# Sweden

## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish Search Strategies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Records at the Family History Library</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family History Library Catalog</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Records Selection Table</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map of Sweden</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archives and Libraries</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biography</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Registration</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directories</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emigration and Immigration</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encyclopedias and Dictionaries</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gazetteers</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genealogy</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heraldry</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language and Languages</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maps</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Records</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names, Personal</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nobility</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupations</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodicals</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probate Records</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Life and Customs</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Societies</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Records for Sweden</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Further Reading</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments and Suggestions</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## INTRODUCTION

This outline introduces you to the records you can use to learn more about your Swedish ancestor and discusses the availability of major genealogical records. Use this outline to set meaningful goals and to select the records that will help you achieve them.

Generally you must know the specific parish where your Swedish ancestor was born before beginning research in Sweden.

You will need some basic understanding of genealogical research procedures. You may want to see the video orientation program and the accompanying booklet, Guide to Research, available at the Family History Library and at Family History Centers.

## Using This Outline

The “Swedish Search Strategies” section of this outline explains the steps to follow to effectively research your family history. This section is particularly valuable if you are just beginning your research.

The “Records at the Family History Library” section helps you select records to search and describes the library's Swedish collection. The “Family History Library Catalog” section explains how to use the catalog to find specific records in the library’s collection.

Beginning on page 10 the outline discusses, in alphabetical order, the major records for Swedish research, such as “Church Records.” The names of these sections are the same as the subject headings used in the Family History Library Catalog.

Related records and concepts are grouped together under the same heading. For example, in the “Emigration and Immigration” section you will find information about:

- The history of emigration from Sweden.
- Passenger lists.
- Emigration indexes.
- Passports.

At the end of the outline you will also find a brief list of additional subject headings under “Other Records for Sweden” and a short bibliography of sources under “For Further Reading.”

## SWEDISH SEARCH STRATEGIES

### Step 1. Identify What You Know about Your Family

Begin your research with family and home sources. Look for names, dates, and places in certificates, family Bibles, obituaries, diaries, and similar sources. Ask your relatives for any additional information they
may have. It is very likely that a second cousin, great-aunt, or other relative already has some family information. Organize the information you find and record it on pedigree charts and family group record forms.

**Step 2. Decide What You Want to Learn**

Select a specific relative or ancestor born in Sweden *for whom you know at least a name, the name of the parish where he or she lived in Sweden, and an approximate date when he or she lived there*. It is very helpful to also know the names of other family members born in Sweden.

For more suggestions on how to find the name of your ancestor's birthplace, see the “Emigration and Immigration” section of this outline.

Next, decide what you want to learn about your ancestor, such as a marriage date and place or parents' names. You may want to ask an experienced researcher or a librarian to help you select a goal that you can successfully achieve.

**Step 3. Select a Record to Search**

To trace your family lines, you may need to use some of the records described in each section of this outline. Several factors can affect your choice of which records to search. This outline can help you evaluate the contents, availability, ease of use, time period covered, and reliability of the records as well as the likelihood that your ancestor will be listed in them.

**Background Information Sources.** Before you begin doing actual research, you may need some geographical and historical information. This can save you time and effort by helping you focus your research in the correct place and time period.

- *Locate the parish or place of residence.* Examine maps, gazetteers, postal guides, and other place-finding aids to learn as much as you can about each of the places where your ancestors lived. Identify the major migration routes, nearby cities, county boundaries, other geographical features, and government or ecclesiastical jurisdictions. Place-finding aids are described in the “Maps,” “Gazetteers,” and “History” sections of this outline.

- *Review local history.* Local events and circumstances affected the development of records that contain genealogical information. If possible, study a history of the areas where your ancestors lived. Look for clues about the people, places, and events that may have affected their lives and the records about them.

- *Learn about Swedish jurisdictions.* You will need to know how Sweden is divided into counties and how each county is divided into parishes. See the “Geography” section of this outline.

- *Use language helps.* The records and histories of Swedish places will usually be written in Swedish. It is not necessary to speak or read Swedish to search the records, but you will need to learn some key words and phrases. Some helpful sources are described in the “Language and Languages” section of this outline.

- *Understand naming patterns.* Many Swedish families followed distinct naming patterns. Understanding these patterns can help you identify ancestors. See the “Names, Personal” section of this outline for more information.

- *Understand local customs.* Local customs may have affected the way individuals were recorded in the records. Illegitimacy, marital customs, and local conditions are discussed in the “Social Life and Customs” section of this outline.

**Compiled Sources.** Most genealogists do a survey to see if research has been done previously by others. This can save time and give you valuable information. You may want to look for information in:

- The International Genealogical Index.
- Ancestral File.
- The Family Group Records Collection.
- Printed family histories and genealogies.
- Biographies.
- Local histories.

Records containing previous research are described in the “Biography,” “Genealogy,” “History,” “Periodicals,” and “Societies” sections of this outline. Remember, the information in these sources may contain some inaccuracies. Therefore, you will want to verify the information you find in such records.

**Original Research Sources.** After surveying previous research, you will be ready to begin original research. Original research is the process of searching through original documents (often copied on microfilm), which are usually handwritten in the native language. These documents can provide primary information about your family because they were generally recorded at or near the time of an event by a reliable witness. To do thorough research, you should search records of:
• Each *parish* where your ancestor lived.

• The *time period* when he or she lived there. Many types of original documents are described in this outline. For Swedish genealogical research, you will find the most family information in church records.

**Step 4. Find and Search the Record**

**Suggestions for Obtaining Records.** You may be able to obtain the records you need in the following ways:

• *Family History Library.* You are welcome to visit and use the records at the Family History Library. The library is open to the public, and there are no fees for using the records. If you would like more information about its services, contact:

  Family History Library  
  35 N. West Temple Street  
  Salt Lake City, UT 84150  
  USA

• *Family History Centers.* Copies of most microform records at the Family History Library can be loaned to many Family History Centers. There are small duplication and postage fees for this service.

  The library's books cannot be loaned to the centers, but copies of many books not protected by copyright are available on microfilm or microfiche.

  You can get a list of the Family History Centers near you by writing to the Family History Library at the address above.

• *Archives and local churches.* Most of the original documents you will need are in local archives or local parish offices. While the Family History Library has many records on microfilm, later records are available only at these archives. You can request searches in their records through correspondence (see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline).

• *Libraries and interlibrary loan.* Public, academic, and other research libraries may have some published sources for Swedish research. Many libraries also provide interlibrary loan services that allow you to borrow records from other libraries.

• *Professional researchers.* You can hire a private researcher that specializes in Swedish research to search the records for you. The Family History Library has a list of qualified, professional researchers. Archives in Sweden may also provide names of individuals who can search the records for you. You will need to make your own arrangements with them.

• *Photocopies.* The Family History Library and many other libraries offer limited photoduplication services for a small fee. You must specify the exact pages you need. Books protected by copyright cannot be copied in their entirety. However, a few pages can usually be copied for personal research. You may request copies of documents from the archive, library, or office that stores the records. Most archives offer photographic prints of some records, but the costs may be high.

When requesting services from libraries or professional researchers through correspondence, you will have more success if your letter is brief and very specific. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) when writing within your own country. When writing to other countries, enclose international reply coupons (available from your post office). You will usually need to send a check or money order in advance to pay for photocopy or search services.

**Suggestions for Searching the Records.** You will be most successful with Swedish research if you can examine copies of the original records, which will be mostly on microfilm.

Follow these principles as you search the records:

• *Search for one generation at a time.* Do not try to connect your family to others of the same surname who lived more than a generation before your proven ancestor. It is much easier to prove parentage than descent.

• *Search for the ancestor's entire family.* The records of each person in a family may include clues for identifying other family members. In most families, children were born at regular intervals. If there appears to be a longer period between some children, reexamine the records for a child who may have been overlooked. Consider looking at other records and in other places to find a missing family member.

• *Search each source thoroughly.* The information that you need in order to find a person or trace the family further may be a minor detail of the record you are searching. Note your ancestor's occupation and the names of witnesses, godparents, neighbors, relatives, guardians, and others. Also, note the places they are from.

• *Search a broad time period.* Some sources may not have accurate dates. Look several years before and after the date you think an event, such as a birth, occurred.
• **Look for indexes.** Many records have indexes. However, many indexes are incomplete. They may only include the name of the specific person the record is about. They may not include parents, witnesses, and other incidental persons. Also be aware that the original records may have been misinterpreted or names may have been omitted during indexing.

• **Search for prior residence.** Information about previous residences is crucial to successful research.

• **Watch for spelling and name variations.** Look for the many ways a name could have been spelled. Spelling was not standardized when most early records were made. You may find a name spelled differently than it is today. Also, names may have several variations. Karin, Cajsa (Kaisa), and Catharina (Katrina) are all variations of the same name, and you may find the same person listed with any of them at different times.

**Record Your Searches and Findings.** Copy the information you find, and keep detailed notes about each record you search. These notes should include the author, title, location, call numbers, description, and results of your search. Most researchers use a research log for this purpose.

**Step 5. Use the Information**

**Evaluate the Information You Find.** Carefully evaluate whether the information you find is complete and accurate. Ask yourself:

• Who provided the information? Did that person witness the event?

• Was the information recorded near the time of the event or later?

• Is the information consistent and logical?

• Does the new information verify the information found in other sources? Does it differ from information in other sources?

• Does it suggest other places, time periods, or records to search?

**Share Your Information with Others.** Your family history can become a source of enjoyment and education for yourself and your family. You can submit your family history information through the Internet site www.familysearch.org. You may want to compile your findings into a family history and share it with family members, the Family History Library, and other archives.

If you are a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, be sure to submit information about your deceased family members so you can provide temple ordinances for them. Your ward family history consultant or a staff member at the Family History Library or your family history center can assist you.

**RECORDS AT THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY**

**Microform Records**

The Family History Library presently has more than 80,000 microfilms and 2,000 microfiche containing information about people who have lived in Sweden. Most of the library’s records have been obtained through an extensive and ongoing acquisition program. The library has microform copies of records found in government archives, church archives, and private collections. These records include:

• Birth, marriage, death, and other records from local parish churches.

• Passenger lists.

• Probate records.

• Military records.

**Printed Records**

The library has over 3,500 volumes of books and other printed materials helpful for Swedish research. Copies of some of these books are available in microform. The collection includes such books as:

• Atlases and maps.

• Family histories.

• Gazetteers.

• Handbooks and manuals.

• Histories (national and local).

• Periodicals.

**FamilySearch™**

The Family History Library and many family history centers have computers with FamilySearch. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.
Many family history center computers now have access to computer on-line services, networks or bulletin boards. However, these services are also available at many public libraries, college libraries and private locations.

For more information about FamilySearch, see the “Family History Library Catalog” section and the “Genealogy” section of this outline.

THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

The key to finding a record in the Family History Library's collection is the Family History Library Catalog. The catalog describes each of the library's records and provides the call numbers. The catalog is available on microfiche and on compact disc as part of FamilySearch. It is at the Family History Library and at each family history center.

The Family History Library Catalog on microfiche is divided into four major searches:

- Locality
- Surname
- Subject
- Author/Title

The Family History Library Catalog on compact disc has four types of searches:

- Locality Search
- Surname Search
- Film/Microfiche Number Search
- Computer Number Search

To find the call numbers of the records described in this outline, you will most often use the Locality Search on microfiche or on compact disc.

The section headings in this outline that describe types of records, such as “Church Records,” are the same as the subjects used in the microfiche edition of the Family History Library Catalog and the topics used in the compact disc edition.

The catalog generally uses the same language that the records are written in to describe the records. The description includes a brief English summary of the content.

The Locality Search lists records according to the area they cover. Records relating to the entire country, such as passenger lists, are listed under SWEDEN. Most records are listed under a specific county or parish.

For example, in the Locality Search look for:

- The place where an ancestor lived, such as:
  **SWEDEN, HALLAND, IDALA** (country, county, parish)
- Then the record type you want, such as:
  **SWEDEN, [COUNTRY], [PARISH] - CHURCH RECORDS**

This outline also provides some of the library's call numbers. These are preceded by the letters FHL, the abbreviation for Family History Library. If you need more information on using the Family History Library Catalog, a short video program, written instructions, and reference librarians are available to assist you.
The table below can help you decide which records to search.

In column 1 find the goal you selected.

Find in column 2 the types of records that are most likely to have the information you need. Then turn to that section of this outline.

Additional records that may also be useful are listed in column 3.

The terms used in columns 2 and 3 are the same as the subject headings used in this outline and in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog.

Records containing previous research (biography, genealogy, history, nobility, periodicals, and societies) could provide information for most of the goals. These have not been listed unless they are especially helpful for the goal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. If You Need</th>
<th>2. Look First In</th>
<th>3. Then Search</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>Census</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Civil Registration (after 1860)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth date</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Civil Registration (after 1860)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthplace</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Civil Registration (after 1860)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>Probate Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Civil Registration (after 1860)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emigration information</td>
<td>Emigration and Immigration</td>
<td>Societies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical background</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Social Life and Customs, Societies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Civil Registration (after 1860)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naming customs</td>
<td>Names, Personal</td>
<td>Social Life and Customs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noble families</td>
<td>Nobility</td>
<td>Biography, Periodicals, Heraldry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Civil Registration (after 1860)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents, children, and</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>Probate Records, Court Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other family members</td>
<td>Civil Registration (after 1860)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical description</td>
<td>Military Records</td>
<td>Biography, Genealogy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place-finding aids</td>
<td>Gazetteers</td>
<td>Maps, Encyclopedias and Dictionaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places of residence</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>Census, Probate, Land and Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Civil Registration (after 1860)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous research (compiled genealogy)</td>
<td>Genealogy, Periodicals, Societies</td>
<td>History, Biography, Archives and Libraries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The city of Stockholm is self-governing.
ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Archives collect and preserve original documents of organizations such as churches and governments. Libraries generally collect published sources such as books, maps, and microfilm. This section describes the major repositories of genealogical and historical records and sources for Sweden. When one of these institutions is referred to elsewhere in this outline, return to this section to find the address.

If you plan to visit any of these repositories, contact the organization and ask for information about their hours, services, and fees. When writing to an archive in Sweden, you may write in English.

Although the records you need may be in an archive or library in Sweden, the Family History Library and the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College in Illinois may have microfilm copies of them. The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center sells microform copies of the records. Their address is on p. 24.

In Sweden there are several major types of genealogical repositories:

- National archives and libraries
- Provincial archives
- City archives
- Church parish offices
- Historical and genealogical societies

National Archive

The Swedish government collects records relating to Swedish history, culture, and people. The National Archive of Sweden, which is open to the public, has a large genealogical and biographical collection as well as government accounts, land records, tax lists, maps, and pictures. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of many of the National Archive's records.

The postal address is:

Riksarkivet
Box 12541
S-102 29 Stockholm
Sweden
Telephone: 011-46-8-737 63 50
Fax: 011-46-8-737 64 74
Email: registry@riksarkivet.ra.se
URL: http://www.ra.se/ra

The street address is:

Fyrverkarbacken 13-17
Stockholm
Sweden

The following is a guide to the National Archive's collection:


Svensk Arkivinformation, SVAR (Swedish Archive Information) is a division of the National Archive. The goal of SVAR is to make archive material available for research and education. SVAR will copy and distribute archive material and index information. SVAR has a research facility in Ramsele, Sweden. The facility is located at:

Tingsvägen 5. (Gamla Tingshuset)
Ramsele
Sweden

The mailing address is:

SVAR
Box 160
S-880 40 Ramsele
Sweden
Telephone: 011-46-623-725 00
Fax: 011-46-623-725 55
URL: www.svar.ra.se

Provincial Archives

There are seven regional archives in Sweden. They house records pertaining to their particular area. Most Swedish records of genealogical value are kept at the provincial archives, including church records such as birth, marriage, and death records; census records; land records; emigration records; and court records. Each provincial archive has a large collection of printed material about its area, including local histories, biographies, and other genealogical material. The provincial archives are open to the public. Each archive has different hours of service, so make sure you know days and times before visiting.

For Göteborg och Bohus, Älvsborg, Skaraborg, and Värmland counties, write:

Landsarkivet i Göteborg
Box 19035
S-400 12 Göteborg
Sweden
Telephone: 011-46-31-778 68 00
Fax: 011-46-31-778 68 25
For Gävleborg, Västernorrland, Västerbotten, and Norrbotten counties, write:

Landsarkivet i Härnösand
Box 161
S-871 24 Härnösand
Sweden
Telephone: 011-46-611-34 76 00
Fax: 011-46-611-34 76 50

For Malmöhus, Kristianstad, Halland, and Blekinge counties, write:

Landsarkivet i Lund
Box 2016
S-220 02 Lund
Sweden
Telephone: 011-46-19 70 00
Fax: 011-46-19 70 70

For Stockholm, Uppsala, Södermanland, Örebro, Västmanland, and Kopparberg counties, write:

Landsarkivet i Uppsala
Box 135
SE-751 04 Uppsala
Sweden
Telephone: 011-46-18-65 21 00
Fax: 011-46-18-65 21 03

For Östergötland, Kalmar, Jönköping and Kronoberg counties, write:

Landsarkivet i Vadstena
Box 126
SE-592 23 Vadstena
Sweden
Telephone: 011-46-143 753 00
Fax: 011-46-143-102 753 37

For Gotland county, write:

Landsarkivet i Visby
Visborgsgatan 1,
S-621 57 Visby
Sweden
Telephone: 011-46-498-21 05 14
Fax: 011-46-498-21 29 55

For Jämtland county, write:

Landsarkivet i Östersund
Arkivvägen 1
S-831 31 Östersund
Sweden
Telephone: 011-46-63-10 84 85
Fax: 011-46-63-12 18 24

City Archives

The city archives of Stockholm and Malmö are comparable to the provincial archives. The city archives house records for these cities.

The addresses are:

Stockholms stadsarkiv
Box 22063
S-104 22 Stockholm
Sweden
Telephone: 011-46-8-508 28 300
Fax: 011-46-8-508 28 301

Malmö stadsarkiv
Isbergs gata 13,
S-211 19 Malmö
Sweden
Telephone: 011-46-40-10 53 00
Fax: 011-46-40-97 51 05

Military Archive

The war archive stores military records. The address is:

Krigsarkivet
S-115 88 Stockholm
Sweden
Telephone: 011-46-8-782 41 00
Fax: 011-46-8-782 69 76

See the “Military Records” section of this outline.

Church Parish Offices

Post-1895 church records are usually kept by the local parish. Parishes may also have earlier records. You can write to local parishes for information. See the “Church Records” section of this outline.

Historical and Genealogical Societies

In Sweden there are many historical and genealogical societies. Some societies maintain libraries and archives that collect valuable records. For more information, including addresses, see the “Societies” section of this outline.

Inventories, Registers, Catalogs

Some archives have catalogs, inventories, guides, or periodicals that describe their records and how to use them. If possible, study these guides before you visit or use the records of an archive so that you can use your time more effectively. The Family History
Library has some of these guides. They are listed in the catalog under:

SWEDEN - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES - INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS.

Libraries

Kungliga Biblioteket (Royal Library) has a helpful collection of published genealogies, manuscripts, histories, directories, maps, and newspapers.

Kungliga Biblioteket
Box 5039
S-102 41 Stockholm
Sweden
Email: www.kungl.bibliotek@Kb.se

BIOGRAPHY

A biography is a history of a person's life. In a biography you may find the names of family members. Use the information carefully because there may be inaccuracies.

Many brief biographies on Swedish people have been published in collective works sometimes called biographical encyclopedias or dictionaries. These usually only include biographies of prominent or well-known Swedish citizens. Some feature specific groups, such as musicians or Protestant ministers.

Two major collections of Swedish biographies are:

Boethius, Bertil. ed. Svenskt biografiskt lexikon (Swedish Biographical Encyclopedia). Stockholm: Albert Bonniers förlag, 1918-. (FHL book 948.5 D36s.)


A herdaminne is a collection of personal histories of the ministers within a diocese, listing the earliest ones to more recent ones. The information generally includes birth date and place, marriage information, names of children, and other details about his life and death. These and other biographies at the Family History Library are generally listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

SWEDEN - BIOGRAPHY
SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - BIOGRAPHY
SWEDEN, [COUNTY], [PARISH] - BIOGRAPHY

CENSUS

A census (mantalslängd) is a count and description of the population taken by the Swedish government primarily for taxation and military purposes.

Swedish census records can be a helpful source because they were taken before church records were kept. You can sometimes use census records to extend your pedigree chart beyond what is recorded in church records. The earliest census records in central Sweden are from the 1620s.

The Family History Library has the Swedish census records that have been microfilmed. They are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - CENSUS.

Searching Census Records

When searching census records, remember:

• After 1652, only people between the ages of 15 and 63 were listed. The earliest records sometimes only contain the given name of the head of the household, while other family members are listed as numbers in columns.

• After 1841, people between 17 and 63 were recorded. After 1887, the ages were 18 to 63.

• Soldiers did not have to pay taxes, so only their wives and children are listed.

• Until 1810, noble families and their servants were also exempt from paying taxes and are usually not recorded.

• Spellings of names and places may differ from that in other records.

• When you find your family in one census, search that same location in the earlier and later census records for other family members.

A good guide to the census records is:

CHURCH RECORDS

Church records [kyrkoböcker] are the primary source for names, dates, and places of birth, marriage, and death. Nearly everyone who lived in Sweden was recorded in a church record.

Records of births, marriages, and deaths are commonly called vital records because they document critical events in a person's life. Church records are vital records made by church ministers. Often called parish registers or churchbooks, church records include information on births, christenings, marriages, deaths, and clerical surveys. They may also include account books, confirmations, and records of people moving in and out of a parish.

Since civil authorities did not begin registering their separate vital statistics until 1950, church records are the main source of family information before this date.

General Historical Background

After the Reformation in 1527, the Evangelical Lutheran Church became the state church [Svenska Kyrkan]. In 1608 the archbishop of Sweden asked the clergy to start recording christenings, betrothals, and marriages. Most ministers did not comply. In 1622 the bishop of Västerås instructed the clergy in his diocese in record keeping. A royal decree issued in 1686 required that ministers record baptisms, marriages, and deaths and take clerical surveys. This decree was based on the instructions given by the bishop of Västerås. However, efficient recording developed slowly.

In 1888 parliament passed a bill establishing the provincial archives. In 1899 the first of the seven archives was organized in Vadstena.

Eventually the government requested that existing church records up to 1895 be sent to the provincial archives for safekeeping. For addresses of the provincial archives, see p. 8-9. The church continues to keep records, but since 1 July 1991 all record-keeping responsibility shifted to the government.

Other Churches

From early on only a few Jewish, Catholic, and Reformed congregations were allowed to operate.

A tolerance edict of 1781 let Catholics, Jews, and members of Reformed congregations have full citizenship. In 1873 the dissenter law allowed for membership in other churches. Parishes of the state church continued recording the vital statistics for everyone, including dissenters.

Beginning in 1915 dissenter churches were allowed to keep their own records of births, marriages, and deaths.

Information Recorded in Church Registers

The information recorded in churchbooks varied over time. The later records generally give more information than earlier ones.

Births/Baptisms [Födda/Döpta]

Children were generally christened within a few days of birth. Christening registers usually give the infant's and parents' names, the child's legitimacy status, the names of witnesses and godparents, and the christening date. You may also find the child's birth date, father's occupation, and the family's place of residence. Death information has sometimes been added as a note. In larger cities the street address may also be listed. Witnesses are sometimes relatives, whether it is indicated or not.

Marriages [Vigda]

Marriage registers give the marriage date and the names of the bride and groom. They usually also indicate whether the bride and groom were single or widowed and give the names of the witnesses. Sometimes they include the bride's and groom's ages, residences, occupations, parents' names, and birthplaces. Often a note is made stating who gave permission for the bride to marry (usually the closest living relative).

In addition to the marriage date, the registers may contain the three dates on which the marriage intentions, or banns (lysningar), were announced. The banns gave people an opportunity to come forward with information about why the couple should not be married.

Couples were generally married in the bride's home parish. Typically people were well into their twenties before they married.

Deaths/Burials [Döda/Begravna]

Burials were recorded a few days after the death in the parish where the burial took place.

Burial registers give the deceased's name and death or burial date and place. They often include the age, place of residence, and cause of death. Occasionally they list the birth date and place and parents' names. However, if the person giving the information did not have reliable information, the birth information in a burial record may not be correct.
Burial records may exist for individuals who were born before birth or marriage records were kept. Stillbirths were usually recorded in the burial registers.

Confirmation Records [Konfirmationslängder]

A person's confirmation, or first communion, generally took place between the ages of fourteen and sixteen. Because it was an important event in a person's life, most parishes kept confirmation records. These records usually give the name, residence, and a birth date or age. They may be helpful in verifying whether a child was still living and where he or she resided.

Clerical Survey Records [Husförhörslängder]

A church law passed in 1686 required the ministers to keep rolls of all their members, where they lived, and their knowledge of the catechism. Some clerical surveys go back as early as 1700, but most start much later. From about 1820 on, surveys are available for most parishes.

In the beginning, an entry for each household was made yearly, like in an annual census record. After a while, the same entries were used for a number of years, usually five. If a person died or moved, the entry was crossed out. In addition to the information mentioned above, ministers may have mentioned birth dates and places; marriage dates; occupations; poverty; prison records; dates and destinations for people moving within, into, or out of the parish; and death dates. A man's military number was entered and whether he was called to regular maneuver. Information about illegitimacy would follow a child for years.

Typically the earlier clerical surveys have less information than the later ones (from the 1820s).

Moving Records [In-och utflyttningslängder, flyttningsattester]

The clerical surveys generally have notations about a person’s moving into or from a parish. There are also special separate records that list the arrival and removal of parishioners. These records begin to appear in the 1700s, but are not thereafter necessarily conscientiously kept. In the 1800s the moving records are more complete. They are generally kept chronologically, giving the person’s name, occupation and/or marital status. The moving in records (inflyttningslängder/inflyttade) provide the name of the parish that the person has moved out of and the village or farm that he is moving to. Conversely, the moving out records (utflyttningslängder/utflyttade) provide the village or farm that the person is moving out of and the name of the parish to which he intends to move. Sometimes the person’s residence in a village or farm is indicated with the page number in the clerical survey. Other possible information in the moving records includes age or birth date and place, religious knowledge, character reference, and gender. Wives and children may not be mentioned by name, only as statistics.

As a person moved away from a parish, he was to obtain a moving certificate (flyttningsattest) from the minister. This certificate was to be presented to the minister in the destination parish. It contained the name of the person moving with his birth date and place. If a whole family was moving, it gave the same information for all on one certificate. Other usual information given included occupation and/or marital status, reading ability, knowledge of religion and worthiness of partaking of the Communion, character reference, vaccination, and where the person was registered for taxation. In the late 1800s the certificates could be on printed forms. They were dated and signed by the minister of the parish that the person moved out of and were stored in the parish that the person moved into as loose documents arranged by year.

Church Records Extracts

Extracts of Birth, Marriage, and Death Records [Utdrag ur födelse-vigsel-och dödböcker]. In 1860 the government requested that ministers annually copy the birth, marriage, and death information in their registers onto special forms and send them to the Statistiska Centralbyrån (Central Bureau of Statistics) in Stockholm. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of these records from 1860 to 1920.

Extracts of Clerical Surveys [Utdrag ur Husförhörslängder]. Every tenth year, the parish ministers also sent extracts of the clerical surveys to Statistiska centralbyrån. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of these extracts for 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1890.

Both types of extracts are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - CIVIL REGISTRATION. For Stockholm city, see SWEDEN, STOCKHOLM, STOCKHOLM - CIVIL REGISTRATION.

Locating Church Records

Church records were kept at the local parish of the church. (A parish is a local congregation that may have included many neighboring villages in its boundaries.)

You must determine in which parish your ancestor was born before starting your research in Swedish records. Parish boundary maps can help you identify
neighboring parishes if you need to search through various parishes in a region. (See the “Maps” section of this outline.)

**Records at the Family History Library**

The Family History Library has microfilmed Swedish church records up to and including 1920.

You can determine what records the library has by checking the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- **SWEDEN, [COUNTY], [PARISH] - CHURCH RECORDS.**

If the parish is in a city, search:

- **SWEDEN, [COUNTY], [CITY] - CHURCH RECORDS.**

The names of the city parishes follow alphabetically on the first line under the above heading.

The Family History Library's collection continues to grow. As a result, the catalog is updated annually, so you may want to check it every year for records that have been added.

**Records Not at the Family History Library**

Post-1920 baptism, marriage, and burial information is available by writing to the parish office. Address your letter, written in English, to:

- **Pastorsexpeditionen**
- **Name of Parish**
- **Sweden**

Parishes will generally answer your letter in Swedish. Your request may be forwarded if the records have been sent to a provincial archive.

**CIVIL REGISTRATION**

Civil registration refers to vital records made by the government. Beginning in 1860, all birth, marriage, and death information was sent to the Central Bureau of Statistics. See “Church Records Extracts” in the previous column.

**DIRECTORIES**

Directories are alphabetical lists of names and addresses. These often list all the adult residents or tradesmen of a city or area. For the twentieth century, there are directories of everyone who had a telephone.

The most helpful directories for genealogical research are city directories of local residents and businesses. These are generally published annually and may include an individual's name, address, occupation, spouse's name, and other helpful facts. An individual's address can be very helpful when searching records from a large city with several parishes. Directories sometimes have city maps and may include addresses of churches, cemeteries, civil registration offices, and other locations of value to the genealogist.

The Family History Library has some Swedish directories. They are listed in the catalog under:

- **SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - DIRECTORIES**
- **SWEDEN, [COUNTY], [CITY] - DIRECTORIES**

Directories that list only certain types of tradesmen or businesses are listed under:

- **SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - DIRECTORIES**
- **SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - OCCUPATIONS**

**EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION**

Emigration and immigration sources list the names of people leaving (emigrating) or coming into (immigrating) a country. Swedish emigration records can be a useful source of genealogical information. They are usually found as passenger lists. There are also some records of passports issued.

Emigration records can help you determine where in Sweden your ancestor came from. They can also help in constructing family groups. If you do not find your ancestor in emigration or immigration records, you may find emigration information about your ancestor's neighbors. People who lived near each other in Sweden often settled together in the country they emigrated to.

Unfortunately, there are few pre-1866 Swedish emigration records.

Records were created when individuals emigrated from Sweden. Others document his or her arrival in the destination country. This section discusses:

- The history of emigration from Sweden.
- Finding the emigrant's parish of origin.
- Records of Swedish emigrants in their destination countries.
The History of Emigration from Sweden

The first Swedish emigrants to the United States left Sweden in 1638 and founded a colony near Wilmington, Delaware. Although Sweden held the colony for only 17 years, this was the start of Swedish immigration to the United States. Some people emigrated from Sweden between 1638 and the early 1800s. They usually travelled through other European ports. An estimated 1,300,000 people left Sweden between 1820 and 1920. Most of them were farmers, but some were craftsmen and others professionals.

Emigration was minimal until the 1850s, after which large numbers left Sweden. Emigration peaked in the 1880s. Swedes settled in every state, but most settled in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

The Swedish-American Line began carrying passengers directly from Sweden to America in 1915. Before that, ships left Swedish ports and went to other European countries where the passengers changed ships for their transatlantic voyage.

Swedes emigrated for several reasons. Among them were poor economic conditions, avoidance of military service, glowing accounts from emigration agents, availability of free land and encouragement from other family members in the new land, and religious persecution.

Finding the Emigrant's Parish of Origin

Once you have traced your family back to the ancestor who immigrated, you must determine the parish he or she came from.

Sweden has no nationwide index to birth, marriage, or death records. These records were kept locally. You might learn the parish of origin by talking to family members. They may know the parish or have documents that name it, such as:

- Birth, marriage, and death certificates.
- Obituaries.
- Journals.
- Photographs.
- Letters.
- Family Bibles.
- Church certificates of moving.
- Naturalization applications and petitions.

- Passenger lists.
- Passports.
- Family heirlooms.

Passenger Lists

Swedish passenger lists record the people, including people from other countries, who departed from Swedish ports. The records were kept for the Swedish police authorities (Poliskammaren).

