



An Introduction to Danish Census records

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Objective:

Gain an understanding of the Danish Census Record

- When were they taken
- Where they are located
- What information can be found in the census records

A census is a count and description of the population and was taken for population studies and taxation purposes. If used with the parish registers they can give us a wonderful picture of our ancestors and their families through the ages.

There were very little name variations in Denmark, and the censuses can help us determine whether or not we have the right family by showing us the family unit during the various census years.

Census records can be found on “ddd.dda.dk” (extracted records) and “sa.dk” (copies of actual records). They are available when they are 75 years old.

Denmark has census records stretching from 1769-1940 and much has been extracted. The first comprehensive census was taken in July 1787. All other censuses were taken in February. Following the 1787 census the next census was 1801, then 1834.

Beginning in 1840 a census was taken every five years until 1860. After 1860 they were taken every ten years until 1901 when they were again taken every five years. The last census to be added was 1940.

Even though the 1787 census was the first comprehensive census, there was a census taken in 1769. This can be found in very few places, one of which is in Horsens city in Skanderborg County (ddd.dda.dk).

In 1771 there was a “census” (Oeders Efterretninger of 1771) taken of married couples, widows and widowers, however it only covers the islands of Sjælland, Amager, Møn, and Bornholm. This record can only be found on the [Danish version of ddd.dda.dk](#) (Danish Demographic Database).

The Danish Demographic Database (ddd.dda.dk) is a project by the Danish State Archive. It is searchable for free and can be searched in English (just click on the English flag). Their “wild cards” are “%” and “_”, and make sure you use the Æ, Ø, and Å. See the following link: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Denmark: Typing_%C3%86,_%C3%98, and_%C3%85

It is important to remember that not all census years, for all parishes are included on the "ddd.dda.dk". Some census years have still not been indexed and others are still in the process of being indexed. When they are missing on ddd.dda.dk you can search copies of the original census records on "sa.dk". To see what years have been indexed for your particular parish/county go to the following page:

<http://www.dis-danmark.dk/kipkort/index.php>.

Information found in the census records can include the following:

- Name
- Age or date of birth (depending on the census year)
- Family relationship
- Place of birth (depending on the census year)
- Marital status
- A person's possible handicap
- Residence
- Occupation
- Religion (depending on the census year)

You may find your ancestor's names spelled many different ways in the various parish records. To make sure your searches will include as many possible variations use the "wild cards" "%" or "_".

Examples:

Lars can also be Laurs, Laurids, Lauritz, and Lavridts etc. Search La%

Sissel can be found as: Sidsel, Sidzel, Sissele, Sessel, Zidsel etc. Search Si%, Se%, Zi%, etc

Marie can also be Maria or Mari.

Jeppe can be found as Ib and Jep.

Peder can be Petter or Per.

If you are looking for an immigrant from Denmark to USA keep in mind the following:

Chris Johnson might have been Christian/Kristian or Christen/Kristen Jonsen/Jensen

James/Jim/John might have been Johan, Johannes, or Jonas

Andrew could have been Anders or Andreas

10% of Danish immigrants had the family name of Hansen, another 10 % Jensen

As mentioned before the 1787 census was the first comprehensive census. The next census was taken in 1801. That is a gap of 14 years. To follow a family during those years you can use the Danish military levying rolls which follows a male child from birth until he is in his late 30's (depending on the time period—and there are of course exceptions)

The next census was taken in 1834 (a gap of 33 years), and again you can use the military levying rolls to follow your family. The next census is in 1840, then 1845. We are really excited about the 1845 census because that is the first census year listing the place of birth!

In 1860 questions of faith and religious affiliations are added. In 1901 complete birth dates, marriage years, and year persons arrived into the parishes are added as well.

Census years of special interest:

Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year
1787 ★	1801	1803	1834	1835	1840
1845 ★	1850	1855	1860 ★	1870	1880
1885	1890	1901 ★	1906	1911	1916
1921	1925	1930	1940		

1787 - First comprehensive census

1803 and 1835 - census for "southern Denmark"

1845 - Place of birth is added

1860 - Faith and religious preference added

1885 - Copenhagen

1901 - Complete birth dates, marriage year, arrival to the parish added

1940 - Last census to be added

There are a few additional censuses available, and they are "Communal Censuses". They were taken at the "kommune" (city or parish) level in certain areas in Denmark.

A handful of these are available at the Family History Library:

- Randers 1726
- Hobro 1727, 1811, 1847
- Horsens 1824
- Hjørring 1825
- Fredrikshavn 1827
- Nibe 1818, 1875-1899

Copenhagen:

In Copenhagen the police made a record called "Politiets Registerblade" which covers 1890-1923. All persons living in Copenhagen over 10 years of age are included. When a child turns 14 they get their own page. When a woman marries her information is transferred to her husband's page where the children 10-14 years of age are also listed. Children under 10 are not included. The records have been scanned and are available at:

<http://www.politietsregisterblade.dk/en/>

Copenhagen also has a database called "Politiets mandtaller". It is a database only searchable through street names, years and months. You are not able to search by name. If you know the name of the street your family lived on this database can be very helpful.

You can access Politiets Mandtaller here:

<http://www.kbharkiv.dk/sog-i-arkivet/kilder-pa-nettet/politiets-mandtaller>

There are very few census records available for Sønderjylland compare to the rest of the country. Most counties have 1803, 1835, 1845, and 1855, although not complete. Tønder County also have 1787, 1801, 1834 and 1860. Haderslev and Åbenrå also have 1860 censuses.

For further learning see:

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Denmark_Census

<http://www.kbharkiv.dk/sog-i-arkivet/kilder-pa-nettet/politiets-mandtaller>

Census headings: http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Denmark_Census

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