Introduction to Genealogy Research in Denmark

By

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Introduction

It is a well-known fact that there has been a constant emigration from Denmark to the rest of the world, beginning in the mid 1800’s and culminating around 1890-1900.

All the settlers in the new world brought memories and pictures and scraps of information about their former life and family with them, but these bits and pieces have to be verified, if you want to use them for genealogical purposes.

Very often fanciful stories were made up to explain circumstances or make the dreary story of your life more interesting, but you have to verify these stories, before you add them to the story of your heritage.

One of the really difficult parts is that these immigrants very often anglicized their names, so John Johnson would most likely be Jens Jensen in Denmark.

And it is not enough to say that you are looking for a Petersen, born abt. 1860 in Copenhagen – that would be like looking for a needle in a haystack, or even worse.

On one count you are extremely lucky: All data is freely obtainable at the Danish websites!

This booklet will guide you through the different obstacles and hopefully help you discover much more about your Danish ancestors.

Searching for Ancestors

The first brick wall to break through is to find one correct Danish record. This requires

a) a correctly (or semi-correctly) spelled name
b) the name of a hometown or -parish
c) date of birth (approximate)

plus, possibly

d) name of spouse
e) name and age of children
f) name of parents
g) name of siblings
h) any other information pertaining to the person in question and his or her family

The first three (a, b, and c) make it possible to identify one or several relevant persons, while the last five are necessary in order to verify, which of the possible candidates is the correct one.
Available Danish Sources

All sources in Denmark are available free of charge. For many years a whole army of volunteers have been transcribing\(^1\) or indexing\(^2\) the Danish records, starting with the censuses, then continuing with parish registers (also known as church books or Kirkebøger), death certificates, specific registrations of inhabitants in Copenhagen, etc. Their work has only been made possible because the Danish National Archives have produced microfilms and scans of all these documents, and today volunteers are working hard to scan even more documents, at the moment producing more than 1 million scans every year.

And we still have lots of volunteers transcribing and indexing all the scanned records.

Censuses

The censuses were made in each parish in February (until 1921) or in November (1925, 1930, 1940). Up until the mid 1800’s the school teacher or the parish executive officer carried out this job.

There are transcribed, searchable Danish censuses from the following years:

1787, 1801, 1834, 1840. These contain the following data,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of village or house</th>
<th>No. of household</th>
<th>Each person’s name in every farm, house and family</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Married, unmarried widow(er)</th>
<th>Each person’s title, trade, occupation, position in the family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

and from 1845, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1901, containing the same data as above PLUS place of birth and faith. From 1850 you can also see, if a person was divorced.

1906 contains the above PLUS date of birth. It is being transcribed in Denmark at the moment.

1911, 1916, 1921, 1925, and 1930: The contents are identical to 1906, except 1916 where place of birth is omitted. In the 1930 census you also get information on the year of marriage and number of children.

1940: Contents identical to 1930, but including date of marriage.

Parish Registers

The first parish registers were started in the 16\(^{th}\) century, but more commonly you will find them from abt. 1650, when the vicars were obliged under law to keep registers of the religious ceremonies that were carried out.

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\(^1\) Every bit of information in each registration is transcribed and thereby made searchable.

\(^2\) The name and date pertaining to the ceremony of the principal character is registered and made searchable.
The registers were local books, written by the vicar in each individual parish, so you need to acquaint yourself with Denmark’s administrative structure. You will find a map here:

https://www.slaegt.dk/kilder/genveje-til-hjælper sider/amtskort2/amtskort/. Denmark is divided into counties (amter), and each county consists of several districts/hundreds (herreder), which again consist of multiple parishes (sogne).

When you click on a county, a new map opens, showing just this county with its districts/hundreds and parishes.

The Old Parish Registers

The old parish registers contain information on all religious ceremonies, i.e. baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and burials. In these registers you will therefore, as a rule-of-thumb, not find the exact date of birth or death, as these were not religiously important. Furthermore, in these old registers you will find information on “churching” (the re-introduction of a woman to the congregation for the first time after giving birth, normally 6 weeks after the childbirth), on “absolution” (forgiving unwed mothers their sin, and the man for having impregnated her, in Danish called “stå åbenbar skrifte” = public confession).

The design of the parish registers in the period up until 1812 varies from parish to parish.