Most Swedish emigrants left from the port of Göteborg (Gothenburg). Emigrants from southern Sweden left from Malmö. Relatively few left from Stockholm and Norrköping.

The passenger lists are indexed. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of both the indexes and the original passenger lists. The following table lists the original lists and indexes available for each port.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Lists</th>
<th>Indexes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Göteborg</td>
<td>1869-1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malmö</td>
<td>1874-1886; 1888-1929; 1931-1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norrköping</td>
<td>1860-1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockholm</td>
<td>1869-1920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To find a film number for a specific port in a specific year, look in the Family History Library Catalog. Each port is listed under SWEDEN - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Many Swedes also left from the following ports:

- Copenhagen, Denmark
- Oslo and Trondheim, Norway
- Hamburg, Germany

Records from these ports are indexed and list Swedes as foreigners. As a result, the records generally list the person's last residence as Sweden, though some do list the person's home parish.

If your ancestor came through Hamburg, you can use a special research guide called The Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934 (34047). This guide is available at the Family History Library and the Family History Centers.
To find records of these ports, check Locality Search # of the Family History Library Catalog under: [COUNTRY] - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

**Extracts of Parish Records.** Parish ministers were required to send yearly extract records to the Central Bureau of Statistics (Statistiska Centralbyrån) of people leaving Sweden or arriving in Sweden from another country. This practice was supposed to have started in 1851, but it did not become regular until 1865.

The Central Bureau of Statistics compiled these records by county. These records have been microfilmed to the year 1940. Thus far, the records between 1851 and 1860 have been indexed. The indexing is an ongoing project. Some counties have indexes more recent than 1860.

These records contain the name of each parish on the first page with statistical information about that parish. Information about the people arriving from another country or leaving Sweden have separate sections on the next page.

The parish extracts are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Indexes to parish extracts are listed under:

- SWEDEN - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - INDEXES
- SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - INDEXES

**Passport Journals.** Between 1798 and 1851, the names and residences of persons applying for passports were recorded yearly in the records of the Swedish Navy. The Navy kept the records because the passport fees went into the Navy's pension fund.

These records are available on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL films 479331, 479587-605). Axel Friman has created an index to the names of emigrants listed in the naval records between 1817 and 1850 (FHL film 1224712 item 3).

Passport journals are also available from a few cities in Sweden. They give the name and home parish of the applicant. To find them, search the Family History Library Catalog under:

- SWEDEN, [COUNTY], [CITY] - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

**Emigration Archives.** Sweden has several regional emigration archives. The most prominent one is the Emigrant Institute in Växjö. It houses the largest collection of Swedish emigration materials as well as a microfilmed collection of church records from the Swedish-American Lutheran Church. The institute's address is:

Svenska Emigrantinstitutet
Box 201
S-351 04 Växjö
Sweden
URL: http://www.utvandrararnashus.se/

A special emigration database, called *Emigranten*, CD #574 is available at the Family History Library on computer disc. The database gives access to the following files:

- EMIHAMN - Emigrants leaving through Göteborg, Malmö, Stockholm, Norrköping, and Kalmar (1.3 million names).
- EMIBAS - Emigrants who were residents of Göteborg City (40,000 names).
- EMISJÖ - Sailors who left their ships outside of Europe (20,000 names).
- SAKA - A list of the church records in the Swedish-American Lutheran Church Archives.

The records of the Swedish-American Lutheran churches are also available on microfilm through the Swenson Swedish Research Center. See the Societies section of this outline for their address.

**LDS Emigration**

The *Scandinavian LDS Mission Index* is the most comprehensive source of information about Swedish Latter-day Saint immigrants. The index alphabetically lists the Church members from all Scandinavian countries. One person may have several entries in the index.

This index generally gives the person's birth date and place, other event dates and places, and a reference to the original source of the information.

The index is on 344 microfiche and is broken down into sections of ten fiche for a part of the alphabet. The index is found in the Family History Library Catalog under:

- SWEDEN - CHURCH RECORDS - INDEXES

An excellent book about Swedish emigration available at the Family History Library is:
Records of Swedish Emigrants in Their Destination Countries

Sometimes the best sources for information about your immigrant ancestor are found in the country he or she emigrated to. The records there may provide the town or place of origin and other information. To learn about these records, use handbooks, manuals, and the research outline for that country (if available).

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has microfilmed most Swedish immigrant church records in the United States. Its address is:

ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 18 South Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60603 USA Telephone 312-346-3150

The microfilms are available through the Augustana College. (The address is on p. 24.)

Passenger Arrivals. Most Swedish immigrants to the United States arrived at the ports of New York and Quebec. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the records and some indexes. See the United States Research Outline for more information about United States immigration records.

An important book on Swedish immigrants to the United States is:


County Histories. Histories from the counties where Swedish immigrants settled sometimes provide the immigrants’ town of origin.

ENCyclopediaDias AND DICTIONARIES

Encyclopedias may provide information on all branches of knowledge or treat a specific topic comprehensively, usually in articles arranged alphabetically. They often contain articles of great interest for genealogical research—including those about towns and places, prominent people, minorities, and religions. They can also give information about record-keeping practices, laws, customs, commerce, costumes, occupations, and archaic terminology.

The Family History Library has general knowledge encyclopedias in the Swedish language and also Swedish-English and English-Swedish dictionaries. They are listed in the catalog under SWEDEN - ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES. Also see the “Language and Languages” section of this outline.

GAZETTERS

A gazetteer is a dictionary of place-names. Gazetteers describe towns and villages, parishes, counties, provinces, rivers and mountains, sizes of population, and other geographical features. They usually include only the names of places that existed at the time the gazetteer was published. The place-names are generally listed in alphabetical order, similar to a dictionary.

Gazetteers may also provide additional information about towns, such as schools, colleges, and universities; major manufacturing works; and canals, docks, and railroad stations.

Many Swedish places have the same or similar names. You can use a gazetteer to determine which church parish had jurisdiction over a place. For example, the listing Ekaberg, Skarstad, Skaraborg means that Ekaberg is a farm in the parish of Skarstad in the county of Skaraborg in Sweden.

The following gazetteers are useful:


* Rosenberg, Carl Martin. Geografiskt-statistical handlexikon öfver Sverige (Swedish Gazetteer with Statistical Information). Stockholm: A.V. Carlsson,
Finding Place-Names in the Family History Library Catalog

Place-names in the Family History Library Catalog are listed under their current names and in their current counties. The “see” references on the first microfiche for the country are helpful in determining the county for each parish.

GENEALOGY

The term genealogy is used in this outline and in the Family History Library Catalog to describe a variety of records containing family information gathered by individuals, researchers, societies, or archives. These records may include pedigree charts, compiled information on families, correspondence, ancestor lists, research exchange files, record abstracts, and collections of original or copied documents. These can be excellent sources of information that can save you valuable time. Because they are compiled from other sources of information, evaluate them carefully for accuracy.

Major Collections and Databases

The Family History Library has several sources that contain previous research or that can lead you to others who are interested in sharing family information. These sources include:

- **International Genealogical Index.** This index provides names and vital information for deceased persons who lived in Sweden. This valuable research tool lists information about birth, christening, and marriage dates. The index for Sweden includes names extracted from parish registers by volunteers and names submitted by researchers.

  The International Genealogical Index is available on microfiche and on compact disc as part of FamilySearch. If you are using the microfiche, you need to know which county to search. If you are using the compact disc edition, the computer will search the entire country for any name. For more information on FamilySearch, see p. 4.

  The International Genealogical Index lists Swedish names under both given names and surnames. On the compact disc edition, you can search for either a given name or a surname. On the microfiche edition, the surname arrangement microfiche have black-on-white labels. The given name arrangement microfiche have black-on-orange labels.

- **Ancestral File.** This file, a part of FamilySearch, contains family history information, arranged in family groups and pedigrees, that has been contributed since 1979. Ancestral File contains records for thousands of Swedish families. It can print pedigree charts, family group records, and individual summary sheets for any person in the file.

- **Family Group Records Collection.** More than eight million family group record forms have been microfilmed in the Family Group Records Collection. This includes many Swedish families. There are two major sections: the Archive Section and the Patrons Section. The film numbers for both sections are listed in the Author/Title Search of the Family History Library Catalog under FAMILY GROUP RECORDS COLLECTION.

Family Histories

Many Swedish families have produced histories that include genealogical information, biographies, photographs, and other excellent information. These histories usually include several generations of the family.

The Family History Library has a large collection of Swedish family histories listed in the Surname Search of the catalog. Only the major surnames discussed in the family history are included in the catalog. See also the “Biography” section of this outline.

Genealogical Collections

Many Swedish genealogies are compiled in the following works:

Örnberg, Lars Magnus Viktor, ed. *Svensk släktkalender* (Genealogies of Swedish Families). Stockholm: [s.n.], 1885-1888. (FHL book 948.5 D25s; films 1124513 items 12-13; 0924726 items 1-2.)

This work has been superseded by:

Örnberg, Lars Magnus Viktor, ed. *Svenska ättartal* (Genealogies of Swedish City Dwellers). Stockholm: [s.n.], 1889-1908. (FHL book 948.5 D25s; films 0924726-30; 1124513 item 14.)

The above yearly publications have a joint index 1885-1908 (FHL book 948.5 D25s index).

This work has been superseded by:


The above two publications have a joint index 1912-1982 (FHL book 948.5 D25sk index).

The Family History Library also has some collections of pedigree charts and notes by individual researchers. These include published and unpublished collections. They are listed in the catalog under:

SWEDEN - GENEALOGY
SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY
SWEDEN, [COUNTY], [CITY] - GENEALOGY

HERALDRY

In Sweden only those of the noble class were entitled to have coats of arms. Kings rewarded people who performed heroic deeds, made notable achievements, or held prominent positions in government by granting them a noble title and the right to use a coat of arms. These grants were documented.

Various Swedish authors have prepared heraldry books that describe coats of arms and the families that used them. They also briefly describe the family's entitlement to that coat of arms, and they may note early bearers of that coat of arms, sometimes with relationships, birth dates, and other genealogical information.

The Family History Library has collected many heraldry books. They are listed in the catalog under SWEDEN - HERALDRY. Some helpful books on the subject are:

Boneauschiold, Gust. Sveriges rikes ridderskaps och adels wapenbok (Swedish Coats of Arms of Knights and Nobility). Stockholm: Lars Salvius, 1740. (FHL film 1124575 item 1.)

Stjernstedt, A. W. Sveriges ridderskaps och adels wapenbok (Coats of Arms of Swedish Knights and Nobility). Stockholm: Lewertin & Sjöstedt, 1865-1879. (FHL book 948.5 D6s.)


Also see the “Nobility” section of this outline.

HISTORY

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, and migrations may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records, such as land and military documents, that mention your family.

Your ancestors will become more interesting to you if you also use histories to learn about the events in which they may have participated.

General History

1380 The Union of Kalmar united Sweden with Denmark and Norway.

1477 The University of Uppsala was founded.

1523 Union of Kalmar dissolved, and Gustaf Vasa was elected King of Sweden.

1527 King Gustav Vasa declared the Lutheran church the state religion.

1638 “New Sweden” was founded in Delaware.

1666 The University of Lund was founded.

1753 Sweden changed from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar.

1809 Sweden lost Finland to Russia.

1814 Norway united with Sweden.

1905 Norway dissolved the union with Sweden.

1914 World War I started. Sweden was neutral.

1919 Voting rights were given to women.

1939 World War II begins. Again Sweden was neutral.

The Family History Library has some published histories of Sweden, such as:


You can find histories in the Family History Library Catalog under:

- SWEDEN - HISTORY
- SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - HISTORY
- SWEDEN, [COUNTY], [CITY or PARISH] - HISTORY

Local Histories

Local histories should be studied and enjoyed for the background information they can provide about your family's life-style and environment. Published histories of parishes, towns, and counties often contain genealogies and family histories.

An important association founded in 1916 to preserve traditional culture is:

Riksförbundet för Hembygdsvård (The National Association for the Preservation of Local Nature and Culture)
Box 30193
S-104 25 Stockholm
Sweden

Local societies publish their own histories, including stories of emigration and genealogical research done.

The Family History Library has many local histories for Swedish towns. They are listed in the catalog under the above headings. Some of these histories are also available at major public and university libraries in the midwestern United States.

Calendar Changes

The Gregorian calendar is the calendar in common use in the world today. It is a correction of the Julian calendar that had been in use since A.D. 46. Leap years had been miscalculated in the Julian calendar, and by 1582 the calendar was ten days behind the solar year.

Sweden changed from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar on 17 February 1753. At that time, eleven days were omitted to bring the calendar into line with the solar year. The day after 17 February 1753 was 1 March 1753.

LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES

Original materials used in Swedish research are written in Swedish. Although you do not need to speak or read Swedish to research Swedish records, you do need to know some key words and phrases to understand them. You may also find some Latin words in Swedish records.

Because Swedish grammar may affect the way words appear in genealogical records, the words in a dictionary or word list may be slightly different from their appearance in the records.

Language Aids

The Family History Library has a publication titled *Genealogical Word List–Swedish* (31028). The list is available for a nominal fee. A Swedish-English dictionary can also help. You can find word lists, dictionaries, and similar language aids at many research libraries.

Some useful dictionaries are:


Björkman, C. G. *Svensk-engelsk ordbok* (Swedish-English Dictionary). Stockholm: P.A. Norstedt, 1889. (FHL film 1224734 item 1.) This dictionary was published before the 1906 spelling reform and therefore uses the old spelling as found in the records.

You can find other dictionaries in the Locality Search of the catalog under SWEDEN - LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES and in the Subject Search under SWEDISH - LANGUAGE - DICTIONARIES.

MAPS

Maps are an important source for finding the place where your ancestors lived. Maps can help you find places, parishes, churches, geographical features, transportation routes, and proximity to other towns.

Maps may be published individually or in bound collections called atlases. Maps may also be included in gazetteers, guidebooks, local histories, and history texts.

Different types of maps can help you in different ways. Historical maps describe the growth and development of countries. They show boundaries, migration routes, settlement patterns, military campaigns, and other historical information. Road maps provide detailed information about Sweden's road systems. Survey maps show townships in great detail. City and street maps are extremely helpful.
when researching in large cities, such as Stockholm and Göteborg.

Using Maps

Use maps carefully because:

• Several places have the same name. For example, there are seven parishes called Husby in present-day Sweden.
• Spelling was not standardized when most early records were made. You may find the place-name spelled differently in an old record than on a current map.
• Place-names are often misspelled in American sources. Difficult names may have been shortened and important diacritical marks omitted.

Finding the Specific Town on the Map

To do successful Swedish research, you must identify the parish where your ancestor lived.

Because some parishes have the same name, you may need additional information before you can find the correct parish on a map. You will be more successful if you have some information about the parish. Before using a map, search gazetteers, histories, family records, and other sources to learn all you can about:

• The county (län) the ancestor came from.
• The parish where your ancestor was baptized or married.
• The parish where your relatives lived.
• The size of the parish.
• The occupation of your ancestor or any relatives. (This may indicate the size or industries of the area.)
• Nearby localities, such as large cities.
• Nearby features, such as rivers and mountains.
• Industries of the area.
• Other names the parish was known by.

Finding Maps and Atlases

Maps and atlases are available at many historical societies and at public and university libraries.

The Family History Library has a good collection of Swedish maps and atlases. They are listed in the catalog under SWEDEN - MAPS.

Some helpful maps at the Family History Library are:


The Family History Library publication *Parishes and Maps of Sweden* (FHL Scand 948.5 E77p) contains county maps that outline parish boundaries. This source is also available on microfiche 6068254.

You can purchase maps of Sweden from:

Anderson Butik
P.O. Box 151
Lindsborg, KS 67456-0151

MILITARY RECORDS

Military records identify individuals who served in the military or who were eligible for service. Most young men in Sweden were required to serve in or register for military service. Evidence that an ancestor actually served may be found in family records, biographies, census, probate records, and church records.

The War Archive in Stockholm stores the Swedish military records. The Family History Library has some military records, primarily for 1680 to 1860, with a few as early as 1620. The genealogical value of military records is generally limited. They give information about a man's military career, such as promotions, places served, pensions, and conduct. In addition, they usually include his identification number; name; county, parish, or province of origin; age; years of service; height in feet and inches; marital status; who he replaced; and date of discharge. They also state if a soldier was killed in battle.

To use Swedish military records, you have to know what unit a soldier served in. If other records about your ancestor do not contain this information, find out which units were created in the area where he lived. To do this, you must know which parish he was living in when he was 18 to 20 years old. To determine the name or number of the unit your ancestor belonged to, use:

You can find military records in the Family History Library Catalog under SWEDEN - MILITARY RECORDS.

The catalog lists regiments alphabetically. The regiment name appears in parentheses on the first line under the catalog heading.

**Military History**

For information about the Swedish military wars and campaigns, see:


A brief and interesting history of the Swedish Military Archives is found in:


Military histories are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

SWEDEN - MILITARY HISTORY

SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - MILITARY HISTORY

**Military Records of Genealogical Value**

Military records generally contain soldiers' names but little other genealogical information. The following sources may provide information on your ancestor especially if he was an officer:


*Rullor, 1639-1865* [Vadstena Krigsmanshus] (Registers and Specifications of Servicemen at the Soldiers Home at Vadstena). Salt Lake City: Filmed for the Genealogical Society of Utah by AB. Rekolid, 1957. (FHL films 190394-413.)


Navy pension fund. (See “Passport Journals” on p. 15.)

** NAMES, PERSONAL **

Understanding surnames and given names can help you find and identify your ancestors in the records.

**Surnames**

Before record keeping began, most people had only one name, such as Johan. As the population increased, it became necessary to distinguish between individuals with the same name. The problem was usually solved by adding descriptive information. Johan became Johan the smith, Johan the son of Erik, Johan the short, or Johan from Borås. At first, such “surnames” applied only to one person and not to the whole family. After a few generations, these names were passed from father to children.

Surnames developed from four major sources:

- *Patronymic*, based on the father's name, such as Johan Nilsson (son of Nils).
- *Nicknames*, based on a person's characteristics, such as Pehr Fager (beautiful).
- *Geographical*, based on a person's place of birth or residence, such as Olof Grankulla.
- *Occupational*, based on the person's trade, such as Lars Smed (Smith).

Surnames were first used by nobility and wealthy land owners. Later the custom was followed by merchants and townspeople and eventually by the rural population.

Most Swedish surnames are patronymic. Patronymic surnames changed with each generation. For example, Lars Pettersson was the son of a man named Petter. If Lars had a son named Hans, the son would be known as Hans Larsson (son of Lars). His brothers would be called Larsson, while a sister would be known as Larsdotter (daughter of Lars). When people used patronymics, a woman did not change her name at marriage.

When a young man went into the military he was given a new surname. This name could be based on his
characteristics, such as Stark (strong) or Modig (brave), or the place where he was stationed. If the place was called Lillebäck, he may have been called Bäck. Before the late 1800s, a military surname seldom became a family name. Later, when family names were more common and sometimes when people emigrated from Sweden, the military name became the family surname.

When a young man became an apprentice to learn a trade, he would choose an additional surname.

The clergy and other learned men often “Latinized” their names. Thus Eric Karlsson became Ericus Caroli.

In 1901 a law required people to adopt permanent surnames to be passed onto successive generations.

**Given Names**

When baptized, children were usually given one or two given names. The name may be that of a parent or other relative.

Some good books on names are:


**Nobility**

Kings rewarded a person who performed a heroic deed, had a notable achievement, or held a prominent position in government by granting them a noble title. Because Sweden limited the growth of the noble class, only about two percent of Sweden's population were noblemen. There was not much division between upper and lower nobility.

Most noblemen did not emigrate, and few disowned family members for unacceptable behavior. Thus, most traditions of a noble ancestor being "erased" or "eliminated" from all records are unfounded.

If your research in the original records of Sweden indicates that your ancestor was a nobleman, there are additional records that will be helpful. Although some original records (such as the grant of nobility) still exist, you can adequately accomplish most nobility research in secondary sources. These include published or manuscript genealogies of noble families.

Some important sources for Swedish nobility research are:

- Sveriges ridderskap och adelskalender (Genealogy of the Swedish Nobility). Stockholm: Bonniers, 1854. (FHL book 948.5 D55s.)


- Leijonhufvud, Karl Karlsson. Svensk adelskalender (Genealogy of Swedish Nobility). Stockholm: P.A. Norstedt, 1899-1906. (FHL book 948.5 D22ak; films 1440245-6.)

The Family History Library has many records of Swedish noble families. These records are listed in the catalog under:

- SWEDEN - NOBILITY
- SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - NOBILITY
- SWEDEN, [COUNTY], [CITY] - NOBILITY

See also the “Heraldry” and “Genealogy” sections of this outline.

**Occupations**

Occupations were a measure of social status. Some trades were viewed as more prestigious than others. For example, goldsmiths had more prestige than shoemakers. Many trades, such as butchers, tanners, shoemakers, tailors, and others were organized into guilds, which were in charge of training apprentices and regulating a trade's practice in an area.

Guilds were usually established in each city. Guild records include lists of members, information on journeymen practicing in the town, marriages of journeymen, and advancements from the rank of apprentice to journeyman and from journeyman to master craftsman. In addition, contracts between masters and parents of apprentices may be included.

Guild records are now stored in the provincial archives for the area where the records originated. The Family History Library has some Swedish guild records. It also has a few books about Swedish guilds and occupations. To find these sources, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- SWEDEN - OCCUPATIONS
- SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - OCCUPATIONS
- SWEDEN, [COUNTY], [CITY] - OCCUPATIONS
PERIODICALS

Most genealogical and historical societies in North America and in Sweden publish magazines and newsletters. The articles often include:

• Family genealogies and pedigrees.
• Transcripts of church records, migration lists, and cemetery records.
• Social life and customs.
• Helpful articles on research methodology.
• Information about local records, archives, and services.
• Book advertisements and reviews.
• Research advertisements.
• Queries or requests for information that can help you contact other researchers interested in specific ancestors.

North American Periodicals

Several historical and genealogical societies publish periodicals focusing on the Swedish immigrants to North America. These are often published quarterly and may focus on the immigrants to a particular region or state. Some major periodicals are:


Swedish American Genealogist, Winter Park, Fla.: Swedish American Genealogist, 1981-. Published by Nils William Olson, P.O. Box 2186, Winter Park, FL 32790. (FHL book 973 F25s.)

Swedish Periodicals

Many societies and organizations in Sweden publish genealogical periodicals in Swedish. Much of their content is devoted to compiled genealogies of native families. They also are an excellent place to publish queries or advertisements for a lost ancestor from Sweden. Some major examples are:

Släkt och hävd: tidskrift (Family and Tradition). Stockholm: Genealogiska Föreningen, 1950-. (FHL book 948.5 D25sh.)

Personhistorisk tidsskrift (Journal of Personal History). Stockholm: P.A. Norstedt, 1900-. (FHL book 948.5 D25pt; films 254935-6, 1440261 items 2-6, 1440262 items 1-5.) This periodical has been indexed for the years 1898 to 1956. (FHL films 254961-66.

Obtaining Periodicals

Copies of periodicals are available from the societies that publish them. Major archives with genealogical collections have copies of many periodicals, particularly those representing the area they serve.

The Family History Library subscribes to many periodicals. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog in several ways. If you know the title, use the Author/Title Search of the catalog. Otherwise, use the Locality Search:

SWEDEN - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS
SWEDEN - HISTORY - PERIODICALS
SWEDEN - PERIODICALS
SWEDEN - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - PERIODICALS

Also see the “Societies” section of this outline.

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records are court records dealing with the distribution of a person's estate after he or she dies. Information recorded may include the death date, names of heirs and guardians, relationships, residences, an inventory of the estate, and names of witnesses.

These records are very helpful because the authorities began recording probate actions before the earliest vital records.

While probate records are usually one of the most accurate sources of genealogical information, they must be used with some caution. For example, they may omit the names of deceased family members or those who have previously received an inheritance. Most Swedish probate records are inventories that sometimes mention only the minor children in a family. Not every person that died had a probate record, but anyone, wealthy or not, may have left a probate.

The laws and customs regarding probate and the probate process have been in use since the 1300s. In 1734 Swedish probate laws changed to reflect the laws used on the European continent. The surviving spouse inherited half of the estate and the children the other half, with a son receiving twice the amount of a daughter. Although most Swedish probates are from after 1734, there are many earlier ones.
Availability of Probate Records

The Family History Library has a good collection of Swedish probate records listed in the catalog under:

SWEDEN, [COUNTY], [DISTRICT] - PROBATE RECORDS
SWEDEN, [COUNTY], [CITY] - PROBATE RECORDS

Many probate records have separate indexes, found at the beginning of each record or on a separate roll of microfilm. Probate indexes are listed in the catalog under:

SWEDEN, [COUNTY], [DISTRICT] - PROBATE INDEX

To find out which district (härad) a probate should have been registered in, look in:


SCHOOLS

If your ancestor was educated in a Swedish university, he may have been recorded in the matriculation records of that university. Some of these records have been published, notably for the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

These records may contain valuable information about your ancestor, such as name, age, hometown, and date of enrollment or graduation. Sometimes they contain biographical information, including names of parents, spouse, and children. The Family History Library has collected some school records. These records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

SWEDEN - SCHOOLS
SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - SCHOOLS
SWEDEN, [COUNTY], [CITY] - SCHOOLS

SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS

Effective family research requires some understanding of the society in which your ancestor lived. Learning about everyday life, religious practices, customs, and traditions will help you appreciate your ancestor and the time he or she lived in. This information is particularly helpful if you choose to write a family history.

Research procedures and genealogical sources are different for each area and time period and are affected by the local customs and traditions. Those that might affect your research strategies include mortality rate, life spans, apprenticeship customs, and courting and marriage customs that affected the birth rates.

The Family History Library has a few sources about Swedish social life and customs. They are listed in the catalog under:

SWEDEN - SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS
SWEDEN, [COUNTY] - SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS

A good book describing many aspects of Swedish social life and customs is:


Swedish periodicals are a particularly good source of information about social life and customs. See the “Periodicals” section of this outline.

SOCIETIES

There are several societies and organizations in Sweden that may have valuable information for your genealogical research. Many Swedish communities have genealogical and historical societies, called hembygdsföreningar, many of which publish books and periodicals. You can write to Riksförbundet för hembygdsvård for an address of a local hembygdsförening. (See p. 19 for the address.)

There may also be some Swedish societies in the country your ancestor immigrated to, especially in the United States.

Genealogical Societies

Many societies publish periodicals, transcripts, and compiled genealogies. They may also have special indexes, collections, and projects. Some publish queries about Swedish ancestors or maintain a list of members' research interests. Some specialize in the immigrants to a specific area. The following societies may be of interest:

Genealogiska Föreningen (The Genealogical Association of Sweden)
Box 6442
SE-113 82 Stockholm
Sweden
Historical Societies

Swedish historical societies can be valuable sources of information. Such societies exist in countries where Swedish emigrants settled, and they often collect information about Swedish immigrants. Many societies have special collections of books and manuscript material for Sweden that may be hard to find in libraries and archives. Two historical societies are:

The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center
3520 7th Ave.
Rock Island, IL 61201-2296
USA
Telephone: 309-794-7204

Swedish-American Historical Society, Inc.
5125 North Spaulding Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625
USA

These societies' collections of family and local histories and manuscripts may be helpful. The material in their collections can be circulated.

OTHER RECORDS FOR SWEDEN

Other types of records that are not mentioned in this outline are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog. For example, see:

ALMANACS
BIBLIOGRAPHY
ETHNOLOGY
HANDWRITING
MINORITIES
MANORS
NAMES, GEOGRAPHICAL
OBITUARIES
OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES
PUBLIC RECORDS
YEARBOOKS

FOR FURTHER READING

You can find more detailed information about Swedish research and records in the catalog under:

SWEDEN - GENEALOGY - HANDBOOKS,
MANUALS, etc. and in the following works:

Johansson, Carl-Erik. Cradled in Sweden. Logan,
948.5 D27j.)

Clemensson, Per and Kjell Andersson. Släktforskning–vägen till din egen historia
(Genealogy, The Road to Your Own History).

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 North West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.
Swedish
Genealogical Word List

Table of Contents
Language Characteristics
Additional Resources
Key Words
General Word List
Numbers
Dates And Time

This list contains Swedish words with their English translations. The words included here are those that you are likely to find in genealogical sources. If the word you are looking for is not on this list, please consult a Swedish-English dictionary. (See the "Additional Resources" section below.)

Swedish is a Germanic language, as are Norwegian, Danish, and Icelandic. Most differences between modern and old Swedish are simply a matter of spelling. Carefully study the Spelling section in "Language Characteristics" below. This will help you find the words in this list.

Swedish is spoken in Sweden and parts of Finland. The Swedish language was used in official records of Finland until the end of the 1800s.

LANGUAGE CHARACTERISTICS

Variant Forms of Words

In Swedish, as in English, the forms of some words will vary according to how they are used in a sentence. Who—whose—whom or marry—marries—married are examples of words in English with variant forms. The endings of a word in a document may differ from those in this list. Also, vowels sometimes have diacritical marks in different forms of the same word. Note the following examples:

- man
- mannen
- män
- männen

- yrke
- yrket
- yrken
- yrkena
Alphabetical Order

Written Swedish has three letters not found in English: Å (å), Ä (ä), and Ö (ö). Alphabetically, these letters come after z. Swedish dictionaries, indexes, the locality section of the Family History Library Catalog, and this word list use the following alphabetical order:

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 å ä ö

Spelling

Spelling rules were not standardized in earlier centuries. The following spelling variations are common:

ä used for e
i used for j
j used for g, gj, hj, lj, dj
k used for ck, ch, g, gg, c, q
t used for d, th, tt
v used for hv, fv, ffv, f, w
tj used for k, kj, ch
sk used for skj, sch, sj, stj
s used for ss, c, z

Examples:

änka spelled as enka
mjölnare spelled as miölnare
kärr spelled as tjärr

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

This word list includes only words most commonly found in genealogical sources. For further help, use a Swedish-English dictionary. Several Swedish-English dictionaries are available at the Family History Library. These are in the Scandinavian collection. Their call numbers begin with 439.7321.

The following dictionary is also available on microfilm for use in Family History Centers:

Björkman, C.G. *Svensk-Engelsk Ordbok* [Swedish-English Dictionary]. Stockholm: P.A. Norstedt, 1889. (FHL film 1,224,734, item 1). Swedish spelling was reformed in 1906. Since this dictionary was written in 1889, it shows words as they were spelled before 1906.

Additional dictionaries are listed in the Subject section of the Family History Library Catalog under SWEDISH LANGUAGE - DICTIONARIES or in the Locality section under SWEDEN - LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES.

**KEY WORDS**

To find and use specific types of Swedish records, you will need to know some key words in Swedish. This section lists key genealogical terms in English and the Swedish words with the same or similar meanings.

For example, in the first column you will find the English word *marriage*. In the second column you will find Swedish words with meanings such as *marry, marriage, wedding, wedlock, unite, legitimate, joined*, and other words used in Swedish records to indicate marriage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Swedish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>banns</td>
<td>lysning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>birth</td>
<td>födda, födde, född, födelse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>burial</td>
<td>begravnning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>child</td>
<td>barn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>christening</td>
<td>döpta, döpte, döpt, döpelse, dop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clerical survey</td>
<td>husförhörslängd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>confirmation</td>
<td>konfirmation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>death</td>
<td>döda, döde, död, avliden, avsomna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>father</td>
<td>far, fader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>female</td>
<td>kvinnkjön, kvinna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>household, examination roll</td>
<td>husförhörslängd, förhör</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>husband</td>
<td>man, make</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>index</td>
<td>register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>male</td>
<td>mankjön, man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marriage</td>
<td>vigda, vigde, vigd, vigsel, gift, gifte, giftermål, bröllop, brudfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>military</td>
<td>militär, soldat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>--------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>föräldrar</td>
<td>parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>socken, församling, kommun</td>
<td>parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hustru, maka</td>
<td>wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>år</td>
<td>year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mor, moder</td>
<td>mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inflytning</td>
<td>moving in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>utflyttning</td>
<td>moving out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>förnamn</td>
<td>name, given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>efternamn</td>
<td>name, surname</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>föräldrar</td>
<td>parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boupptekning</td>
<td>probate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hustru, maka</td>
<td>wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>år</td>
<td>year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GENERAL WORD LIST**

This general word list includes words commonly seen in genealogical sources. Numbers, months, and days of the week are listed both here and in separate sections that follow this list.

