

Genealogy in the City Archives

City archives of Frederikshavn

- The memory of Frederikshavn Municipality

Introduction

This folder is a preliminary guide for genealogists. It is the short version of a proper guide, which is available from the City Archives of Frederikshavn. The guide comprises the most important groups of records in the City Archives that might interest genealogists. This minor guide provides sound advice as well as a brief introduction to genealogy research in the collections of the City Archives. In addition, this guide contains an explication of statutes concerning dates of release and access to public records. Student aides, Anna Louise Siggaard, Daniel Svendsen and Marianne Sørensen, wrote the guide at the City Archives of Frederikshavn in 2010. The guide has been corrected and updated by archivist Mia Kanstrup in 2023.



The beach at the end of Lisborgvej, Frederikshavn with filling of rubble, 1957. (B540)

Biographical Records

Parish registers are crucial sources of ancient history. For times that are more recent, there are registers of taxpayers and Central Person Register entries. A number of other significant source groups also comprise important biographical information. These are excellent search tools and can sometimes be of help in tracking people who have moved around in Denmark.

1) *Birth Records*

The records of births contain information on the child's place of birth, name, full names of parents, their titles and address(es) and the municipality in which the child was born (where the mother lived 10 months prior to the child's birth). When going through birth records you should differentiate between the municipalities, in which the child had civic rights.

2) Supervision of foster children

Supervision of foster-children became mandatory in 1888, and in the records of foster-children, you should look for information in Minutes as well as in supervision records. Minutes and supervision records provide information on foster-children's parents (typically the parent paying for the upkeep of the child), the child itself as well as other information, such as reasons for termination of fostering. These records may well contain details of the child's moving to and from the municipality in question.

3) Widow's pension.

Widow's pension ledgers are kept chronologically, which makes them powerful tools of research. Entries in the ledgers provide information on the widow, her late husband, other relatives (e.g. dates of birth for the widow's children), as well as details of the children's moving to and from the municipality in question.

4) Old Age Pension

In 1891 there was a poor-law reform and old age pensions were co-financed by the Danish State. This was the first instance of the Danish state financing the social expenditure of the municipalities, currently known as retirement pension. Please note that the municipality responsible for supplying public assistance changed if the claimant lived in a different municipality for three years or more. This changed to five years minimum in 1839. In old age pension records, we find information on the recipient, the recipient's spouse, dates of their moving to and from the municipality as well as information on the recipient's economy. Records of old age pension are, like widow's pensions, kept in ledgers.

Sound Advice / Worth Considering

In connection with archive research, gaps may occur, or maybe the person you are looking for suddenly falls off the map. In such cases, the archivist can offer assistance. Below is a non-exhaustive list of advice and points worth considering when doing genealogy research:

- Search in other departments of public administration than your first choice. Some administrative rules may have changed over the years, for instance, due to legislative changes. This was the case with the poor-law reform of 1891, when benefits for the disabled and old age pensions were extracted from the poor-laws and separate laws for them were made.
- There was a census once every five to ten years, while there was a registration of taxpayers once a year in major cities and boroughs. We recommend searching both.
- In 1968 data was no longer kept in books and ledgers. Instead, it was entered in the electronic Central Persons Register (CPR) database.
- Local genealogy societies are good places to find help. Do use them; they are well informed about customs in the area.
- Names: It was only in 1961 it became legal for children to use their mother's family name, or one of their grandparents' baptismal names. This means that siblings might have different family names. The Names Act of 1982 made it legal to change one's Christian names as often as one wants.
- There may be gaps in the material, e.g. during WWII there was a shortage of paper. This meant that documents were reused, especially in the post-war years. Consequently, significant documents may have been lost.

Record Release Dates

According to the Archives Act, documents become accessible after twenty years unless special circumstances apply (see below). Public access to documents of less than twenty years of age is regulated by the Act on Free Access to Public Records, administrative law, the Personal Data Act or the Administration of Justice Act. Thus one has to apply for right of access to documents, if one wishes to see documents of less than twenty years of age.

- Special funeral registers. Information on deaths is entered in separate parish registers. In the person registers of South Jutland right of access can be granted after ten years.
- Information on christenings, confirmations and marriage are entered in parish registers, marriage registers and records, civil marriage registers, probate records (decease), Central Person Register entries and wills: fifty years.

- Private information on individuals, such as criminal records, adoptions, custody cases, naturalization cases and inquests. This applies whether the information is kept preserved in documents or electronically, such as the National Hospital Discharge Register, the Central Register of Taxpayers, Prison Service Register System: seventy-five years.
- Extended release dates: Documents on issues of national security.

Which Parishes Belong to Frederikshavn Municipality?

Skagen

- Råbjerg
- Skagen landsogn

Frederikshavn

- Hirsholmene
- Understed-Karup
- Elling
- Åsted-Skærum
- Flade-Gærum

Sæby

- Albæk
- Hørby
- Understed-Karup
- Skæve
- Torslev
- Volstrup

Address

City Archives of Frederikshavn

Parallelvej 16, 9900 Frederikshavn

Phone: +45 98 45 57 72

stadsarkiv@frederikshavn.dk

www.stadsarkiv.frederikshavn.dk

Location: The City Archives of Frederikshavn is situated on the 1st floor of the Frederikshavn Library in room B264 – look for the sign on your left when you go up the stairs to the gallery floor.

Opening Hours

The reading room is open:

- Mondays 12.30 – 3.00 pm
- Tuesdays 12.30 – 3.00 pm
- Thursdays 12.30 – 5.00 pm

Note: Closed on public holidays on which the public library is closed.



A part of the collection of the City Archives of Frederikshavn is placed under Sæby City Hall.