RESEARCH IN DENMARK

2019

Determine the place of origin of your ancestor.

Danish records are not centralised therefore before any research can be undertaken, you need to first establish the exact town or village and province / county / jurisdiction that your ancestor was born in or that a particular event occurred in.

The golden rule of genealogy is to always work back from the known to the un-known. Therefore the place of origin of your ancestor should be looked for in New Zealand records, or if your family came via Australia or Britain then in those records.

The place of origin of your ancestor should be mentioned on N.Z. birth and death certificates after 1876 and on N.Z. marriage certificates after 1882.

It should appear in naturalisation papers so if your ancestor became naturalised then the full file for this should be applied for.
It may also appear in an obituary, on a headstone, in army records, shipping lists, as family sources. If the family were in Britain then the census there may show the place of origin.

Hamburg was a major port of embarkation for Poland. The Hamburg Passenger Lists begin in 1850, are chronological by ship and show each passenger's last place of residence.

Researching in Denmark

Danish research relies on you knowing the village/parish which your ancestor came from as Denmark did not have a centralised Birth, Marriage, and Death registration system until 1968.

Records were kept by the Lutheran Church from 1646, but are very patchy up to about 1750. Prior to 1814 they are non-standardised and vary widely.

From 1814 pre-printed forms became available, and two copies were kept by the Church.

Denmark is divided into Counties (*Amt),* then District (*Herred),* then Parish (*Søgn)*
Even if you family were not Lutherans, eg Roman Catholic, or non-conformist, they would be entered into the local Lutheran Church book.

Once you know the parish, you can search the church records (*Kirkebøger)* online up to 1891 on the Danish State Archives website. Some records are available up to approx. 1935, and the Danish archives are working to digitise all church books up to 1960. This will take a few years.

Another good place to search is **familysearch.org**
This is indexed, but not all are on line.

Danish Archives

sa.dk/content/dk/ao-forside

This is a free web site.
If you are using Chrome, right click on the page, and choose "Translate to English" typed text will be translated.

If you know the Region/Amt and Parish/Sogn that your person came from, you can look at the church books online. Most are available up to 1940. These are browseable only.
There is **NO** online index at the Danish Archival website.

To look at the church books choose
Kirkebøger, (church book)
Amt (County)
Herred (District) – not required
Sogn (Parish) There may be two copies, the ministers and the parish clerks.

Up will come a list of dates and FKVDJTA. These indicate what record is available in that book.
For a birth in 1854 you would choose the book that covers that event (**F**) and time period.

If you only know the Region/Amt but not the parish that your person came from and they were born **before 1880**, another place to check is the Census.
This can be found at:

ddd.dda.dk/kiplink_en.htm

Look for the English flag, to switch the language to English.

Selvig/Holstein was part of Prussia from 1864 – 1920, was not part of Denmark.
So therefore there is no census records for that time period.

Details found in Church records

Births (*Fødte): F*
Male names are first and then female.
Date of birth, name, baptism date, parents, godparents, index number.

Confirmations (*Konfimerede): K*
Males (*mandone*) and females (*pigen*) are separate,
Name, parents, birth date, minister, vaccination date, Index number.

Marriages (*Veide/Copulerede): V/C*
Names, age, place, witnesses, date, Index number.

Deaths (*Døde): D*
Death date, burial date, Name, place of abode, age.

Index (*Jævnforelser): J*
Sometimes at the end of the book, there is an index, giving the page numbers for the person concerned.

Moving out of the Parish
(*Afganglister): A*
Name, age, occupation, moving to, index number.
Moving into (*Tilganslister): T*
Name, age, occupation, parish from.

Danish Archives Key

To be used with the Archival Site
F: Fødte: Birth
K: Konfirmerede/Confirmation (around 14 yrs of age)
V: Viede/Copulerede: Marriage
D: Døde : Death
J: Jævnforelser: Index (patchy)
A: Afganglister: Moving out of Parish -(patchy)
T: Tilganslister: Moving into Parish (patchy)

Danishfamilysearch

www.danishfamilysearch.com

A free website, using the same images as the Archives site, but with the aim of eventually having them indexed. English available.

Has maps of the Amt (County), showing the parishes. There are 28 Amts. Change the Amt No in the search line, eg /amt20 to amt25.

You can then click on your Parish.

What you already know

Surname

Christian name

Country

County/Province

Town/Parish

Birth

Marriage

Arrival in NZ Year

Children born not in NZ

Parents

NZ Certificates to obtain

Birth

Marriage

Death

Naturalisation

Military in NZ

Check List

Hamburg Passenger list

UK Census

NZ Alien Arrival

NZ Naturalization Archives

Probate

Map of Denmark showing: Hjørring, Thisted, Ålborg, Viborg, Randers, Ringkøbing, Skanderborg, Århus, Frederiksborg, Vejle, Holbæk, Københavns, Ribe, Roskilde, Haderslev, Odense, Sorø, Præstø, Tønder, Åbenrå, Svendborg, Sønderborg, Maribo, Bornholms

Websites

www.familysearch.org FamilySearch

www.ancestry.com Ancestry – Library or Worldwide version

sa.dk/content/dk/ao-forside Danish Archives. Churchbooks, census

www.danishfamilysearch.com/about/ Good for census data, and increasingly church records

https://s3.amazonaws.com/ps-services-us-east-1-914248642252/s3/research-wiki-elasticsearch-prod-s3bucket/images/0/0b/Danish_Genealogical_Word_List_October_2010.pdf
Danish word list – Note it is 26 pages long, so best saved to your hard-drive

European Group Contact

Send research queries to the Contact on the **European Interest Contact** page at **www.genealogy.org.nz**

A group meets on the 1st Friday of most months at the Family Research Centre at 159 Queens Rd, Panmure from 4pm– 10pm. Continental advice is usually available, however please first check with the Contact to be quite sure.

Recommended Reading

Thomsen, Finn A, *Scandinavian Genealogical Research.*

Smith, Frank & Finn A Thomsen, *Genealogical Guidebook & Atlas of Denmark*

FamilySearch.org   Research *Wiki* for information on records, how to use them and links to various archives.