In this list, optional versions of Swedish words or variable endings are given in parentheses. Parentheses in the English column clarify the definition.

**A**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Swedish</th>
<th>English</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adel</td>
<td>nobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adelsman</td>
<td>nobleman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aderton(de)</td>
<td>eighteen (eighteenth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adlig</td>
<td>noble</td>
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<tr>
<td>adopterad</td>
<td>adopted</td>
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<tr>
<td>adress</td>
<td>address</td>
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<tr>
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<td>directory</td>
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<tr>
<td>afton</td>
<td>evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>aldrig</td>
<td>never</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alla, allt</td>
<td>all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alltid</td>
<td>always</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>andra</td>
<td>second, others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>andtäppa</td>
<td>shortness of breath, asthma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anfall</td>
<td>seizure(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>angiven</td>
<td>given, stated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ankom  came, arrived
anmärkningar  remarks, annotations
annan  other
antavla  pedigree chart
april  April
arbetare  worker, laborer
arkiv  archive
arrrendator  tenant farmer, leaseholder
arton  eighteen
arv  inheritance
arvlinge  heir
arvskifte  distribution of an inherited estate
att  that (know that he died)
attest  certificate
augusti  August
av  of
avgift  fee
avgång  departure
avgått  moved
avgått med döden  died (departed through death)
avliden  deceased, death
avskedad  discharged, resigned
avsomna  die, death

B

backe  hill
backstugusittare  one who owned a small cottage, dugout dweller
bagare  baker
bakom  behind
baptist  Baptist
bar  carried
bara  only
bar barnet  carried or held the child (at baptism font)
barn  child(ren)
barnbarn  grandchild(ren)
barnbok  preconfirmation roll (in Finland)
barnlös  childless
barmorska  midwife
barnsbörd, barnsäng  childbirth
befolkning  population
begrava  bury
begravning  burial
begravningsplats  cemetery
begått H(errens)  taken the Lord's Holy Communion
H(eliga) Nattvard
benämnd  called
berg  hill, mountain
bergslag  mining district
bergsman  miner
beskattning  taxation
beskrivning  description
besöka  customs official (archaic), visitor (modern)
betjänt  servant, civil servant
bettlare  beggar
betyg  certificate
bevaka  protect
bevis  certificate, proof, evidence
bevistat läsförhören  present at household examination (clerical survey)
bevärning  conscript
beväringsman  recruit
bilaga  supplement, enclosure
biografi  biography
blind  blind
bliva  to become
blödning  bleeding
bo  to live, home, estate
bok  book
bokhållare  bookkeeper
bonde  farmer
borg  castle, fortress
borgare  citizen, burgher
borgmästare  mayor
borta  absent
bortgift  married elsewhere
bostad | domicile
boupptekning | estate inventory, probate
bredvid | next to
bro | bridge
bror | brother
brorsdotter | niece, brother's daughter
brorsson | nephew, brother's son
brud | bride
brudfolk | bridal couple
brudgum | bridegroom
brudpar | bridal couple
bruk | foundry, mill, iron industry
brukare | tenant farmer, leaseholder
bruksarbetare | foundryman, mill hand, iron worker
bryggare | brewer
bräcklighet | frailty
bröllop | wedding
bröstarvinge | heir
brösteber | pneumonia
bröstsjuka | chest illness, pneumonia
bröstvärk | chest pain
by | village
bygd | countryside, region, area
byggmästare | contractor, builder
båda | both
båtsman | seaman, sailor
bägge | both
bägges barn | child of both parents
böcker | books
böld | abscess, boil
böter | fee, fine
bötfälld | fined

C

circa (ca.) (Latin) | about, approximately
civilregistret | civil registrar
coopvaerdi | merchant marine
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Swedish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>dag</td>
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<td>the, it</td>
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<td>judge</td>
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<td>Swedish Word</td>
<td>English Translation</td>
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<td>duplikat</td>
<td>duplicate record</td>
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<td>24 hours, day</td>
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<td>then</td>
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<td>där</td>
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<td>därstädes</td>
<td>(of) that place</td>
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<td>death record</td>
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<tr>
<td>dödsorsak</td>
<td>cause of death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>död utan bröstarvinge</td>
<td>died without issue</td>
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<td>döpt, döpta, döpte, döpelse</td>
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<td>has died</td>
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<td>efter sig lämnat</td>
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<td>ej</td>
<td>not</td>
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<td>eldsvåda</td>
<td>extensive fire</td>
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<td>eller</td>
<td>or</td>
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<td>eleven</td>
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<td>en, ett</td>
<td>a, one</td>
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<td>en/ett hundra(de)</td>
<td>one hundred (one-hundredth)</td>
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<tr>
<td>en/ett tusen(de)</td>
<td>one thousand (one-thousandth)</td>
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<td>ett, en</td>
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<td>Word</td>
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<td>------------------------------------</td>
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<td>factory, mill</td>
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<tr>
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<td>factory worker</td>
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<td>fadder</td>
<td>christening witness, godparent</td>
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<td>fader</td>
<td>father</td>
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<tr>
<td>falla</td>
<td>fall, to be killed in war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fallande sot</td>
<td>epilepsy</td>
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<tr>
<td>familj</td>
<td>family</td>
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<td>father</td>
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<td>farbror</td>
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<td>pauper</td>
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<tr>
<td>fattighus</td>
<td>poorhouse</td>
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<td>f. d. (före detta)</td>
<td>former(ly)</td>
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<td>fever</td>
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<td>malaria</td>
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<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>fem(te)</td>
<td>five (fifth)</td>
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<td>femtio(nde)</td>
<td>fifty (fiftieth)</td>
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<tr>
<td>femton(de)</td>
<td>fifteen (fifteenth)</td>
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<td>finländare, finne</td>
<td>Finn</td>
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<td>Finnish</td>
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<td>fisherman</td>
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<td>fjol (i fjol)</td>
<td>last year</td>
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<td>fjorton(de)</td>
<td>fourteen (fourteenth)</td>
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<td>fourth</td>
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<td>parish constable</td>
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<td>girl</td>
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<td>move</td>
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<td>certificate of moving</td>
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<td>fogde</td>
<td>sheriff, bailiff, warden</td>
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fortsättning (forts.) continued
fosterbarn foster child
fosterland native land, fatherland
framför in front of
fredag Friday
frejd a person's character, conduct
friherre baron
frossa malaria
fru Mrs.
från from
frånskild divorced
frälse nobility
frälsegård, frälsehemman tax-exempt farm (farm owned by a nobleman who collected the tax)
främmande foreign, strange, belonging to another parish
fröken Miss
fylleri drunkenness
fyra four
fyrtio(nde) forty (fortieth)
fältfeber typhoid fever
fältväbel assistant army surgeon, barber-surgeon
fästekvinna fiancée (female)
fästman fiancé (male)
fästmö fiancée (female)
fästning fortress
född, födda, födde, födelse born, birth
föddes was born
födelsebok birth record
födelsedag birthday
födelselängd birth record
födelseort place of birth
följande following, next
för for
fördelsman person receiving support after giving his estate to another
före before
föregående previous, preceding
förelyst banns (in Finland)
förening society
förfäder forefathers
förgiftad poisoned
förhör household examination
förklara declared, explained
förlossning birth
förlovd engaged
förlovning engagement
förmiddag morning, forenoon
förmyndare guardian
förnamn given name
förra giftet previous marriage
förre, (den) former
förrätta perform
församling parish, congregation
församlingsbok clerical survey
första first
första gången first time
förstoppning constipation
försvarslös unemployed person, vagrant
förteckning list
föräldralös orphan
föräldrar parents

gamla old
gamla boken (G.B.) old book, previous clerical survey
gammal old
garvare tanner
gata street
genast right away, immediately
genealogi genealogy
genom through
gesäll journeyman
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<td>married</td>
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<td>gifta sig</td>
<td>to marry</td>
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<td>marriage</td>
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<td>giftermål</td>
<td>marriage ceremony</td>
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<td>giftoman</td>
<td>bride's sponsor</td>
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<tr>
<td>gikt</td>
<td>gout</td>
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<tr>
<td>god</td>
<td>good</td>
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<td>boy</td>
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<td>granne</td>
<td>neighbor</td>
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<td>gratialist</td>
<td>receiving a pension or cash from some special fund</td>
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<td>grav</td>
<td>grave</td>
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<td>grekisk katolsk</td>
<td>Eastern Orthodox</td>
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<td>infantryman</td>
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<td>greve</td>
<td>count (title of nobility)</td>
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<td>mine</td>
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<td>gräns</td>
<td>boundary line, border</td>
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<td>gudfader</td>
<td>godfather</td>
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<td>gudmoder</td>
<td>godmother</td>
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<td>time</td>
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<td>farm, house</td>
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<td>gåvor</td>
<td>donations</td>
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<td>gäll (gäld)</td>
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<td>gördelmakare</td>
<td>brazier</td>
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**H**

<table>
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<td>half siblings</td>
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<td>forging smith</td>
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<td>han</td>
<td>he</td>
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<td>merchant</td>
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<td>handskmakare</td>
<td>glove maker</td>
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<td>hans</td>
<td>his</td>
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<td>hantverkare</td>
<td>artisan</td>
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<tr>
<td>hattmakare</td>
<td>hatmaker</td>
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hava to have
havande pregnant
hederlig honorable, honest
helig holy
hem home
hemma at home
hemman farm, homestead
hemmanskarkare farmer
hemmansägare farmer, homeowner
hemört residence
hemvist domicile
henne her
heraldik heraldry
herr Mr.
Herren Lord
herrgård manorial estate
hetsig feber inflammatory fever
hinderlös free, unhindered (to travel, marry)
hinderlöseshetsbetyg certificate of being unhindered
historia history
hittebarn foundling
hjon pauper, person receiving social assistance
hjulmakare wheelwright
hjärnblödning stroke, cerebral hemorrhage
hjärtslag cardiac arrest
hon she
honom him
hos at, in, with
hosta cough
hovrätt circuit court of appeal
hur how
hus house
husar light cavalryman
husbonde farmer
husfader head of household, father
husfolk farmers, farm people
husförhör, clerical survey, household examination
husförhörslängd
husman  farm laborer (owned house but not land)
husmoder  female head of household, mother
hustru  wife
hyresgäst  lodger
håll och stygn  pneumonia
här  here
härad  civil district within a county
häradsrätt  district court
härstädes  here, at given location
hög  high
höger  right
höst  autumn

i  in
icke  not
i dag  today
i fjol  last year
ifrån  from
i går  yesterday
i morgon  tomorrow
inflyttning  incoming, moving in
ingen  no, no one, none
inget  nothing, none
inhyses  lodger, tenant
innehåll  contents
innevarande  current
invandrare  immigrant
invandring  immigration
### J

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<td>earth, soil, land</td>
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<td>jordebok</td>
<td>land record</td>
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<td>jordegumma</td>
<td>midwife</td>
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<td>jordfästning</td>
<td>funeral, burial service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jude</td>
<td>Jew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>judisk</td>
<td>Jewish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jul</td>
<td>Christmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>juli</td>
<td>July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jungfru</td>
<td>Miss, maiden, virgin</td>
</tr>
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<td>juni</td>
<td>June</td>
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<td>hunter</td>
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<td>forester</td>
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### K

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<td>assistant clerk</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>assistant minister</td>
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<td>karl</td>
<td>man, male</td>
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<td>map</td>
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<td>cavalryman</td>
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<td>whooping cough</td>
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<td>toolmaker, locksmith</td>
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<td>kommunionbok</td>
<td>communion book</td>
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<td>klockare</td>
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<td>kofferdi</td>
<td>merchant marine</td>
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<td>charcoal burner</td>
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<td>kolera</td>
<td>cholera</td>
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</table>
kolik  colic
kommen ifrån  came from
komminister  assistant minister
kommun  township, municipality, parish
kommunikant  person receiving communion
konfirmation  confirmation
kontrahenterna  marriage applicants
kontrakt  deanery (clerical district)
konung, kung  king
kopparslagare  coppersmith
koppor  smallpox
kramp  convulsions
krisarkiv  war archive, military archive
kristendomskunskap  religious knowledge
kristnad  christened, baptized
krono-  belonging to the crown (government)
kronohemman  farm owned by the crown (government)
kruckmakare  potter
kräfta  cancer
kung, konung  king
kungarike  kingdom
kunglig  royal
kusin  cousin
kvarlåtenskap  possessions left after death
kvarn  mill
kvarter  block, quarter
kvinnan, kvinnkjön  woman, female
kväll  evening
kvävning  suffocation
kyrka  church
kyrkobok  parish register
kyrkoby  village in which the parish church is located
kyrkogång  introduction of mother into congregation after childbirth
kyrkogård  churchyard, cemetery
kyrkoherde  parish minister
kyrkosocken  ecclesiastical parish
kyrkotagen  introduction of mother into congregation after childbirth
kyrkovaktare  church officer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kyrkovärd</td>
<td>church or parish warden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>käresta</td>
<td>loved one, wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kön</td>
<td>sex, gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>köping</td>
<td>small town</td>
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<tr>
<td>köpman</td>
<td>merchant</td>
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<tr>
<td>körsnär</td>
<td>furrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lag</td>
<td>law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laga år kommen</td>
<td>of legal age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>land</td>
<td>land, country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>landsarkiv</td>
<td>provincial archive</td>
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<tr>
<td>landsförsamling</td>
<td>rural parish of a city</td>
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<tr>
<td>landskap</td>
<td>province</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lapp</td>
<td>Lapp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ledig</td>
<td>unmarried, free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leva</td>
<td>to live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>levande</td>
<td>living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lik</td>
<td>corpse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lilla</td>
<td>little, small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liten</td>
<td>little, small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lots</td>
<td>sea pilot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lucka</td>
<td>gap (missing records)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lunginflammation</td>
<td>pneumonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lungsot</td>
<td>consumption, tuberculosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>luteran, lutersk</td>
<td>Lutheran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lysning</td>
<td>banns</td>
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<td>lyst</td>
<td>posted banns</td>
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<tr>
<td>låg</td>
<td>low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lägersmål</td>
<td>illicit relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lägrad kvinna</td>
<td>woman who has had illicit relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lägre</td>
<td>lower</td>
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<tr>
<td>läkare</td>
<td>doctor</td>
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<tr>
<td>län</td>
<td>county</td>
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<tr>
<td>långd</td>
<td>roll, record, book</td>
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<tr>
<td>länsman</td>
<td>sheriff</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
läsare  teacher
lärling  apprentice
lönskaläge  illicit relations between unmarried persons
löpande  current
lördag  Saturday
lösdrivare  vagrant

M

magref  colic
magsjukdom  stomach disease
magvärk  stomachache
maj  May
maka  wife
makarnas gemensamma barn  child(ren) a couple had together
make  husband
mamsell  Miss
man, mankjön  man, male, husband
mantal  assessed unit of land
mantalskriven  registered for tax/census purposes
mantalslängd  tax/census record
marknad  market, fair
mars  March
maskinist  machinist, engineer
matros  sailor, seaman
med  with
medborgare  citizen
medlem  member
mellan  between
men  but
middag  noon
midnatt  midnight
militär  military
minderårig  underage
mindre  lesser, smaller
ministerialbok  parish register
minut  minute
mjölnare  miller
moder, mor  mother
morbror  maternal uncle
morfar  maternal grandfather
morgen  morning
morgongåva  morning gift, dowry
mormor  maternal grandmother
mosaiisk  Jewish
moster  maternal aunt
mot  against, toward
murare  mason
mycket  very, much
myndig  of legal age
måg  son-in-law
målsman  guardian
månad  month
måndag  Monday
mässling  measles
mästare  master
mördad  murdered

N

namn  name
natt  night
nattvard  communion
nedan(för)  below
nedkomst  birth
nedre  lower
nervfeber  typhoid fever
nio(nde)  nine (ninth)
nittio(nde)  ninety (nintieth)
nitton(de)  nineteen (nineteenth)
noll  zero
nord  north
Norge  Norway
norr(a)  north, northern
norsk  Norwegian
november  November
nu  now
nummer  number
ny(a)  new
nya boken (N.B.)  new book, next clerical survey
nybyggare  settler
nyfödd  newborn
nytt  new
någon  someone, anyone
något  something, somewhat
nämdeman  juryman
när  when
nära  near
närvarande  present
närvaro  presence
nöddop  emergency baptism

O

oangiven  not given
obefintliga  persons whose residence is not known
och  and
också  also
odaterad  not dated
odöpt  not christened
ofta  often
ofärdig  lame, crippled
ogift  unmarried
oktober  October
okänd  unknown
olycka  accident, misfortune
om  if, about
omkommen  died accidentally, drowned
omkring  about
omvändelse  conversion
omyndig  minor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>onsdag</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ordbok</td>
<td>dictionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>orsak</td>
<td>cause, reason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ort</td>
<td>place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ortförteckning</td>
<td>locality list, gazetteer</td>
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<tr>
<td>ortodox</td>
<td>(Eastern) Orthodox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>otidigt sängelag</td>
<td>conceived before marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ovan, ovanför</td>
<td>above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oäkta</td>
<td>illegitimate (child)</td>
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</table>

**P**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Translation</th>
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<tr>
<td>pastor</td>
<td>parish minister</td>
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<tr>
<td>pastorat</td>
<td>parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pastorsexpedition</td>
<td>parish office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pest</td>
<td>plague</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>piga</td>
<td>maid, maiden, servant girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pilt(ebarn)</td>
<td>boy, male child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pingst</td>
<td>Pentecost, Whitsunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pliktad</td>
<td>fined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pojke</td>
<td>boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>profoss</td>
<td>flogmaster (military)</td>
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<tr>
<td>prost</td>
<td>dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prosteri</td>
<td>deanery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>präst</td>
<td>minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prästgård</td>
<td>parsonage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>på</td>
<td>on, upon, at (some place), in (about time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>påsk</td>
<td>Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>påssjuka</td>
<td>mumps</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**R**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Translation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>regemente</td>
<td>regiment</td>
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<tr>
<td>register</td>
<td>register, index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>repslagare</td>
<td>rope maker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riddarhuset</td>
<td>house of nobility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
rike  state, realm
riksarkiv  national archives, state archives
rote  district within a parish
rotehjon  person supported by a parish district
rotesoldat  soldier for a district in a parish
rulla  record, roll
rusthåll  farm equipping a (cavalry) soldier
rusthållare  owner of a farm equipping a cavalry soldier
rymt, rymd  runaway
rysk, ryss  Russian
Ryssland  Russia
ryttare  cavalryman
rådhusrätt  city court
rådman  councilman
rådstu(gu)rätt  city court
räkenskapslängd  records of accounts
rätt  court, right, correct
rättare  farm foreman
rödsot  dysentery

s

sakna(s)  miss, missing
salig  the deceased, blessed
samhälle  community
samma  (the) same
sammanavla  beget, conceive
samma städes  (of) the same place
samt  and, together with
samtycke  permission, consent (to)
scharlakansfeber  scarlet fever
sedan  since
sekel  century
senare, (den)  later, the latter
sent  late
september  September
sex  six
sexman  parish caretaker
sextio(nde) sixty (sixtieth)
sexton(de) sixteen (sixteenth)
sida page
sig himself, herself, itself
sin, sitt, sina his, her, its (own)
sinnessvag feebleminded
sju seven
sjuk sick
sjukdom sickness
sjunde seventh
sjuttio(nde) seventy (seventieth)
sjutton(de) seventeen (seventeenth)
självmord suicide
sjätte sixth
sjö lake
sjöman sailor, seaman
skarprättare executioner, hangman
skarpskytt sharpshooter
skatt tax
skattehemman farm on which taxes are to be paid to the crown (government)
skeppare skipper
skilsmässa divorce
skog forest
skogvaktare forester
skola school
skollärare schoolteacher
skomakare shoemaker
skrud gown (bridal)
skräddare tailor
slag(anfall) stroke
slagsmål fight
slaktare meat cutter, butcher
slot castle
slut end
släkt family, clan
släktbok lineage book
släktforskning genealogy
släktning  relative
släktled  generation
smed  blacksmith
smittkoppor  smallpox
små (plural)  little, small
snatteri  pilfering
snickare  carpenter
socken  parish
soldat  soldier
som  who, which, that
sommar  summer
son  son
sondotter  son's daughter, granddaughter
sonhustru  son's wife, daughter-in-law
sonson  son's son, grandson
spannmålstorpare  tenant farmer, receiving part of his wages in grain
spinnare  spinner
spridda år  intermittent years
stad  city
stadsarkiv  city archives
stadsförsamling  city parish
stamfader  progenitor
stamtavla  descendancy chart
statare, statdräng  farm laborer
stattorpare  farm laborer, usually married
stenhuggare  stonemason
stift  diocese
stor, stort, stora  large, big, great
straff  punishment
straffarbete  hard labor
strax  right away, immediately
stuga  cottage, house
stum  dumb, mute
stupa  to be killed in war
styrman  mate, on ship
styr-  step-
styvson  stepson
stånd  status, condition
ståndperson  person of social standing
stårbhus  death estate
stöld  theft
svaghet  weakness, feebleness
svagsint  feebleminded
sven  young man, apprentice
svensk  Swedish
Sverige  Sweden
svullnad  swelling, bloating
svulst  tumor
svåger  brother-in-law
svägerska  sister-in-law
svärfar  father-in-law
svärmor  mother-in-law
svärsön  son-in-law
syd  south
syskon  siblings
syskonbarn  nephew(s), niece(s), cousin(s)
syssling  second cousin
syster  sister
systerdotter  niece, sister's daughter
systerson  nephew, sister's son
syting  person receiving support after giving his estate to another
såg  saw, sawmill
sågställare  saw setter
säteri  freehold estate
söder (södra)  south (southern)
söndag  Sunday

testamente  will
tid  time
tidskrift  periodical
tiggare  beggar
till  to
tillsammans  together
 tillstånd  dispensation, permission
timma
 hour

timmerman
 carpenter, builder

ting
 court

tingslag
 judicial district, assize division

tio(nde)
 ten (tenth)

tionde
 tenth, tithing

tiondebok
 tithing record

tisdag
 Tuesday

tjugo
 twenty

tjugoandra
 twenty-second

tjugoen, tjugoett
 twenty-one

tjugofem(te)
 twenty-five (twenty-fifth)

t jugofjärde
 twenty-fourth

t jugofyra
 twenty-four

t jugoförsta
 twenty-first

t jugonde
 twentieth

t jugonio (nde)
 twenty-nine (twenty-ninth)

t jugosex
 twenty-six

t jugosju(nde)
 twenty-seven (twenty-seventh)

t jugosjätte
 twenty-sixth

t jugotre
 twenty-three

t jugotredje
 twenty-third

t jugotvå
 twenty-two

t jugoåtta
 twenty-eight

t jugoåttonde
 twenty-eighth

tj uv
 thief

t jänar
 serves

t jänare
 servant

t jänst
 service, employment

tolfte
 twelfth

tolv
 twelve

torpare
 crofter, cottager

torsdag
 Thursday

tre (tredje)
 three (third)
	rettio
 thirty

trettioen, trettioett
 thirty-one

trettioförsta
 thirty-first

trettionde
 thirtieth
tretton(de)  thirteen (thirteenth)
trillinger  triplets
trolovade  betrothed, engaged
trumslagare  drummer
trädgårdsstäare  gardener
tuberkulos  tuberculosis
tumör  tumor
tunnbindare  barrelmaker
tvillingar  twins
tvinsot  withering from multiple causes
två  two
två hundra(de)  two hundred (two-hundredth)
tyfus  typhoid
tysk  German
Tyskland  Germany
tärande sjukdom  pneumonia, consumption

U

undantag  support after giving up an estate
undantagsman kvinna  person receiving support after giving his estate to another
under  under
underskrift  signature
undertecknad  the undersigned
ung  young
ungkarl  bachelor
uppgavs  stated, given, declared
utan  without
utanför  outside
utdrag  extract
uteslutet  excommunicated
utflyttning  moving out
utländsk  foreign
utvandrare  emigrant
utvandring  emigration
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Translation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vad</td>
<td>what</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vagnmakare</td>
<td>cartwright</td>
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<td>caretaker</td>
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<td>Walloon</td>
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<tr>
<td>vandel</td>
<td>conduct, habits, way of life</td>
</tr>
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<td>vapen</td>
<td>coat of arms, weapon</td>
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<tr>
<td>var</td>
<td>each, everyone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>var</td>
<td>was, where</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vara</td>
<td>to be</td>
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<td>varför</td>
<td>why</td>
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<td>vattenkoppor</td>
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<td>vattusot, vattensot</td>
<td>edema, dropsy</td>
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<tr>
<td>vem</td>
<td>who</td>
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<td>venereal disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>vid</td>
<td>at, on, close to, by</td>
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<td>vigd, vigda, vigde</td>
<td>married</td>
</tr>
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<td>vigsel</td>
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<tr>
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<td>accident</td>
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<td>our, spring</td>
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<tr>
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<td>of noble birth</td>
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<td>välfrejdad</td>
<td>of good reputation</td>
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<td>left</td>
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<td>ache</td>
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<tr>
<td>värmplikt</td>
<td>military service</td>
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<td>west (western)</td>
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<td>vävare</td>
<td>weaver</td>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>yrke</td>
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<td>------</td>
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<td>återvänd</td>
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<td>åttio(nde)</td>
<td>åttio(nde)</td>
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<td>åttonde</td>
<td>åttonde</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ä</th>
<th>äga</th>
<th>own</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ägare</td>
<td>ägare</td>
<td>owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ägor</td>
<td>ägor</td>
<td>land, property</td>
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<tr>
<td>äkta</td>
<td>äkta</td>
<td>legitimate</td>
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<td>äktenskap</td>
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<td>marriage</td>
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<td>äldre</td>
<td>older, elder</td>
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<td>äldste</td>
<td>oldest, eldest, elder</td>
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<td>ämbete</td>
<td>ämbete</td>
<td>office</td>
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<tr>
<td>änka</td>
<td>änka</td>
<td>widow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
änkeman, änklings widower
ännu yet, still
är are, is, am
ärlig honest
ätt family

Ö

ö island
öde vacant, fate
öga eye
öra ear
öster (östera) east (eastern)
över over
överlevande survivor(s)
övre upper

NUMBERS

In Swedish genealogical sources, numbers are occasionally written out. The following list gives the cardinal (1, 2, 3) and the ordinal (1st, 2nd, 3rd) versions of each number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardinal</th>
<th>Ordinal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>en, ett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>två</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>tre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>fyra</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>fem</td>
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<td>sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>sju</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>åtta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>nio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>tio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>elva</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12  tolv  12th  tolfte
13  tretton  13th  trettonde
14  fjorton  14th  fjortonde
15  femton  15th  femtonde
16  sexton  16th  sextonde
17  sjutton  17th  sjuttonde
18  aderton, arton  18th  adertonde
19  nitton  19th  nittonde
20  tjugo  20th  tjugonde
21  tjugoen/ett  21st  tjugoförsta
22  tjugotvå  22nd  tjugoandra
23  tjugotre  23rd  tjugotredje
24  tjugofyra  24th  tjugofjärde
25  tjugofem  25th  tjugofemte
26  tjugosex  26th  tjugosjätte
27  tjugosju  27th  tjugosjunde
28  tjugoåtta  28th  tjugoåttonde
29  tjugonio  29th  tjugonionde
30  trettio  30th  trettionde
31  trettioen/ett  31st  trettioförsta
40  fyrtio  40th  fyrtionde
50  femtio  50th  femtionde
60  sextio  60th  sextionde
70  sjuttio  70th  sjuttionde
80  åttio  80th  åttionde
90  nittio  90th  nittionde
100  ett/en hundra  100th  en/ett hundrade
200  två hundra  200th  två hundrade
1000  ett/en tusen  1000th  en/ett tusende

DATES AND TIME

Months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Swedish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>januari</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
February  februari
March     mars
April     april
May       maj
June      juni
July      juli
August    augusti
September september
October   oktober
November  november
December  december

**Days of the Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Swedish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>söndag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>måndag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>tisdag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>onsdag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>torsdag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>fredag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>lördag</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I. PARISH REGISTERS

Records of christenings, marriages, and burials kept by the church. Some parish registers may contain other types of information:

**Christenings** — Given name and sex of child and name of father, witnesses to christening and date of christening.

**Marriages** — Names of candidates, date of marriage.

**Burials** — Name of deceased, date of burial.

NOTE: Some registers contain more or less information on christenings, marriages and burials depending on time period and country. Other denominations also kept parish registers in later times, but this outline is concerned only with those of the state church (Lutheran).

A. Denmark — (Kirkebøger) — some exist as early as 1573, but most date from around 1645. The Genealogical Department has copies on microfilm of most parish registers, some as late as 1925. Other types of information commonly found:
   1. Confirmations — name, date of confirmation, age, parents.
   2. Arrivals and Removals — names of persons arriving at or leaving parish, former and new place of residence, age.

B. Norway — (Kirkebøker) — some exist as early as 1623, but most date from around 1700. The Genealogical Department has copies of most parish registers on microfilm, some as late as 1880. Other types of information commonly found:
   1. Confirmations — name, date of confirmation, age, parents.
   2. Arrivals and Removals — names of persons arriving at or leaving parish, former and new place of residence, age.

C. Sweden — (Kyrkoböcker) — some exist as early as 1607, but most date from around 1686. The Genealogical Department has copies on microfilm of most parish registers to about 1860, and from 1860-1897 there are copies of the Transcripts of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

D. Finland — (Luterilaisen kirkon aikakirjat) — they generally exist from 1648. The Genealogical Department has copies on microfilm of most parish registers to 1860 and copies of transcripts from 1648-1850 (approx.).

E. Iceland — (Ministerialbaekur) — some exist as early as 1664, but most date from around 1780. The Genealogical Department has copies on microfilm of most parish registers, some as late as 1935. Other types of information commonly found:
   1. Arrivals and Removals — names of persons arriving at or leaving parish, former and new place of residence, age.
II. CENSUS

An enumeration or count of the population taken by the government or church. Information contained in the census records of Scandinavia is widely different according to time period and locality. Most contain the names and ages of each individual at least.

A. Denmark — (Folketaillingen) — censuses were taken for the following years: 1787, 1801, 1834, 1840, 1845, 1850, 1855, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1901, 1906, 1911 and some later ones restricted in use.

B. Norway — (Manntall) — censuses were taken for the following years: 1664-1666, 1701, 1769, 1801, 1815, 1825, 1835, 1845, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1891, 1900 and some later ones which are restricted in use.

C. Sweden — (Mantalslangder) — 1620-1750 every year and then every five years to 1860. NOTE: Not considered a good source until a later time period.

D. Finland — (Menkikirjat) — 1635 to present, every year. NOTE: Not considered a good source until a later time period.

E. Iceland — (Manntal) — censuses were taken for the following years: 1703, 1729, 1762, 1801, 1825, 1840, 1845, 1850, 1855, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1901 and some later ones which are restricted in use.

III. PROBATE

Wills or documents relating to the death of an individual and the distribution of his belongings. Gives information such as names, relationships, and ages.

A. Denmark — (Skifteprotokoller) — some probates on film at the Genealogical Department from 1562-1913.

B. Norway — (Skifteprotokoller) — some probates on film at the Genealogical Department from 1650-1850.

C. Sweden — (Boppteckningar) — some probates on film at the Genealogical Department from 1660-1860.

D. Finland — (Perukirjat) — some probates on film at the Genealogical Department from 1650-1860.

E. Iceland — (Skiptabaekur) — some probates on film at the Genealogical Department from 1717-1918.

IV. OTHER — Some selected sources unique to the country.

A. Denmark — Military Levying Rolls (Lægdsroller og Søskoller) — Conscription (Draft) Lists of all males born in rural areas of Denmark.
Beginning Swedish researchers will also need: Reading Swedish Records (31028).
If your ancestor lived in Sweden between 1860 and 1920, follow the steps in this booklet to find the records of his or her family. These instructions will show you which records to search, what to look for, and what tools to use. One piece of information will lead to another until you have identified each family member and filled out a family group record.

