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PARISH REGISTERS ON MICROFICHE

- **a Guide to Danish Parish
Registers before 1892**

**The State Archives
Filming Centre, Viborg
1999**



Church and Religion in Denmark

Christianity became the religion of the King of Denmark around 950, but it was not until the late 11th century the Roman Catholic church was fully established throughout the Kingdom of Denmark. In the 1520s the Lutheran Reformation movement spread throughout Germany via Holstein and Schleswig to Denmark. With the Reformation in 1536 the church became a Lutheran church owing allegiance to the Crown and Lutheranism the only permitted religion.

After the abolition of the absolute monarchy in 1848, the Constitution of 1849 introduced the principle of religious freedom, but not of religious equality, as the state was given the responsibility for supporting the Evangelical Lutheran Church as the Danish National Church.

The Danish National Church as of today is governed with the Folketing (Parliament) as the legislative body and the government (The Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs) as the supreme administrative body.

By the late 19th century the established church was by far the largest of the religious communities in Denmark, encompassing almost 99 % of the population in 1901.

Alongside the established church various Christian churches were represented in Denmark and had been accorded the status of officially recognized religious communities. This applied to the Danish Reform Communities, and the Roman Catholic and the Methodist churches. The oldest of the non-Christian communities in Denmark was the Jewish community, recognised in 1814.

The recognition allowed these communities to keep legal registers and to issue legally valid personal documents (certificates of marriage and baptism).

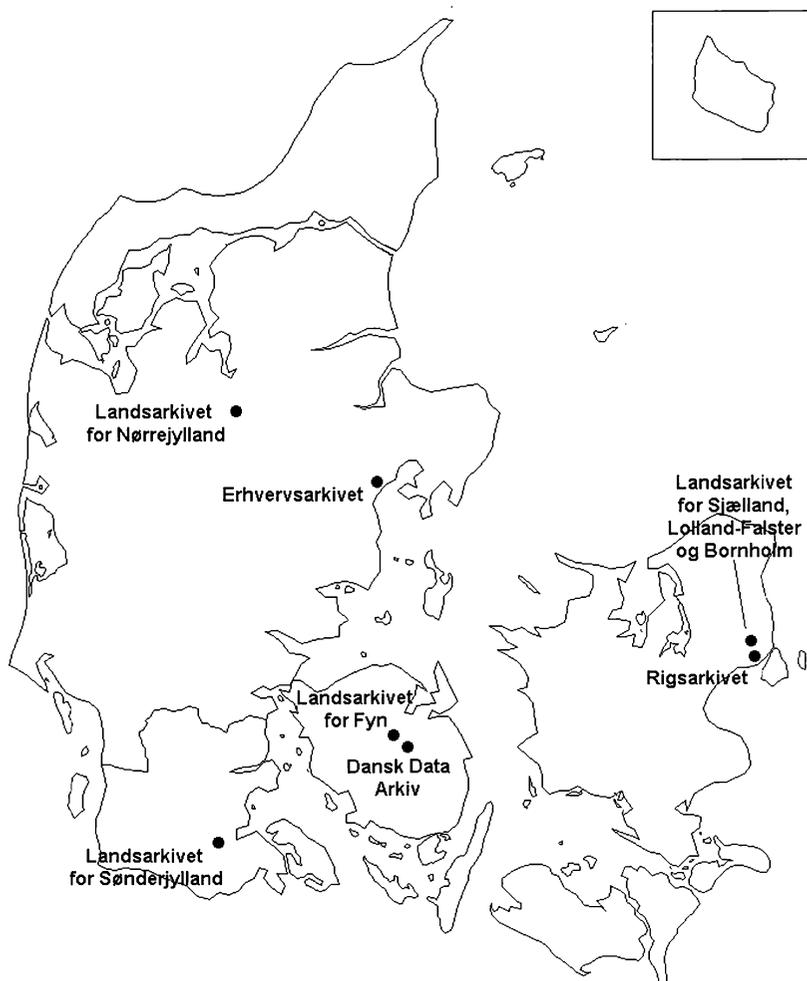
For all other religious communities it was mandatory to report births and deaths to the relevant parochial office of the Danish National Church for entry into the parish register.

