

Danish Church Record Research

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Danish church record research is a vital research strategy for finding your Danish ancestors. The strategy, even for a beginner, is easy enough to follow, it just takes some practice.

Danish Church Records

Before beginning research it is best to have a knowledge of the type of church records available:

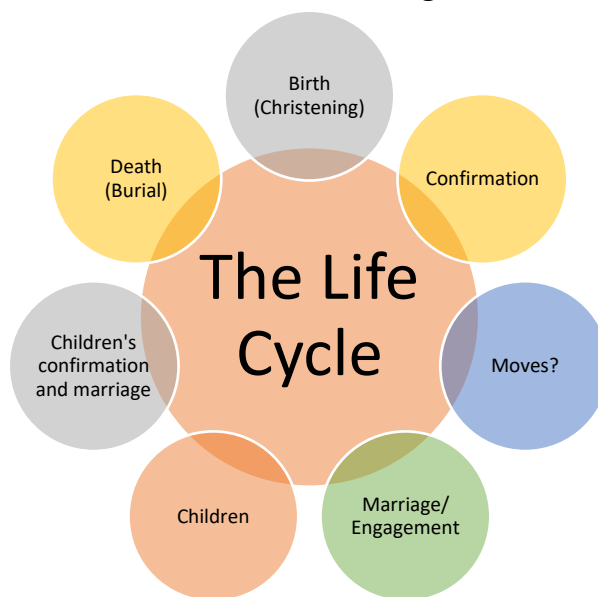
- Birth and Christening Records
- Mother's Introduction
- Confirmations
- Engagement and Marriage Records
- Death and Burial Records
- Name Registers
- Moving Lists
- Absolutions

To find out more about each of these record types see

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

Church Record Research Strategy

The strategy used for Danish church record research uses what is called the life cycle as seen through the records. This life cycle is used no matter if the individual is legitimate or illegitimate. This is best seen through the following graph:



An Example

Understanding the life cycle is best done through example. Let us say we have a woman by the name of Kirsten Marie Andersdatter and we wish to find her ancestors. We have her death record and census records stating age, and her husband and children's names and ages.

To begin the research, we would first search for the birth records of all of her children, based on their ages from the census records. Once these records are gathered, we look to see who the oldest child is.

- 1801 – Ole Carlsen
- 1803 – Anders Carlsen
- 1804 – Kirsten Carlsdatter
- 1806 – Hans Christian Carlsen
- 1809 – Carl Carlsen

The oldest child is Ole, born in 1801. In the life cycle, the next step is marriage. Typically, the marriage happens before the birth of the first child, though this is not always the case. As Kirsten Marie's oldest child was born in 1801, search for the marriage record should begin in 1801.

After searching through the marriage records, we find the marriage of Kirsten Marie Andersdatter to Carl Ludvig Olsen in 1800. The marriage record states that Kirsten Marie is 18 years old when she married.

The next step on the life cycle is the confirmation. In Denmark, confirmation happens around the age of 14. Since Kirsten Marie is 18 years old in 1800, she should be 14 in 1796. Her confirmation record is subsequently found in 1797 at the age of 15. With her confirmation record found, we can now search for the birth record.

From the ages found in the records, her birth should be sometime in 1782. Her birth record is found in February 1782, and we have completed the life cycle.

This life cycle can also be used in reverse when searching for descendants.

A Few Tips to Remember

- Death can happen at any time during a person's life, so if you are not finding your ancestor beyond a certain point, check the death records.

- A person was more likely to move around while single than while married. If you are not finding your ancestor, and they are not in the death records, consider checking available moving records.
- Not every parish has engagement records, but if the parish does, it is worth your time to find your ancestor. Engagement records can have much more detailed information than marriage records.

Bibliography

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