The vicar could choose to register everything chronologically, or within each year note the different ceremonies in separate columns, or they would try to split up the register and enter each type of ceremony consecutively. If you look at the first pages of the parish register you will often find an index telling you how the specific book is kept.

In these parish registers the vicars rarely used normal dates for the various ceremonies. Instead they referred to the church year calendar, so you have to become familiar with terms like Quasimodogenity or Trinity Sunday. This website will help you transform the ecclesiastical holidays into normal dates: https://youronlineroots.com/helligdager.php. Just enter the calendar year and find the correct Latin name. (The website mentions that it is the Julian calendar used in Norway, but the dates are the same in Denmark.)
In the oldest parish registers, up until about 1750, you will find that women are almost non-existent, she is just “her husband’s wife”. When registering a birth, it says “Easter Sunday farmer Hans Pedersen’s child, Peder, baptized”; no mention of the mother’s name. When she is buried, it says “Trinity Sunday farmer Hans Pedersen’s wife buried, 36 years old”. The only time her name is registered, is at the marriage.

The registers are written in old Gothic handwriting and therefore not easy to decipher. But do not despair. Help is at hand here: https://forum.slaegt.dk/index.php/board,4.0.html. You have to register in order to use the Forum, but it is free. And there is a short introduction here: https://forum.slaegt.dk/index.php/topic,169.0.html.

If you are lucky and there is an index, please note that the page numbers stated are not actually “page numbers”, but folio numbers. One folio covers two pages, i.e. folio 2 (a and b) are pages 3 and 4. The folio number (if legible) is found in the upper right corner of the right-hand-side page.

Daab = Births
Vielse = Marriages
Trolovelse og Vielse = Betrothals and marriages
Begravelser = Burials
Series pastorum = List of vicars

The vicar only kept one parish register, so if there was a fire in the vicarage the register was lost. Or perhaps it was kept in a damp space or was half eaten by mice and rats. Therefore, you will find that not all parish registers are available.

The Newer Parish Registers

After 1812 the parish registers were standardized, and they were kept in duplicate, never to be kept under the same roof, so after this date all parish registers are preserved. The books are publicly available up until abt. 1960 on various websites (see below).

In the parish registers after 1812 you will find information on the religious ceremonies: baptisms (male/female), confirmations (male/female), marriages, and burials (male/female) in this order. Furthermore – for a limited period – arrivals (tilgang) and departures (afgang) to and from the parish. The latter contain information on the persons arriving or departing (name, age, where they came from, who they are going to serve). The information on arrivals and departures primarily pertains to servants and farmhands and their families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Birth year &amp; date</th>
<th>Place of birth</th>
<th>Full name of the child</th>
<th>Parents’ full names, occupation and residence, age of mother</th>
<th>Date of baptism</th>
<th>Vicar’s name place of baptism</th>
<th>Full name, occupation and address of witnesses</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Danish Genealogical Society, www.slaegt.dk, mailto: slaegt@slaegt.dk
Births

Births are normally registered chronologically, but often you will find that children born for instance at a hospital in one of the larger cities is registered “out of order” in the parish where the parents live. These children are registered in their home parish with a No. “0”, because the child is only counted in the parish where it is born, i.e. the hospital’s parish.

Take care to note the names of the witnesses. These are very often closely related to the parents, e.g. sister or brother, uncle or aunt, or perhaps grandparents, or even an older sister or brother!

Children born out of wedlock are registered as “uægte” (illegitimate). See section later “Unwed mothers”.

Sometimes there appear to be two dates for date of baptism, because especially in the first half of the 19th century, children were often baptized at home shortly after their birth, and then at a later time presented to the congregation in the church where their baptism was confirmed. This practice was due to the high mortality rate among young children. The parents wanted the child to go to heaven, should it die suddenly, and this required having been baptized.

Confirmations

One of the results of the Reformation in 1736 was the initiation of confirmations.

In the beginning the children could be any age up to 18 years old, but the normal age would be 14-15 years. A few were only 13, but that required special permission from the bishop.

All children were confirmed, because this was a prerequisite in order to get a servant’s conduct book (skudsmålsbog), which you had to bring with you to all of your future employers.