1. Find your ancestor’s birth record in church records or civil registration.
2. Find your ancestor’s parents, brothers, and sisters in clerical survey records.
3. Find the birth records of your ancestor’s brothers and sisters in church records or civil registration.
4. Find the marriage record of your ancestor’s parents in church records or civil registration. This family is now complete.

Latter-day Saints:
Now see additional instructions for submitting names for temple ordinances.
You should have already gathered as much information as possible from your home and family and filled out family group records and a pedigree chart. You may have checked FamilySearch™ or other computer files to see if others have researched your Swedish family.

**To Begin:**

A. From your pedigree chart, choose an ancestor who was born in Sweden between 1860 and 1920. You must know the birth date and birthplace (parish) in order to find your ancestor’s family. It is helpful to know the county and district.

B. Write your ancestor’s name in the children’s section of a new family group record. Read through the instructions in this booklet. Then follow the steps below to find your ancestor’s family.

**Tips:**

If you don't know your ancestor’s birth date:
- **Start with a more recent generation.** You will learn how to do research, and you will probably discover something you didn't know about your family.
- **Find the records for the family in the example given.** This will teach you basic research skills before you research your own family. This is a good class activity.

If you don't know the parish where your ancestor was born, see “Tips” on page 6.

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**THE RESEARCH PROCESS**

The following pages walk you through the research process. In the case study, Rolf is looking for the family of Erik Alfred Ericsson. He takes his family group records and pedigree chart to a family history center.

Here he looks in the Family History Library Catalog for the records he wants and orders the microfilms he needs. He makes several visits to the center. Follow these same steps to find your family.
Case study: Erik Alfred Ericsson, born in 1863 in Örebro stadsförsamling parish, Örebro District, Örebro County, Sweden.

Your ancestor: ______________, ______________, in ____________, ______________, ______________, Sweden.

1. FIND YOUR ANCESTOR’S BIRTH (CHRISTENING) RECORD IN CHURCH RECORDS OR CIVIL REGISTRATION.

   (See “Church Records: Birth” on page 10 or “Civil Registration” on page 11.)

   A. At the family history center, Rolf searches in the Family History Library Catalog for the parish in Sweden where his ancestor was born (Örebro stadsförsamling parish). If there are no birth records for the desired time period at the parish level, look under the county for “Civil Registration.” (See “Using the Family History Library Catalog” on page 9.)

   B. He finds the FHL film 1794844 and orders it. He finds Erik Alfred’s birth record on the film. His surname is recorded as Ericsson. (See “Naming Customs” on page 17.) He photocopies the record for his files.

   C. Rolf makes note of the farm or village name listed on the birth record. He will need this information when he begins to search clerical survey records.

   D. Rolf writes on the family group record: (1) Erik Alfred’s birth information on the front, and (2) source information (such as parish name, film number, volume and years covered, and page number) on the back.

2. FIND YOUR ANCESTOR’S FAMILY IN A CLERICAL SURVEY (CHURCH RECORD).

   (See “Clerical Survey” on page 12.)

   A. Rolf now looks for the clerical survey which covers the year of Erik Alfred’s birth. Clerical surveys are listed under the parish. He looks in the Family History Library Catalog for Örebro stadsförsamling (where Erik Alfred was born), and then he looks for “Church Records.”

   B. Rolf finds the clerical survey on FHL film 0424122.

   C. On the film he finds the village of Ålunda, where Erik Alfred’s family was living when he was born. The clerical survey lists the entire family. Sometimes more than one generation of the same family may be on the same page.

   D. Rolf records birth dates and birthplaces for each member of the family. Because some birthplaces are abbreviated, he checks a Swedish gazetteer to determine the correct spelling.

   E. Rolf writes on the family group record: (1) information about all family members on the front, and (2) source information (such as parish name, film number, volume and years covered, and page number) on the back.

   F. In the same way, Rolf searches earlier and later clerical surveys to see if there are any more children in this family.
### Front of family group record

Other children are listed on the back of the sheet.
FIND BIRTH (CHRISTENING) RECORDS FOR YOUR ANCESTOR’S BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHURCH RECORDS OR CIVIL REGISTRATION. (See “Church Records: Birth” on page 10.)

A. Rolf looks for the birth record of Erik Alfred’s older sister, Gerda Christina. In the year 1860 in the Family History Library Catalog, Rolf finds FHL film 1794844. He finds the film and the birth record. (If he could not find the parish records, he would look in civil registration.)

B. Rolf writes on the family group record: (1) information from the birth record on the front, and (2) source information on the back.

C. Rolf looks for brothers and sisters in the same way.

D. Since most Swedish families had children every two to three years, Rolf looks to see if any of the children’s births are more than three years apart. If they were, he would check for missing children in birth records between those years. These children may not appear on clerical survey records if they were born and died within the same year.

FIND THE MARRIAGE RECORD OF YOUR ANCESTOR’S PARENTS. (See “Church Records: Marriage” on page 13 or “Civil Registration” on page 11.)

A. Rolf looks in the catalog for records of marriages from the place where the oldest child was born. Generally, marriage records are on the same roll of film as the birth and death records for the same period of time. In the church records of Örebro stadsförsamling parish, the marriage records are on a different FHL film (0149108) than the birth and death records. (If the parish records are not available, Rolf would look in civil registration.)

B. Rolf starts with the date of the first child’s birth and searches earlier records until he finds the marriage. If he couldn’t find the marriage record, then he would search later records. (If he couldn’t find the marriage in this parish, he would try neighboring parishes or the parish where each parent was born, as shown in the clerical survey.)

C. Rolf writes on the family group record: (1) the marriage information on the front, and (2) source information on the back.

D. Rolf has the information he needs for this family.

Latter-day Saints now have the minimal information required for this family’s temple submissions. See additional instructions for submitting names for temple ordinances.

NOW YOU CAN REPEAT STEPS 1 THROUGH 4 TO FIND ANOTHER FAMILY. Look for the families of each of your ancestor’s parents. Start with a new family group record, and look first for a birth record.
To find records in the Family History Library Catalog and to search Swedish church and clerical survey records, you need to know the farm or village, parish, and county in Sweden where your ancestor lived.

**Place Levels (Jurisdictions)**

Places are usually written from smallest to largest on family group records. The smallest place level can be either a village name or the name of a farm. The district (härad) is not usually listed.

Ålunda, Örebro stadsförsamling, Örebro, Sweden
(Village) (Parish) (County) (Country)

Nybble, Vintrosa, Örebro, Sweden
(Farm) (Parish) (County) (Country)

**Village or farm**

- To search clerical survey records, you need to know the name of the village or farm where your ancestor lived.
- You can find the name of your ancestor’s village or farm on the birth records.

**Parish**

- To find births, marriages, or deaths in church records, you need to know the name of the parish where your ancestor lived.
- A parish is the area (jurisdiction) where a Lutheran minister served and kept records (similar to a Latter-day Saint ward). The parish is usually named for the largest village in the area.

**County**

- Sweden is divided into 24 counties.
- To search clerical survey records, it is helpful to know in which county your ancestor lived.

---

**Tips**

To find your ancestor’s parish (socken or församling), see the following:

- If you know the county, see an alphabetical list of Swedish parishes in Carl-Erik Johansson’s *Cradled in Sweden* (revised edition, 1995), FHL fiche 6030093–5.
- If you know the village or farm, see an index to all place-names in *Svensk Ortförteckningar* (1965 or 1970) (in Swedish), FHL film 0418349.
- If you would like to know the names of the villages and farms in a parish, see *Svenska Orter*, volumes 1, 2, and 3 (1932) (in Swedish), FHL films 087437–8.

When using Swedish clerical survey records, first find the page with the name of the village or farm where your ancestor lived, and then look for your ancestor’s name.

On family group records compiled by genealogists:

- If four places are listed, the second place is usually the parish.
- If only three places are listed, the first place is usually the parish.
- Before Sweden had counties, it was divided into provinces. Sometimes the name of a province (such as Skåne or Småland), instead of the county, will be used in family records. Always change province names to the correct county name.
The counties of Sweden

Örebro County with parishes

Örebro stadsförsamling parish
Counties of Sweden, 1620 to 2000

- Sweden controlled Finland until 1809.
- Sweden is divided into 24 counties, each called a län.
- Sweden controlled Norway from 1814 to 1905.
- Sweden is also divided into 25 provinces, each called a landskap.

The Family History Library Catalog lists records by county, not province.

The Counties of Sweden

Blekinge    Norrbotten
Gotland     Skaraborg
Gävleborg   Stockholm
Göteborg och Bohus  Södermanland
Halland     Uppsala
Jämtland    Värmland
Jönköping   Västerbotten
Kalmar      Västernorrland
Kopparberg  Västmanland
Kristianstad  Älvsvobrg
Kronoberg   Örebro
Malmöhus    Östergötland
USING THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

Use the Family History Library Catalog to find any record available from the Family History Library. In it, you can find the call numbers you need to order records. The catalog is available at www.familysearch.org and at family history centers.

To find the information you need in the catalog, click Library, and then click Family History Library Catalog.

1. Click Place Search.
   You will see:
   Place
   Part of (optional)

2. For the “Place,” type: the name of the parish
3. For “Part of,” type: Sweden
4. Then find a topic, such as Church Records.
5. Click on the title you want.
6. Click on View Film Notes.
7. Look for the kind of record you want—such as Födde (Birth)—for the years you want. Write the FHL film number.

For more help, see Using the Family History Library Catalog (30966).

USING MICROFILM

At this time, most of the Family History Library’s records are on microfilm. When you have found and ordered the microfilm you need, the family history center staff can help you find a microfilm reader and thread the film into the machine.

Tips

When using the microfilm:

• If the image will not come into focus, make sure the film is between the two glass plates.

• Learn how to turn the handle to move the film backward and forward. Be careful not to roll the film off the reel.

• Make sure the years on the title page are the years you need. Three or four separate books may be on a single microfilm. If the first title page doesn’t cover the years you want, quickly spin through the film to the next black space. Then look for the next title page and the years covered.

Each item or book on a film has a title page and an ending page.

ULTA 18 T LÄN ÖREBRO
FÖDELS-E- OCH DOPBÖCKER 1854-1861 C: 7

RIKSARKIVET SVAR KLIMPFJÄLL 1995-02-06 GW

This title page on microfilm introduces birth and christening records for Örebro stadsförsamling parish for the years 1854–61.

BÖRJAN
BEGIN
SLUT
END

These pages indicate the beginning and the end of a section of Church records for Örebro stadsförsamling parish.
Use Birth Records To:
• Find birth information for virtually every person who lived in Sweden.
• Verify the birthplace of an ancestor.
• Establish a time and place of a family’s residence.
If you don’t find your ancestor’s birth in one parish, look in nearby or other likely parishes.

Birth and christening information are on the same record. The Swedish word *dop* means both baptized and christened. Genealogists usually call this a christening record.

Content
• Child’s name
• Parents’ names, occupation, and residence (which is also the child’s birthplace)
• Witnesses’ (godparents’) names
• Birth date
• Christening (baptism) date

Tips
• Write down the names and residences of the godparents. These may be relatives, friends, or important members of the community whose names may lead you to other relatives.

• Other church records give marriages, deaths, burials, or movements.
• For help reading the records, see *Reading Swedish Records*. (See “Where to Order Publications” on page 17.) Look for English translations of the record headings.

Searching Birth Records
Before searching, you must know:
• Your ancestor’s name.
• The parish and county of birth or residence.
• The approximate birth date.

Located at:
• Family History Library or family history centers
• Swedish National and Regional Archives

Family History Library Catalog:
Place search:
Place
Part of
Topics to choose: Church Records

Search by:
• Date (day, month, year), from earliest to most recent.

For this family, all of these witnesses are uncles and aunts of this child.

1860 Birth Record of Örebro stadsförsamling parish (FHL film 1794844)
Use Civil Registration Records To:

- Replace parish (church) records after 1860. After 1860, if no parish records (of birth, marriage, or death) are listed in the Family History Library Catalog, see the extracts of parish records in “Civil Registration.”
- Find birth, marriage, and death information for virtually every person who lived in Sweden.
- Verify the birthplace, marriage place, or death place of an ancestor.
- Establish a time and place of a person’s or family’s residence.

Content

- Similar to the information found in Church records of birth, marriage, and death.
- Birth records:
  - Birth order of the child (sometimes).
  - Number of years the parents have been married (sometimes).

Tips

- Look for the cities in each county at the end of each section of births, marriages, and deaths.
- Parishes are in random order. From the beginning pages of the film, write down the names of several parishes before and after the desired parish to guide your search for the parish.

Search Tips

- Before 1900, look for only one year of parish extracts (of birth, marriage, and death records) per microfilm.
- After 1900, look to see if the deaths for the previous year are on the next year’s film for births and marriages.
Use Clerical Survey Records To:
• Find family members and members of the household.
• Learn the names, ages, and birthplaces of brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents, and so on.

If you do not find your family in a clerical survey, look in nearby parishes.

The clerical survey will not list children who were born and died in the same year.

Content
• Names of family and household members
• Ages
• Relationships
• Birthplaces
• Occupations

Tips
• Reading the ages is usually easier than reading the names. Figure out how old your ancestor would be; then scan the age column for persons that age (give or take a year). Then try to read the names.
• If you only have a person’s age, approximate a year of birth. Subtract the age from the year of the record. Search at least one year before the approximate birth year (in case the survey was taken before the person’s birthday that year).

Later clerical surveys have more columns and information than earlier clerical surveys.

For help reading the records, see Reading Swedish Records. (See “Where to Order Publications” on page 17.) Look for English translations of the record headings.

Searching Clerical Survey Records
Before searching, you must know:
• Your ancestor’s name.
• The farm or village, the parish, and the approximate time he or she lived there.

Located at:
• Family History Library or family history centers
• Swedish National and Regional Archives

Family History Library Catalog:
Place search:
Place name of parish
Part of Sweden
Topics to choose: Church Records

Search for:
• The clerical survey for the year and parish.
• The farm or village within the parish.
• The age and then the name of a family member.

Person’s Name Village Name Birth Date and Place Moved In Moved Out

Family #12-18 Advanced iron worker, Erik Ersson
Hustru (wife), Lovisa Jansdotter
Daughter, Selma Dorothea
Daughter, Hilda Lovisa
Daughter, Gerda Christina
Daughter, Eva Fredrika
Son, Erik Alfred

born 27 Oct 1825
born 3 Sep 1823
born 9 Nov 1853
born 24 Oct 1856
born 26 Jan 1860
born 13 Jan 1862
born 9 Dec 1863

in Täby parish
in Wintronsa parish
in Örebro city
in Örebro city
in Örebro city
in Örebro city
in Örebro city

Clerical Survey of Örebro stadsförsamling parish (FHL film 424122)
Use Marriage Records To:
• Find a couple’s marriage date and place and their ages.
• Find bondsmen, who may be family members.

In large cities, marriage records may be in a separate book. In other places, marriages are in the same book as the baptism, death and burial, and moving records. Records are usually in this order: births, marriages, and then deaths.

Content
• Groom’s name, age, occupation, residence
• Bride’s name, age, occupation, residence
• Bondsmen
• Marriage date

Two bondsmen are listed in these records. Bondsmen are similar to a best man in a wedding party. Bondsmen knew the bride and groom and attested that the couple was legally able to get married.

Tips
• Because smallpox vaccinations were required for the bride and groom, there will often be a note about the vaccinations in the marriage record.
• Most couples were married in the area where they had been living. If you can’t find the marriage record in the parish where the first child was born, look in surrounding parishes or the parish where the parents were born (as listed in the clerical survey records).

• For help reading the records, see Reading Swedish Records. (See “Where to Order Publications” on page 17.) Look for English translations of the record headings.

Searching Marriage Records
Before searching, you must know:
• The names of the bride and groom.
• The approximate birth date of the first child.
• The parish of residence.

Located at:
• Family History Library or family history centers
• Swedish National and Regional Archives

Family History Library Catalog:
Place search:
Place name of parish
Part of Sweden
Topics to choose: Church Records

Search for:
• The parish.
• The date, from earliest to most recent.
• The couple’s names.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engaged 26 September</th>
<th>Drängen (unmarried male worker) Eric Ersson and pigan (maiden) Lovisa Jansson both at #9 S(outh) in Örebro</th>
<th>Groom: first marriage, age 27; bride: first marriage, age 29</th>
<th>Remarks: the bride’s brother, tenant farmer, Carl Eric Jansson in Kräcklinge parish, gave consent to act as the bride’s witness and permission for the marriage to go forth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1852 Marriage Record of Örebro stadsförsamling parish (FHL film 0149108)
Even if you know Swedish, reading the old-style Swedish script is one of the most challenging tasks for the beginning researcher. At first, it may seem overwhelming. However, you will find that although each scribe used a slight variation of the old-style script, all were quite consistent in their writing.

You will also find that after learning the most common given names and a few common terms, you will be able to read most of the documents you encounter.

The Swedish alphabet has three letters not found in English: Å, Ä, Ö. Look for these letters at the end of the alphabet:

   ... X, Y, Z, Å, Ä, Ö

Unlike German or French, these are considered separate letters and not just inflections of an a or o.

In records of the 1800s, an Å was written as e (Jämshög as Jemshög).
F was often written in place of v (Gefle instead of Gävle).
Z was often written in place of s (Zidsel instead of Sidsel).
C was often written in place of k (Carl instead of Karl).
V was often preceded by h (Hvena instead of Vena).

Tips

- For help reading Swedish and understanding handwriting, see *Reading Swedish Records*. (See “Where to Order Publications” on page 17.)
- For help reading Gothic script, see *Danish-Norwegian Paleography* (FHL fiche 6030017) or similar books.
- Practice writing the names of your ancestors in the handwriting style shown in the above publications. This will help you learn to read old Swedish records much faster.
- Learn to recognize Swedish names. About a dozen male and female names are used repeatedly.
Pedigree Chart

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. _______ on chart no. _______.

Mark boxes when ordinances are completed.

- Baptized
- Endowed
- Sealed to parents
- Sealed to spouse
- Family Group Record exists for this couple
- Children's ordinances completed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>When born</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>When married</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>When died</th>
<th>Where</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>(Father)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>(Mother)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>(Father of no. 2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>(Mother of no. 4)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>(Father of no. 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
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<td>(Father of no. 6)</td>
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<td>13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Your name and address

Telephone number Date prepared

Published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
Naming Customs in Sweden

Until 1875 Patronymics.

- A boy’s surname was his father’s given name and the suffix son.
- A girl’s surname was the father’s given name and the suffix dotter.
- The woman’s surname did not change when she married.
- Sometimes a person used an occupation, town name, or other nickname in addition to his or her surname.

1875 Patronymic names began to be replaced by family surnames. Your ancestor’s surname may change. There is no official registration of these name changes. This happened first in cities, then rural areas.

After 1901 End of patronymics.

- Families now passed standard surnames to their children.

1686 Swedish Parliament passed a law requiring the Lutheran clergy to keep parish registers.
1750 Clerical survey records began to be kept regularly.
1753 Sweden changed from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar.
1809 Sweden ceded Finland to Russia.
1814 Denmark ceded Norway to Sweden.
1820s Emigration from Sweden began.
1860 Civil extracts of birth, marriage, and death began. (The Family History Library has civil extracts up to the year 1920.)
1875 Patronymic names began to be replaced by family surnames.
1900 Over 1 million Swedes had emigrated to the United States.
1901 Families began using standard surnames. Patronymics ended.
1905 Sweden granted Norway independence.
1906 Sweden enacted language and spelling reforms.

What's Next?


More about Swedish Research:

- Elisabeth Thorsell and Ulf Schenkmanis, Släktforskning—vägen till din egen historia (Genealogy—The Road to Your Own History) (in Swedish). 1993.

Archives and Libraries

Family History Centers
www.familysearch.org
Tel. 800-346-6044

Family History Library
35 North West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400 USA
Tel. 801-240-2331

Swedish National Archive (Riksarkivet)
Fryverkarbacken 13–17, Fack 100 26
S–112 29 Stockholm, SWEDEN
www.ra.se/

Where to Order Publications:

- Distribution Services:
  Tel. 801-240-3800
  www.familysearch.org

All Family History Library publications are described in: Family History Materials List (34083).
# Family Group Record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband</th>
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<td>Place</td>
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<td>Baptized</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Died</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td></td>
<td>Endowed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buried</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sealed to parents</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Place</td>
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<td>Sealed to spouse</td>
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<td>Husband's father</td>
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<td>Husband's mother</td>
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<table>
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<td>Place</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christened</td>
<td>Place</td>
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<td>Baptized</td>
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<tr>
<td>Died</td>
<td>Place</td>
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<td>Endowed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buried</td>
<td>Place</td>
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<td>Wife's father</td>
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<td>Wife's mother</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children</th>
<th>List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.</th>
<th>LDS ordinance dates</th>
<th>Temple</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Place</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christened</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Died</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Married name(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christened</td>
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<td>Died</td>
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<td>Married name(s)</td>
<td>Last name</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christened</td>
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<td>Died</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Married name(s)</td>
<td>Last name</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select **only one** of the following options. The option you select applies to all names on this form.

- **Option 1—Family File** Send all names to my family file at the _______ Temple.
- **Option 2—Temple File** Send all names to any temple, and assign proxies for all approved ordinances.
- **Option 3—Ancestral File** Send all names to the computerized Ancestral File for research purposes only, not for ordinances. I am including the required pedigree chart.

Your name
Address
Phone (            )
Date prepared

Published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 10/93 Printed in USA 31827
### Husband
Given name(s) | Last name
---|---

### Wife
Given name(s) | Maiden name
---|---

### Children
List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.

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<td>Place</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christened</td>
<td>Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Died</td>
<td>Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse Given name(s)</td>
<td>Last name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Born (day month year)</td>
<td>Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christened</td>
<td>Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Died</td>
<td>Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse Given name(s)</td>
<td>Last name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Born (day month year)</td>
<td>Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christened</td>
<td>Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Died</td>
<td>Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse Given name(s)</td>
<td>Last name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Born (day month year)</td>
<td>Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christened</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Died</td>
<td>Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse Given name(s)</td>
<td>Last name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Place</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other marriages
List other marriages and sealings of the husband, wife, and children on this form. List any necessary explanations.

### Sources of information
Add further information on attached sheets as necessary.

### Note:
Please take every reasonable step to see that the information on this form is as accurate and complete as practical. This will help maintain the integrity of Church family history files and reduce duplication of temple ordinance work.
alphabet .............................................. 14
archives ........................................... 17
birth records ........................................ 10
catalog ............................................... 9
clerical survey records .......................... 12
church records
  birth ................................................. 10
  marriage ........................................... 13
civil registration records
  birth ................................................ 11
  marriage .......................................... 11
dead .................................................. 11
counties ............................................. 7, 8
country .............................................. 8
death records ...................................... 11
family group record ............................. 18, 19
family history centers ........................... 17
Family History Library ........................... 17
Family History Library Catalog ............. 9
farms .................................................. 6
finding places ...................................... 6
Gothic script ....................................... 14
handwriting ........................................ 14
how to begin ........................................ 2
jurisdiction .......................................... 6
libraries .............................................. 17
map of Sweden, counties ...................... 7, 8
marriage records ................................... 13
microfilm ............................................ 9
naming customs .................................... 17
parishes ............................................. 6
patronymics ......................................... 17
pedigree chart ..................................... 16
place-names ....................................... 6
preparation .......................................... 2
process, research ................................. 2–5
reading Gothic script ........................... 14
research process .................................. 2–5
step 1 ................................................... 3
step 2 ................................................... 3
step 3 ................................................... 5
step 4 ................................................... 5
script ................................................... 14
searching records ................................. 10–13
summary ............................................. 14
Sweden, map of ................................... 7, 8
Swedish National Archive ..................... 17
time line ............................................. 17
villages ............................................... 6

Other publications you will need:
Reading Swedish Records (31028)
Using the Family History Library Catalog (30966)
For Latter-day Saints:
Instructions for submitting names for temple ordinances.
Finding Roots And Branches In Sweden

Cari-Erik Johansson, M.A., A.G.
Assistant Professor of History
Brigham Young University
4310 HBLL
Provo, Utah 84602

Ours is a day of easy communication across the oceans, a day of tying the bonds between different branches of families, that were broken long ago by the forbidden waves of the great waters. In our rootless society many are trying to find their roots (and branches) in the old country, hoping that the ocean would not have washed them away but rather bared them for easier recognition.

In our day the tools of tying past and present generations together are sharper than ever. They are there for us to use to tie the bonds between family members. Once we begin to use them, a whole new world opens up, the world of the living past and a world of the living now. New discoveries are made about ourselves, our heritage as we puzzle together the missing links of our family and build the bridge across the ocean. We experience the excitement of walking where our forefathers walked of seeing what they saw, of hearing what they heard, of worshipping where they worshipped, of contemplating where they contemplated at the graveside of their loved ones, our loved ones. It is all a feeling and an experience of exhilaration that adds years to our lives and new vistas to our vision. It is all possible for most of us.

Swedish Genealogical Records

For those of Swedish descent who would like to tie the cut bond across the ocean, the possibilities for success are greater than for most other people. The roots are usually bared and fairly easy to identify, and the branches are easier to climb and find than in most any country.

Excellent records, well organized and preserved in sharply defined and superbly staffed repositories in Sweden make up a source not surpassed in any country in the world. About one hundred million pages of these Swedish genealogical records have been microfilmed by the Genealogical Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and are available to all through its branch library system in all of the United States. With some minor preparation it is possible to search these records for ancestors long gone to their reward or for living descendants, our own long lost relatives in the land of the midnight sun.

Climbing the branches of your Swedish family tree (finding living relatives).

If you know from where in Sweden your immigrating ancestor came, that place will be your starting point in your climb. You may do the research yourself from the microfilms, or you may get some help from over in Sweden or from some genealogist on this side of the ocean. If your immigrating ancestor came to this country prior to 1895 you may use the microfilms over here, but any research from 1895 to our day will have to be done in Sweden. The genealogical records in Sweden prior to 1895 are kept in the nine provincial archives. Records from 1895 to our day are kept at the nearly 3000 parish offices scattered in all of Sweden. The main records of genealogical value are still kept in Sweden by the parish ministers of the Lutheran state church, who are the official keepers of vital records. The ministers kept not only records of birth, marriage and death, but also of the people moving in and out of the parish. Thus it is possible to follow the movements of each individual from one place to another by contacting parish office after parish office. Would that such a record be available in our own great country!

Thus, if your immigrating ancestor left prior to 1895 trace him through the parish records either on microfilm over here or with the assistance from the provincial archive over there until those sources are exhausted. Then you turn to the parish minister for research from 1895 and on until today and in nearly all cases you will get an address of a living cousin. Have a good reunion!

If on the other hand you do not know where in Sweden your family tree is rooted, your first efforts will be in this country, on your own side of the ocean. In this case you will apply the first rule which reads that you search all available sources on this side of the ocean before you try to "jump across". You start with a search of your hidden depositories, your boxes in the attic, etc. to see if there would be any clues to a residence or place in Sweden. The next step is to contact living relatives and ask mainly two questions: 1) What do you know about our immigrant ancestor, and 2) Who else would know anything about our "ocean crosser"? If the search of the home sources yields no clues to a residence in Sweden or similar information of genealogical value, the regular US records will have to be searched, for example 1880, 1900, 1920 census records, county histories, naturalization records and newspapers from the area and time of immigration. If this is not sufficient, then a visit to the area where the immigrant first settled may yield the necessary clues.

Once the clues are found you may turn to Swedish emigration records, which are among the foremost in the world. The Swedish government kept track of its emigrating citizens and the records are preserved at the Central Bureau of Statistics in Stockholm or the different provincial archives. All those who emigrated legally from Sweden from 1855 and on would be recorded in the extracts of emigrants, which are arranged by parish, county and year. No index is available.

The records of emigrants kept by the police authorities in the ports of departure are for the most parts extant, available on microfilm and indexed. The combined use of these two records usually yields enough information about the legal emigrant for proper identification in the parish records.
Baring your roots (finding your forefathers)

It is just as exciting to trace and find one's roots as it is to discover living relatives, long unknown, over there. Once again the records are there to search, to discover and to enjoy. The method is simple. You establish the place of residence in Sweden of your immigrant ancestor by the procedures shown above. Then you trace the parents through the use of the excellent clerical survey records (also called house examination rolls). These can best be described as continuous census records, kept by the parish minister since about 1700, but only available in most areas from 1750 to 1895. Within its yellowed parchment may be found the changes that took place in the family between the visits to the home of the parish minister, usually once a year. He examined the members of the family concerning their ability to read, to recite Luther's catechism and to explain it. The grade or mark received was recorded. Thus this record is a running account of the activities of each member of the family and the servants, such as moving dates and places, schooling, church and communion attendance, marriage and death. See for yourself through the use of the microfilms, and trace or bare your roots several generations back with part of their history!

Helps

A small booklet How to Trace Your Swedish Forefathers is available from the Swedish Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The genealogical handbook Cradled in Sweden (see ad in this number of the Genealogical Helper) describes in detail how to do research in Swedish genealogical records for those who do not know the Swedish language.

Emigrantinstitutet in Växjö and Emigrantregistret in Karlstad, Sweden, may also be of assistance but both are limited to personal.

A homestudy course in how to do Swedish genealogical research is available through Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, on both a credit and non credit level.
Finding Your Swedish Ancestor

I. Find the parish (socken or församling) and the county (län) in which your ancestor lived.

A. All vital records were kept by the parish minister or clerk. He was given the legal responsibility of keeping the records because the Evangelical Lutheran Church was the state church.

B. Is the place named in your records a parish, a city, a village, or a farm?
   Check one or more of the following:
   (1) Pia A. Thomsen, Genealogical Guidebook & Atlas of Sweden. Includes a list of all parishes, maps showing the parish churches, etc., a sample of the Gothic Alphabet, and defines the most common Swedish genealogical terms.
   (2) Carl-Erik Johansson, A Practical Help to Genealogical Research in Swedish Records. Includes all of the above as well as a description of the most common genealogical sources.
   (4) C. M. Rosenberg, Geografiskt-Statistiskt Handlexikon over Sveriga. Gazetteer for Sweden.

C. In what parish did your ancestor live? Check Svensk Ortförteckning listed above.

D. In what county is this parish located? Check either of the first two books listed above.

E. Locate the town, parish and county on a map. The most useful atlas is Kak Bilatlas.

II. Find the official record of your ancestor's birth/christening, betrothal/marriage, death/burial.

A. If the birth, marriage or death occurred in 1860 or thereafter, search the "parish extracts", sent to a central archive annually by each parish minister.

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<td>0201386</td>
<td>Vastmanland</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>1882</td>
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<td>0201387</td>
<td>Vastmanland</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>1883</td>
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<td>Vastmanland</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>1888</td>
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<tr>
<td>0201393</td>
<td>Vastmanland</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>1889</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Find the film in the FHLC: Sweden - County - Civil Registration

2. The register is arranged by: County - Event - Year - Film Number

EXAMPLE:

Anders Gustaf Persson
married
Christina Lovisa Forsberg
in Vastmanland County
in 1863

CHOOSE FILM #0201367:
Vastmanland - Marriages - 1863

(Födda=birth; vigda=marriage; döda=death)
3. Within each roll of film, records of marriages are organized (1) by parish (församling) and (2) by date.

B. If the birth, marriage, or death occurred in 1860 or before, research must be done in the individual parishes.
B. Confirmation records in the parish register help to determine if a child survived childhood and his family status in his teen years. Young people were confirmed between the ages of 14 and 18 years.

C. Arrival and Departure lists (inflyttnings och utflyttningar) in the parish registers state date of arrival at or departure from the parish and usually name the places of arrival and departure.

D. Other records - not in the parish registers - can also be very helpful, but they are more difficult to find and to read.
   1. Probate and other court records
   2. Military records.
   3. Census records, which are really tax records; the clerical surveys usually take the place of censuses.
   4. Emigration records.
   5. Various LDS records, such as branch records, Swedish mission reports.
   6. The most helpful book on understanding these records is: Carl-Eric Johansson, Cradled in Sweden.

