

Searching for Your Danish Ancestors

**A Guide to Danish Genealogical Research
in the United States
and Denmark**

**Including New for 2014
Danish Letter-Writing Guide**

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INTRODUCTION

"My grandfather came from Denmark. I know about *when* he was born. How do I find out *where* he was born?"

The first rule in genealogical research is to *begin with you* and work backwards. This will include looking over all printed materials that it is possible to locate in connection with any given person's life. These items may be found in one's home, in the possession of relative(s), at a county courthouse, within the records of a religious organization or the collections of local libraries and historical societies, etc.

The name of the *home parish* must be known in order to locate a place of birth in Denmark. Vital records are kept by the state church of Denmark. The rural parishes are small, consisting of a few communities with a central church and pastor. The Family History Library (LDS) has microfilmed a large number of these records and has made them available to the public through their local libraries. These microfilms are indexed first by *Amt.* (county), next by *Sogn* (parish), and then by types of records. Once a parish name has been learned, and it has been determined that a copy of the parish records has been made, one is then able to begin researching a family in earnest.

This booklet was designed by members of the National Danish-American Genealogical Society for both beginning and more experienced Danish researchers. The first section includes information concerning "home" resources, i.e., those in the actual home, hometown, home state, and the United States. The second section provides helpful suggestions for researching the microfilmed copies of available Danish records in addition to the church records, such as census, probate, military, etc. Included, also, is a list of helpful printed materials, as well as addresses of relevant archives.

A number of Internet resources are included in this document, which are outside the control of the National Danish-American Genealogical Society. The Society is not responsible for any content viewed therein, and the user assumes all risk and liability with respect to any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the use of said Web sites.