The information concerning the smallpox vaccination can be used as a very good indication of whether you have got the right person in a family relationship, because this piece of information is also noted at the marriage registration, so you can do a cross check.

Marriages (Copulerede)

In the more recent parish registers, you will also see the dates for the banns.
Very often you can see from the status indication for both bride and groom, whether they have been married before. If it says “Ungkarl” (bachelor) and “Pige” (maiden/girl), they were single. If it says “Enkemand” and “Enke” (widow(er)), then you should look for the deceased husband/wife, who has probably died within the last year (considering the normal 6 month’s mourning period).

Marriage almost always took place in the parish, where the girl was born, so that gives you a good chance to find her birth in the records, and her family in the censuses of the same parish.

The residence of the groom is not necessarily the place where he was born, but just where he is residing at the time of the marriage.

If you don’t know when the parents were married, look at the age of the oldest child (remember the +/- 2 years) and start working your way backwards from that point in time. And remember that the first child is sometimes born just one day after the wedding.

**Burials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date of death</th>
<th>Date of burial</th>
<th>Full name of the deceased</th>
<th>Civil status, occupation, age, residence, place of birth, father’s or if illegitimate mother’s name</th>
<th>Notes – could be cause of death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Burial registrations sometimes contain a wealth of information, i.e. occupation, name of spouse, latest residence, date and place of birth, name of parents and perhaps even cause of death.

However, the deaths are always the most difficult ones to find. Did she die at 35 or at 95?

Try to follow the family in the censuses and note when either husband or wife is suddenly noted as widow(er). If husband and wife suddenly both disappear from the parish, it is not certain that they have died. Take a look at their children in the censuses. Maybe either one or both parents are now living with a grown child’s family as pensioners (aftægtsmand/aftægtskone).

**Arrivals and Departures**

This information was registered starting abt. 1814-1830 and ending 1854 (towns) or 1873 (rural areas). However, you will find that the lists were not always kept by the vicar despite his obligation to do so, or some people may seem to have been left out.

If they are there, the lists can give you valuable information as to the whereabouts of unmarried persons in particular, who went from one employer to the next at “skiftedag” (the day on which servants/hired hands used to change jobs, i.e. 1st May and 1st November).

**Unwed Mothers and Illegitimate Children**

At the birth of an illegitimate child in the period 1812-1870 you will find information in the “Notes”-column stating where the mother was living 10 months prior to the birth (because this was the parish responsible for supporting the child if the mother couldn’t do so and the father was not found). Equipped with this
piece of information – and the name of the person that the mother named as the alleged father – you can go to the arrival and departure lists mentioned above and find the mother’s name, and hopefully also the alleged father’s name and follow both of them to the parish where they were born.

Copenhagen

You will find that very often all you know is that the person came from Copenhagen. And perhaps you don’t even have the exact date of birth. This makes it extremely difficult to find him or her, because Copenhagen consists of multiple parishes, and you have to work your way through each parish in order to – perhaps – find your ancestor.

He or she might have been living in Copenhagen for just a few years, but was actually born elsewhere in Denmark.

And precisely at the prime time of emigration, the censuses from Copenhagen have severe gaps. Only a few censuses from 1870 have been transcribed, so they are not directly searchable.

Place Names

In order to research your family in Denmark, it is essential that you have identified the place where they came from. You must know the name of a place (town or village), a parish or at least the county. You will often find these pieces of information in the naturalization certificates of your ancestor, or perhaps you have his birth certificate, marriage certificate or other documentation to that effect. Even photos or letters may contain valuable information – names and dates written on the back of the photos or mentioned in the letters!

The information might also be found in the immigration records from Ellis Island.

Once you have the name of a “place” it is time to establish whether this is in fact a parish, and whether it is the correct parish, because very often a “place” is not necessarily a “parish”, and in Denmark there are numerous places and parishes with identical name all over the country. Good websites to find these different places are http://salldata.dk/sted/ or http://www.krabsen.dk/stednavnebase/.

In order to find your ancestor, you might have to look through several different censuses and parish registers before you find the correct place.

Naming Traditions in Denmark
Surnames

Patronymics

In the oldest parish registers a child was just baptized with a given name, e.g. Hans or Hans Peder. However, as the local variety of given names was limited, it was difficult to distinguish between 2, 3, or 4 Hans’es, so they were distinguished by indicating who their father was, e.g., Hans Christen’s son, or Hans Christensen, likewise Marie Christen’s datter (daughter) or Marie Christensdatter.