IV. There are a few "problems" in Swedish research.

A. Usually "getting across the ocean" to the correct parish of origin is often the most difficult and frustrating part of Swedish research. American records must be carefully checked for clues.

B. Records are written in the Swedish language.
   1. This is less of a problem than you would imagine because English and Swedish belong to the same language family.
   2. Once you learn a few basic words, you can usually glean the important family information from the record.
   3. Study one or more of the following references:
      FHD, "Genealogical Word List: Swedish."
      FHD, Scandinavian Records Extraction.
      FHD, "Swedish Handwriting."
      Carl-Eric Johansson, Thus They Wrote.

C. Records are written in the Gothic Script.
   1. Fortunately the more recent records use more modern script and are relatively easy to read.
   2. By the time you are in older records, you have developed your transcription skills.
   3. Most texts mentioned above include helps for reading the Gothic Script.

D. In the Swedish language, there are three extra vowels, which are placed at the end of the alphabet: (aa), (ae) and (oe).
   1. Remember to include superscripts in your notes.
   2. These extra vowels can cause frustration especially when you are trying to find a name or word in an alphabetical list.

   EXAMPLES: år follows zonen       Ståp follows skymma

E. The Swedish naming system is different from ours. (See handout.)
2. Within the film the parish register will be divided by events, such as births of males, births of females, marriages, deaths, etc. Within these groupings, events will be arranged chronologically; i.e. christenings for females will be arranged by year, month, day.

III. There are other Swedish records providing research helps and additional information.

A. The most helpful are the household examination rolls or clerical surveys (husförhusländer), which are in the parish registers. (See register for Våstanfors above.)

1. Each year each minister was required to visit each home in his parish and record such items as their behavior, their knowledge of the catechism, their ability to read.
   a. He also recorded such vital information about each member as date and place of birth, marriage data, where they moved if they left their home, where they had lived before coming to the parish, whether they had had smallpox or had been vaccinated, when they had attended communion.
   b. These are an equivalent of a yearly census of all persons in a parish.

2. If carefully kept, clerical surveys enable the researcher to trace the activities of his ancestor throughout his life.

3. Unfortunately earlier clerical surveys contain less information than later ones.

4. Choose the film from a register in FHLC such as that on page two above.
In doing genealogical research in Swedish records, researchers will find a haven of records in which to search. Few countries in the world have as good a collection of genealogical material as has Sweden. The Swedish people in the 1600s and 1700s stayed pretty much in one area or locality and it was not until the later 1700s or early 1800s that people started moving around. Of course, by then the industrial revolution had commenced and people started moving into the cities from the rural areas. Also, in the early 1800s an "emigration fever" swept the country with most of the emigrants leaving for the U.S.A., but it comes as a surprise to many researchers that many went to nearby countries, such as Norway, Denmark and Germany.

The record keepers of the Swedish people were the local ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church which was organized in 1527 in Sweden. The ministers lived close to the people, not only because they resided in the village or parish, but also because it was necessary for them to officiate at every marriage, infant baptism, and funeral that occurred in every family in the parish.

It should be kept in mind that the Evangelical Lutheran Church is the State Church of Sweden, and was organized in a very minute organization all over the country. On a local level was the parish (FORSAMLING) presided over by the local minister who held a tremendous influence on his congregation. He was in most cases the most learned and scholastic man in the community and as such presided over the local school board, community council, poor folks committee and many other activities. When it is understood that there was at one time over 2500 local parishes in Sweden, one can realize the influence the Evangelical Lutheran Church had over the people. There were few places where the people could go, where there wasn’t a minister involved. In the early 1600s some ministers started to keep records, but it was

*Mr. Magnusson is a native of Sweden. He is employed as a systems analyst by the Genealogical Society and is accredited in Swedish research.
not until 1686 that the official law was passed requiring all local
ministers to keep a record of births, marriages and deaths in
their parishes. This does not mean that we have perfect records
from that time until now; because of many circumstances some
were poorly kept and others have not survived. Poor storage fa-
cilities together with fires destroyed many valuable documents
and Sweden also had its share of wars in the 1700s that took toll
not only of lives but also of valuable records. The law passed in
1686 directed the local minister to keep track not only of births,
marriages and deaths, but also a record of people moving in and
out of the parish.

This one article cannot cover all of the genealogical records
of Sweden so more articles will be forthcoming that will describe
other records both on an ecclesiastical and a civil record level.

Let us now consider records that have been created and kept
by the local ministers.

Births and Christenings (Fodelse Och Dopbok)

This is the most common name for this type of book or reg-
ister; it records all children born in the parish whether legiti-
mate or illegitimate. Also listed are the parents, the witnesses
and the place of residence together with dates of birth and
christenings. In the early days of record keeping, some of the
entries were very scant in the information given, but as time
went on special books of forms were printed that indicated where
each required item should be recorded. Since that time, very good
and valuable information was recorded and it is a joy for re-
searchers to read.

Marriages (Vigsel Bok)

This lists the bride and bridegroom by their names and that
they were married by the minister of the parish.

Most registers will show the place from which the bride and
and groom came or were residing at the time the record was made.
It would also show who gave permission for the bride to marry—
the father, or if he was not living, then maybe a brother. Other
than this not very much more was recorded that was of any value.

Deaths (Dod Book)

This is a register of all persons who died within the parish
stating their names and residences. It could also include the cause
doing death and the age at death in years, months and days. All of
this was listed in chronological order within each month of the
year. The information in many cases is not always accurate and
must be verified with other records.

Clerical Surveys (Husforhorslangd)

Of all the records kept by the minister, the clerical survey or
household examination rolls are the most interesting and valuable.
This is the record that helps tie together the previously mentioned
records and makes it possible to follow a family throughout their
lives.

The purpose of this record helps to explain its value in doing
any research in Sweden. When we consider that Sweden, together
with Finland, is the only country that has this type of record
available to any large extent, we can appreciate its value.

Once a year the parish minister travelled around his parish
for the express purpose of taking a census of the families. He
would arrange to stop at certain homes and have families from
several nearby homes come there to avoid his visiting every home
in the parish. Then he would open his clerical survey book to the
page where each family was recorded (if recorded before) and
then proceed to record information about each person who re-
sided in a particular household. At the bottom of each page would
be listed all servants living and working at that household.

Also of interest is the fact that if the family or any family
members moved away the minister would enter this information
on the pages.

If anyone passed away during the year this would be re-
corded the next time the minister came around, and because it
was sometimes a long time before the information was entered,
tere were many instances where the event was recorded in-
correctly.

It is therefore necessary to verify all the dates in the clerical
survey with the proper record; birth book, marriage book or
death book.

It cannot be called a true census because this book was used
for several years, in most cases for a period of five years but
even ten years was not uncommon. This book was brought up-to-
date each year and in this way it is possible to follow the record
of a family for a number of years.

All original records of births, marriages, deaths to about
1860 and the clerical surveys to about 1895 have been microfilmed
and are available at the Genealogical Society library in Salt Lake
City or can be borrowed through any of its branch genealogical
libraries.
GENEALOGICAL RECORDS OF SWEDEN

Part II

Rolf Magnusson

In a previous article the records kept by the ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden were discussed. The article covered the birth, marriage and death records as well as the clerical surveys (household examination rolls). It was explained what each one contained and how each record was organized. The years covered and information available on microfilm was also described.

The initial filming in Sweden of the original birth, marriage and death records was from the earliest dates to about 1860. If a person uses these microfilms only, it is very difficult for researchers to make a connection between the United States and the old country. Many of our ancestors came over during the emigration from Sweden that took place from 1860 to 1880. Although recorded in the Swedish records for that time, the original vital statistics concerning these ancestors are not on microfilm at the Genealogical Society.

Extracts of Births, Marriages and Deaths

One record that we have, which helps to solve this problem, is the "Extracts of Births, Marriages and Deaths" (utdrag ur ministerial bockerna). Once a year each minister was required to copy his ministerial books and send the copy to the National Central Bureau of Statistics in Stockholm. He would make a short extract of the original entries which covered from January 1 to December 31 for a specific year. This was done for every year starting in 1860 to 1949. The Genealogical Society has microfilmed these records for the period of 1860-1897. There is one such record for all the births in the parish, one for the marriages and one for the deaths. It should be emphasized that this is an extract only and as such is not to be as detailed as the original report.

The information in the birth extracts consists of a birth date, child's given names, parents' names and residence, and age of the mother. The marriage record extracts list the marriage date, names and ages of the bride and groom and sometimes where each came from. The death record extract is the shortest of all, and indicates only death date, the deceased person's name, age, and place of residence.

Any search in the original records after about 1897 must be done by correspondence directly with the local parish minister or to the office of the National Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm.

"Extracts of Clerical Surveys or Examination Rolls" (Utdrag ur Husforhors Langd)

The clerical surveys were microfilmed initially to about 1860, but in later microfilming all records to about 1895 were copied. The Genealogical Society now has most clerical surveys to 1895 where they have not been destroyed or lost and where permission to film was given. The same procedure that was started with the birth, marriage and death records was also done with the clerical surveys. An extract was made for each calendar year but this time it was only done each ten years. The extracts of clerical surveys or examination rolls are on microfilm at the Genealogical Society at Salt Lake City for 1860, 1870, 1880 and 1890 except for Blekinge for 1880 and 1890 only; and Vasternorrland, Norrbotten, Vasterbotten, Kalmar, Gavleborg, Ostergotland, Kristianstad, Jamtland, Kronoberg, and Jonkoping for 1870, 1880 and 1890. Copies can be borrowed through any branch genealogical library for use at the branch library.

These extracts are exactly what the name implies, and therefore information is not as plentiful in these as in the originals. The place of residence within the parish is indicated in the extracts and, in most cases, the birth dates for each individual listed. Also, marital status, relationships, occupations, and occasionally, the place of birth are recorded. Each person living at the particular household (as of that year when the extract was made) was listed starting with the father and mother, if a family, and then each child. All servants were listed as well as any other person or persons living there at the time. This included surviving grandparents on either side of the family.

"Moving Record" (In och Utflyttnings Langd)

Beginning in 1686 the law required that a record should be kept of any person moving in or out of the parish. Unfortunately this record is the one the Genealogical Society has the least of and still it is one that is needed so often. As people moved around it became very important to be able to keep track of where they came from or where they were going.

The records in most cases listed the husband with his date of birth. If this was a "moving out" record, it listed where he was living in the parish at the time of moving out, as well as where he was going.

1Rolf Magnusson is an accredited researcher in Swedish research and is employed as a systems analyst by the Genealogical Society. 3284 West 3595 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84119.
If the man was married this moving record would, in most cases, give the wife's name—if not her full name, always her first name. The children are sometimes listed with their first names in order of boys first and then girls, or it states the number of boys and number of girls in the family.

If this was a "moving in" record it listed about the same information as for moving out, but the places of coming and going would be reversed.

Most moving records up to about 1860 and 1870 are now on microfilm at the Genealogical Society and can be borrowed through any branch genealogical library. If a search is required in the "moving records" later than the concluding year on microfilm, it is necessary to correspond with the local minister of the parish where the original records are kept.

"Moving Certificates" (Flyttningsbevis)

When the person or persons appeared before the minister and announced that they were going to move, the minister not only recorded this information in his book but he also issued a "moving certificate" that the person or persons took with them. When someone moved into the parish, the minister recorded this information in his book; he also received the moving certificate that the person brought from the parish he left. If the person decided to move again the same moving certificate was used, this time with the latter minister's notations being added.

The "moving certificate" listed the name with birth dates and birthplace of the person involved. Many times the parents were listed with where they were living at the time the certificate was made. The latter part of the certificate had notations about the person's character, whether knowledgeable in the scriptures, and whether married or available for marriage.

"Confirmations" (Konfirmationsförråd)

Each child born in the parish was baptized immediately or within a very short time after birth, but it was not until the person reached the age of about 14 to 15 years that the confirmation into the church took place. Thus the confirmation was recorded with the child's name, parentage (usually only the father), and age together with the Sunday date when confirmed. If the father was living, his place of residence was listed in many cases along with his name.

For a complete listing of microfilmed holdings of the Genealogical Society concerning the records of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden, consult the typescript register books prepared for this purpose, or the microfilmed card catalog at a branch genealogical library. It is also well to periodically consult the dictionary card catalog at the Genealogical Society because additional parish sources and indexes have been compiled since the typescript registers were prepared.

This concludes the description of records made and kept by the ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden. It should be mentioned that any records prior to about 1860 have been deposited in regional archives, but all later records are in the possession of the minister either at the local church or the office that he maintains.
PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES IN SWEDEN

(LANDSARKIV)

Rolf Magnusson

As the interest for preserving the old records of genealogical value in Sweden grew in the late 1800's, it became apparent to the Swedish government that something had to be done. The records were stored in so many different places and under such various and poor circumstances that many were practically inaccessible to anyone. Basements, attics, closets, boxes of many kinds, and just about anything that could store the records were being used. Also, over the centuries many circumstances that could not be controlled or guided by people had taken their toll. Fires, floods, and improper temperatures all helped to destroy records. And during the 16th and 17th centuries, Sweden had wars that swept the country with ravaging, burning, and looting as a result.

Provincial archives were organized to store certain records of a provincial area. The first to be organized was Vadstena, which was established in 1899 in the beautiful castle of Vadstena, where it is still located. Many cities also became interested in the preservation and storage of their records.

The idea behind the archives was to establish them on a regional basis with most of the parishes (forsamlingar) within the region depositing their records there. All of the parishes and counties (lan) involved became subject to the jurisdiction of the provincial archives. At one time there was more than 2500 parishes divided among 24 counties in Sweden. The number of parishes has been decreased considerably by mergers and doing away with old borders. There are now seven of these archives in Sweden, the earliest starting in 1899 and the latest in 1937. For areas covered by each archive, see the map and listing of addresses at the end of this article. The author assumes the researcher already knows the county.

The original parish records that are more than 100 years old from each parish and county within the region are located in these archives. This includes the births, marriages, deaths, and clerical-survey records. Parish records for the past one hundred years are still kept at each individual parish office. Also, located in these archives for storage are such records as tax lists and census rec-
ords (mantalslängder), duplicate land records (jordebocker), court records (dombocker), probate records (bouppteckningar), and military rolls (militär rullar).

When the need arises to correspond with either the provincial archives (for records 100 years or older) or the minister (for more current records), letters may be written in English or Swedish. Remember that it is necessary for the researcher to know the name of the local parish within each county, or the search becomes extremely difficult, if not impossible.

It should be mentioned that the city archives (Stadsarkiv) of Stockholm and Malmo are equal in status to the provincial archives. In other words, the city archives store all the records having to do with the jurisdiction of city government as the provincial archives store the records having to do with the provinces.

In Sweden there are also a national archive, royal military archive, national central bureau of statistics, house of nobility archive, archive of the ministry for foreign affairs, and various miscellaneous archives. The description of each one would require a separate article and cannot be covered in this. They are only mentioned so that the researcher will know that they exist.

These various archives and offices will answer simple inquiries, but they will not do extensive research. Many of the personnel working in these places will do research on their own time, and of course will charge a fee for their services. In requesting research by them, always indicate the maximum amount of money that may be spent. Do not send currency in the mail; always buy a cashier's check or a money order.

The following archives with addresses are presently current (September, 1972):

Landsarkivet at Vadstena (Est. 1899)
Slottet, Vadstena, Sweden

Landsarkivet at Lund (Est. 1903)
Dalbyvägen 4, Lund, Sweden

Landsarkivet at Uppsala (Est. 1903)
Slottet, Uppsala, Sweden

Landsarkivet at Visby (Est. 1905)
Visborgsgatan 1, Visby, Sweden

Landsarkivet at Göteborg (Est. 1911)
Geijersgatan 1, Göteborg, Sweden

Landsarkivet at Östersund (Est. 1930)
Musieplan, Östersund, Sweden

Landsarkivet at Harnosund (Est. 1937)
Nybrosgatan 17, Harnosund, Sweden

Stockholms Stadsarkiv
Kungsgatan 61, Stockholm, Sweden

Malmo Stadsarkiv
Sankt Petri Kyrkoplan 7A, Malmo, Sweden

RECORD SOURCES FOR FINDING PLACES OF ORIGIN IN SWEDEN

1. Card Catalog—Look in the Genealogical Department's Library Card Catalog under the headings of:
   - Sweden - Emigration and Immigration
   - Sweden, Name of County - Emigration and Immigration
   - Sweden, Name of County, name of specific port of departure,
   - Swedes In

2. LDS Emigration Sources
   (Refer to Register of LDS Church Records by Jaussi and Chaston. Reg 289.3 J327r for additional information and film numbers).
   a) Utah Immigration Card Index (Crossing the Plains) 1847-1868
   b) European Emigration Card Index: 1849-1925
      Swedish emigrants through 1913 only
   d) Persons Indebted to the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Co: 1850-1877
   e) Emigration Records of the Swedish Mission: 1905-1932
   f) Swedish Mission Records, Form E: 1911-1951
   g) Branch records

   Note: The Göteborg Provincial archives is currently indexing the New York Passenger Lists for Swedish Emigrants for the years 1850-1870.


7. City Police Records (Passenger Lists)
   a) Göteborg: 1869-1951
      1869-1920: See Swed. Film 216,580-216,646.
      Index at Genealogical Department for 1869-1893 (Film 1,043,023-1,043-045)
   b) Malmö: 1874-1939 (Film 919,914-919,979)
      Index at Genealogical Department for 1879-1886, 1888-1891 (Film 1,043,345-347).
   c) Kalmar: 1880-1892 Copy at Göteborg Archives 13 vols.
   d) Norrköping: 1859-1919. Copy at Göteborg Archives (1 Vol.)
   e) Stockholm: 1869-1944
      1869-1904 See Swed. Film 402,933
Note: The Provincial Archives of Göteborg is currently in the process of indexing all the above records for items 6-7 above. Write to Landsarkivet, Box 3009, S-40010 Göteborg 3, Sweden.

8. **Archives of the Larsson Brothers Emigration Agency: 1873-1913**
   (See Swed. Film 262,168 - 262,352) Ref. 948 B2s
   Refer to the *Scandinavian Genealogical Helper*, pages 16-19 (G.D. Call No. Vol. 3 No. 3) for a complete listing of the microfilm call numbers. Records contain contracts, letters to and from prospective emigrants, letters from emigrants, tickets, telegrams, accounts, passenger lists etc.
   Also refer to: Berit Brattne. *Bröderna Larsson en studie i Svensk Emigrant Agentverksamhet under 1880 talet.* With a summary in English. Stockholm 1973. (G.D. Call No. 948.5 B4 shu Vol. 50)

9. **Emigration Archives**
   a) Emigrantinstitutet (The House of Emigrants) Box 201, 351 04 Växjö, Sweden
   Archives contain a vast amount of records and material. Staff members are willing to try and identify emigrant individuals or families. Send an initial $5.00 International or American Express money order and your request with as complete information as possible:
   1. Full name at time of emigration (for married women, their maiden surname, and name of spouse.)
   2. As correct a date of birth as possible.
   3. Names of areas in Sweden of residence.
   4. Exact or approximate year of emigration.
   5. Names of other family members and any other helpful information.
   6. Determine whether emigrant was a member of a Swedish Lutheran Congregation in America or Canada.
   b) Emigrantregistret i Karlstad
   Box 331 651 05 Karlstad
   Concerns Värmland Co. only. This county had heavier emigration than any other in Sweden.

10. **Societies in U.S.**
   a) **Swedish Pioneer Historical Society**
   5125 North Spaulding Avenue
   Chicago, Illinois 60625
   b) Refer to *Directory of Historical Societies and Agencies in the United States and Canada*

11. **Swedish-American Lutheran Church Records**
   If your relatives were active in a Swedish Lutheran Congregation, write to:
   Rev. Joel Lundeen
   Assoc. Archivist of the Lutheran Church in America
   1100 East 55th St.
   Chicago, Illinois 60615
Though Swedes had been settling in North America since 1683, by 1866 New Sweden in the Delaware Valley was barely a memory. In April of that year, Peter Johan Jönsson, tired of scrabbling a living from uncertain soil and angry at the daily injustice he saw around him, decided to take his family to America.

There were many from Jänt, Väckelsång and nearby parishes who wanted to leave that year, and Jönsson became their leader, handling their money, arranging for their tickets and seeing to their passports. They went first to Gothenburg and from there two days by boat to Hull in England, where they took the train overland to Liverpool. Days of waiting followed. Because of the cholera on the Continent, the English mail-boats took only Englishmen, and so a coastal steamer, the Peruvian, was hastily fitted-out for the long journey.

The trip began well enough, though Jönsson thought some of the young people were too rowdy. But as soon as the ill-prepared ship reached the ocean, life took a different turn.

The sickness began slowly at first. One or two died and were buried at sea, and then more died. "Today, two dead are given up," he wrote in his journal, "not to the earth's calm bosom, but to the sea's eternally restless waves." Frans, Peter's elder son, took ill. For twelve days the cholera raged within him and he cried for water, forbidden him, ironically enough, by the ship's doctor. Just in sight of land, he died and was also given to the sea.

Cholera ravaged the ship when it entered the port, and it was quarantined. The New York Times reported that, "something must be done soon or the mortality rate on the Peruvian will exceed that of any vessel ever in this port." Jönsson's father fell sick and died, and his wife, Marta, took deathly ill but recovered. Their own quarantine lasted for two anxious, tedious months in New York's harbor before they could continue to Minnesota.

But the stamina that brought them from the edge of death served them well in the new country. Peter Johan Jönsson took Homestead land, built a house and farmed for ten years. At age 43, the intelligent, self-educated farmer went to college and was later ordained a Lutheran pastor, serving many frontier churches. He wrote home to Sweden, "The journey is risky and this is no land for the lazy. Do not come if you do not want to work hard."
The most important continuing sources of information about Swedes in North America is the *Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly*. Chicago: Swedish Pioneer Historical Society, 1950–.

**SECONDARY SCHOOLS**


A good, brief survey of Swedish-American journalism.


An excellent selection and translation of Swedish immigrant letters, together with a background commentary about immigration in the period 1840-1914.


An introductory study of Swedish-American contributions to our national life.


A fine novel about Erik Jansson and his utopian colony on the Illinois prairie. The Janssonites were the first major group to leave Sweden in the 19th century for the United States and its freedom.


An introductory view of Sandburg, a great American poet who took a while to discover his Swedish roots.


An illustrated history of Bishop Hill, the Janssonite's colony in Illinois, with text in both English and Swedish.


An immense survey, down to the present day, of Swedish-Americans and Swedes in America. This book also has a helpful bibliography.


All translated by Gustaf Lannestock, this is the great novel cycle of the Swedish emigrations to this country. Moberg's is probably the only book about the emigrations that will make you feel what it was like to leave your native land.


A biography of one of the first artists to paint George Washington, together with the diary from his later years.


An easy, introductory history of the first Swedish colony in North America, New Sweden, founded in 1638 in what is now Delaware.


A biography of the life and times of John Ericsson, the great Swedish-American inventor and naval engineer, who designed and built the Union ironclad, Monitor.

**UNDERGRADUATE**


This is a good study of the few, but significant Swedish and Swedish-American contributions to our revolution. It is important to know that Sweden was the first foreign power after France, an ally, to sign a treaty with the new country.

A fine discussion of the evolution of Swedish-American political opinion through its press, especially with regard to American foreign policy.


A short, general introduction to the whole history of Swedish migration, especially to North America.


A well-written book about Swedish immigrants in the 1850's and 60's and their role in supporting Lincoln, especially in the election of 1860. This book also has an especially useful bibliography.


This book is a classic on the background of the great Swedish immigrations of the 19th and 20th centuries.


Largely complementary to Janson, this is another good book on the background.


This book deals with emigration propaganda generated in Sweden by various agents of American, and especially Minnesota, land companies and railways, and especially the work of Hans Mattson.


This book provides a fascinating history of Swedish cultural life in Chicago, and especially its very active theatre.


This comprehensive list also includes brief biographies of many of the people included in it. Olsson is presently working on the companion volume dealing with other ports of entry for the same period.


Skårdal takes an interesting approach to social history by examining the literature Scandinavian immigrants produced to see what it can tell us about the life it sprang from. History through literature, literature as history.


This book deals not only with religious influences on immigration, but general cultural attitudes, as well.


A collection of songs about the emigrations and a general discussion of the whole genre, Swedish original texts and English translations and some of the music.

**GRADUATE**


This is the best introduction to the surprisingly large field of Swedish-American poetry.


Library Publications No. 27.

This is the basic bibliography of writing, mostly in Swedish, about Swedish-America, and should be the obvious starting-place for advanced research.

A thorough, if heavily statistical, study of the movement and assimilation of Swedes in Chicago.


This book, by one of the leading Swedish-American journalists, is a good study of Swedish-American radical movements.


This dissertation discusses the role of Swedish-Americans in Minnesota politics.


This early, detailed description of the journey to America is written with a fine eye for the telling point and a distance that permits Hultin to see the humbug as well as the humanity.


This is the exhaustive, and well-written, treatment of the early Swedish settlements on the East Coast in the 17th century.


This dissertation deals in detail with the intense internal Swedish debate on emigration 1901-04 caused by official opposition to such movement.


This book discusses the Americanization of the Swedish-American population in this period, especially in Minnesota and Illinois.


This useful handbook is a reasonably detailed survey of the great 19th and 20th century Swedish immigrations, and is more comprehensive for that period than Fleisher and Weibull.


This is the definitive work on the geographical distribution and settlement patterns of Swedes in the US and Canada.


Though the title seems quite restrictive, this book is a useful counterweight to the view that immigration in the late 19th century was directly from the countryside to North America. Many first tried their luck in the big cities before taking to the high seas.


This is the autobiography of the greatest Swedish-American journalist, whose sharp pen punctured many an immigrant pretension and whose vagabond life never lost its zest.


A very useful biographical dictionary of Swedish American writers and journalists.


These comprise all the basic statistics concerning the 19th century emigrations, a comprehensive survey no emigration-researcher can avoid dealing with. Though the product of an official government enquiry, it is relatively unbiased in its conclusions.


Based largely on oral interviews, this is a fascinating book of immigrant reminiscences by the dean of emigrant researchers.
SWEDISH EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION RECORDS

Donald W. Christensen* and Roy A. Spjut**

Scandinavian blood runs in the veins of many people throughout the world. From the earliest recorded "Viking" history, settlements were being made in Great Britain and the coastal countries of Europe. An interesting history of what might be loosely called "Viking Emigration" is entitled History of the Vikings (Genealogical Society microfilm number 896,938, 2nd item; subsequent listings of microfilm numbers in this article refer to the Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City and are cited as GS).

Probably the earliest Swedish and Finnish settlements in America were on the Delaware River between 1638 and 1655. These were mostly near present-day Wilmington and Philadelphia. Records of genealogical value pertinent to these settlements and others are sometimes difficult to find. Indeed, few Swedish-American immigration records of genealogical value exist before the year 1803. Some records covering merchant seaman crew lists for about 1,400 Swedish mariners are found in the National Archives, Washington, D.C. These records cover the time period 1803-1827.

In 1820 passenger manifests for various United States ports came into prominent use as a result of a law which was enacted. A close study of these manifests reveals that the vast majority of Swedish immigrants were from a select group of well-to-do Swedes, usually of commerce, military, or clergy background. The Swedish commoner did not emigrate until the 1840s and then only the upper middle-class farmers and others who had financial means for such an undertaking. During the years 1820-1829 there were only an average of four per thousand travelers from Sweden who came to America. By far the majority of travelers were simply visitors to Finland and Denmark. By 1850, however, 22 percent of all travelers from Sweden were bound for America. The new promised land had been "discovered" by the Swedish masses.

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Emigration Lists

Gothenburg

Police Office

Kalmar

Emigration Lists

Lists

(Malmo Polis·

HelBing

Agency Records, 1873-1918

Volume 7, Number 1, March 1978

Volume 7, Number 1,

(Norrkop­

Emigration

Emigration

Police Office Emigration

Lists

Poliskammares emigrantlistor), 1859-1919. There is one

Police Office

borg Police Office

Kalmar

Emigration Lists

Lists

(Malmo Polis·

HelBing

Agency Records, 1873-1918

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Volume 7, Number 1,

(Norrkop­

Emigration

Emigration

Police Office Emigration

Lists

Poliskammares emigrantlistor), 1869-1944. These are chrono­

poliskammares emigrantlistor), 1907-1964. Currently

in these records: some people never bothered to inform the au­

thorities of their intentions to move and therefore were not

posted on the extracts. The years 1851-1860 are indexed and are

available in Gothenburg. The remaining years are currently being indexed at the provincial archives in Gothenburg. (On film at GS for 1851-1940; lists on film nos. 083,004-083,571. The originals are at National Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm.)

Police Records

Shipmasters were required to furnish authorities at the emi­

gration ports in Sweden a list of the emigrants on board. This

included the name of the ship, date of departure, names of pas­

sengers; sometimes date and place of birth, last place of res­

idence, ages, destinations, and relationships of persons traveling as family units.

A. Gothenburg Police Office Emigration Lists (Göteborgs poliskammares emigrantlister), 1869-1951. These records are chronological listings of persons who left Sweden through this port. An index on microfilm at the Genealogical Society covers the years 1869-1893. Indexing of the remaining years is being done at the provincial archives in Gothenburg. Gothenburg was the port of embarkation for about one and one-quarter million Swedes.

The original records are housed at the provincial archives in

Gothenburg, in 143 volumes. (On film at GS, 1869-1920; film

nos. 216,580-216,646. Indexes on film nos. 1,043,023-1,043,045.)

This provincial archives has become one of the major centers for

indexing of emigration records originating from various places in Sweden.

B. Stockholm Police Office Emigration Lists (Stockholms poliskammares emigrantlister), 1869-1944. These are chronological listings of persons who emigrated through Stockholm City. They contain the names of some emigrants from Finland.

The index for the years 1869-1883 seems to be quite com­

plete, but incomplete for the years 1883-1886. They are currently being indexed at the provincial archives in Gothenburg. The originals are housed in the Stockholm City archives. (On film at

the GS, 1869-1904, including a partial index, 1869-1883 (and 1886) on film no. 402,933.)

C. Malmö Police Office Emigration Lists (Malmö Poliskammares emigrantlister), 1874-1939. These records are similar to those described above, both in format and content. They are currently being indexed at the Gothenburg Provincial Archives. The originals are housed at the Malmö City Archives. (On film at GS; film nos. 919,914-919,979. The index at the GS covers 1874-1891, on film nos. 1,043,345-1,043,347.)

D. Helsingborg Police Office Emigration Lists (Helsing­

borgs Poliskammares emigrantlister), 1907-1964. Currently

being indexed at the Gothenburg Provincial Archives. These rec­

ords have not been filmed and are available only in Sweden at

Gothenburg.

E. Norrköping Police Office Emigration Lists (Norrköpp­

ings Poliskammares emigrantlister), 1859-1919. There is one

volume of these records which is similar to the others listed

above. It is indexed at the Gothenburg Provincial Archives and

has not been filmed.

F. Kalmar City Archives Emigrant Contracts (Kalmar stad­

sarkivs emigrantkontrakt), 1880-1892. These are emigrant

contracts kept by the authorities in Kalmar City. They are cur­

rently being indexed at Gothenburg; they have not been filmed.

Passport Journals (Immigration Offices), 1737-1879

These were issued from emigration offices throughout Sweden. A daily journal was kept in chronological order covering those who were issued passports or given permission to leave the country. These offices were scattered throughout the country but mostly in the cities. The records give name, home parish, destination of the applicant, and the date permission was granted. (Some records are microfilmed. They are cataloged at the GS under the name of the city where each office was located. Those not microfilmed are kept in the provincial archives covering the area concerned.)

Passport Journals (Navy Pension Fund Departure Lists), 1798-1851

These were issued by county and city administrative offices.

The fee collected was paid into a fund used to pension naval personnel. The lists give names, social status or occupation, and parish of residence and destinations of travelers who were issued passports. An index for 1817-1850 is at the Gothenburg Provincial Archives. The originals are housed in the Royal Swedish Military Record Office, Stockholm. (On film at GS; film nos. 479,331-479-605.)