Microfiche in the Danish State Archives

In the reading rooms of the Danish State Archives in:

- the Danish National Archives (Rigsarkivet) in Copenhagen
- the Provincial Archives:
 - Landsarkivet for Sjælland, Lolland-Falster og Bornholm in Copenhagen
 - Landsarkivet for Fyn in Odense
 - Landsarkivet for Nørrejylland in Viborg
 - Landsarkivet for Sønderjylland in Aabenraa
- the Danish National Business Archives (Erhvervsarkivet) in Århus

ring binders with microfiches of parish registers from all Denmark are available on the shelves - about 90,000 microfiches at each of the archives. This guide will give you a basic introduction to the use of parish registers, to the microfiches, their arrangement, and how to use them.



About Parish Registers

Parish registers before 1892 - from each of the districts of the four Provincial Archives - have all been microfilmed. The special circumstances as regards Southern Jutland will be described below (see page 6).

The original parish registers are generally accessible to the public at the Provincial Archives when they are 50 years old. Information about deaths and funerals is already accessible after 10 years.

In 1645 and 1646 King Christian IV ordered Danish vicars to enter baptized children, couples to be betrothed and married, and the dead, in a special register. Many such early registers from the 17th century have been preserved, but unfortunately the registers of some parishes have been lost, often due to fires. Some registers go further back than 1645, as some vicars on their own initiative introduced registers as far back as the late 16th century. From 1736 the registers may also hold entries of confirmations.

Until 1812 the parishes kept only one copy of the register.

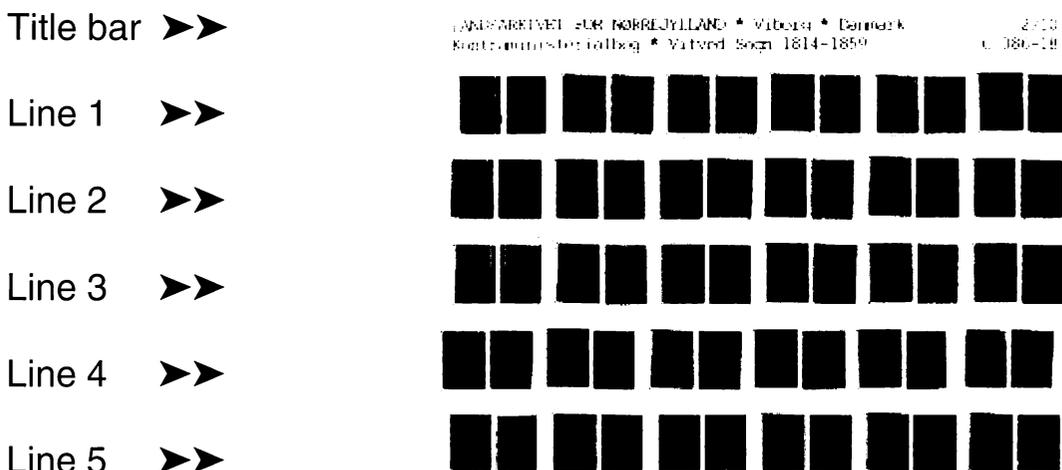
From the end of 1812 - but only consistently from 1814 - all parish registers were kept in two copies. One by the vicar, the other by the parish clerk or the teacher of the village school. The two copies had to be identical and generally speaking, so they are, though minor discrepancies may occur. In Southern Jutland two copies were kept from as early as 1763.

The registers are called the principal register (hovedministerialbog) and the counter register (kontraministerialbog), respectively.

In 1892 new registers were introduced in all parts of Denmark, with the exception of Southern Jutland which at that time belonged to Prussia.

The original parish registers from 1892 onwards can be studied at the four Provincial Archives, each covering their own area.

About Microfiches



The arrows indicate the reading direction on the microfiches.

All parish registers have been microfilmed completely page by page - except the blank pages. During microfilming the size of the pages was reduced. The South Jutland registers were filmed with a reduction to the scale of 1:31. Parish registers from the regions covered by the three other Provincial Archives have been reduced to the scale of 1:25. The microfilm readers in the reading room read fiches in both scales.