The consequence of this naming tradition was that Hans Christensen’s son, Peder, would become Peder Hansen, i.e. the son of Hans, and his daughter, Ane, would become Ane Hansdatter.

Nicknames

Simultaneously with using the patronyms people could also be distinguished by adding a nickname to their name, e.g. an indication of their occupation, a personal characteristic, or the place where they were born or still living, and sometimes this nickname could cling to the family for generations. A nickname could also be an indication of the origin of the person, e.g. Svensk (Swede).

By the end of the 19th century the tradition of patronymics was finally abandoned, and roughly at the same time women adopted their husband’s surname when they married.

The patronymic surnames did not apply to nobility and from abt. 1750, nor to the upper classes such as vicars, doctors and the like.

When studying the parish registers and censuses you will often find that the same person is mentioned by different names at different ceremonies, i.e. Hans Pedersen at the birth of his first child, Hans Smed (blacksmith) at the second birth, Hans Persen at the third birth, and Hans Pedersen Søndergaard (living at the farm of Søndergaard) at his burial.

Given names

In Denmark there has been a very strong tradition for a particular naming pattern, prevalent until the end of the 19th century, namely as follows.

The first son was named after the father’s father.

The second son was named after the mother’s father.

The first daughter was named after the mother’s mother.

The second daughter was named after the father’s mother.

Example: Married couple Hans Pedersen and Ane Hansdatter
Father’s parents: Peder Nielsen and Margrethe Svendsdatter
Mother’s parents: Jens Sørensen and Marie Olsdatter

1st son: Peder (Hansen)
2nd son: Jens (Hansen)
1st daughter: Marie (Hansdatter)
2nd daughter: Margrethe (Hansdatter)

If the given name of father’s AND mother’s father is the same, e.g. Niels, then there will be two sons by the name of Niels in the family!
If a child died, then the next child of the same gender would be named after the deceased sibling.
If the father died while the mother was pregnant, then the child would be named after him if at all possible.
If the husband or wife died, the widow(er) would normally remarry within a year (a household could not survive unless there were two adults to sustain the family and take care of the daily chores), and the first child of the relevant gender would then be named after the deceased parent.

**Abbreviations**

Both in the parish records and in the censuses you will come across name abbreviations. Typically “d” for daughter, i.e. Maren Hansd., and “s” for son, i.e. Hans Peders. One of the more curious abbreviations is Xten for Christen. The X symbolizes the cross of Christ, and this is also the reason why you write Xmas.

**Census Searching**

When searching the census records you must take the following issues into consideration:

a) Names are spelled as they were heard by the registrar, and there were no fixed spelling rules as such for names. This means, that Lars/Laurs/Laurits/Lauritz/Las could be the same person, so use a lot of imagination AND wildcards when searching for a person.

Wildcards are “_” (underscore) which replaces one character and “%” which replaces 2 or more characters.

b) Age is registered as it is remembered by the head of the household, so add at least +/- 2 years to the presumed birth year. Remember that the registrar could make errors, too.

c) Women are always (almost) registered by their maiden name until the 1890 census. In fact, until then women did not adopt their husband’s surname.

**Danish Characters, æ, ø, and å.**

When using a keyboard without the Danish characters æ, ø, and å you can type these characters by using a combination of the [Alt] key and one of the following numbers: æ = 230, Æ= 198, ø= 248, Ø= 216, å = 229, and Å = 197.

**Danishfamilysearch.com**

This website: [https://www.danishfamilysearch.com/search/](https://www.danishfamilysearch.com/search/) is good and it includes the censuses from 1787 through 1880 plus some censuses in the period 1890-1906. You have to register as a user to get the full benefit from the website, but it is free.

An advantage of using this website is that a lot of volunteers have transcribed or indexed a number of parish registers, and when you do a search here, the search results will show all data available on the website. Another advantage is that you can search all of Denmark, i.e. you don’t have to fill in county or parish if you don’t know it. But be aware that many people will have had the exact same name.

One disadvantage is that there is no phonetic search, so you have to be good at using wildcards or trying alternative spellings.
If you cannot find your ancestor in the parish where you thought he or she should be, you can start searching in the whole county or country, but that is only relevant if the name is very unusual.

