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

Indsidder – 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’

Quindekon – an archaic word for ‘female’ (often found in church registers)

Rejsepas – passport; formerly needed to travel from one place in Denmark to another

Skudsmålsbog – 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)