

G is for (Danish) Genealogy – An Alphabet of Genealogical Terms

- Arkiver** – local, provincial, national and specialized archives: important places to find family information
- Boskifte** – Danish probate records
- Centralpersonregistret** – also called ‘Folkeregistret,’ the Danish national registration system that tracks persons from birth to death
- Danish Brotherhood/Danish Sisterhood** – two important heritage organizations that often provide genealogical clues
- Enke(mand)** – widow(er)
- Fødselsstiftelsen** – Copenhagen maternity hospital for unwed and impoverished mothers
- Gård og gods** – farm and manor estate, the two highest classes of rural land ownership
- Husmand** – smallholder: a person owning or renting a small plot of land + residence
- Indsiddler** – cottager: a person renting a house with no appreciable attached land
- Jylland** – the peninsula of Jutland, Denmark’s largest land mass
- København** – A county and Denmark’s capital city, with **xx** parishes
- Lægdsruller** – Danish military conscription rolls (mandatory enrollment for rural youths)
- Matrikelnummer** – property tax number; these can help identify land parcels where ancestors lived; sometimes found on census records
- Navneforandringslovgivning** – name change laws that led to fixed surnames and encouraged the adoption of names that don’t end in ‘-sen’
- Onkel** – uncle, usually by marriage (‘morbror’ and ‘farbror’ are used for blood uncles)
- Patronym** – surnames based on a father’s given name + ‘son’ or ‘daughter’
- Quindekøn** – an archaic word for ‘female’ (often found in church registers)
- Rejsepas** – passport; formerly needed to travel from one place in Denmark to another
- Skudsmålsgang** – character reference books issued to members of the working class after they attained confirmation age; contain records of employment
- Tyende** – a common word for ‘servant’
- Uægte** – illegitimate; births out of wedlock usually name the child’s father and often give the mother’s residence at the time she became pregnant
- Vejle** – city in southeastern Jutland; emigration tickets purchased here between 1879 and 1887 usually were for passage via Hamburg
- Wilhelm** – a variant spelling of Vilhelm; ‘w,’ ‘v’ (and sometimes ‘u’) were often used interchangeably in words
- X-kromosom** – inheritance from one’s maternal ancestry
- Yuland, Yens & Yust** about anything misspelled by Anglo listeners when writing down what they ‘heard’ Danish immigrants say
- Zealand** – Sjælland, Denmark’s largest island on which Copenhagen is situated
- Ægteskabsregistre** – marriage registers, found in church books and, from the late 19th century, as civil records in urban areas and Slesvig-Holsten
- Ø** -- the Danish word for ‘island.’ Often found as a place-name suffix (Ærø, Fanø, Sorø)
- Å** -- equals AA, but not A. The Danish alphabet, which formerly began with AA-, now begins with A and ends with Å. Å is found in place names (Århus, Åbyhøj, Langå); personal names tend to be spelled with AA (Aage, Aase)