

Research in Copenhagen (København)

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Research in Copenhagen will generally involve two types of people:

- People from peasant families who moved to Copenhagen during the second half of the 1800s to find work.
- People who resided in Copenhagen before the Industrial Revolution, primarily those who were merchants or carried on a trade.

Although it may be seeming overwhelming to do research in Copenhagen, there are some valuable resources to simplify the research. The primary sources for research in Copenhagen are discussed below.

Church Records. If you don't know where the family resided, you will need to search each parish. Before 1861 the following parishes should be consulted:

1. Vor Frue
2. Sankt Nikolaj
3. Helligånds
4. Trinitatis
5. Holmens
6. Vor Frelser
7. Garnison

For the period 1861-1890 in addition to the above parishes, check the following:

1. Sankt Paul
2. Sankt Johannes
3. Sankt Stefan
4. Sankt Jakob

Many of the church records for Copenhagen have been extracted and the entries are available on FamilySearch. Many indexes to the church records of Copenhagen are available at the Family History Library. Family History Library has marriage indexes for the main parishes in Copenhagen for the period 1814-1891. Copenhagen City Civil Marriages are available at the Family History Library 1739-1964. They are indexed 1877-1964.

Census Records. Census records for Copenhagen are available for the following years in the Family History Library:

1. 1659. List of inhabitants. FHL Call no. 948.911/K1 X2m
2. 1728. Taken after the fire. FHL Call no. 948.911/K1 H2k and microfilm 874208, Item 1.

3. 1771. Lists married couples, widows and widowers. Included are the husband's name, occupation, age, marital status (number of times married), the wife's age (but not her name), and number of children.
4. 1787. Arranged by quarter. The Family History Library Catalog lists the street names within the quarter.
5. 1801. Arranged by quarter. The Family History Library Catalog lists the street names within the quarter.
6. 1834. Arranged by quarter.
7. 1840. Arranged by quarter.
8. 1845. Arranged by quarter. The Family History Library Catalog lists the street names within the quarter.
9. 1850. Arranged by quarter.
10. 1855. Arranged by quarter.
11. 1860. Arranged by quarter.
12. 1870. Arranged alphabetically by street name.
13. 1880. Arranged alphabetically by street name.
14. 1882-1899. Arranged by street name, then by year.
15. 1885. Arranged alphabetically by street name.
16. 1890. Arranged alphabetically by street name.
17. 1895. Arranged alphabetically by street name.
18. 1901. Arranged alphabetically by street name within the city proper, followed by the suburbs.
19. 1906. Arranged alphabetically by street name.
20. 1911. Arranged alphabetically by street name.
21. 1921. Arranged alphabetically by street name.

Many census record indexes are available on the *Dansk Demografisk Database* at <http://www.ddd.dda.dk> . Digital images of censuses are available online at <http://www.arkivalieronline.dk/> for the years 1787-1940

Civil Registration. Following are some of the main civil registration records available at the Family History Library:

1. Marriage License Fees (*kopulations pengeprotokoller*) 1720-1863. Records of marriage license fees paid to the city treasurer. Gives the groom's name, marriage date, and the name of the church where the marriage took place.
2. Civil Marriage Registers (*borgerlige vielser*) 1851-1896. Contains civil marriage registers and indexes.
3. Census Registration Certificates (*dødeblade*) 1890-1923. Contains police census registration certificates for deceased persons. Also available as digital images online at <http://www.politietsregisterblade.dk>
4. Death Certificates (*dødsattester*) 1840-1933. Contains death certificates from Copenhagen City.

Directories. The following are available at the Family History Library:

1. Copenhagen Street Register-Parish Name. This register lists the quarters and parishes that the streets of Copenhagen belonged to over time (1640-1951) on microfilm 1224549, Items 1-2.
2. 1801. Directory for the city of Copenhagen. On microfiche 6030485 Fiches 10-12.
3. 1859, 1861. Directory for Copenhagen including Christianshavn, the suburbs, and Frederiksberg. FHL Call no. 041.911/K1 E4 and microfilm 1440075, Items 6-7.

