

Your Ancestors in Denmark and Sweden with MyHeritage.com

The goal of this session will be to give you hints, tools, and direction to assist in your Danish and Swedish research.

This class is designed to cover content that should be appealing to a broad spectrum of skill levels. From the beginner to the enthusiast.

Denmark

- Geography & Administrative Districts
 - o Made up of a large peninsula and 443 islands
 - o Greenland and the Faroe Islands are semi-autonomous entities attached to Denmark
 - o Currently divided into 5 Regions (Regioner) and then into 98 Municipalities. Over the past 100 years, the number of municipalities have been combined and condensed from more than 2,000 to the current total
- Historical Notes
 - o 1660 Treaty of Copenhagen settled dispute between Sweden, Norway and Denmark and established the boundaries that exist today
 - o 1814 – Norway goes from Danish to Swedish rule
 - o 1849 to the present – Denmark experiences significant movement of the population from the rural countryside into the cities as the country begins to experience industrialization
 - o Schleswig and Holstein represent either the southern end of Denmark or the northern end of Germany. These areas have vacillated in and out of Danish rule for centuries.
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schleswig-Holstein> gives a fair description of the region's history and status over time
- Genealogical Records
 - o Top Tier:
 - Church Records
 - Primary source for names, births, confirmation, marriages, deaths, burials, and residence
 - Parish registers began country wide in 1645
 - <https://www.sa.dk/content/dk/ao-forside> (note: to switch to English, click on the "In English" link in the bottom-left corner)
 - Census
 - Primary source for names and residence. Secondary source for relationships, birth locations, genders, ages
 - <https://www.myheritage.com/research/category-Denmark/denmark>
 - o Second Tier
 - Military, Emigration, Probate
 - <http://www.ddd.dda.dk/databaser.html> (note: there is an option to translate the site into English or German located at the top of the page. It appears that there is more information available if you leave it in Danish and use Google to translate the page for you instead of using the site's English option)

- Resources, Links, Aids
 - o Handwriting Help:
 - <https://www.sa.dk/en/genealogy/handwriting>
 - o Naming Conventions:
 - <https://www.sa.dk/en/genealogy/danish-names>

Sweden

- Historical Notes
 - o Medieval Times – 17th Century: Unified Country
 - o 17th Century: Sweden's power and reach expanded under the influence of King Gustavus Adolphus to include Finland and portions of Russia, Poland, and Lithuania
 - o 18th Century: Sweden lost most of its non-Scandinavia territories (including Finland in 1809)
- Emigration
 - o During the 1880s more than 1% of the population annually emigrated to the US (mostly to the Midwestern States)
 - o Between 1846 and 1930 approximately 1.3 million people, about 20% of the Swedish population, left the country
 - o Notable Swedish communities exist in the United States, Australia, Canada, Britain, and Argentina
- Religion
 - o Until 1996 Swedes were registered automatically at birth as members of the Church of Sweden if at least one of the parents was a member
 - o Church of Sweden. Official State church until 2000, Evangelical-Lutheran orientation
 - o In 1972, 95% of Swedes belonged to the Church of Sweden
- Historic Naming Patterns
 - o Given Names
 - As in English, where we Robert can also be Rob or Bob, many names have variants – “Peter” may be known as “Per”, etc.
 - Though not strictly followed, the following patterns were frequently used for naming children at baptism
(see https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Sweden_Names_Personal)
 - The first son was named after the father's father
 - The second son was named after the mother's father
 - The third son was named after the father
 - The fourth son was named after the father's eldest brother
 - The first daughter was named after the mother's mother
 - The second daughter was named after the father's mother
 - The third daughter was named after the mother
 - The fourth daughter was named after the mother's eldest sister
 - o Surnames
 - Patronymics – The surname of the male children of Peter Andersson will be Petersson, and the female children will be Petersdotter

- Other factors that influenced the surname of an individual could be if they were Clergy, Nobility, a Craftsman, or a Soldier
 - Farm Names were often used by rural peoples to help differentiate persons with the same name. The Farm name could be added to the name, before the given name or after the surname
 - See http://www.algonet.se/~hogman/Naming%20practice_eng.htm for an extended description of surname adoption practices
 - In 1901 the Names Adoption Act was passed in Sweden and everyone had to have a family name that would be passed down from generation to generation
- Genealogical Records
 - Top Tier:
 - Church & Church Records Extracts (after 1860)
 - Birth (*Födde*) and baptismal (*Dop*) records
 - Marriage (*Vigsel*) and banns (*Lysning*) records
 - Death and burial (*Död*) records.
 - <http://sok.riksarkivet.se/svar-digitala-forskarsalen> (note: site is in Swedish but can be switched to English using the “Other languages” link in the top-right corner of the site)
 - <http://arkivdigital.se> (note: site requires a subscription to view images)
 - Household Examination Records (*Husförhörlängder*)
 - <https://www.myheritage.com/research/category-Sweden/sweden>
 - Second Tier:
 - Taxation Records
 - Emigration
 - Population Registers
- Additional Links / Resources
 - National Archives Database
 - <http://sok.riksarkivet.se/nad>
 - Federation of Genealogical Societies of Sweden (*Sveriges Släktforskarförbund*)
 - <http://www.genealogi.se/> (Note: site is in Swedish, but can be switched to English by clicking on the UK flag icon in the top-right corner)