Larsson Brothers Emigration Agency Records, 1873-1913

This company operated in Central and Southern Sweden during the heavy emigration years. Records covering all trans-
actions were microfilmed for the 40-year period 1873-1913, including agency letters, letter copy books, ticket stubs, etc., from emigrants and immigrants, giving addresses, and other information. This collection is not indexed by personal names but it is classified by items and categories of records. Along with other information, it gives places of destination for individual immigrants, so it is therefore valuable when data is located. However, it is time-consuming to use. (Cataloged under Bröderna Larsson and Company at the GS; on film nos. 479-331; 479-587-479,605. Originals are at the Gothenburg Provincial Archives.)

**Emigration Archives, early 1800s to middle 1900s**

Located at Karlstad, Växjö, and in other areas, these archives collect data on emigration from Sweden. The Karlstad archives contain a complete index of 100,000 known emigrants from the province of Värmland to the United States and other countries. The House of Emigrants at Växjö is a combined archives and museum telling the story of Swedish emigration to America. Rural daily newspapers containing excerpts on emigrants are collected. It is also currently microfilming Swedish-American church records containing minutes, memberships, births and confirmations, and marriage and death records of hundreds of Swedish-speaking congregations in the states of Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and others. (Records are housed in local archives. Addresses: Emigrantregistret i Karlstad, Box 331, S-651 05 Karlstad, Sweden; and Emigrantinstitutet i Växjö, Box 201, S-351 04 Växjö, Sweden.)

**Record Sources Originating Outside of Sweden**

**Copenhagen Emigration Records, 1868-1959**

These consist of two sets of records: the direct emigration from Copenhagen and the indirect emigration from Copenhagen via Hamburg or Liverpool. They are arranged alphabetically by year and by surname and include names of many Swedish people. These records show name, age, last residence, destination, and date of embarkation.

A separate register of only Mormon emigrants was kept by the Copenhagen police authorities from 25 June 1872 through 7 June 1894, and is identified as Passager-Lister, Book 1. The first four pages are regular emigration; the Mormon emigrants begin on page five. These records are vital in partially filling the gap in the Scandinavian Mission Emigration Records which are missing for the years 1887-1900.

(The years 1868-1910 are at the GS on film nos. 898,564-898,622. Originals from 1868-1959 are at Landsarkivet for Sjaelland, m.m., Copenhagen.)

**Hamburg Emigration Records, 1868-1934**

These records are similar in content and arrangement to those in Copenhagen cited above. Some Swedes emigrated through the port of Hamburg. There are three sets of indexes:

1. Alphabetical card index to the direct lists, 1856-1871;
2. Partially alphabetical regular index to the direct lists, 1855-1934; and
3. Partially alphabetical regular index to the indirect lists, 1855-1910.

For further information on this collection, see the GS research paper, The Hamburg Passenger Lists, Series C, No. 30 (PRGS1287) available from the Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City.

**City Police Records, Norway**

These records are similar to the Göteborg Police Records described earlier. Records are available as follows: Oslo, 1867-1902, indexed; Bergen, 1874-1900; Kristiansand, 1873-1901; Trondheim, 1876-1900; Tromso, 1850-1900 (not filmed). Some Swedes emigrated to America through Norwegian ports. Many of these records are currently being indexed at the respective archives in Norway. (Bergen on GS film no. 357,704; Trondheim on nos. 362,609, 362,610, and 362,611; Oslo on nos. 368,081-368,098; Kristiansand on film no. 365,931.)

**LDS Originated Records of Swedish and American Origin**

**European Emigration Card Index (by ship), 1849-1913**

This index shows names of persons who emigrated from European countries including Sweden. It was compiled from several different sources. This index partially overlaps some of the indexes described below. It is arranged alphabetically by name, usually by the surname of the head of the household. Individuals traveling alone are also indexed. Information often includes age, name of ship, date of embarkation, destination; status, such as "returning missionary" or "passenger on ship," names of children traveling with the head of the household; and references where information for this index was obtained. (Found on GS film nos. 298,431-298,439.)

**British Emigration Records, 1849-1885; 1899-1905**

Basically these records are the same as those described above as far as Sweden is concerned. This series is partially contained in the above series. (Contained on GS film nos. 025,690-025,695.)

**Scandinavian Mission Emigration Records, 1853-1886; 1901-1904**

These records are basically the same as those described above; they are partially included in the European Emigration
Card Index. These records may also include the conference or district the individual emigrated from. Records for the years 1887 through 1900 of this series are lost but they are partially supplemented by the register of Mormon emigrants through Copenhagen. (On GS film nos. 025,696-025,697.)

Swedish Mission Emigration Records, 1904-1932
These records are similar to those described above, except those specifically for Sweden covering the period since 1904. (On GS film no. 025,700.)

Swedish Mission Records, Form 42-FP, 1911-1955
These are similar to those described earlier, but sometimes additional detail on the member may be given. (GS film no. 082,935.)

Swedish Individual Branch Records, 1854-1954
When LDS branch members emigrated, notations to that effect were generally written in these records in the remarks column opposite their names. (GS film numbers are listed in the card catalog under the name of each respective branch.)

Crossing the Plains Card Index, 1847-1868
Emigrants are indexed alphabetically by surname, usually by the head of the household. This index is similar to the European Card Index described above. (GS film nos. 298,440-298,442.)

RECORD SOURCES ORIGINATING IN THE UNITED STATES

U.S. Passenger Manifests, since early 1800s
These records were kept by the various ports in the United States; it was required that a list of all passengers be submitted upon arrival. These lists contain name of the vessel and master, ports of embarkation and entry, date of entry, name of each passenger, age, sex, occupation, country of origin, and destination in the United States. The information in these records varies, depending upon the time period of the lists. Principal ports and a general list of shipping records available are listed below:

- Baltimore, Md.: 1820-1891 (also indexes for 1820-1897)
- Boston, Mass.: 1820-1874, 1883-1891 (index 1848-1891)
- Mobile, Ala.: 1829-1886 (partial list only; index 1820-1862)
- New Bedford, Mass.: 1823-1899 (partial list only; index 1823-1874)
- New Orleans, La.: 1820-1902 (index and abstracts for 1820-1875)
- New York City: 1820-1897 (also indexes for 1820-1846 and some later years)
- Philadelphia, Pa.: 1800-1882 (index 1800-1906)

The originals of these passenger lists are housed in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. More recent records are still in the possession of the various port authorities and some are in the National Archives.

These records are important for the time period 1820-1865 when the Swedes did not keep emigration records. They are useful after that time as well in that they give a destination of the immigrant in the United States. (Many lists and indexes are available on film at the GS, especially before 1900. There is a special register of microfilm call numbers of passenger lists and indexes. Later lists are available at the National Archives.)

Merchant Seaman Crew Lists, 1803-1827
This is a special collection which covers about 1,400 Swedish mariners who arrived in the United States between the years 1808 and 1827. (At the National Archives in Washington, D.C.)

Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York, by Olson, 1820-1850
This publication contains a detailed list of all Swedes found in the passenger lists from the port of New York between 1820 and 1850. Additional research has been done in an effort to identify each individual by birthdate and place in Sweden. (At the GS.)

OTHER RECORDS

Naturalization and Declaration of Intention Records
These are sometimes helpful in determining the date and country of birth of an individual, date of arrival in the United States, residence at the time of naturalization, date of naturalization, and other information helpful to Swedish-American genealogists. (These records are housed in local county, municipal, or federal courts; some are in the National Archives; some naturalizations are on film at the GS.)

Federal Land Records, Homestead Act Records
These records show the names of individuals and often give details concerning age and country of origin. (Some of these records are at the Washington National Records Center, Suitland, Maryland.)

United States Census Records, 1850-1900
These census records are sometimes used to solve location and country of origin. An exact place of birth is not shown, however. These are state censuses for some states in the United States. The 1900 census shows year of immigration to the United States and if naturalized, as well as other information of interest to genealogists. (On film at GS. For further information, see the GS research paper, Genealogical Records in the United States, Series B, No. 1, Revised 1977 (PRGS0433) available from the Genealogical Society.)
United States Military Records

These sometimes give details of an individual's birthdate and place which may be in a foreign country. Muster rolls may show nationality of soldiers. Pension records are often the most useful for genealogists. (These records are at the National Archives; many are on film at the GS.)

Local County and Municipality Records

These sources are available in various repositories in the United States. They often contain valuable information of interest to genealogists. However, their content varies. Some records exist since the years of early immigration. Local histories, newspaper obituaries, and biographies may also give clues to the birthplace of individuals. (Housed in state and local libraries; many records are at the GS.)

Swedish Parish Register Membership Records and Surveys

These often list destinations of emigrating members in a remarks column. This source may be valuable, but most of the time one has no knowledge concerning which parish the ancestor came from and thus cannot use this approach. If one has a fairly restricted general area and a specific time period of residence, he could search each of the parishes in the general area and possibly obtain positive results. (Records are available on film at the GS to 1895, and some to 1900.)

Swedish-American Congregation Records in the United States

These records often give details concerning an individual's birthdate and place including a foreign country. (Records are available in the local synods or in local parishes. Many are also on film at the Emigrant Institute in Växjö, Sweden, and the Lutheran School of Theology Library, Chicago.)

Deceased Members of Scandinavian Mission File, 1852-1895

This index is arranged alphabetically and lists name of the deceased, date and place of birth, date and place of LDS baptism and confirmation, name of officiant, date and place of death, date of proxy LDS temple endowment, and name of proxy. (GS film no. 8550.)

Scandinavian Branch Records Name Index, 1850 to ca. 1890, some for later years

This index shows names of persons who were baptized in the LDS Church for the period 1850-1890 from all of the Scandinavian branch records. These were extracted onto slips and entered into the Genealogical Society's computer file. These slips were then alphabetized; they have not been microfilmed. The index is not complete as some slips beyond the 110-year period were destroyed. (Available at the GS.)
SWEDISH HANDWRITING

The Genealogical Department of
The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints
Every person has a unique method of writing. These many methods can be grouped into styles. Handwriting styles vary from time period to time period, from country to country, and usually from one document to another. The styles used in previous centuries may vary so much from those of today that they may be difficult to read. This manual is an introduction to the basic handwriting style found in Swedish church registers from the 1600s to 1880 -- the Gothic style.

The current name extraction program for Sweden utilizes parish registers only. These are books that contain, among other things, a record of births (or christenings) and marriages (or betrothals). The purpose of this program is to extract from these records people's names and certain other information so that temple ordinances can be performed for them.

To extract information from Swedish records, you must be able to read and transcribe correctly parish register entries, but generally you do not need to be concerned with everything written in the entries. Some ministers were brief; others were quite verbose. The main things in the entry are the---

1. Event type.
2. Event date.
3. Name and sex of the principal (the person about whom the entry was made).
4. Parents' names (when applicable).

So that you can discern these items and extract them properly, this manual is designed to teach you the following skills:

1. The ability to read Swedish (Gothic) script of the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries.
2. The ability to understand terms found in Swedish parish records. This includes recognizing words that are spelled differently from their modern equivalents, determining the meaning of unfamiliar or archaic terms, and interpreting abbreviations used in the record.
3. The ability to extract from Swedish documents information for temple input.

Each of these skills will be covered in this paper. By studying the material thoroughly and completing the practice exercises, you can begin interpreting otherwise difficult-to-read records.

The appendixes at the end of the manual explain the abbreviations and list the terms and names you will encounter most frequently in the records.
THE ALPHABET

The Gothic alphabet is presented on the following pages. The letters are similar to the roman alphabet used today, and you should have little difficulty identifying them. The Swedish language uses three additional letters -- A (Å), Ä (ä), and Ö (ö). These follow the letter z and are formed the same way in Gothic script as the A (a) and the Ö (ö).

When you have learned the unique characteristics of this style of writing and have become acquainted with the vocabulary used at the time of the writing, you should be able to decipher most parish register entries written in this style with only slightly more effort than it takes to read the handwriting styles of today. Of course, you will still have to deal with poor handwriting and faded ink, but you will be able to recognize the identifying features of each document.

GOTHIC SCRIPT ALPHABET

The next pages contain examples of the Gothic script alphabet. The first page shows an ideal method of writing the characters. The next seven pages contain two sample alphabets, showing other ways the characters can be written. Refer to these pages often as you proceed with your studies in this paper.

Notice the curved line above the lowercase u, which distinguishes it from an n. Note also that s usually appears differently at the end of words:

page 4
GOTHIC ALPHABET

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
superseded

Tetrad

U

V

W

X

Y
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. 

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. 

Day.
Gothic print may be encountered in some Swedish records, although most printed forms use the Roman print. These two alphabets are illustrated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gothic</th>
<th>Roman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aa</td>
<td>Aa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb</td>
<td>Bb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cc</td>
<td>Cc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dd</td>
<td>Dd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ee</td>
<td>Ee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ff</td>
<td>Ff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gg</td>
<td>Gg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hh</td>
<td>Hh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ii</td>
<td>Ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jj</td>
<td>Jj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kk</td>
<td>Kk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ll</td>
<td>Ll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mm</td>
<td>Mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nn</td>
<td>Nn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oo</td>
<td>Oo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gothic</th>
<th>Roman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pp</td>
<td>Pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qq</td>
<td>Qq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rr</td>
<td>Rr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ss</td>
<td>Ss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tt</td>
<td>Tt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uu</td>
<td>Uu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vv</td>
<td>Vv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ww</td>
<td>Ww</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xx</td>
<td>Xx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yy</td>
<td>Yy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zz</td>
<td>Zz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GOTHIC PRINT ALPHABET
Sweden Church Record Christenings

Introduction

Beginning in 1686, the Swedish Lutheran Church was required by law to keep christening (or baptism) records. After 1800, the records may include birth dates. Information may be recorded on or after the date of birth. Information found in a christening depends on how detailed the minister made his record.

For more information on church christening records, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The following information may be found in a christening entry:

• The name of your ancestor.
• The date of your ancestor's christening or baptism.
• The name of your ancestor's parents.
• The names of the witnesses or godparents.
• The date of your ancestor's birth.
• The place of your ancestor's birth.
• The residence of the parents.
• The occupation of the father.
• Whether your ancestor was of legitimate or illegitimate birth.

Steps

These 5 steps will guide you in finding your ancestor in Swedish church records.

Step 1. Find the year of your ancestor's christening or baptism record.

To find the christening records available at the library, look in the Family History Library Catalog. Go to What to Do Next, select the Family History Library Catalog, and click on the tab for Town Records to see if your ancestor's parish is listed.

If you don't know which parish your ancestor lived in, see the Swedish gazetteer "Svensk Ortförteckning," mentioned in the Gazetteer section of the Swedish Research Outline.

When looking for your ancestor's christening or baptism record, remember:

• Christening records are arranged chronologically.
• Christening records may be intermixed with marriage or burial records.
• Christening records of illegitimate children may be listed separately.

For helps in finding the year, see Tip 1.
Step 2. Find the entry for your ancestor.

Look for the given name of your ancestor, which is often clearly written and underlined. If you do not know the names of your ancestor's parents, you may have to check further to make sure you find the correct entry:

- Find the entries for all the children with the same given name(s) as your ancestor. Start with the year you think your ancestor was born. Then check the entries for five years before and five years after. You may find several entries for children with the same name but with different parents.
- Eliminate the entries that contradict what you know about your ancestor. Check death records to see if any of the children died before your ancestor did. Check marriage records to see if any of the children married someone other than your ancestor's spouse (but remember that your ancestor may have married more than once).
- Try to make sure the christening entry is of your direct line ancestor. Because names are so common, you must be sure you have the correct entry.

For more help in finding the record entry, see Tip 2.
For help in reading the record entry, see Tip 3.
For help in verifying that you have the correct record entry, see Tip 5.

Step 3. Find the entries for each brother and sister of your ancestor.

Once you have the entry for your ancestor, find the entries for your ancestor's brothers and sisters:

- Search the christening records for entries of your ancestor's brothers and sisters.
- Search local death records or the christening records from surrounding parishes, especially if there are gaps of 3 or more years between the christening of siblings. Gaps of 3 or more years may indicate there was another child.
- To make sure you have found entries of all the family members, search death records and christening records of surrounding parishes for any additional children.
- Search for children born before the parents' marriage. In christening records for illegitimate children, the mother's name is often the only parent's name which appears. Children may have been christened under the mother's maiden name. Often the father's name is not given.

For help in finding the entries for the ancestor's brothers and sisters, see Tip 4.

Step 4. Copy the information, and document your sources.

If you can, photocopy the record. If you can't, be sure to copy all the information in the entry, including:

- All the people listed and their relationships to each other. (Remember, witnesses are often relatives.)
- All the dates in the entry and the events they pertain to. (Sometimes birth, marriage, and death information pertaining to the child or parents may be included. The minister may use abbreviations or symbols such as f. for birth, g. for marriage, and d. or + for death.) Be sure to look for additional dates in the entry's margin.
- All the localities in the entry and who was from the places listed.
Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the christening record.

To effectively use the information from the christening record, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is this the christening entry of my direct line ancestor? Because names are so common, you must be sure you have the correct record.
- Did the minister identify both parents, and is the mother’s maiden name given?
- Were additional event dates, such as marriage, death, etc., given in the entry’s margin? (The minister may use abbreviations or symbols such as f. for birth, g. for marriage, and d. or + for death.)
- Did more than 3 years pass since the christening of the last child? If so, another child may have been born and christened in a neighboring parish or died before it could be christened.
- Did you search 5 years without finding any earlier christening entries of children? If you find no other entries, then begin looking for the parent’s marriage record.
- Did the minister identify the order and gender of the child being christened, such as “the 5th child and 2nd son”?

For help in verifying that you have the correct record entry, see Tip 5.

Background

Christening records go back to 1686 when the law for record keeping was passed by the Swedish parliament. Because of wars, natural disasters, and accidents, many churches were destroyed along with all or part of their records. Very few church records go back before 1650 because of the Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648).

Tips

Tip 1. How do I find the year my ancestor was christened?

Use the clerical surveys (husforhorslangd) first as a guide to find the whole family. The clerical surveys list the parents, children, and sometimes grandparents. They often give dates of christening and, after 1800, dates of birth. To find clerical surveys in the Family History Library Catalog, search under “locality,” and look for the parish. When you find the parish, look for the topic “Church Records.” The clerical surveys will always be listed first in the contents of records.
Tip 2. How do I find the entry of my ancestor?

Patronymics were used in Scandinavia by the farming and lower classes for centuries. Under the patronymic naming pattern the suffix -sson was added to the father's given name to create a surname for the son. For example, Lars ANDERSSON's son Eric took the surname LARSSON. A daughter took her father's given name and added the suffix of -dotter. For example, Nils PERSSON's daughter Brita took the surname NILSDOTTER. Patronymics were in use until the later part of the nineteenth century.

For help with name variations, see the Names, Personal section of the Sweden Research Outline.

Tip 3. What if I can't read the record?

Swedish church records were usually written in Swedish. Some Latin was used in records in the 1600s and 1700s. The language used in the record may also be affected by:

• The language of bordering countries.
• The use of Church Latin by the Swedish clergy.

Also, prior to 1900, records were written in Gothic script.

For publications that can help you read the languages and Gothic script, see the Swedish Word List, Latin Word List, and the Handwriting section of the Germany Research Outline.

Tip 4. How do I find the record for each brother and sister?

Within the family, one or more children may have the same given name(s). When more than one set of parents has the same given names and surnames (for example two Anders Anderssons and Maria Kristina Nilsdotters), use the following identifiers and records to separate the families:

• The family's residence.
• The father's occupation.
• The witnesses or godparents.
• Other sources like census and probate records that list family members as a group.

Tip 5. How do I verify the christening of my direct line ancestor?

Often more than one family in a parish has the same family name. Because the same children's given names are used in every family, several children with the same given and family names could be christened within a few years of each other. To identify the correct direct line ancestor and his or her parents:

• Check 5 years on each side of the supposed christening year, and copy the entry of every child with the same given name and surname as the ancestor.
• If one or more entries exist, check church burial records to eliminate those entries of children that died before your ancestor.
• If burial records do not exist or you are not able to eliminate all of the possible entries, check marriage records to eliminate those who married someone other than your ancestor's spouse.
• If you still cannot eliminate 2 or more possibilities, trace all lines to see if they go back to a common ancestor. Then continue research back from the common ancestor.
• If you eliminate all the possibilities, check the surrounding parishes, and repeat the above process until you find the christening entry for your ancestor.
Where to Find It

Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers can borrow microfilm(s) of christening records from the Family History Library. There is a small fee to have a microfilm loaned to a Family History Center. Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. For the address of the Family History Center nearest you, see Family History Centers.

Family History Library

The Family History Library has microfilmed many of the Swedish christening records. There is no fee for using these microfilms in person.

You may request photocopies of the record from the library for a small fee. You will need to fill out a Request for Photocopies—Census Records, Books, Microfilm, or Microfiche form. The Family History Library microfilm number is available from the Family History Library Catalog. Send the form and the fee to the Family History Library.

See Family History Library Services and Resources for information about contacting or visiting the library.

Parish Offices

If the Family History Library has not microfilmed the christening records for your locality, you will need to write to the Swedish parish office. For assistance in writing, please see the reference publication, Cradled in Sweden, Johansson, Carl-Erik. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc., 1995. (FHL book 948.5 D27j.)
Sweden, Church Record Christening 1860-Present

Introduction

In 1860, the Swedish Lutheran Church was still required by law to keep christening (or baptism) records. After 1800, the records may include birth dates. Information may be recorded on or after the date of birth. Information found in a christening depends on how detailed the minister made his record.

For more information on church christening records, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The following information may be found in a christening entry:

- The name of your ancestor.
- The date of your ancestor's christening or baptism.
- The name of your ancestor's parents.
- The names of the witnesses or godparents.
- The date of your ancestor's birth.
- The place of your ancestor's birth.
- The residence of the parents.
- The occupation of the father.
- Whether your ancestor was of legitimate or illegitimate birth.

Steps

These 5 steps will guide you in finding your ancestor in Swedish church records.

Step 1. Find the year of your ancestor's christening or baptism record.

To find the christening records available at the library, look in the Family History Library Catalog. Go to What to Do Next, select the Family History Library Catalog, and click on the tab for Town Records to see if your ancestor's parish is listed.

If you don't know which parish your ancestor lived in, you will need to determine the parish. Do this by looking through sources such as a marriage certificate, a death certificate, a naturalization record, a newspaper obituary, a family Bible, etc. If none of these sources exist, you can learn the name of the ancestor's last residence in Sweden by finding the ancestor in the 1900, 1910, or 1920 U.S. census, determining the year of emigration, and then checking the Goteborg or Malmo Emigration Records. For a complete listing of all Swedish parishes, see the Swedish gazetteer, Svensk Ortforteckning, mentioned in the Gazetteer section of the Swedish Research Outline.
When looking for your ancestor’s christening or baptism record, remember:

- Christening records are arranged chronologically.
- Christening records may be intermixed with marriage or burial records.
- Christening entries of illegitimate children may be listed separately.

For help in finding the year, see Tip 1.

**Step 2. Find the entry for your ancestor.**

Look for the given name of your ancestor, which is often clearly written and underlined. If you do not know the names of your ancestor’s parents, you may have to check further to make sure you find the correct entry:

- Find the entries for all the children with the same given name(s) as your ancestor. Start with the year you think your ancestor was born. Then check the entries for five years before and five years after. You may find several entries for children with the same name but with different parents.
- Eliminate the entries that contradict what you know about your ancestor. Check death records to see if any of the children died before your ancestor did. Check marriage records to see if any of the children married someone other than your ancestor’s spouse (but remember that your ancestor may have married more than once).
- Try to make sure the christening entry is of your direct-line ancestor. Because names are so common, you must be sure you have the correct entry.

For more help in finding the record entry, see Tip 2.

For help in reading the record entry, see Tip 3.

For help in verifying that you have the correct record entry, see Tip 5.

**Step 3. Find the entries for each brother and sister of your ancestor.**

Once you have the entry for your ancestor, find the entries for your ancestor’s brothers and sisters:

- Search the christening records for entries of your ancestor’s brothers and sisters.
- Search local death records or the christening records from surrounding parishes, especially if gaps of 3 or more years exist between the christening of siblings. Gaps of 3 or more years may indicate there was another child.
- To make sure you have found entries for all the family members, search death records and christening records of surrounding parishes for any additional children.
- Search for children born before the parents’ marriage. In christening records for illegitimate children, the mother’s name is often the only parent’s name which appears. Children may have been christened under the mother’s maiden name. Often the father’s name is not given.

For help in finding the entries for the ancestor’s brothers and sisters, see Tip 4.
Step 4. Copy the information, and document your sources.

If you can, photocopy the record. If you can't, be sure to copy all the information in the entry, including:

- All the people listed and their relationships to each other. (Remember, witnesses are often relatives.)
- All the dates in the entry and the events they pertain to. (Sometimes birth, marriage, and death information pertaining to the child or parents may be included. The minister may use abbreviations or symbols such as f. for birth, g. for marriage, and d. or + for death.) Be sure to look for additional dates in the entry's margin.
- All the localities in the entry and who was from the places listed.

On the copy, document the source of the information. List:

- The type of source (a paper certificate, a microform, a book, an Internet site, and so forth).
- All reference numbers for the source. Carefully record any microfilm, book, or certificate numbers or the name and Internet address of the site you used.

Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the christening record.

To effectively use the information from the christening record, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is this the christening entry of my direct-line ancestor? Because names are so common, you must be sure you have the correct record.
- Did the minister identify both parents, and is the mother's maiden name given?
- Were additional event dates, such as marriage, death, etc., given in the entry's margin? (The minister may use abbreviations or symbols such as f. for birth, g. for marriage, and d. or + for death.)
- Did more than 3 years pass since the christening of the last child? If so, another child may have been born and christened in a neighboring parish or died before it could be christened.
- Did you search 5 years without finding any earlier christening entries of children? If you find no other entries, then begin looking for the parents' marriage record.
- Did the minister identify the order and gender of the child being christened, such as "the 5th child and 2nd son"?

For help in verifying that you have the correct record entry, see Tip 5.

Background

Christening records go back to 1686 when the law for record keeping was passed by the Swedish parliament. Because of wars, natural disasters, and accidents, many churches were destroyed along with all or part of their records. Very few church records go back before 1650 because of the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648).
Tips

Tip 1. How do I find the year my ancestor was christened?

Use the clerical surveys (husförhorslangd) first as a guide to find the whole family. The clerical surveys list the parents, children, and sometimes grandparents. They often give dates of christening and, after 1800, dates of birth. To find clerical surveys in the Family History Library Catalog, search under "locality," and look for the parish. When you find the parish, look for the topic "Church Records." The clerical surveys will always be listed first in the contents of records.

Tip 2. How do I find the entry of my ancestor?

Patronymics were used in Scandinavia by the farming and lower classes for centuries. Under the patronymic naming pattern, the suffix -sson was added to the father's given name to create a surname for the son. For example, Lars ANDERSSON's son Eric took the surname LARSSON. A daughter took her father's given name and added the suffix of -dotter. For example, Nils PERSSON's daughter Brita took the surname NILSDOTTER. Patronymics were in use until the later part of the nineteenth century.

For help with name variations, see the "Names, Personal" section of the Swedish Research Outline.

Tip 3. What if I can't read the record?

Swedish church records were usually written in Swedish. Some Latin was used in records in the 1600s and 1700s. The language used in the record may also be affected by:

- The language of bordering countries.
- The use of Church Latin by the Swedish clergy.

Also, prior to 1900, records were written in Gothic script.

For publications that can help you read the languages and Gothic script, see the Swedish Word List, Latin Word List, and the Handwriting section of the Germany Research Outline.

Tip 4. How do I find the record for each brother and sister?

Within the family, one or more children may have the same given name(s). When more than one set of parents has the same given names and surnames (for example two Anders Anderssons and Maria Kristina Nilsdotters), use the following identifiers and records to separate the families:

- The family's residence.
- The father's occupation.
- The witnesses or godparents.
- Other sources, like census and probate records, that list family members as a group.
Tip 5. How do I verify the christening of my direct-line ancestor?

Often more than one family in a parish has the same family name. Because the same children's given names are used in every family, several children with the same given and family names could be christened within a few years of each other. To identify the correct direct-line ancestor and his or her parents:

- Check 5 years before and after the supposed christening year, and copy the entry of every child with the same given name and surname as the ancestor.
- If one or more entries exist, check church burial records to eliminate those entries of children that died before your ancestor.
- If burial records do not exist or you are not able to eliminate all of the possible entries, check marriage records to eliminate those who married someone other than your ancestor's spouse.
- If you still cannot eliminate 2 or more possibilities, trace all lines to see if they go back to a common ancestor. Then continue research back from the common ancestor.
- If you eliminate all the possibilities, check the surrounding parishes and repeat the above process until you find the christening entry for your ancestor.

Where to Find It

Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of christening records from the Family History Library. There is a small fee to have a microfilm loaned to a Family History Center. Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. For the address of the Family History Center nearest you, see Family History Centers see Family History Library Services and Resources.

Family History Library

The Family History Library has microfilmed many of the Swedish christening records. There is no fee for using these microfilms in person.

You may request photocopies of the record from the library for a small fee. You will need to fill out a Request for Photocopies—Census Records, Books, Microfilm, or Microfiche form. The Family History Library microfilm number is available on the Family History Library Catalog. Send the form and the fee to the Family History Library.

See Family History Library Services and Resources for information about contacting or visiting the library.

Parish Offices

If the Family History Library has not microfilmed the christening records for your locality, you will need to write to the Swedish parish office. For assistance in writing, please see the reference publication, Cradled in Sweden, Johansson, Carl-Erik. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc., 1995. (FHL book 948.5 D27.)
Sweden, Church Record Clerical Survey  1500-1859

Introduction

Beginning in the 1500s, churches began keeping clerical survey records. The records may include birth, marriage, and death dates. Information found in a clerical survey depends on how detailed the minister made his record.

For more information on church clerical survey records, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The following information may be found in a clerical survey entry:

- The name of your ancestor, either as a parent or child.
- The names of your ancestor's siblings, parents, and grandparents.
- The date of your ancestor's birth.
- The place of your ancestor's birth.
- The occupation of your ancestor's father.
- The birth dates of your ancestor's siblings and parents.
- The date of your ancestor's marriage.
- The date of your ancestor's death.
- The death dates of your ancestor's siblings and parents.
- Information concerning emigration or other movements of the family.

Steps

These 5 steps will guide you in finding your ancestor in Swedish church records.

Step 1. Find your ancestor's clerical survey.

To find the clerical surveys available at the library, look in the Family History Library Catalog. Go to What to Do Next, select the Family History Library Catalog, and click on the tab for Town Records to see if your ancestor's parish is listed.

If you don't know which parish your ancestor lived in, see the Swedish gazetteer Svensk Orftorteckning, mentioned in the Gazetteer section of the Swedish Research Outline.

When looking for your ancestor's clerical survey entry, remember:

- Clerical surveys may or may not be arranged alphabetically.
- Beginning in 1808, christening records often include the volume and page number where that child's clerical survey can be found in the clerical survey records.
- Clerical surveys may give references to previous places of residence and records.

For helps in finding the year, see Tip 1.
Step 2. Find the entry for your ancestor.

Look for the last name of your ancestor, which is often clearly written and underlined at the top of the page.

If you do not know the names of your ancestor's parents, you may have to check further to make sure you find the correct entry:

- Find the entries for all the children with the same given name(s) as your ancestor. Start with the year you think your ancestor was born. Then check the entries for five years before and five years after. You may find several entries for children with the same name but with different parents.
- Eliminate the entries that contradict what you know about your ancestor. Check death dates to see if any of the children died before your ancestor did. Check marriage dates to see if any of the children married someone other than your ancestor's spouse (but remember that your ancestor may have married more than once).
- Try to make sure the christening date is of your direct line ancestor. Because names are so common, you must be sure you have the correct entry.

For more help in finding the record entry, see Tip 2.
For help in reading the record entry, see Tip 3.
For help in verifying that you have the correct record entry, see Tip 5.

Step 3. Find the entries for each brother and sister of your ancestor.