Emigration and Immigration. The following records are available at the Family History Library:

1. Passport Records (*pasregnskaber*) 1788-1850.
2. Police Registers of Emigration from Copenhagen (*register over udvandrede*), 1868-1940.
3. Lists of Emigrants (*register over udvandrere*) 1869-1911. Alphabetical lists of emigrants who emigrated from a port in Denmark (direct) and from ports of other countries (indirect).

Land and Property. The main records at the Family History Library are:

1. (*fæsteprotokoller*), 1677-1804. Contains transactions and rentals or Vartov Hospital estates.
2. (*fæsteprotokoller*), 1687-1918. Contains magistrate's records of Copenhagen landowners and tenants of Bidstrup Estate (now parts in Copenhagen City).
3. Property Obligations (*obligationsprotokoller*) 1687-1850 for Copenhagen City.
4. Deeds and Mortgages (*skøde- og panteprotokoller*), 1653-1866. Contains deeds of conveyance, mortgage records and rental contracts for Copenhagen City.
5. Court Records (*tingbøger*), ca. 1730-1927. Register of real estates, houses and lots of Copenhagen City, giving an abstract of the deeds with references to the mortgage books by number and page.

Occupational Records. The Family History Library has the following records:

1. Citizenship Records (*borgerskaber*), 1683-1865. Contains city council records, citizenship records and trade licenses for Copenhagen City. These contain a wealth of genealogical information, especially the enclosures (*bilag*) relating to obtaining citizenship and receiving a license to follow a trade.
2. Business Licenses (*næringsbevillinger*), 1779-1857.
3. Various guild and apprentice records for the following occupations: tinsmiths, coopers, grocers, hatters, merchants, hardware dealers, coppersmiths, brokers, university professors and teachers, saddlers, skippers, shoemakers, blacksmiths, tobacco spinners, carpenters, bakers, and harbor masters.

Probate Records. The following jurisdictions existed for Copenhagen:

Before 1771 there were 10 different probate jurisdictions:

1. Byretten (city court)—common citizens.
2. Hofretten (royal court)—higher civil servants.
3. Borgretten (civil court)—lower civil servants.
4. Universitetets (university)—professors, students, and others with university connections.
5. Gejstlige (ecclesiastical)—members of the clergy.
6. Militære (military)—military and naval persons

7. Frederiks Hospital—hospital officials
8. Vajsenhusets (orphanage)—orphanage officials
9. Asiatiske og Vestindisk-Guineiske Kompagnis (Asiatic and West Indies-Guinea Company)—officials of the company
10. Jøderne (Jewish)—officials, teachers and members of the Jewish faith

After 1771 probates in Copenhagen were discharged by the Skiftekommision (probate commission) and were divided into 9 classes as follows:

1. Higher civil servants and commissioned officers.
2. Other civil servants, royal theater personnel, secretaries, bookkeepers, clerks.
3. Clergy, professors, students and those working for schools, hospitals, and the church.
4. Citizens of high repute and wealthy merchants.
5. Artisans, tradesmen, journeymen, apprentices
6. Persons of no means
7. Servants
8. Enlisted men of the navy and merchant marines
9. Enlisted men of the army

The indexes after 1798 reference the social class by number, volume, and page.

The number of social classes beginning in 1860 was 6. Persons in class 3 (clergy, etc.) were combined with class 2 (lower civil servants, etc.); Classes 7 (servants) and 8 (enlisted men in the navy and merchant marines), and 9 (enlisted men in the army), were combined in Class 3.

These records are available on microfilm at the Family History Library, online at Family Search and Arkivalieronline.

Indexes to probate records for Copenhagen include:

1. *Forseglingsprotokoller* 1720-1919 (FHL Fiche 6030293-6041670)
2. *Ordinære boer* 1660-1771 (FHL Fiche 6030251-6030255)
3. *Konceptskifter* 1660-1771 (FHL Fiche 6030238-6030250)
4. *Behandlingsprotokoller* 1715-1771 (FHL Fiche 6030233-6030237)
5. *Samfrændeskifter* 1771-1810 (FHL Fiche 6030270-6030271)
6. *Eksekutorboer* 1790-1919 (FHL Fiche 6030256-6030269)