**Danish Demographic Database (Dansk Demografisk Database)**

Another place to search is the official Danish website: [http://ddd.dda.dk/dddform_uk.asp](http://ddd.dda.dk/dddform_uk.asp). This website only searches censuses and it includes the censuses 1787 until 1880 plus some censuses in the period 1890-1906, but as there are volunteers transcribing here, too, the contents vary from danishfamilysearch.com mentioned above.

The search parameters are slightly different, see below:
Search for individuals

Search result at the bottom of this page

**Household information:**

- **County:** Must be selected
- **District:** Can be selected (same as hundred above)
- **Parish:** Can be selected
- **KIPno** and **Place name:** Don’t use

**Individual Information:**

- **Name:** Fill in (remember to choose from drop-down). Use wildcards if necessary
- **Occupation, Position in household and Birth place:** Don’t use
- **Select age:** only relevant if you are searching one census year
- **Year of birth:** Fill in. Remember to use the interval
- **Sex (gender):** Don’t use
- **Census year:** Make no restrictions here to start with. Can be used, if you get many results
- **Consider using these if you get many results**

Remember to click Submit, otherwise nothing happens.

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If you find it difficult to find a person, it is a good idea to search all available websites.

**Familysearch.org**

At the LDS website, [https://www.familysearch.org/search/](https://www.familysearch.org/search/), it is possible to search all Danish censuses from 1787 until 1930 free of charge. All you have to do is to create a profile and log in, in order to perform searches.

You can restrict your search to Denmark, or you can search the whole world. Perhaps you get lucky, if your search uncovers the same person in both your own country and in Denmark.

Danish Genealogical Society, [www.slaegt.dk](http://www.slaegt.dk), mailto: slaegt@slaegt.dk
One advantage of using Familysearch.org is that it searches censuses and indexed parish registers at the same time, but it may be necessary to restrict your search, as you are liable to get an overwhelming number of results.

Another advantage is that it uses phonetic searching, so you do not necessarily need to use wildcards or need to know the exact spelling.

MyHeritage.com

Finally, this website should be mentioned, because they have indexed all the new censuses up to and including the 1940 census. However, it is not a free website. You have to buy an annual subscription in order to see the search results.

Tips

When searching for persons in the censuses, you may sometimes get confused because the name of the husband or wife is suddenly “wrong”. But it may not be wrong at all. Perhaps it is just a new spouse because the other one died. Check if the children appear to be the same – if their ages fit roughly, and then start looking for a death and a new marriage. A lot of women died during childbirth, and there was no cure if you got an infection and subsequent blood poisoning. Scarlatina, measles, influenza whooping cough and other illnesses and epidemics ravaged through towns and villages at regular intervals!

Searching the Parish Registers

Just recently Ancestry.com has indexed all Danish parish registers for the period 1812-1892. These data are available at their website, https://www.ancestry.com/, but you have to be a member in order to gain access to the results. At a later date it will become possible to search these parish registers at the free Danish website, https://ddd.dda.dk/dddkiip/find_kirkebog.asp.

A number of parish registers have been indexed in Denmark and by the LDS church, so it is always worthwhile trying to search for your ancestors here: https://www.danishfamilysearch.com/search/ and here: https://www.familysearch.org/en/.

Ancestry.com

If you have access to Ancestry.com, choose Denmark, Church Records: https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61607/.

Danish Genealogical Society, www.slaegt.dk, mailto: slaegt@slaegt.dk
Fill in these fields
If you know the precise date of birth, fill it in, otherwise just the year.

If you get too many results you can limit these by filling in some of these fields

Don’t use

You can limit the search to births or deaths, etc.

Gender, normally not necessary to select

Research in the Parish Registers

If you want to find the exact information on your ancestors you must dig into the parish registers. As mentioned above there are a number of parish registers that have been transcribed or indexed, but in general you need to get accustomed to using the parish registers.

The main website for accessing the parish registers is the Danish National Archives: https://www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/en/geo/geo-collection/5.

