

- 4. Sallstroop 4. Nørre Sundby 8 - '6
- 5. Frilive 5. Skanderborg 7 - '8
- 6. Norasoonbee 6. Sejlstrup 8 - '2
- 7. Mawreeaga 7. Vidstrup 7 - '9
- 8. Argussa 8. Nibe 6 - '5
- 9. Neeba 9. Frejlev 9 - '7

VARIATIONS IN OLD DANISH LETTERS

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

K

L

M

N

O

P

R

S

OLD DANISH HANDWRITING
IT IS POSSIBLE TO READ DANISH RECORDS.

It is often difficult to read the handwriting of family and friends who are writing in the same style and language as we are. If we add to this the perplexity of an unfamiliar script and style of lettering the difficulty can become complicated. The script used in English speaking countries and in most of the north and west European countries is called the Latin script. In Denmark the Latin script is used at the present time, but the change from the Gothic script to the Latin script has been a gradual process over many years. The Danish genealogical researcher must be prepared to read the Gothic script in order to effectively use the record source material. The ability to read the original records can only come through study and experience. Practice, patience, imagination and perception are all that is necessary for reading the old script. Practice in writing and reading the old Script develops the acquired skill.

EXAMPLES OF LETTERS IN OLD DANISH HANDWRITING

A B C D E F G

H I J K L M

N O P Q R S

T U V W X Y Z

Aa Æ Ø

a b c d e f g h i j

k l m n o p q r s t

u v w x y z aa æ ø

T

U

V

W

X Y

Aa Ae

EXAMPLES OF DANISH WORDS IN OLD HANDWRITING

Den sidstes søn uægte (The last son illegitimate)

Moder søster søn (Mother's sister's son)

Stifsøn - stepson

Madfader - mad = food
fader = father
father who provides
the food

Madmoder - mother
who prepares the food

ligesaa - the same

husbonde - master,
man of the house or
husband

anden - second, other

broder - brother

afgangen - deceased

Rigsdaler - Rix-dollar
(a silver coin of Ger-
many, Holland, Denmark
and Sweden, of different value in different places, &
varying from 60¢ to \$1.08 according to the country
where coined. (Not in use in Denmark at present).

Anno - in the year; Anno Domini,
A.D. in the year of our Lord.

mølle - mill

enke - the
widow

børn of sidste
(a)egteskab - children
of last marriage.

ugift - unmarried

gift anden gang -
married second time.

hans (Kone) kone - his wife

gift - married

mand - man

STUDY THE LETTERS

Even though the script looks impossible to read at the first glance the ability to read it will increase with a little practice. The best way to study the letters is to write them. Write each letter from ten to twenty times, then write English paragraphs using the old handwriting until each letter is conquered. If several people work together the paragraphs may be traded and transliterated back into our present English handwriting. If this procedure is followed for several weeks, the researcher will be acquainted with each of the details and characteristics of the letters.

NOTE THE DETAILS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH LETTER

c i æ
 e n u m
 h f sk st
 r v y
 p x z
 o ö

Christen

Christen not Olufsen

Claus Paul

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO DATES:
EXAMPLE:

54 57 not 54 1859
 76 16 not 76 1859
 88 177 1/2 1772

READ THE FOLLOWING AND NOTE THE COMBINATION OF THE LATIN AND GOTHIC SCRIPT

Brøderup 8	Lars Christensen	Huusbond	44	begge i	Bonde og
	Anne Andersd:	hans Kone	36	1ste søgt:	Gaardbeboer
	Jørgen Jensen	-----	34	ugift	
	Anders Hansen	tiensetfolk	12	---	
	Gunnild Christoffid:	-----	17	ugift	
	Maren Nielsd:	-----	10	---	

BEGIN STUDYING THE MODERN RECORDS AS THE OLDER RECORDS ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO READ. STUDY THE HANDWRITING CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH SCRIBE. PRACTICE IN READING THE HANDWRITING UNTIL YOU HAVE ACQUIRED THE NECESSARY SKILL.

Brøderup 8	Lars Christensen	Gunnild	44	1ste søgt	
	Anne Andersd:	hans Kone	36	---	
	Jørgen Jensen	-----	34	ugift	
	Anders Hansen	tiensetfolk	12	---	
	Gunnild Christoffid:	-----	17	ugift	
	Maren Nielsd:	-----	10	---	

CUSTOMS AND NATIONAL TRENDS

A knowledge of the customs and national trends of the Danish people is important in order to project the re-

NAMES ARE SOMETIMES MISREAD. DO NOT READ WHAT YOU WANT TO FIND INSTEAD OF WHAT THE RECORD ACTUALLY STATES.

A vivid imagination is very important in reading poor handwriting but the researcher must guard against making wrong conclusions. For the correct interpretation it is often necessary to refer to more than one entry. The same name may be written in a recognizable form in another record.

EXAMPLE:

Larsen Sørensen

Hansen not Larsen Sorensen not Pedersen

search quest into new sources. Being able to visualize the movements and social activities of the people will lead to specific sources of genealogical value.

EXAMPLE:

CONFIRMATION RECORDS

Children in the Lutheran Church (Danish State Church) are confirmed at age 14 or thereafter. Confirmation is important to the researcher because:

1. It creates an additional record source of the individual.
2. The individual is now mature enough to leave home for work or apprenticeship which may indicate a new research locality.