 1

### An Introduction to Finnish Church Records Online Resources

Rachel Creswell

#### Hiski

Hiski is a database of church record extracts created by the Genealogical Society of Finland for online search. Not all parishes are in the Hiski database.

Christening, marriage, and burial records are found in this database. In addition, some moving records can be found in Hiski.

#### How to Access Hiski

1. Go to <http://hiski.genealogia.fi/historia/indexe.htm>
2. To search the church records, select "Search program for history books."
3. On this page, scroll down to the parish you want to search. Note: To search the entire country, select "All" below the list of parishes.
4. The specific parish page lists the available records. Choose the record to be searched and a search box will appear.

Note: The Hiski website has a helpful "instructions and examples" tab on the same page where "Search program for history books" is found.

#### MyHeritage

Finland Church Census and Pre-Confirmation Books covering the years 1657-1915, have recently been added to MyHeritage. This collection is provided in partnership with the National Archives Service of Finland (Arkistolaitos).

MyHeritage provides images of the church census (rippikirjat) and pre-confirmation (lastenkirjat) records as well as indexed information.

#### How to Access MyHeritage

1. Go to [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com)
2. Go to Research Tab, select "Census and Voter Lists."
3. Then go to Nordic Census and click on "Finland Church Census and Pre-Confirmation Books."

#### FamilySearch

FamilySearch has "Finland Indexed Historical Records for Finland." FamilySearch also includes "Finland Image only Historical Records." These are found after selecting the "Search" tab and then choosing "Records."

## SSHY

Suomen Sukuhistoriallinen Yhdistys ry (SSHY) is Finland's Family History Association (FFHA). This Association has been creating an online source of archived genealogical records.

Household schedules (rippikirjat), birth (syntyneet), marriage (vihityt), death (kuolleet), are found on SSHY, along with other records.

The SSHY website provides free access to most of the records it has archived. However, more records (such as 100 to 125 year-old church records, court and military records and provincial accounts) are available with a subscription. The subscription cost is about \$20 a year.

### How to Access SSHY

1. Go to: <http://www.sukuhistoria.fi>
2. If the website opens in Finnish or Swedish, at the top of the left-hand column, select the British flag to change the site to English.
3. In the left-hand column, under Archives, select "Church Records."
4. At the top of the alphabetical list of parish registers, select the letter of the alphabet for the name of the parish you want to search.
5. A list of available parishes is shown. Select your parish.
6. You will now see the records available for your selected parish.
7. The screen images differ in appearance according to the record chosen. However, two things are consistent with each screen image:
  - The first column heading is "Kuva" (photo). This is the image number. SSHY uses the kuva number to catalog the images of the church records.
  - The second column heading is "Kirjan sivu" (book page). This number is the manuscript page in the church book.

### *Digihakemisto*

Digihakemisto is an index of church records and other documents found in the National Archives of Finland and is a project supported by volunteers. The digihakemisto site may be easier to use than the National Archives of Finland site.

Household schedules (rippikirjat), birth (syntyneet), marriage (vihityt), and death (kuolleet) are found on this site, along with other types of records.

### How to Access Digihakemisto

1. Go to <http://www.digihakemisto.appspot.com>
2. Choose "English" in the top right corner if preferred.
3. Along the top select the first letter of the name of the parish desired.
4. Select from the drop down list the desired parish.
5. When the parish is chosen, various types of records available for search will be listed in bold blue.

6. Once the type of record is chosen, a list will show the years the records are available to search.

### *National Archives of Finland*

The National Archives of Finland is archiving official records of Finland. This website is free. Many types of records are found on this site, including household records, birth, marriage, and death records.

### How to Access the National Archives of Finland

1. Go to [www.arkisto.fi](http://www.arkisto.fi)
2. If the website opens in Finnish or Swedish, in the top-right corner, select the British flag to change the site to English.
3. Along the top tabs select "Records."
4. Then select "Digital Archives."
5. Next select the "Search" tab on the top of the page.
6. Under "Search Pictures" select "tree view."
7. The parishes appear in alphabetical order with the above choice.
8. Select the seurakunnan arkisto.
9. When a parish archive is chosen you will see several types of records. When you select a record you will see the years that are available to search.