As mentioned above (Place Names) you need to know the name of the parish where the ceremony took place

If you know the name of the parish don’t use this field

Archive = Parish. Start writing the name of the parish and choose the right one.
Once you have chosen a parish, you will be presented with the following choices (can be more complex)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Archive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allerslev Sogn (Præstø Amt)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enesteministerialbog (1645 - 1814)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hovedministerialbog (1814 - 1891)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kontraministerialbog (1814 - 2003)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kontraministerialbog (1814 - 2003) Ny Scanning (farver - indtil 1892)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 Choice within the frame of each parish

1. Enesteministerialbog are the parish register(s) prior to 1812/1814.
2. Hovedministerialbog are the parish registers kept by the vicar for a period of time (here 1814-1891).
3. Kontraministerialbog are the parish registers kept by the parish clerk for a period of time (here 1814-2003). Should be a copy of the Hovedministerialbog, but there can be deviations. All the above are in black & white.
4. Kontraministerialbog are as described above, but they only include books up to and including 1891. They are scanned in colour and generally in an absolutely superior quality. These are the registers photographed and subsequently indexed by Ancestry. So if you need to look at registers in the period 1812/1814-1891 do choose this alternative.

When you click the plus in front of each headline you get a lot of choices. Note the abbreviations mentioned under Re 3:

**Re 3 – Kontraministerialbog 1812/1814-1979**

Even though the headline says “Kontraministerialbog (1914-2003)” it does not cover this entire timespan. Births, marriages and confirmations stop in 1960, whereas burials continue a bit further, typically until about 1970 for most parishes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kontraministerialbog (1814 - 2003)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1814 FKVD - 1826 FKVD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1826 FKVDJTA - 1835 FKVDJTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1835 FKVDJTA - 1854 FKVDJTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852 FKVDTA - 1887 FKVDTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881 F - 1892 F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887 KVD - 1892 KVD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892 FKVD - 1900 FKVD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901 FKVD - 1916 FKVD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916 FKVD - 1935 FKVD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936 FKVD - 1957 FKVD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958 FKVD - 1979 FKVD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| F = Births |
| K = Confirmations |
| V = Marriages |
| D = Deaths |
| J = Comparison Register (not mentioned above, as it is generally not useful, since it was very sparsely kept) |
| T = Arrivals |
| A = Departures |

12 Kontraministerialbog - choices
The year intervals and the abbreviations will make it possible for you to choose the right parish register. Now you just have to peruse the pages, until you find your ancestor.

**Re 1 – Enesteministerialbog**

See abbreviations above. Only a few of these parish registers have been indexed.

**Re 2 – Hovedministerialbog**

See abbreviations above. The contents here are the same (more or less) as 3). Typically, the scans of the Hovedministerialbog are not as good as the Kontraministerialbog. But since the registers are written by two different persons the contents can vary slightly. Sometimes a registration is missing in one register but is remembered in the other.

The heading is very misleading. The contents are Kontraministerialbog 1814-1891, and it contains the new colour scans performed by Ancestry.com. The scans are generally very good.

When you click the + you will discover a very different setup and presentation of the data. However, once you get used to it, it is actually very easy to navigate.

Døde kvinder: Deceased females
Døde Mænd: Deceased males
Fødte kvinder: Newborn females
Fødte mænd: Newborn males
Jævnførsler: Cross-references
Konfirmerede kvinder: Confirmed females
Konfirmerede mænd: Confirmed males
Til- og afgangslister: Arrivals and departures
Viede: Marriages

When you click one of the lines, you will be presented with a (colour) scan of the relevant parish register, where you can read through the information registered. Use the normal Windows facilities to zoom in, etc.

Danish Genealogical Society, www.slaegt.dk, mailto: slaegt@slaegt.dk
Dead women 1887, Allerslev Parish

It is also possible to find the parish registers at other websites, e.g. [https://www.danishfamilysearch.com/](https://www.danishfamilysearch.com/). The approach and presentation are slightly different, but the contents are exactly the same.

Here you can use the map to navigate to the correct county, and once you have clicked there, you get a new map, where you can choose the correct parish. (The illustration is the smallest county in Denmark with just a handful of parishes!

Now you can click on the name of the parish or on the map, and you will then be presented with the various possibilities for parish registers, equivalent to [www.sa.dk](http://www.sa.dk), but presented in a different manner.

They each have their advantages. Try them out and use the one you like better.

