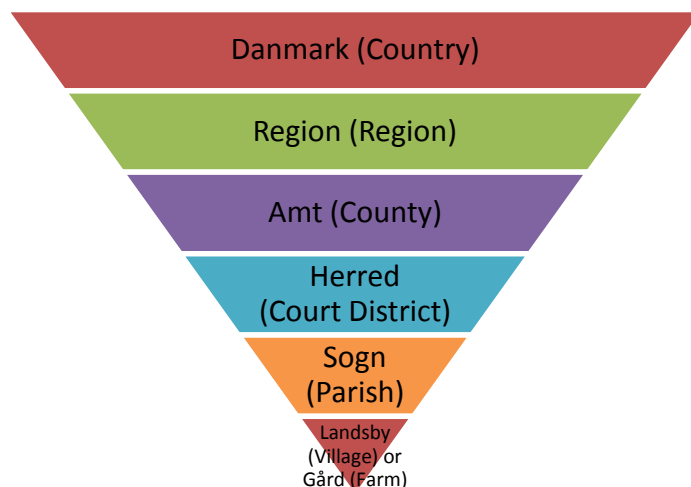


# Danish Family History Resources: Gazetteers and Jurisdictions

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Before being able to research your family in Denmark, you need to know where your ancestors lived in Denmark. Without knowing where they lived, you cannot access the genealogical records used for research. The village or city your ancestor lived in, belonged to a specific jurisdiction. Each level of jurisdiction kept a certain set of records, thus the reason why you need to know the exact jurisdiction. In Denmark, there are many different types of jurisdictions, but there are 6 main types you need to know (See the triangle on the right)

The most important jurisdictions you need to know are the Sogn (parish) and the Amt (County). The sogn kept the majority of the records of the common people. You will spend the majority of your research in the parish records. The amt is important to know because there are many parishes in Denmark that have the same name. By knowing the amt, it will be easier to determine which parish you are working in.



## Family Records

Many family records are not very consistent, nor helpful in figuring out the jurisdiction your ancestor belonged to. Some family records only record the region, or maybe the county the ancestor was from. Use the tables to better determine the jurisdictions listed in your family records:

Table 1: Regions

Danish	English
Sjælland	Zealand
Fyn	Funen
Jylland	Jutland
Nørrejylland	Northern Jutland
Sønderjylland	Southern Jutland
Bornholm	Bornholm
Lolland-Falster	Lolland-Falster

Counties from 1793-1970

Bornholm	Copenhagen City	Frederiksborg	Haderslev
Hjørring	Holbæk	København	Maribo
Odense	Præstø	Randers	Ribe
Ringkøbing	Skanderborg	Sorø	Svendborg
Sønderborg	Thisted	Tønder	Vejle
Viborg	Åbenrå	Aalborg	Århus

## Recording Jurisdictions in Your Family Records

The only official guideline for recording jurisdictions in family records is to record from the smallest jurisdiction to the largest. The following are suggested forms for recording Danish jurisdictions:

Standard	Example
Village, Parish, Herred, County, Country	Bredsten, Kegnæs, Als Sønder, Sønderborg, Denmark
Village, Parish, County, Country	Bredsten, Kegnæs, Sønderborg, Denmark
Parish, County, Country	Kegnæs, Sønderborg, Denmark

## Gazetteers

Using gazetteers is the key to determining the record jurisdiction your ancestor belonged to. A gazetteer is a dictionary of place names for a certain area. Gazetteers come in many forms. There are three main gazetteers used for Danish Research:

1. J.P. Trap's *Danmark*: This gazetteer is one of the oldest gazetteers for Denmark. The first was created in the late 1800s, and there have been multiple new editions since then. The most recent edition has over 20 volumes, separated into counties, including a master place name index. The gazetteer is available at the Family History Library reference area.
2. Krabsens *Stednavnedatabase*: Krabsens is a searchable online gazetteer for Denmark. You can search by place or by parish. The website is only in Danish. <http://www.krabsen.dk/stednavnebase/>
3. FamilySearch Wiki: A few years ago, the Nordic consultants at the library noticed that neither Trap nor Krabsens had every place name in Denmark. In order to create a complete gazetteer of all places in Denmark, information from both Trap and Krabsens was compiled into the FamilySearch Wiki. This gazetteer can be found at <https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Denmark>, under the 'jurisdictions' section.

## Further Your Learning!

If you wish to learn more about Danish genealogical research, visit the following websites:

- ❖ FamilySearch Wiki, Denmark portal page, <https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Denmark>. This website has research tools, how to helps, learning articles and much more!
  - Every place name gazetteer
  - Danish to English, English to Danish word list
  - Website Links
- ❖ FamilySearch Learning Center, <https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html>. This website has a variety of educational videos you can watch to learn how to do the research. Of most interest for Denmark are:
  - 5 Minute Genealogy, 21 episodes
  - Scandinavian Research, 1 video
  - Reading Scandinavian Gothic Handwritten Records, 3 videos

**Join us for our Webinars!** Visit

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Online\\_Webinars\\_from\\_the\\_International\\_and\\_Scandinavian\\_Research\\_Teams](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Online_Webinars_from_the_International_and_Scandinavian_Research_Teams) for a list of dates, times, and instructions about how to join.

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