Once you have the entry for your ancestor, find the entries for your ancestor's brothers and sisters:

- Search the clerical survey entry of your ancestor's brothers and sisters, and note the number of years between the birth of each sibling. A child that was stillborn or that died at birth may not be listed on the family register.
- Information on additional marriages of the parents will usually be recorded on the same page.
- To make sure you have found entries of all the family members, search death records and christening records of surrounding parishes for any additional children.

For help in finding the entries for your ancestor's brothers and sisters, see Tip 4.

Step 4. Copy the information, and document your sources.

If you can, photocopy the record. If you can't, be sure to copy all the information in the entry, including:

- All the people listed and their relationships to each other. (Remember, witnesses are often relatives.)
- All the dates in the entry and the events they pertain to. (Sometimes birth, marriage, and death information pertaining to the child or parents may be included. The minister may use abbreviations or symbols, such as f. for birth, g. for marriage, and d. or + for death.) Be sure to look for additional dates in the entry's margin.
- All the localities in the entry and who was from the places listed.
On the copy, document the source of the information. List:

- The type of source (a paper certificate, a microform, a book, an Internet site, etc.).
- All reference numbers for the source. Carefully record any microfilm, book, or certificate numbers or the name and Internet address of the site you used.

**Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the christening record.**

To effectively use the information from the family register, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is this the register of my ancestral family? Because names are so common, you must be sure you have the correct family register entry.
- Did the minister identify both parents, and is the mother’s maiden name given?
- Were additional event dates, such as emigration, etc., given.

After analyzing the information in the family register, verify the dates by looking up the actual entries in the parish register.

For help in using Clerical Surveys, see Tip 5.

**Background**

Clerical surveys may go back to the 1500s, when they began during the time of the Reformation. Because of wars, natural disasters, and accidents, many churches were destroyed, along with all or part of their records. Very few church records go back before 1650 because of the Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648). Clerical surveys were copied from the parish register and should be used as a guide to search the actual church records for the ancestors’ christening, marriage, and burial information.

**Tips**

**Tip 1. How do I find the year my ancestor was christened?**

Use the clerical surveys (husforhorslangd) first as a guide to find the whole family. The clerical surveys list the parents, children, and sometimes grandparents. They often give dates of christening and, after 1800, dates of birth. To find clerical surveys in the Family History Library Catalog, look under Place Search and look for the parish. When you find the parish, look for the topic “Church Records.” The clerical surveys will always be listed first in the contents of records.

**Tip 2. How do I find the entry of my ancestor?**

Patronymics were used in Scandinavia by the farming and lower classes for centuries. Under the patronymic naming pattern, the suffix -sson was added to the father’s given name to create a surname for the son. For example, Lars ANDERSSON’s son Eric took the surname LARSSON. A daughter took her father’s given name and added the suffix of -dotter. For example, Nils PERSSON’s daughter Brita took the surname NILSDOTTER. Patronymics were in use until the later part of the nineteenth century.

For help with name variations, see the Names, Personal section of the Swedish Research Outline.
Tip 3. What if I can’t read the record?

Swedish church records were usually written in Swedish. Some Latin was used in records in the 1600s and 1700s. The language used in the record may also be affected by:

- The language of bordering countries.
- The use of Church Latin by the Swedish clergy.

Also, prior to 1900, records were written in Gothic script.
For publications that can help you read the languages and Gothic script, see the Swedish Word List, Latin Word List, and the “Handwriting” section of the Germany Research Outline.

Tip 4. How do I find the record for each brother and sister?

Within the family, one or more children may have the same given name(s). When more than one set of parents has the same given names and surnames (for example, two Anders Anderssons and Maria Kristina Nilsdotters), use the following identifiers and records to separate the families:

- The family’s residence.
- The father’s occupation.
- The witnesses or godparents.
- Other sources like census and probate records that list family members as a group.

Tip 5. How do I verify the clerical survey entry of my direct line ancestor?

Often more than one family in a parish has the same family name. Because the same children’s given names are used in every family, several children with the same given and family names could be christened within a few years of each other. To identify the correct direct line ancestor and his or her parents:

- Check 5 years on each side of the supposed christening year, and copy the entry of every child with the same given name and surname as the ancestor.
- If one or more entries exist, check church burial records to eliminate those entries of children that died before your ancestor.
- If burial records do not exist or you are not able to eliminate all of the possible entries, check marriage records to eliminate those who married someone other than your ancestor’s spouse.
- If you still cannot eliminate 2 or more possibilities, trace all lines to see if they go back to a common ancestor. Then continue research back from the common ancestor.
- If you eliminate all the possibilities, check the surrounding parishes, and repeat the above process until you find the christening entry for your ancestor.
Where to Find It

**Family History Centers**

Many Family History Centers can borrow microfilm(s) of clerical survey records from the Family History Library. There is a small fee to have a microfilm loaned to a Family History Center. Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. For the address of the Family History Center nearest you, see Family History Centers.

**Family History Library**

The Family History Library has microfilmed many of the Swedish clerical survey records. There is no fee for using these microfilms in person.

You may request photocopies of the record from the library for a small fee. You will need to fill out a Request for Photocopies—Census Records, Books, Microfilm, or Microfiche form. The Family History Library microfilm number is available from the Family History Library Catalog. Send the form and the fee to the Family History Library. See Family History Library Services and Resources for information about contacting or visiting the library.

**Parish Offices**

If the Family History Library has not microfilmed the christening records for your locality, you will need to write to the Swedish parish office. For assistance in writing, please see the reference publication, *Cradled in Sweden*, Johansson, Carl-Erik. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc., 1995. (FHL book 948.5 D27j.)
Sweden, Church Record Clerical Survey 1860-Present

Introduction

Beginning in the 1500s, churches began keeping clerical survey records. The records may include birth, marriage, and death dates. Information found in a clerical survey depends on how detailed the minister made his record.

For more information on church clerical survey records, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The following information may be found in a clerical survey entry:

- The name of your ancestor, either as a parent or child.
- The names of your ancestor's siblings, parents, and grandparents.
- The date of your ancestor's birth.
- The place of your ancestor's birth.
- The occupation of your ancestor's father.
- The birth dates of your ancestor's siblings and parents.
- The date of your ancestor's marriage.
- The date of your ancestor's death.
- The death dates of your ancestor's siblings and parents.
- Information concerning emigration or other movements of the family.

Steps

These 5 steps will guide you in finding your ancestor in Swedish church records.

Step 1. Find your ancestor's clerical survey.

To find the clerical surveys available at the library, look in the Family History Library Catalog. Go to What to Do Next, select the Family History Library Catalog, and click on the tab for Town Records to see if your ancestor's parish is listed.

If you don't know which parish your ancestor lived in, see the Swedish gazetteer Svensk Ortforteckning, mentioned in the Gazetteer section of the Swedish Research Outline.

When looking for your ancestor's clerical survey entry, remember:

- Clerical surveys may or may not be arranged alphabetically.
- Beginning in 1808, christening records often include the volume and page number where that child's clerical survey can be found in the clerical survey records.
- Clerical surveys may give references to previous places of residence and records.

For helps in finding the year, see Tip 1.
Step 2. Find the entry for your ancestor.

Look for the last name of your ancestor, which is often clearly written and underlined at the top of the page.

If you do not know the names of your ancestor's parents, you may have to check further to make sure you find the correct entry:

- Find the entries for all the children with the same given name(s) as your ancestor. Start with the year you think your ancestor was born. Then check the entries for five years before and five years after. You may find several entries for children with the same name but with different parents.
- Eliminate the entries that contradict what you know about your ancestor. Check death dates to see if any of the children died before your ancestor did. Check marriage dates to see if any of the children married someone other than your ancestor's spouse (but remember that your ancestor may have married more than once).
- Try to make sure the christening date is of your direct line ancestor. Because names are so common, you must be sure you have the correct entry.

For more help in finding the record entry, see Tip 2.
For help in reading the record entry, see Tip 3.
For help in verifying that you have the correct record entry, see Tip 5.

Step 3. Find the entries for each brother and sister of your ancestor.

Once you have the entry for your ancestor, find the entries for your ancestor's brothers and sisters:

- Search the clerical survey entry of your ancestor's brothers and sisters, and note the number of years between the birth of each sibling. A child that was stillborn or that died at birth may not be listed on the family register.
- Information on additional marriages of the parents will usually be recorded on the same page.
- To make sure you have found entries of all the family members, search death records and christening records of surrounding parishes for any additional children.

For help in finding the entries for your ancestor's brothers and sisters, see Tip 4.

Step 4. Copy the information, and document your sources.

If you can, photocopy the record. If you can't, be sure to copy all the information in the entry, including:

- All the people listed and their relationships to each other. (Remember, witnesses are often relatives.)
- All the dates in the entry and the events they pertain to. (Sometimes birth, marriage, and death information pertaining to the child or parents may be included. The minister may use abbreviations or symbols, such as f. for birth, g. for marriage, and d. or + for death.) Be sure to look for additional dates in the entry's margin.
- All the localities in the entry and who was from the places listed.
On the copy, document the source of the information. List:

- The type of source (a paper certificate, a microform, a book, an Internet site, etc.).
- All reference numbers for the source. Carefully record any microfilm, book, or certificate numbers or the name and Internet address of the site you used.

**Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the christening record.**

To effectively use the information from the family register, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is this the register of my ancestral family? Because names are so common, you must be sure you have the correct family register entry.
- Did the minister identify both parents, and is the mother's maiden name given?
- Were additional event dates, such as emigration, etc., given.

After analyzing the information in the family register, verify the dates by looking up the actual entries in the parish register.

For help in using Clerical Surveys, see Tip 5.

**Background**

Clerical surveys may go back to the 1500s, when they began during the time of the Reformation. Because of wars, natural disasters, and accidents, many churches were destroyed, along with all or part of their records. Very few church records go back before 1650 because of the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). Clerical surveys were copied from the parish register and should be used as a guide to search the actual church records for your ancestors' christening, marriage, and burial information.

**Tips**

**Tip 1. How do I find the year my ancestor was christened?**

Use the clerical surveys (husforhorslangd) first as a guide to find the whole family. The clerical surveys list the parents, children, and sometimes grandparents. They often give dates of christening and, after 1800, dates of birth. To find clerical surveys in the Family History Library Catalog, search under "locality," and look for the parish. When you find the parish, look for the topic "Church Records." The clerical surveys will always be listed first in the contents of records.

**Tip 2. How do I find the entry of my ancestor?**

Patronymics were used in Scandinavia by the farming and lower classes for centuries. Under the patronymic naming pattern, the suffix -sson was added to the father's given name to create a surname for the son. For example, Lars ANDERSSON's son Eric took the surname LARSSON. A daughter took her father's given name and added the suffix of -dotter. For example, Nils PERSSON's daughter Brita took the surname NILSDOTTER. Patronymics were in use until the later part of the nineteenth century.

For help with name variations, see the Names, Personal section of the Swedish Research Outline.
Tip 3. What if I can’t read the record?

Swedish church records were usually written in Swedish. Some Latin was used in records in the 1600s and 1700s. The language used in the record may also be affected by:

- The language of bordering countries.
- The use of Church Latin by the Swedish clergy.

Also, prior to 1900, records were written in Gothic script.

For publications that can help you read the languages and Gothic script, see the Swedish Word List, Latin Word List, and the “Handwriting” section of the Germany Research Outline.

Tip 4. How do I find the record for each brother and sister?

Within the family, one or more children may have the same given name(s).

When more than one set of parents has the same given names and surnames (for example, two Anders Anderssons and Maria Kristina Nilsdotters), use the following identifiers and records to separate the families:

- The family’s residence.
- The father’s occupation.
- The witnesses or godparents.
- Other sources like census and probate records that list family members as a group.

Tip 5. How do I verify the clerical survey entry of my direct line ancestor?

Often more than one family in a parish has the same family name. Because the same children’s given names are used in every family, several children with the same given and family names could be christened within a few years of each other. To identify the correct direct line ancestor and his or her parents:

- Check 5 years on each side of the supposed christening year, and copy the entry of every child with the same given name and surname as the ancestor.
- If one or more entries exist, check church burial records to eliminate those entries of children that died before your ancestor.
- If burial records do not exist or you are not able to eliminate all of the possible entries, check marriage records to eliminate those who married someone other than your ancestor’s spouse.
- If you still cannot eliminate 2 or more possibilities, trace all lines to see if they go back to a common ancestor. Then continue research back from the common ancestor.
- If you eliminate all the possibilities, check the surrounding parishes, and repeat the above process until you find the christening entry for your ancestor.
Where to Find It

Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers can borrow microfilm(s) of clerical survey records from the Family History Library. There is a small fee to have a microfilm loaned to a Family History Center. Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. For the address of the Family History Center nearest you, see Family History Centers.

Family History Library

The Family History Library has microfilmed many of the Swedish clerical survey records. There is no fee for using these microfilms in person.

You may request photocopies of the record from the library for a small fee. You will need to fill out a Request for Photocopies—Census Records, Books, Microfilm, or Microfiche form. The Family History Library microfilm number is available from the Family History Library Catalog. Send the form and the fee to the Family History Library.

See Family History Library Services and Resources for information about contacting or visiting the library.

Parish Offices

If the Family History Library has not microfilmed the christening records for your locality, you will need to write to the Swedish parish office. For assistance in writing, please see the reference publication, Cradled in Sweden, Johansson, Carl-Erik. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc., 1995. (FHL book 948.5 D27j.)
Sweden, Church Record Marriage 1500-1859

Introduction

Beginning in 1686, the Swedish Lutheran Church was required by law to keep marriage records. After 1800, the records may include ages. Information found in a marriage record depends on how detailed the minister made his record.

For more information on church marriage records, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The following information may be found in a marriage entry:

- The names of your ancestors.
- The date of your ancestors' marriage.
- The names of your ancestors' parents (usually only the fathers are listed).
- The names of the witnesses or sponsors.
- The ages of the couple at the time of marriage.
- The place of residence of the couple at marriage.
- The date of the marriage proclamations or banns.

Steps

These 4 steps will guide you in finding your ancestor in Swedish church records.

Step 1. Find the year of your ancestor's marriage record.

To find the marriage records available at the library, look in the Family History Library Catalog. Go to What to Do Next, select the Family History Library Catalog, and click on the tab for Town Records to see if your ancestor's parish is listed.

If you don't know which parish your ancestor lived in, see the Swedish gazetteer Svensk Ortforteckning, mentioned in the Gazetteer section of the Swedish Research Outline.

When looking for your ancestor's marriage record, remember:

- Marriage records are arranged chronologically.
- Marriage records may be intermixed with christening or burial records.

For helps in finding the year, see Tip 1.
Step 2. Find the entry for your ancestor.

Look for the last names, which are often clearly written and underlined; then look for the given names.

You may have to check further to make sure you find the correct entry:

- If the entry gives the ages of the bride and groom, they should be compatible with their ages at death or on census or other records.

For more help in finding the record entry, see Tip 2.
For help in reading the record entry, see Tip 3.
For help in verifying that you have the correct record entry, see Tip 4.

Step 3. Copy the information, and document your sources.

If you can, photocopy the record. If you can't, be sure to copy all the information in the entry, including:

- All the people listed and their relationships to each other. (Remember, witnesses or sponsors are often relatives.)
- All the dates in the entry and the events they pertain to. (Sometimes birth, marriage, and death information pertaining to the child or parents may be included. The minister may use abbreviations or symbols, such as f. for birth, g. for marriage, and d. or + for death.) Be sure to look for additional dates in the entry's margin.

On the copy, document the source of the information. List:

- The type of source (a paper certificate, a microform, a book, an Internet site, etc.).
- All reference numbers for the source. Carefully record any microfilm, book, or certificate numbers or the name and Internet address of the site you used.

Step 4. Analyze the information you obtain from the marriage record.

To effectively use the information from the marriage record, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is this the marriage entry of my direct line ancestors? Because names are so common, you must be sure you have the correct record.
- Were additional event dates, such as baptism, death, etc., given in the entry's margin? (The minister may use symbols, such as * for birth, oo for marriage, and + for death.)

For help in verifying that you have the correct record entry, see Tip 4.

Background

Marriage records go back to 1686 when the law for record keeping was passed by the Swedish parliament. Because of wars, natural disasters, and accidents, many churches were destroyed, along with all or part of their records. Very few church records go back before 1650 because of the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648).
Tips

Tip 1. How do I find the year my ancestor was married?

Use the clerical surveys (husforhorslangd) first as a guide to find the whole family. The clerical surveys list the parents, children, and sometimes grandparents. They often give dates of marriage. To find clerical surveys in the Family History Library Catalog, search under “locality,” and look for the parish. When you find the parish, look for the topic “Church Records.” The clerical surveys will always be listed first in the contents of records.

Tip 2. How do I find the entry of my ancestor?

Patronymics were used in Scandinavia by the farming and lower classes for centuries. Under the patronymic naming pattern, the suffix -sson was added to the father’s given name to create a surname for the son. For example, Lars ANDERSSON’s son Eric took the surname LARSSON. A daughter took her father’s given name and added the suffix of -dotter. For example, Nils PERSSON’s daughter Brita took the surname NILSDOTTER. Patronyms were in use until the later part of the nineteenth century.

For help with name variations, see the "Names, Personal" section of the Swedish Research Outline.

Tip 3. What if I can’t read the record?

Swedish church records were usually written in Swedish. Some Latin was used in records in the 1600s and 1700s. The language used in the record may also be affected by:

- The language of bordering countries.
- The use of Church Latin by the Swedish clergy.

Also, prior to 1900, records were written in Gothic script.

For publications that can help you read the languages and Gothic script, see the Swedish Word List, Latin Word List, and the “Handwriting” section of the Germany Research Outline.

Tip 4. How do I verify the marriage of my direct line ancestor?

Remember, within the parish, one or more couples may have the same given names and surnames.

When more than one set of couples has the same given names and surnames (for example two Hans Jensens with wife Maren), use the following identifiers and records to separate the couples:

- The place of residence of the bride and groom.
- The husband’s occupation.
- The witnesses or sponsors.
- Other sources like church census (husforhorslangd) and probate records that list family members as a group.
Where to Find It

Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of marriage records from the Family History Library. There is a small fee to have a microfilm loaned to a Family History Center. Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. For the address of the Family History Center nearest you, see Family History Centers.

Family History Library

The Family History Library has microfilmed many of the Swedish marriage records. There is no fee for using these microfilms in person.

You may request photocopies of the record from the library for a small fee. You will need to fill out a Request for Photocopies—Census Records, Books, Microfilm, or Microfiche form. The Family History Library microfilm number is available from the Family History Library Catalog. Send the form and the fee to the Family History Library.

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Parish Offices

If the Family History Library has not microfilmed the marriage records for your locality, you will need to write to the Swedish parish office. For assistance in writing, please see the reference publication, Cradled in Sweden, Johansson, Carl-Erik. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc., 1995. (FHL book 948.5 D27.)
Sweden, Church Record Marriage 1860-Present

Introduction

Beginning in 1686, the Swedish Lutheran Church was required by law to keep marriage records. After 1800, the records may include ages. Information found in a marriage record depends on how detailed the minister made his record.

For more information on church marriage records, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The following information may be found in a marriage entry:

- The names of your ancestors.
- The date of your ancestors' marriage.
- The names of your ancestors' parents (usually only the fathers are listed).
- The names of the witnesses or sponsors.
- The ages of the couple at the time of marriage.
- The residences of the bride and groom.
- The date of the marriage proclamations or banns.

Steps

These 4 steps will guide you in finding your ancestor in Swedish church records.

Step 1. Find the year of your ancestor's marriage record.

To find the marriage records available at the library, look in the Family History Library Catalog. Go to What to Do Next, select the Family History Library Catalog, and click on the tab for Town Records to see if your ancestor's parish is listed.

If you don't know which parish your ancestor lived in, see the Swedish gazetteer Svensk Ortforteckning, mentioned in the "Gazetteer" section of the Swedish Research Outline.

When looking for your ancestor's marriage record, remember:

- Marriage records are arranged chronologically.
- Marriage records may be intermixed with christening or burial records.

For helps in finding the year, see Tip 1.
Step 2. Find the entry for your ancestor.

Look for the last names, which are often clearly written and underlined; then look for the given names.

You may have to check further to make sure you find the correct entry:

• If the entry gives the ages of the bride and groom, they should be compatible with their ages at death or on census or other records.

For more help in finding the record entry, see Tip 2.
For help in reading the record entry, see Tip 3.
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Step 3. Copy the information, and document your sources.

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On the copy, document the source of the information. List:

• The type of source (a paper certificate, a microform, a book, an Internet site, etc.).
• All reference numbers for the source. Carefully record any microfilm, book, or certificate numbers or the name and Internet address of the site you used.

Step 4. Analyze the information you obtain from the marriage record.

To effectively use the information from the marriage record, ask yourself the following questions:

• Is this the marriage entry of my direct line ancestors? Because names are so common, you must be sure you have the correct record.
• Were additional event dates, such as baptism, death, etc., given in the entry's margin? (The minister may use symbols such as * for birth, oo for marriage, and + for death.)

For help in verifying that you have the correct record entry, see Tip 4.

Background

Marriage records go back to 1686 when the law for record keeping was passed by the Swedish parliament. Because of wars, natural disasters, and accidents, many churches were destroyed along with all or part of their records. Very few church records go back before 1650 because of the Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648).
**Tips**

**Tip 1. How do I find the year my ancestor was married?**

Use the clerical surveys (husforhorslangd) first as a guide to find the whole family. The clerical surveys list the parents, children, and sometimes grandparents. They often give dates of marriage. To find clerical surveys in the Family History Library Catalog, search under "locality," and look for the parish. When you find the parish, look for the topic "Church Records." The clerical surveys will always be listed first in the contents of records.

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**Tip 3. What if I can’t read the record?**

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- The use of Church Latin by the Swedish clergy.

Also, prior to 1900, records were written in Gothic script.

For publications that can help you read the languages and Gothic script, see the *Swedish Word List*, *Latin Word List*, and the "Handwriting" section of the *Germany Research Outline*.

**Tip 4. How do I verify the marriage of my direct line ancestor?**

Remember, within the parish, one or more couples may have the same given names and surnames.

When more than one set of couples has the same given names and surnames (for example two Hans Jensens with wife Maren), use the following identifiers and records to separate the families:

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- The husband's occupation.
- The witnesses or sponsors.
- Other sources like church census (husforhorslangd) and probate records that list family members as a group.
Where to Find It

Family History Centers

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Family History Library

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You may request photocopies of the record from the library for a small fee. You will need to fill out a Request for Photocopies—Census Records, Books, Microfilm, or Microfiche form. The Family History Library microfilm number is available from the Family History Library Catalog. Send the form and the fee to the Family History Library.

See Family History Library Services and Resources for information about contacting or visiting the library.

Parish Offices

If the Family History Library has not microfilmed the marriage records for your locality, you will need to write to the Swedish parish office. For assistance in writing, please see the reference publication, Cradled in Sweden, Johansson, Carl-Erik. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc., 1995. (FHL book 948.5 D27.)
The Church Record Extracts of Sweden

For statistical purposes, an extract copy of all births, marriages and deaths from 1860-1949 have annually been made by the clergy. Where parish registers have been destroyed after 1860, these are an excellent supplement. The Genealogical Department has microfilm copies for all counties for the years 1860-1897 and they are listed by Microfilm call numbers in the Dictionary Card Catalog under names of the counties - vital records. Call numbers are also listed in a Register 948.5 V27um called Extracts.

Since the parishes are in random order on the film, it is necessary to wind the microfilm until the right parish name is listed on top. Then and only then, search for your person in the record according to the samples on this sheet. At the beginning of the film is a printed list of the parishes in the order in which they appear. Though there are numbers written out to the right hand side - these do not correspond with anything on the actual record. Look through this list until you come to the names of your parish. Keep in mind whether its 1/4, 1/3, 1/2, 3/4, etc. of the way through the list. Write down the name of your parish, then the names of 5 that come just before it and 5 that come after it. If your place is a city in that county it will always come at the end of the extracts for births, marriages, or deaths.

Utdrag ur Års Födelse Bok För Församling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extract From</th>
<th>Years Birth Record For</th>
<th>Parish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Års Nummer</td>
<td>De Framfödda Barnens Födelse Datum</td>
<td>Dop Eller Förnamn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequ. Childrens Birth Dates</td>
<td>Childrens Names</td>
<td>Rank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alder</th>
<th>Gift</th>
<th>Fofo</th>
<th>Skild</th>
<th>Gift</th>
<th>Not married</th>
<th>Married or Div.</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Notes |
**Husförhörslängd (Clerical Survey Record)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boställe</th>
<th>Född</th>
<th>Ort</th>
<th>Gift</th>
<th>Ankom Arifrån</th>
<th>Läser Uti Bok</th>
<th>Utantill Anm</th>
<th>Bort Flyttad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place of Residence</td>
<td>Born</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Arrived Year From</td>
<td>Reads Can recite catechisms etc.</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
<td>Moving To</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Utflyttade (Outgoing List)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Månad</th>
<th>Dag</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Personens Namn</th>
<th>Hvarifrån</th>
<th>Hvarthan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Seq.</td>
<td>Persons Name</td>
<td>Moving From</td>
<td>Moving To</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Inflyttade (Incoming List)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Månad</th>
<th>Dag</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Personens Namn</th>
<th>Hvarifrån</th>
<th>Hvarthan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Seq.</td>
<td>Persons Name</td>
<td>Moving From</td>
<td>Moving To</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Extract From Years Marriage Record For Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Års Nummer</th>
<th>Års Vigseln</th>
<th>De Sammanvigdes Namn, Yrke Och Hemvist</th>
<th>Födelse Ar</th>
<th>Hvilket Gifte</th>
<th>Anteckningar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ar Och Dag Manad</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sequ.</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>Names of Bridal Couple, Occupations and Place of Residency</th>
<th>Year of Birth</th>
<th>First, Second, Third, Marriage etc.</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year &amp; Month</td>
<td></td>
<td>M F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Extract From Years Death Record For Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Års Number</th>
<th>Års Död Bok För</th>
<th>De Aflidnes Name, Yrke Och Hemvist</th>
<th>Ålder Vid Döden</th>
<th>Civil Stand</th>
<th>Döds-Orsak</th>
<th>Anteckningar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ar och Dag Manad</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dag Manad</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sequ.</th>
<th>Death</th>
<th>Deceased's name Occupation and Place of Residency</th>
<th>Age at Death</th>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Cause of Death</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year &amp; Month</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dag Manad</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Swedish Parish Registers

In 1686 the law was passed that started record keeping in Sweden. Below are samples of entries used over a number of years. Since no printed forms were developed until very late, each parish minister designed his own.

**Födde och Döpte (Birth and Christening Record)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Namn</th>
<th>Född</th>
<th>Döpte</th>
<th>Föräldrarne</th>
<th>Faddrarne Och</th>
<th>Och Deras Hemvist</th>
<th>Deras Hemvist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Månad</td>
<td>Dag</td>
<td>Månad</td>
<td>Dag</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Name</th>
<th>Born</th>
<th>Baptism</th>
<th>The Parents names and residence</th>
<th>The witnesses names and residence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vigde (Marriage Record)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vigsel Datum</th>
<th>Brudefolkens Namn</th>
<th>Ålder</th>
<th>Föräldrarnes Namn</th>
<th>Stand Och Hemvist</th>
<th>Morgon Gåva</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marriage Date</th>
<th>Name of Bride-groom and Bride</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>The Parents Names</th>
<th>Rank and Residence</th>
<th>Dowry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Döde och Begravde (Death and Burial Record)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Döds Datum</th>
<th>Begravnings Datum</th>
<th>Namn</th>
<th>Hem Vist</th>
<th>Ålder</th>
<th>Döds Orsak</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Death Date</th>
<th>Burial Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Death Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Sweden, Civil Registration Birth 1860-Present

Introduction

Beginning in 1860, the government required civil registrars to keep civil birth records. Information found in a civil birth entry depends on how detailed the civil registrar made his record.

For more information on civil registry birth records, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The following information may be found in a civil birth entry:

- The name of your ancestor.
- The name of your ancestor’s parents.
- The date of your ancestor’s birth.
- The place of your ancestor’s birth.
- The residence of the parents.
- The occupation of the father.
- Whether your ancestor was of legitimate or illegitimate birth.

Steps

These 5 steps will guide you in finding your ancestor in Swedish civil registry records.

Step 1. Find the year of your ancestor’s birth record.

To find the birth records available at the library, look in the Family History Library Catalog. Go to What to Do Next, select the Family History Library Catalog, and click on the tab for County Records and look for the subject heading Civil Registration. The civil births will be listed in chronological sequence beginning in 1860 and continuing to 1920. One year of births will be found per microfilm roll. For civil birth records after 1900, it is possible to find more than one year of births on a microfilm roll. Check the Family History Library Center heading carefully so you can determine the correct film number for the desired year.

If you don't know which county your ancestor lived in, you will need to determine it. Do this by looking through sources such as a marriage certificate, a death certificate, a naturalization record, a newspaper obituary, a family Bible, etc. If none of these sources exist, you can learn the name of the ancestor’s last residence in Sweden by finding the ancestor in the 1900, 1910, or 1920 U.S. census, determining the year of emigration, and then checking the Goteborg or Malmo Emigration Records. For a complete listing of all Swedish counties, see the Swedish gazetteer "Svensk Ortforteckning," mentioned in the Gazetteer section of the Swedish Research Outline.
When looking for your ancestor’s civil birth record, remember:

- Birth records are arranged chronologically.
- Birth records may be included with marriage or death records.
- Birth entries of illegitimate children may be listed separately at the end of each parish’s entries.

For help in finding the year, see Tip 1.

**Step 2. Find the entry for your ancestor.**

Look for the given name of your ancestor, which is often clearly written and underlined. If you do not know the names of your ancestor’s parents, you may have to check further to make sure you find the correct entry:

- Find the entries for all the children with the same given name(s) as your ancestor. Start with the year you think your ancestor was born. Then check the entries for five years before and five years after. You may find several entries for children with the same name but with different parents.
- Eliminate the entries that contradict what you know about your ancestor. Check death records to see if any of the children died before your ancestor did. Check marriage records to see if any of the children married someone other than your ancestor’s spouse (but remember that your ancestor may have married more than once).
- Try to make sure the civil birth entry is of your direct-line ancestor. Because names are so common, you must be sure you have the correct entry.

For more help in finding the record entry, see Tip 2.

For help in reading the record entry, see Tip 3.

For help in verifying that you have the correct record entry, see Tip 5.

**Step 3. Find the entries for each brother and sister of your ancestor.**

Once you have the entry for your ancestor, find the entries for your ancestor’s brothers and sisters:

- Search the civil birth records for entries of your ancestor’s brothers and sisters.
- Search local death records or the civil birth records from surrounding parishes, especially if gaps of 3 or more years exist between the birth of siblings. Gaps of 3 or more years may indicate there was another child.
- To make sure you have found entries for all the family members, search death records and civil birth records of surrounding parishes for any additional children.
- Search for children born before the parents’ marriage. In civil birth records for illegitimate children, the mother’s name is often the only parent’s name which appears. Children may have been born under the mother’s maiden name. Often the father’s name is not given or the word “okande” (unknown) is written in place of the father’s name.

For help in finding the entries for the ancestor’s brothers and sisters, see Tip 4.
Step 4. Copy the information, and document your sources.

If you can, photocopy the record. If you can't, be sure to copy all the information in the entry, including:

- All the people listed and their relationships to each other. (Remember, witnesses are often relatives.)
- All the dates in the entry and the events they pertain to. (Sometimes birth, marriage, and death information pertaining to the child or parents may be included. The civil registrar may use abbreviations or symbols such as f. for birth, g. for marriage, and d. or + for death.) Be sure to look for additional dates in the entry’s margin.
- All the localities in the entry and who was from the places listed.

On the copy, document the source of the information. List:

- The type of source (a paper certificate, a microform, a book, an Internet site, and so forth).
- All reference numbers for the source. Carefully record any microfilm, book, or certificate numbers or the name and Internet address of the site you used.

Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the birth record.

