



# Using Gazetteers to Determine Jurisdictions: FamilySearch Research Wiki

Denmark “How to” Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

October 2018

## GOAL

This guide will teach you how to identify the jurisdictions of a given farm, town, or parish using the FamilySearch Research Wiki.

## INTRODUCTION

A gazetteer is a dictionary of place-names generally listed in alphabetically order. Gazetteers may describe farms, towns, parishes, and counties, as well as rivers, mountains, and population size. Gazetteers may also provide additional information, such as religious denominations, schools, and railroad stations. Gazetteers are used to determine the civil and church jurisdictions over those places, leading to records for the location.

This guide will focus on the Danish gazetteer found on the FamilySearch Research Wiki, a free, online genealogical and family history tool that lists websites, provides research strategies, and suggest records and resources to help you find ancestors from all over the world.

## HOW TO

Keep in mind that some place names are not unique. This means there may be several locations with the same name; each location will list the corresponding parish. If this is the case, you may have to search more than one parish to find your ancestor.

Bear in mind that the standard spelling used in this gazetteer may differ slightly from the spelling used in the records of your ancestors. There was no standardized spelling before the 1900s; the scribes usually spelled names phonetically.

### Searching the gazetteer

To access the FamilySearch Research Wiki Danish gazetteer, follow these steps:

1. Go to FamilySearch, found at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).
2. Hover the mouse over the menu option **Search**. A dropdown menu will appear; click on **Research Wiki**.
3. You are now in the main search screen. Before you start your search, keep in mind that

Danish has three extra letters in their alphabet: **Æ æ**, **Ø ø**, and **Å å**. When using the FamilySearch wiki, do not use the closest English equivalents for these letters—the search will not work. Simply replace the letter with the normal letter (i.e. **o** for **ø** rather than **oe** for **ø**). A wild card – \* – should be used any time you are unsure of the spelling of a place name.

If you need to use these letters, hold down the **Alt** key while typing the three or four-digit numbers on the number pad. Release the **Alt** key, after which the letter should appear.

Æ	Alt + 146	æ	Alt + 145
Ø	Alt + 0216	ø	Alt + 0248
Å	Alt + 143	å	Alt + 134

4. From the FamilySearch Research Wiki home page, you can search in two ways: by key word, or geographically. For a key word search, follow these directions:
  - a. Locate the box with the heading **Search by place or topic**.
  - b. If you are choosing to search by place or topic, type the name of your farm/town or parish in to the search box. Click **GO**.
  - c. The search results will show any place name matching the search terms, which could be a parish, or the name of a parish in which the farm, town, district, or chapelry can be found. Each result has a blue link to a page in the research wiki.
  - d. If there are more than twenty hits on your search term, click on “next 20” under the list of suggested places. Keep in mind the place search is not just restricted to Denmark; you may see links to parishes in Sweden or Norway as well.
  - e. Click on the blue link of the name you are most interested in, and it will take you to a wiki page with historical and genealogical information regarding your place.
  - f. On each parish wiki page, you will find a heading named **Place Names**, this will be an alphabetized list of all the farms and towns within that parish.
  
5. A geographic search requires knowledge of the county and parish jurisdiction for a location. To do a geographic search, follow these directions:
  - a. Click on the word **Europe** on the map.
  - b. In the map of Europe, click on **Denmark**. You can also scroll down and select Denmark under the Scandinavian heading.
  - c. This will open the main wiki page for Denmark. Scroll down to see another map divided into counties. FamilySearch standards follow pre-1970 county boundaries, and this map shows those counties. From the map or the list below the map, click on

the county of interest.

- d. Scroll down until you see the parish map for the county. From the map or the list below the map, click on the parish of interest.
6. Once you have found the parish page, either by searching by location name or geographically, you will find information about jurisdictions for that parish. On the right, each parish page has a table containing jurisdictions, including county (*Amt*) and district (*Herred*). On the left, under the heading Place Names, the page has an alphabetized list of farms, villages, etc. located in the parish. The page has other useful information, including links to websites for records.

**Tip:** Every wiki page has a search box found in the upper right corner underneath the Sign In button (if you have already signed into FamilySearch, it will be under your name). This search box can be used to search the Research Wiki for place names, topics, or key words.

## PRACTICE

Let's use the FamilySearch Research Wiki to find information on the farm Troldhøje.

1. Navigate to FamilySearch by going to the website [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).
2. Hover over the word Search, then from the dropdown menu, select **Research Wiki**.
3. In the search box, enter the location: **Troldhoje**. Remember in the wiki you do not need to include the letter ø – you can replace it with the letter o. Hit enter or click on **Go**.
4. You will see three results, each a parish page in Denmark. Let's select the farm Troldhøje that was in Karup Parish. Click on the blue link Karup Parish, Viborg, Denmark Genealogy.
5. On the right side of the page, identify the district (*Herred*) and county (*Amt*). The county is Viborg; the district is Lysgård. On the left side of the page, look through the list of place names within the parish of Karup. You should see Troldhøje listed.

Now, let's use the FamilySearch Research Wiki to navigate to a parish page.

6. Hover over the word Search, then from the dropdown menu, select **Research Wiki**.
7. In the map, click on **Europe**.
8. In the European map or under the heading Scandinavia, click on **Denmark**.
9. Scroll down until you see the county jurisdictions map for Denmark. In the map or from the list of counties below the map, click on **Svendborg**.
10. Scroll down until you see the parish jurisdictions map for Svendborg county (*Amt*). Select the parish of Ørbæk. In Danish, the letter Ø is alphabetized after Z. On the map, Ørbæk is

located in the northern part of the county. Click on **Ørbæk**.

11. On the right side of the parish page, a table lists jurisdictions, including the district (*Herred*) and county (*Amt*). Ørbæk is located in Vindinge district within Svendborg county. A list of farms and other locations within the parish is located under Place Names.

## **ACTIVITY**

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.