Landsarkivet for Sjælland and Landsarkivet for Sønderjylland mainly microfilmed the principal registers, whereas Landsarkivet for Fyn and Landsarkivet for Nørrejylland chose to film the counter registers.

The index of a parish register - normally to be found on the first pages of the register and consequently on the first microfiche of the register - gives a general idea of its contents.

The oldest parish registers differ markedly in size as well in organization. Some have chronological entries, others are divided into sections, and still others may be divided into parallel columns. In some cases several vicars have made entries in the same register, and the result may be a mixture of several systems.

The registers and consequently the microfiches may be difficult to read both because the entries were made without any particular order, and because the registers are marked by age and hard wear.

Once the practice of keeping two copies had been introduced, the parish registers as such were also standardized, using preprinted forms, usually designed according to the pattern below. The microfiches have been arranged accordingly. There may be variations, i.e. various categories of entries may be found in separate registers: births only, marriages only etc.

Births, persons of the male sex
Births, persons of the female sex
Confirmations, boys
Confirmations, girls
Marriages, couples
Deaths, persons of the male sex
Deaths, persons of the female sex
Lists of arrivals / lists of departures
(1813-1875 for country parishes,
1813-1854 for urban parishes)
Register of reference to personal data in the register

The Parish Registers of Southern Jutland (North Schleswig)

The overall renewal of church registers which took place in Denmark in 1892 was halted in Southern Jutland, as that part of the country was under Prussian rule from 1864 until the reunion with Denmark in 1920. Consequently, there was no logical terminal year for the microfilming of the parish registers for Southern Jutland as for the other parts of Denmark. In the case of Southern Jutland the principal registers have been microfilmed. As the registers have been handed in consecutively, the filming does not cover all registers up to 1892.

How to use the Microfiches

The major part of the microfiches and their order of arrangement is largely similar - whether you go to the Danish National Archives, the Danish National Business Archives, or any of the four Provincial Archives.

The system of colours indicates to which part of the country the microfiches relate.

The Microfiche Ring Binders of Funen are red

You will find the microfiches in red ring binders, the title bars of the microfiches are red, and so is the catalogue of reference.

The microfiches of the Funen registers placed at Landsarkivet for Fyn do not have coloured title bars

At Landsarkivet for Sjælland the ring binders are yellow.

The information of the title bars is as follows:

microfiche 1 of 7



Landsarkivet for Fyn * Odense * Danmark (The Provincial Archives of Funen * Odense * Denmark)	1/7
Kontraministerialbog * Bregninge-Søby sogn 1741-1787 (Counter register * the parish of Bregninge-Søby 1741-1787)	2



the serial number of the parish register
(the second of all volumes for Bregninge)

The parishes of Funen have not been numbered. During the production of the microfiches the parish registers were filmed district by district in alphabetical order, and the parishes of each district also in alphabetical order. This order is repeated in the red catalogue and in the organization of the reading rooms. For further information see chapter on "The Microfiche Catalogues".

The Microfiche Ring Binders of Northern Jutland are grey

You will find the microfiches in pale grey ring binders. The title bars of the microfiches are pale grey, and so are the two catalogues of

microfiches. The microfiches of the Northern Jutland registers at Landsarkivet for Nørrejylland, however, do not have coloured title bars.

All records at Landsarkivet for Nørrejylland have a serial number consisting of letters and numbers.

The numbering of parish registers is as follows:

- C (is for ecclesiastical records)
- 75 (the number of the office = call number)
- 8 (the number of the register = serial number)

On principal registers you will find the letters HMB (i.e. Hovedministerialbog = Principal register) added to the C.