Danish Genealogical Society, [www.slaegt.dk](http://www.slaegt.dk), mailto: slaegt@slaegt.dk
Familysearch.org

At Familysearch.org it is possible to search the historical records for Denmark here:
https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list/?fcs=placid%3A1927025%2CrecordType%3AVITAL&ec=region%3AEUROPE%2Cplacid%3A1927025%2CrecordType%3AVITAL.

The contents here are slightly different from the contents of the National Danish Archives, as the LDS Church has scanned a vast number of Danish archives that are now available to their registered users, such as civil marriages. It is free to use familysearch.org, but you need to register and create a log-in name and password.

The smart thing to do here is to use their normal search, mentioned above, which will search all available data, and you can limit it to searches in Denmark only, so as not to get too many results.

Immigration and Emigration Records

Ellis Island

There are two main websites where you can search for immigration information. One is the Ellis Island website which comprises passenger records from 1820 until 1957, almost 65 million immigrants, passengers, and crew members who came through Ellis Island and the Port of New York, https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/. The search is easier, if you register as a user and it is free of charge. The search page is here: https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger, and it is a good idea to use the wizard. However, be aware that you cannot use the Danish æ, ø and å.

First name: less is better as the passengers very often just used initials.

Last name: two letters is enough and it need not be the first two letters

The wizard gives the following possibilities:

These are good if you get many results
Year of Birth is really useful, because this is almost always a known fact.

Year of Arrival can be useful to limit the number of results, because normally you have a fairly good idea of the time span of arrival.

This one is normally not very useful, except for the + at the end of the wizard “Ethnicity”.

Click the + and you will be presented with the following picture.

Now you have to use the little grey bar in the right-hand corner in order to slide down to the ethnicity you need, in this case Danish, which you will find in the middle column.

After all these efforts click OK and “Results”, and hopefully you will find what you were looking for.

The Danish Emigration Records

The other website is The Danish Emigration Records which covers the period 1869 until 1908, http://www.udvandrerarkivet.dk/udvandrerprotokollerne/.
Fill in with “surname” comma “given name”.
The other fields can be filled in if you get too many results, but normally the name will give you the result you are looking for.

Veje-listerne

There are separate lists for about 4000 people emigrating via Vejle. These lists are available here: https://www.ddd.dda.dk/vejlelister/soeg_udvandrede.asp.

Mormon Migration 1873-1894

These are not yet included in the Danish Emigration Records, but can be found here: https://saintsbysea.lib.byu.edu/.

DNA

Today DNA is increasingly used as a means of facilitating your genealogical research. However, it is not a miracle remedy. Most particularly it cannot be used as an indication of your ethnicity, although the DNA companies pretend to deliver just that.

A DNA test can support your manual researches and sometimes help to solve family mysteries, i.e. for adopted children or unknown fathers.

Danes primarily use MyHeritage and FamilyTreeDNA, so if you have tested with for instance Ancestry it would make sense to upload your results to both MyHeritage and FamilyTreeDNA. Also, by all means do not forget to upload a gedcom-file with all available genealogical data. Otherwise your matches will have no chance of identifying any common ancestors.

Help

Do not despair. Help is close at hand.

A general piece of advice: Always be as specific as possible. State all known facts, names, dates, places, and be very clear in stating what you are looking for. And remember to say thank you afterwards.

The following websites and facebook groups all understand English and will help you as best they can with your Danish genealogy questions:


https://www.facebook.com/groups/7373772221/: Every type of genealogy question can be raised here.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/819871211472888/: Specific questions pertaining to DNA.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/DanishGenealogy/: A group where you can share your stories and get help as well.

**Danish-English Word List – Occupations**

The following list comprises the more common occupations in the years 1700-1800.

This website: [https://ordnet.dk/ddo/forside](https://ordnet.dk/ddo/forside) will help you with a more detailed description of an occupation, and then you can google a translation.