The information of the title bars is as follows:

microfiche 3 of 4



Landsarkivet for Nørrejylland * Viborg * Danmark (The Provincial Archives of Northern Jutland * Viborg * Denmark)	3/4
Hovedministerialbog * Flade, Gærum og Fladstrand sogne 1690-1724 (Principal register * the parishes of Flade, Gærum and Fladstrand 1690-1724)	HMB C 55A-2



call number and serial number

microfiche 14 of 22



Landsarkivet for Nørrejylland * Viborg * Danmark (The Provincial Archives of Northern Jutland * Viborg * Denmark)	14/22
Kontraministerialbog * Dronninglund sogn 1830-1849 (Counter register * the parish of Dronninglund 1830-1849)	C 75-8



call number and serial number

The parish registers have been arranged by their call numbers. For further information see chapter on "The Microfiche Catalogues".

The Microfiche Ring Binders of Southern Jutland are green

You will find the microfiches in green ring binders, the title bars are green, and so is the catalogue of the microfiches.

microfiche 1 of 4



"LAA" 63 Aa 4	VONSBÆK	1772-1830	1/4
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LAÅ stands for Landsarkivet for Sønderjylland
63 is the number of the parish
Aa stands for principal register
4 is the volume number of the parish register

The microfiche catalogue holds information as to the contents of each separate parish register. For further information see chapter on "The Microfiche Catalogues".

The Microfiche Ring Binders of Sealand, Lolland-Falster and Bornholm are black

The title bars of the microfiches of Sealand are pink or black with pink types. They are to be found in black ring binders. The microfiche catalogue is black.

At Landsarkivet for Sjælland the title bars are not coloured. The microfiches have been arranged in red ring binders.

call number



LAK 3-3437	DK.LANDSARKIVET, KØBENHAVN (DK. The Provincial Archives, Copenhagen) KIRKEBØGER INDTIL CA. 1814 (Parish registers until c. 1814) Græse/Sigerslev 1734-1814	1-200-1 1/5
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number of film project and serial number



microfiche 1 of 5

The call number consists of three numbers made of “type-parish-volume” numbers.

Type number:

Type 1 = the one-copy registers before 1814

Type 2 = principal registers 1814-1891

Type 3 = counter registers 1814-1891

The number of the parish

The number of the volume

The list of films indicates the numbers of type, parish, and volume for each parish. Furthermore it says what the parish registers contain. For further information see chapter on “The Microfiche Catalogues”.



The Microfiche Catalogues

At the Provincial Archives holding the original parish registers, you will find detailed guides to the registers. When using microfiches at the various archives where the microfiches “do not belong”, you have to employ the microfiche catalogues compiled for all the Provincial Archives as a catalogue of reference.

The catalogues list parish by parish: which parish registers are on microfiche, their first and last years, the number of microfiches each register takes up, and furthermore concerning Funen, Southern Jutland, and Sealand, what each register contains. The catalogues do not give a complete and exhaustive description of the parish registers. The index of the registers, generally to be found on the first microfiche, lists the entries by category.

The Microfiche Catalogue. Parish Registers - Funen

The microfiche catalogue of Funen is red.

The catalogue contains:

- an alphabetical index of parishes, which refers to county and district
- the districts/parishes of Odense County
- the districts/parishes of Svendborg County

Each district has a front page with the names of the parishes.

For each register serial number, first and last years, contents, and the number of microfiches are stated. For further information see chapter on “How to use the Microfiches”.

The contents are marked by

- F fødsler (births)
- K konfirmeringer (confirmations)
- V vielser (marriages)
- D dødsfald (deaths)
- T tilgangslistes (lists of arrivals)
- A afgangslister (lists of departures)
- J almindeligt jævnførelsesregister (register of reference to personal data)

The Microfiche Catalogues. Parish Registers - Northern Jutland

There are two catalogues both of a pale grey colour. The first one holds the years before 1814, the other one 1814-1891.

The catalogues contain

- an alphabetical register of parishes
- a numbered list of parishes

Each register states the name of the parish, call number, serial number, first and last years as well as the number of microfiches. For further information see chapter on "How to use the Microfiches".

The Microfiche Catalogue. Parish Registers - Southern Jutland

The microfiche catalogue of Southern Jutland is green.

The catalogue contains

- an alphabetical register of parishes
- a numbered list of parishes

Each register states the names of the deanery and parish, serial number, first and last years, contents as well as the number of microfiches. For further information see chapter on "How to use the Microfiches".

The serial number holds one of the following combinations of letters

Aa - for principal registers

Ab - for counter registers

Ae - for principal registers of parishes-of-ease

Af - for counter registers of parishes-of-ease

The Microfiche Catalogue. Parish Registers - Sealand, Lolland-Falster and Bornholm

The microfiche catalogue of Sealand is black.

The catalogue contains

- an alphabetical register of parishes
- a numbered list of parishes

Each register states type number, number of parish, number of volume, first and last years, contents as well as the number of microfiches. For further information see chapter on "How to use the Microfiches".

The contents are marked by

- F fødsler (births)
- K konfirmeringer (confirmations)
- V vielser (marriages)
- D dødsfald (deaths)
- T tilgangslistes (lists of arrivals)
- A afgangslister (lists of departures)
- J almindeligt jævnførselsregister (register of reference to personal data)

The microfiche catalogues cost DKK 75,- each (vat incl.)

Place Names

It is important to know the name of the parish/church relevant for the person you wish to look up in the parish register. It would also be useful to know the place names of the region, in which the parish is situated. As regards Copenhagen a street index would also be useful.

Books of Reference:

J. P. Trap. Danmark.

Post -og telegrafadressebogen (*The Mail Directory*).

Kraks vejviser (*a directory*).

Dating

The oldest parish registers prior to 1812-1814 use Latin designations when dating religious ceremonies. To help you decipher these designations we recommend:

R. W. Bauer. Calender for Aarene fra 601 til 2200 (*Calendar of the Years 601-2200AD*).

Old Handwriting

The parish registers were kept in German hand until about 1875-1880. You will find a number of books on the subject that print alphabets of various styles of German hand.

In the reading room you have other searching aids as well, such as alphabetical registers of marriages and deaths in towns. So far they are not available to the full extent at all archives, but only at the archives which have the original parish registers.

In each of the archives you will find a variety of guides on the use of the reading rooms and on the arrangement of microfiches and searching aids.

Addresses, Opening Hours and Closures Dates

Rigsarkivet (The Danish National Archives)

Rigsdagsgården 9, 1218 København K. Tel. 33 92 33 10.

Monday - Saturday 09:00 - 17:00

Saturdays:

1.5 - 14.6 09:00 - 14:00

15.8 - 30.9 09:00 - 14:00

15.6 - 14.8 closed

Landsarkivet for Sjælland, Lolland-Falster og Bornholm (The Provincial Archives of Sealand, Lolland-Falster, and Bornholm)

Jagtvej 10, 2200 København N. Tel. 35 24 82 00.

Monday - Saturday 09:00 - 16:00

Saturdays:

15.5 - 31.8 closed

Landsarkivet for Fyn (The Provincial Archives of Funen)

Jernbanegade 36A, 5000 Odense C. Tel. 66 12 58 85.

Monday - Thursday and

Saturday 09:00 - 16:00

Friday 09:00 - 13:00

Saturdays:

15.6 - 14.8 closed

Landsarkivet for Sønderjylland (The Provincial Archives of Southern Jutland)

Haderslevvej 45, 6200 Aabenraa. Tel. 74 62 58 58.

Monday - Saturday 09:00 - 16:00

Saturdays:

1.5 - 31.8 closed

Landsarkivet for Nørrejylland (The Provincial Archives of Northern Jutland)

Ll. Sct. Hans Gade 5, 8800 Viborg. Tel. 86 62 17 88.

Monday - Saturday 09:00 - 16:00

Saturdays:

1.5 - 14.6 09:00 - 14:00

15.8 - 30.9 09:00 - 14:00

15.6 - 14.8 closed

Erhvervsarkivet (The Danish National Business Archives)

Vester Allé 12, 8000 Århus C. Tel. 86 12 85 33.

Monday - Friday 08:30 - 16:00

Closure Dates for all archives: Easter Public holidays, Great Prayers' day and the following Saturday, Ascension Day, Whit Monday, Constitution day (June 5th), Christmas Public Holidays, and New Year Public Holiday. Changes may occur in exceptional circumstances.

In brief

- about parish registers
- about microfiches and what they hold
- useful references
- the addresses and opening hours of The Danish State Archives