Otherwise you will have to ask in one of the Facebook groups. Many of the occupations are not in use any more, but we can help you find a description of what was done.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Danish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aftægtsmand/-kone/-folk</td>
<td>Pensioner, accommodation and support provided by the new owner of a farm – often for its former owner, especially by a son for his father/parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almisselem</td>
<td>Person living on charity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbejdsmand</td>
<td>Labourer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillerist</td>
<td>Artilleryman, gunner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bager</td>
<td>Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betjent</td>
<td>Policeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blikkenslager</td>
<td>Plumber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boelsmand</td>
<td>Small-holder, small farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonde</td>
<td>Farmer, peasant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryggeriarbejder</td>
<td>Brewery hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brændevinsbrænder</td>
<td>Distiller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buntmager</td>
<td>Furrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bødker</td>
<td>Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daglejer</td>
<td>Day labourer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degn, lærer</td>
<td>Parish clerk, teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragon</td>
<td>Dragoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elektriker</td>
<td>Electrician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fattigforsørgelse</td>
<td>Supported by public authorities / poor relief fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feldbereder</td>
<td>Skin dresser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisker</td>
<td>Fisherman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formue</td>
<td>Living off his own capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forsørges af det offentlige / fattigkassen</td>
<td>Supported by public authorities / poor relief fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fængemand</td>
<td>Ferryman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fæster/gaardfæster</td>
<td>Copyholder, tenant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaardbeboer</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaardejer</td>
<td>Farm owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaardmand</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Danish Genealogical Society, [www.slaegt.dk](http://www.slaegt.dk), mailto: [slaegt@slaegt.dk](mailto:slaegt@slaegt.dk)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gartner</td>
<td>Gardener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garver</td>
<td>Tanner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glarmester</td>
<td>Glazier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glaspuster</td>
<td>Glassblower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graver</td>
<td>Sexton, grave digger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grovsmed</td>
<td>Blacksmith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guldsmed</td>
<td>Goldsmith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hjulmager/Hjuler</td>
<td>Wheelwright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husarbejde</td>
<td>Domestic work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husmand</td>
<td>Small-holder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyrde</td>
<td>Shepherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hørbereder</td>
<td>Flax worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hørsvinger</td>
<td>Flax breaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Håndgerning</td>
<td>Needle worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inderste</td>
<td>Cottager, agricultural labourer, residing on a farm not his own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indsidder</td>
<td>Cottager, agricultural labourer, residing on a farm not his own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordbruger</td>
<td>Farmer, agriculturist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordemoder/Gjordemoder</td>
<td>Midwife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knipler</td>
<td>Lace-maker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kromand</td>
<td>Innkeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krovært</td>
<td>Innkeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Købmand</td>
<td>Grocer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landarbejder</td>
<td>Farm worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landbruger</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lem/Almisselem</td>
<td>Person living on charity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lærer</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maler</td>
<td>(House) painter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medhjælper</td>
<td>Assistant, helper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mejerist</td>
<td>Dairyman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murer</td>
<td>Bricklayer, mason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Møller</td>
<td>Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcellist</td>
<td>Small-holder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension</td>
<td>Pensioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pottemager</td>
<td>Potter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Præst</td>
<td>Vicar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebslager</td>
<td>Ropemaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rokkedrejer</td>
<td>Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogter</td>
<td>Cattleman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadelmager</td>
<td>(Harness) saddler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selvejer</td>
<td>Freeholder, owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skemager</td>
<td>Spoon maker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skomager</td>
<td>Shoemaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skovfoged</td>
<td>Forester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skovhugger</td>
<td>Lumberman, wood cutter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skovrider</td>
<td>Forest supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skrædder, Herre- /Dame-</td>
<td>Tailor, men’s or women’s clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slagter</td>
<td>Butcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smed</td>
<td>Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profession</td>
<td>Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snedker</td>
<td>Joiner, carpenter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldat</td>
<td>Soldier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinder</td>
<td>Spinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strikker</td>
<td>Knitter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stryger</td>
<td>Ironer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Støberiarbejder</td>
<td>Foundry worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sukkerarbejder</td>
<td>Sugar mill worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syerske</td>
<td>Needlewoman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tjenestefolk</td>
<td>Farm hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tjenestekarl</td>
<td>Farm hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tjenestepige</td>
<td>Domestic help or farm hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Træskomager</td>
<td>Clog maker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyende</td>
<td>Farm hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tøffelmager</td>
<td>Clog maker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tømrer</td>
<td>Carpenter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urmager</td>
<td>Clock maker, watch maker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasker</td>
<td>Washer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Værtshusholder</td>
<td>Innkeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Væver</td>
<td>Weaver</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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