To effectively use the information from the civil birth record, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is this the civil birth entry of my direct-line ancestor? Because names are so common, you must be sure you have the correct record.
- Did the civil registrar identify both parents, and is the mother's maiden name given?
- Were additional event dates, such as marriage, death, etc., given in the entry’s margin? (The civil registrar may use abbreviations or symbols such as f. for birth, g. for marriage, and d. or + for death.)
- Did more than 3 years pass since the birth of the last child? If so, another child may have been born in a neighboring parish.
- Did you search 5 years without finding any earlier birth entries of children? If you find no other entries, then begin looking for the parents’ civil marriage record.
- Did the civil registrar identify the order and gender of the child being born, such as “the 5th child and 2nd son”?

For help in verifying that you have the correct record entry, see Tip 5.

Background

Civil birth records go back to 1860 when the law for civil record keeping was passed. Because of wars, natural disasters, and accidents, some civil registries were destroyed along with all or part of their records.
Tips

Tip 1. How do I find the year my ancestor was born?

Use the clerical surveys (husforhorslangd) first as a guide to find the whole family. The clerical surveys list the parents, children, and sometimes grandparents. After 1800, they give dates of birth. To find clerical surveys in the Family History Library Catalog, search under "locality," and look for the parish. When you find the parish, look for the topic "Church Records." The clerical surveys will always be listed first in the contents of records.

Tip 2. How do I find the entry of my ancestor?

Patronymics were used in Scandinavia by the farming and lower classes for centuries. Under the patronymic naming pattern, the suffix -sson was added to the father's given name to create a surname for the son. For example, Lars ANDERSSON's son Eric took the surname LARSSON. A daughter took her father's given name and added the suffix of -dotter. For example, Nils PERSSON's daughter Brita took the surname NILSDOTTER. Patronymics were in use until the later part of the nineteenth century.

For help with name variations, see the "Names, Personal" section of the Swedish Research Outline.

Tip 3. What if I can't read the record?

Swedish civil registry records are written in Swedish. The language used in the record may also be affected by:

- The language of bordering countries.

Also, prior to 1900, records were written in Gothic script.

For publications that can help you read the languages and Gothic script, see the Swedish Word List, Latin Word List, and the "Handwriting" section of the Germany Research Outline.

Tip 4. How do I find the record for each brother and sister?

Within the family, one or more children may have the same given name(s). When more than one set of parents has the same given names and surnames (for example two Anders Anderssons and Maria Kristina Nilsdotters), use the following identifiers and records to separate the families:

- The family's residence.
- The father's occupation.
- The witnesses or godparents.
- Other sources, like census and probate records, that list family members as a group.
Tip 5. How do I verify the birth of my direct-line ancestor?

Often more than one family in a civil register has the same family name. Because the same children's given names are used in every family, several children with the same given and family names could be christened within a few years of each other. To identify the correct direct-line ancestor and his or her parents:

- Check 5 years before and after the supposed birth year, and copy the entry of every child with the same given name and surname as the ancestor.
- If one or more entries exist, check civil registry death records to eliminate those entries of children that died before your ancestor.
- If civil death records do not exist or you are not able to eliminate all of the possible entries, check civil marriage records to eliminate those who married someone other than your ancestor's spouse.
- If you still cannot eliminate 2 or more possibilities, trace all lines to see if they go back to a common ancestor. Then continue research back from the common ancestor.
- If you eliminate all the possibilities, check the surrounding parishes, and repeat the above process until you find the birth entry for your ancestor.

Where to Find It

Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of civil birth records from the Family History Library. There is a small fee to have a microfilm loaned to a Family History Center. Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. For the address of the Family History Center nearest you, see Family History Centers in Family History Library Services and Resources.

Family History Library

The Family History Library has microfilmed many of the Swedish civil birth records. There is no fee for using these microfilms in person.

You may request photocopies of the record from the library for a small fee. You will need to fill out a Request for Photocopies—Census Records, Books, Microfilm, or Microfiche form. The Family History Library microfilm number is available on the Family History Library Catalog. Send the form and the fee to the Family History Library.

See Family History Library Services and Resources for information about contacting or visiting the library.

Parish Offices

If the Family History Library has not microfilmed the civil birth records for your locality, you will need to write to the Swedish parish office. For assistance in writing, please see the reference publication, Cradled in Sweden, Johansson, Carl-Erik. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc., 1995. (FHL book 948.5 D27.)
Sweden, Civil Registration Marriage 1860-Present

Introduction

Beginning in 1860, the government required civil registrars to keep civil marriage records. Information found in a civil marriage entry depends on how detailed the civil registrar made his record.

For more information on civil registry birth records, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The following information may be found in a civil marriage entry:

- The names of your ancestors.
- The date of your ancestors' marriage.
- The names of your ancestors' parents (usually only the fathers are listed).
- The ages of the couple at the time of marriage.
- The place of residence of the bride and groom at marriage.
- The occupation of the groom.
- The occupation of the fathers.
- Which marriage this is for the bride and groom, such as his first and her second, etc.

Steps

These 4 steps will guide you in finding your ancestor in Swedish civil registry records.

Step 1. Find the year of your ancestor's marriage record.

To find the marriage records available at the library, look in the Family History Library Catalog. Go to What to Do Next, select the Family History Library Catalog, and click on the tab for County Records, and look for the subject heading Civil Registration. The civil marriages will be listed in chronological sequence beginning in 1860 and continuing to 1920. One year of marriage is on each microfilm roll. For civil marriage records after 1900, you may find more than one year of marriages on a microfilm roll. Check the Family History Library Catalog heading carefully so you can determine the correct film number for the desired year.

If you don't know which county your ancestor lived in, you will need to determine it. Do this by looking through sources such as a birth certificate, a death certificate, a naturalization record, a newspaper obituary, a family Bible, etc. If none of these sources exists, you can learn the name of the ancestor's last residence in Sweden by finding the ancestor in the 1900, 1910, or 1920 U.S. census, determining the year of emigration, and then checking the Goteborg or Malmo Emigration Records. For a complete listing of all Swedish counties, see the Swedish gazetteer Svensk Ortforteckning, mentioned in the Gazetteer section of the Swedish Research Outline.
When looking for your ancestor’s civil marriage record, remember:

- Marriage records are arranged chronologically.

For help in finding the year, see Tip 1.

**Step 2. Find the entry for your ancestor.**

Look for the last names, which are often clearly written and underlined; then look for the given names.

You may have to check further to make sure you find the correct entry:

- If the entry gives the ages of the bride and groom, they should be compatible with their ages at death or on census or other records.

For more help in finding the record entry, see Tip 2.
For help in reading the record entry, see Tip 3.
For help in verifying that you have the correct record entry, see Tip 4.

**Step 3. Copy the information, and document your sources.**

If you can, photocopy the record. If you can’t, be sure to copy all the information in the entry, including:

- All the people listed and their relationships to each other. (Remember, witnesses are often relatives.)
- All the dates in the entry and the events they pertain to. (Sometimes birth, marriage, and death information pertaining to the child or parents may be included. The civil registrar may use abbreviations or symbols, such as f. for birth, g. for marriage, and d. or + for death.) Be sure to look for additional dates in the entry’s margin.

On the copy, document the source of the information. List:

- The type of source (a paper certificate, a microform, a book, an Internet site, and so forth).
- All reference numbers for the source. Carefully record any microfilm, book, or certificate numbers or the name and Internet address of the site you used.

**Step 4. Analyze the information you obtain from the marriage record.**

To effectively use the information from the civil marriage record, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is this the marriage entry of my direct line ancestors? Because names are so common, you must be sure you have the correct record.
- Were additional event dates, such as birth, death, etc., given in the entry’s margin? (The civil registrar may use symbols such as * for birth, oo for marriage, and + for death.)

For help in verifying that you have the correct record entry, see Tip 4.
**Background**

Civil marriage records go back to 1860 when the practice of civil record keeping began. Because of wars, natural disasters, and accidents, some civil registries were destroyed, along with all or part of their records.

**Tips**

**Tip 1. How do I find the year my ancestor was married?**

Use the clerical surveys (husforhorslangd) first as a guide to find the whole family. The clerical surveys list the parents, children, and sometimes grandparents. After 1800, they give dates of marriage. To find clerical surveys in the Family History Library Catalog, search under "locality," and look for the parish. When you find the parish, look for the topic "Church Records." The clerical surveys will always be listed first in the contents of records.

**Tip 2. How do I find the entry of my ancestor?**

Patronymics were used in Scandinavia by the farming and lower classes for centuries. Under the patronymic naming pattern, the suffix -sson was added to the father's given name to create a surname for the son. For example, Lars ANDERSSON's son Eric would be identified as Eric LARSSON. A daughter took her father's given name and added the suffix of -dotter. For example, Nils PERSSON's daughter Brita would be identified as Brita NILSDOTTER. Patronymics were in use until the later part of the nineteenth century.

For help with name variations, see the "Names, Personal" section of the Swedish Research Outline.

**Tip 3. What if I can’t read the record?**

Swedish civil registry records are written in Swedish. The language used in the record may also be affected by:

- The language of bordering countries.

Also, prior to 1900, records were written in Gothic script.

For publications that can help you read the languages and Gothic script, see the Swedish Word List, Latin Word List, and the "Handwriting" section of the Germany Research Outline.

**Tip 4. How do I verify the marriage of my direct-line ancestor?**

Often more than one person in a civil register has the same name. Because of the commonness of names, couples with similar names could be married within a few years of each other. To identify the correct direct-line ancestors:

- Check 5 years before or after the year in which the marriage is believed to have taken place.
- If one or more entries exist, check the parish clerical survey (husforhorslangd) to see if the next generation direct-line ancestor is eventually recorded with this couple.
- If you eliminate all the possibilities, check the surrounding civil registries, and repeat the above process until you find the marriage entry for your ancestors.
Where to Find It

Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of civil marriage records from the Family History Library. There is a small fee to have a microfilm loaned to a Family History Center. Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. For the address of the Family History Center nearest you, see Family History Centers.

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A GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF SWEDEN

Lee Anne Walker

Philosophy of Genealogical History

The history of Sweden, with its old Vikings and new wealth, has a universal appeal. The genealogist, however, has a special interest in history and a specific interest. The records of genealogical value do not go back to Viking times but only to about 1600, so the genealogist focuses his study of Swedish history since 1600. Similarly, most genealogical research does not begin at the present but instead several generations back, so the genealogist does not study the history of the current century. Thus, only about three hundred years of Swedish history are of real concern to the genealogist, but a knowledge of the events between 1600 and 1900 are of great importance in doing responsible genealogical research.

As the genealogist studies history, its value becomes more and more obvious to him. Wars caused military records to be kept, caused men to die far from home, and caused church and government records to be burned. Economic difficulties led to emigration. Religious dissent led to the establishment of new churches and with them new records. These few examples illustrate the impact of history on those things significant to genealogical research.

Although genealogical research moves from the known to the unknown, hence typically from the recent into the more remote past, it is convenient for genealogists to study Swedish history from 1600 to 1900 rather than from 1900 to 1600. History occurred chronologically, and the public education system reinforces a facility to think of history chronologically. Some of the events of history could be studied from either end of the time line to equal advantage, but other things, as the establishment of the state church, effected an enduring circumstance in Swedish history which is not noted in the annals of each succeeding year but is understood with a knowledge of what went before.

The year 1600 having been chosen as the logical starting point for a genealogist's study of the history of Sweden, it is not enough to note any significant events in that year. The general condition of the country needs to be understood to provide a context for the events which follow and to contrast with changes that occurred subsequently.

Sweden in 1600

Sweden was in 1600 an independent country, having broken away from Danish control. Its borders were not identical with the present borders; certain areas in the south were still held by Denmark, and Finland was part of the Swedish Empire. Many Swedes had moved into Finland; there was at that time as in all periods movement across the borders of all the Scandinavian countries. The people of Scandinavia except the Finns are of Teutonic stock, and Sweden has never had an invasion or influx of people from beyond Scandinavia until the present century. The Lapps of the far north seem to have been no more a part of the Swedish community than their reindeer were.

There were in Sweden in 1600 about a million people, of which about ninety percent were peasant farmers. Perhaps a third of these were employed by the feudal nobility. There was a Parliament, or Riksdag, dating from 1435. In it were represented four groups: the royalty, the feudal land-owners, the clergy, and the peasants. There were also in the country some merchants and artisans, the nucleus of a future middle class. The Lutheran Church was the state church. The Vasa family was established on the throne of a war-like and warring nation moving into international relations beyond its own Scandinavian peninsula. A closer look at the various classes of the Swedish people illuminates the domestic condition of the country and will lead into a discussion of Sweden's role in international relations.

The Peasantry

Most of the peasants were farmers. They faced a harsh climate. They raised oats, wheat, rye, barley, sugar beets, forage roots and hay as well as livestock. Being good farmers, they worked hard.

The women sheared sheep, spun and dyed the wool in vegetable colors, and then wove or knit clothing. The bright patterns worked into their clothes are still familiar in Sweden and famous in the world.

Girls filled hope chests with linen for a lifetime. The "big wash" custom, still practiced in some places in Sweden today, was common then, and so a lot of linen was needed. The women hauled the laundry to the nearest lake and washed only every six months!

The Swedes "invented" the log cabin, and they were the homes of the peasant farmers. In later times, they were planked over or frame houses built. Swedish farmhouses were typically red with white trim. Near the house grew neat vegetable gardens and some flowers.
The farmers were virtually self-sufficient. Those who owned their land were usually quite stable, but crofters and tenant-farmers were apt to drift from farm to farm.

The peasants used a patronymic naming system. Other classes usually had some other surname than a patronymic, and the nobility had surnames established by law. But the peasants typically added the suffixes "-son" or "-dotter" to their father's given name to form their surnames. Thus, the surname changed in each generation of a peasant family. When a name does not follow this patronymic system but is instead taken from parts of place names, it is an excellent indication of the birthplace or residence of the person.

The Enclosure Act of 1767 had an important effect on the peasant farmers. This act was passed at about the same time as a similar one in England. It provided that the old village commons be broken up and sold to private owners, and that the farmers could trade their small, scattered plots for one single piece of land of equal area. This was intended to make farming more efficient, as the farmers would waste much less time traveling. But it pulled apart the farm villages. Prior to this time the farmers did not live on any one of their plots but rather in villages, where they had neighbors and church and school nearby. The reform was usually not effected until about fifty years later, when it was made compulsory. And then many farmers deserted the farms entirely rather than living in the lonely forests on their farms.

Other occupations of the low classes

In Norrland, logging was combined with raising hay and fodder. Timber is one of Sweden's few resources. Trees grew over most of the country. Forestry laws date from the 16th century. The logs were cut in the winter and hauled over the snow to the rivers by horse teams. When the rivers melted, the logs floated to the port cities with their sawmills waiting. This procedure is still followed today.

Swedish iron and steel helped make the country a world power in the 1600s. Central Sweden has iron, and the forests provided charcoal for smelting. The genealogist finds many miners and steelmakers in the records of central Sweden. Of the Swedish steel industry, one source published in 1949 says:

It is a remarkable thing that such a modern industry as steel making should be based on a craft which has not changed since prehistoric days. Charcoal is still produced in the depth of the forests by individual burners. First they build the log pile, which has to be stacked with great care and kept even dry. It is then covered with a layer of spruce twigs and another of earth to form a kiln. This means about a week's hard work. To start the fire burning evenly is quite an art, and to keep it going for three weeks without getting out of hand is no easier. It must be watched day and night. The work is not only exhausting but very dangerous. For the charcoal burner has to clamber all over the mound to fill in cracks which keep forming and if he steps carelessly on a spot where the crust is thin, he is liable to disappear in the glowing embers beneath.

The only improvement which modern technique has been able to contribute to this ancient craft are prefabricated huts, which are gradually taking the place of the old rain-shelters made of branches and leaves.1

Sweden had sailors and fishermen to man her merchant fleets and to catch the favored crayfish. It would be expected that the genealogist would find people in this work living near water and moving along the coast rather than inland.

Sixty percent of the income of the poorer classes went for food. This very high proportion indicates a low standard of living, as there was so little left for other things. When the harvest was good, they ate a lot; and when the crops failed, they starved. The Swedes came to think of eating as a pleasure and a luxury, for in Sweden even farmers sometimes went hungry.

Emigration

The economic conditions that prevailed over the three centuries of interest make understandable the extent of emigration that occurred. Sweden was moving into Finland during the whole period, into the wilderness areas of the north in the 1700s and 1800s, and to the United States between about 1820 and 1900; over a million Swedes emigrated to the United States during that period. There was very little colonization in the European areas Sweden conquered during the various wars. Sweden founded a colony in North America on the Delaware River, and hundreds of Swedes emigrated there before the Dutch conquered it in 1655. From 1784 to 1878, Sweden had a colony on the island of St. Bartholomew in the West Indies.

From an early date Sweden required passports of those citizens traveling outside the country. There are lists kept on an annual basis between 1798 and 1851 which contain vital data emigrants gave in order to obtain passports. Beginning in 1851 the National Central Bureau of Statistics in Stockholm kept emigration records.

Merchants and Artisans

One group which immigrated to Sweden were artisans and merchants. Many craftsmen came to Sweden in the 1600s. Walloons came from Belgium and France to work in the developing iron industry. Tradesmen were often very mobile, but they tended to stay in cities. Some of the industrial cities were Stockholm, Goteborg, Malmo, Norrkoping, Helsingborg, Orebro, Boras, and Eskilstuna. These cities were mainly in southern and central Sweden. According to a research paper by the Genealogical Society:

According to the law most crafts were performed in the cities, with exception to the few that were required in rural areas, and burghership in a city was a prerequisite to practice a trade. Trade guilds were organized which also included many of these foreign craftsmen. Records are available for some of these guilds from 1604 and for most of them from later years. They contain minutes, names of members, and those seeking membership. Sometimes certificates are found that were given to the guild officials as proof of age, parentage, and birthplace. Other important information can be found in the burghership records in the various city archives.3

The Church

The Lutheran Church became the official church in Sweden in the 1500s. The transition from Catholicism to Lutheranism had been gradual, peaceful, and complete. Sweden's religious wars were fought on foreign soil.

The Lutheran Church has had and still has the job of creating and maintaining the nation's vital records. The oldest parish register dates from 1607; the various parishes began keeping records during the 1600s. In 1686 the king made it law for all parishes to keep records of baptisms, marriages, burials, persons moving in and out of the parish, those who attended communion, and those preparing for confirmation. In 1750 the Clerical Survey Records begin; this was a kind of running census, unique to Sweden, in which the parish clergy kept a fairly complete listing of all the inhabitants of the parish. From 1860 to 1849 abstracts of the parish registers and of the Clerical Surveys had to be sent to Stockholm. These abstracts do not contain as much as the originals, but they are of value if the originals were destroyed, as in the case in some of the parishes of Skane where there was war with the Danes.

In the 1800s there sprang up in Sweden dissenting churches. Although these churches may have kept records, it was still required by law for vital records of people belonging to dissenting churches to be recorded by the state church. The Mormons kept records in Sweden, and they encouraged emigration to Utah.

The Feudal Land-owners

Sweden was late in creating a feudal system and discarded it earlier and more completely than other European states. However, during the 1600s about a third of the farmers were employed by the nobility. These peasants did not pay civil taxes and are not found in the civil records but appear in manorial land records. The nobles were not driven from their estates as in France. The House of Nobles, founded in 1626, has many documents of the nobility.

Kings and Wars

The Vasa family was established on the throne in 1600. The Thirty Years War was fought between 1618 and 1648. Sweden emerged from this war a great power and a champion of Protestantism. This war left Sweden in control of the mouths of all the rivers flowing into the Baltic; hence Sweden was a target for Russian, Polish, and East German expansionistic tendencies. The only records the Swedish kept in the conquered areas are those of the civil and military administrative authorities. New military records and census records came into being in Sweden as a response to the need to draft soldiers and levy taxes to fight the war.

By the treaty of Roskilde of 1668, Denmark ceded Blekinge, Skane, Halland, and Bohuslan; but Sweden soon lost these again.

The story of Karl XII of Sweden is fascinating. Denmark, Russia, and Poland combined against Sweden. The eighteen-year-old king lead his army to a crushing victory over Denmark. He defeated Peter the Great at Narva. He vanquished the Poles and Saxons and continued on south. Overextended, he was defeated at Pultava in the Ukraine in 1709 and stopped in Turkey! His defeat was the end of Sweden's position as a great power, but he returned to Sweden and fought again, dying in a battle against the Norwegians.

The period between 1718 and 1768 is known as the "Era of Liberty." The country was ruled by parliamentary government. This government was torn by party strife. It was during this period that the enclosure act mentioned before was passed.

The years from 1768 to 1809 are known as the Gustavian Era. Finland was lost to Russia in 1808. Gustaf IV was deposed, ending absolute monarchy in Sweden.

The Swedes invited Napoleon's general to take the throne as Prince Bernadotte, and he managed Sweden's fortunes in the Napoleonic Wars in such a way that he achieved a union with Norway. This union lasted about a hundred years, until 1906, and left a continuing bond between the two countries.

The period between Napoleon's final defeat in 1815 and the outbreak of World War I in 1917 was a century of peace. Sweden withdrew from international affairs. The population, which had not grown appreciably during all the wars and the famine, plague, destruction, and dislocation that accompanies war, went up to four million. Industrialization began in earnest. Between 1865 and 1885, however, a half a million left for the United States, mostly from rural districts. Perhaps if industrialization had occurred sooner, these people would have gone from the country to the city instead of from the countryside right out of the country.
Conclusion

This brief history of Sweden is essential background to a genealogist. It is only a beginning of the historical background a good genealogist would acquire. A background in genealogically-oriented history can be enriched by the many books on Swedish history available, and also by the practical measure of actually doing genealogical research. Not only does the knowledge of history make a genealogist more competent in his field, but it gives him a basis for greater empathy for the people in the records he searches and hence greater satisfaction from his work.
SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, RELIGIOUS
AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF SWEDEN
AS IT AFFECTS GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH
BY
THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Series D, No. 14

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, INC.
SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, RELIGIOUS AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF SWEDEN AS IT AFFECTS GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Anyone whose ancestral roots are in Sweden has a good chance to extend his pedigree 300 years or more. This is possible because of the vast number of genealogical record sources preserved in that country that can be counted among the best in Scandinavia, and even of some other countries.1

However, before actual genealogical research is begun it is beneficial if some preliminary studying has been done to acquaint the researcher with the social and historical background of the area in which searches are to be made. Other important factors of which the researcher should be aware are topography and geography. In early times rivers and mountains presented natural barriers to travel, but they were not entirely prohibitive. Rivers provided unlimited avenues for travel in some areas and mountain passes allowed access from one valley to another.

GEOGRAPHY

Geographically Sweden is comprised of three large regions, known as Norrland, Svealand, and Göta­land. These regions are divided into smaller areas called landskap (provinces), which have no present administrative function. These landskap are made up of smaller civil administrative divisions known as län that are comparable to counties in the United States.

More than one or parts of more than one län (county) are found in a landskap. For instance, the landskap of Småland comprises the län of Kalmar, Jönköping, and Kronoberg, and the landskap of Uppland embraces all of Uppsala län and parts of Västmanland and Stockholm län. In some instances the landskap boundaries are identical with the borders of the län. Examples are Blekinge, Gotland, and Halland.

Familiarity with these two geographical terminologies and the differences in each is necessary to avoid confusion. For example, if an ancestor is said to have been born in Småland, and if the researcher knows that Småland is a landskap comprising three län, then he will realize that it will be necessary to narrow the search to one of the county designations in order to establish a more definite area of birth or residence for the ancestor.

From a more practical standpoint, however, it is essential that one knows the name of the parish within the län where the person for whom he is seeking was born or resided.

Each county is subdivided into smaller administrative units: kommun (commune or municipality) and socken (parish). The kommun is a civil administrative unit whereas the socken is ecclesiastical.

Sweden is divided into thirteen dioceses (stift), i.e., Uppsala, Skara, Växjö, Linköping, Strängnäs, Stockholm, Västerås, Lund, Göteborg, Karlstad, Härnösand, Luleå and Visby; each presided over by a bishop. Each diocese is subdivided into rural deaneries (kontrakt), each with a dean (kontraktspost) at its head. Within each deanery are a number of smaller divisions called pastorat which contain one or more parishes (socken). The term församling is used synonymously with socken. However, in the early Lutheran Church records the three terms pastorat, socken and församling are used in referring to parishes. There is a rector or vicar (kyrkoherde) assigned to each pastorat who can have one or more curates (komminister) as assistants.

If a pastorat is made up of more than one parish it will consist of the mother parish and one or several annex parishes. In such cases it is well to remember that the records for the mother parish as well as for the annex parishes were usually kept by the same staff of clergy, and it is not uncommon to find entries

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1 See Series D, No. 3 of the Genealogical Society's research papers, Major Genealogical Record Sources in Sweden.
for the annex parish(es) in the registers of the mother parish. It is therefore recommended that the inventory of the parish registers be checked before research is begun. This will show very quickly if any records for a particular parish are found in the records of another parish, and the period of time covered.2

It is in the records of the parish that the researcher finds the vital statistics that are required to prepare a complete family record: names, dates of birth and/or christening, place of residence within the parish, banns and marriages, deaths and burials, etc. Also included as part of the parish registers of Sweden are the series of records known as husförhörslängder; house examination rolls, or clerical survey records,3 as they have been designated by the Genealogical Society.

**IMMIGRATION**

As early as the Middle Ages tradesmen and merchants from Germany, France, England, Holland and other countries came to Sweden to seek employment and establish themselves in various areas of the country. Many foreigners affiliated themselves with the military organizations of the Swedish kings either as officers or mercenaries. Some Walloons4 came to Sweden in the 1600s from Belgium and France to assist in the establishment of the iron industry. Their descendants are numerous in the regions of Östergötland, Uppland, Västmanland and other areas where ironworks are found. They were mainly Protestants, and were quickly assimilated into the Swedish community and Lutheran church.

In the 16th and 17th centuries and later, wilderness areas received an influx of homesteaders, some of whom were immigrants from Finland, Norway, Denmark, and the European continent. Many Finns settled in the far north and north-central regions of Sweden, especially in Norrbotten, Västerbotten, Ångermanland, Hälsingland, and parts of Värmland. Norwegians migrated into the landskap (provinces) of Harjedalen, Jämtland, Värmland, Dalsland and Bohuslän, and many Danes remained in the provinces of Skåne and Halland after their government ceded these regions to Sweden. There has been a constant exchange of inhabitants between the countries of the north.

**EMIGRATION**

While immigration into Sweden has been on a limited basis, the emigration of Swedes to foreign countries has been extensive. After Finland was annexed to Sweden about 1249, many Swedish colonists settled there, although some had gone there much earlier. Through numerous wars and conquests, the borders of the Swedish kingdom spread beyond the Scandinavian Peninsula, but there was very little, if any, colonization in these areas. As these lands were relinquished to their former owners, the Swedes usually returned to Sweden proper.

The greatest era of Swedish emigration was the exodus to the United States that began about 1820, reached its peak in the 1800s, and diminished to a trickle by 1914. Over one-million Swedes emigrated during this period.

**DISSENTERS**

During the 1800s many religious denominations foreign to the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the state church of Sweden, found roots in Swedish soil, and their congregations sprang up in various parts of the country. The Mormons in particular encouraged emigration and thousands of Swedish adherents left their native land for the United States, specifically Utah and the western United States.5 Some of these sects maintained their own church registers wherein vital statistics were recorded, but the law required that these events also be recorded in the registers of the state church.

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3 See under that title, this paper.
4 The Walloons are primarily of the Celtic or Alpine race. Thousands of them who were proficient as smiths were called to Sweden by Louis De Geer to man his factories in Finspång and Dannemora, from where they spread to other areas of the country.
5 The records generated by the Mormon Church in Sweden prior to 1950 are found at the Church Historian's Office in Salt Lake City and are also on microfilm at the Genealogical Society Library.
Map showing immigration influxes into Sweden from Finland, Denmark and Norway
OCCUPATIONS

During the 1500s the farming classes comprised the majority of Sweden’s population, and as recent as 1850 only 10% of the population lived in cities, indicating that agriculture was still the main occupation of the majority of the people. Today, however, Sweden is predominantly an industrial nation with only 20% of the people receiving their income from agriculture.

The farmer who owned his land was usually quite stable and did not wander from farm to farm as did the tenant-farmers or crofters. However, tradesmen could travel great distances to obtain employment in their professions, often seeking a remunerative position in the city. The saddler or blacksmith might be found in the employ of an estate, and it is logical to think that fishermen and seamen of various degrees would have residences along the coasts, rivers or larger lakes.

As an example, consider the case of Johannes Månsson, born in 1848 at Domsten, a village in Allerum parish, Malmöhus län, who in later life became a seaman. His home parish is located on the shores of Öresund, a sound with easy access to the Kattegat, an arm of the North Sea. His travels eventually took him to Tønsberg, Norway, a seaport city, where he married in 1875, and where his first child was born. In 1877 he had returned to his place of birth at Domsten, Sweden, where his second child was born. Three years later this child died at Animskog, a parish bordering on the Swedish inland lake, Vänern, which is reached through the Göta Canal from the Kattegat.

NAMING CUSTOMS

The researcher should become familiar with the unique system of naming, known as patronymics, that was so common among the peasantry. With this method the surname of an individual was formed by the addition of a suffix to the father's name, thus Jacob, the son of Hans Jonsson, became known as Jacob Hansson (Jacob, the son of Hans), or his daughter, Olu, became Olu Hansdotter (Olu, the daughter of Hans). In turn, Jacob Hansson's son, Jonas, became Jonas Jacobsson.
Tradesmen, military personnel, priests, and others of the middle and upper classes would usually use a surname other than a patronymic, whereas among the nobility the use of an established surname was mandatory from the 17th century. There are several bibliographies and indexes to printed family histories and various collections that refer to the nobility and upper classes. These provide easy reference to the works where further information about these families can be obtained.

Sometimes surnames are formed from parts of the names of places, usually the place of birth or residence. For example, Nils Jonsson Edfor was born in the village of Österede in Fors parish, Jämtland. It can easily be determined that this surname is composed of “cd” in Österede and the name of the parish, Fors, thus we have the name Edfor. Names such as these can often provide helpful clues to locate the ancestral place of birth.

Emigrant name changes can become confusing. Jöns Carlsson, the parish cobbler, lost his identity when he emigrated to the United States and became known there as James Carson. The baker from Malmö, Carl Gustaf Kiander, later appeared in California as Charles Chandler. Ljungberg becomes Youngberg, Bengtsson changes to Benson, Larsson appears as Lawson or Lawrence, and Riis is altered to Reese.

PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE
An important source of information is personal knowledge. Closely related to this is family tradition. The knowledge of events that an individual has personally experienced is usually reliable, whereas family traditions are sometimes based on erroneous information, or the facts have been distorted by the addition of fiction until the truth is completely hidden. Even personal knowledge can be distorted by the passing years and should not always be accepted as fact without supporting documentary evidence.

The events that follow are arranged chronologically so that once an objective has been determined as pertaining to a certain time period, this paper can be examined for that period, hopefully providing the reader with an awareness of the circumstances that could have influenced the movement of ancestors, or possible situations affecting the recording of their names.

1157-1809 FINLAND AS PART OF THE SWEDISH EMPIRE
Finland was occupied and Christianized by the Swedes. Many Swedish colonists moved to various parts of Finland and established communities. Through the peace treaty at Nöteborg in 1323 most of Finland became secured to the Swedish crown. Later, Åland was seized by Peter the Great in 1714, but restored to Sweden in 1721. The island was ceded with Finland to Russia in 1809. As a result of the Russo-Swedish war 1741-1743 other areas of Finland were annexed to Russia. The territories ceded to Russia by the peace treaties of 1721 and 1743 were restored to the grand duchy of Finland in 1811.

Records of genealogical value that were generated from about 1537 consist of early tax lists, provincial accounts, census and military records. Later, from about 1648, but more generally after 1700, parish registers and communion records are extant. Because Finland was a part of the Kingdom of Sweden from the 12th century until 1809, early records are recorded for the most part in Swedish.  

1500s ROYAL LIBRARY
The Royal Library can trace its beginnings to the time when Gustav Vasa gathered together the books and documents confiscated during the Reformation.

1510-1530 FIRST CHURCH RECORDS
Although not in the same classification as a parish register, there is a list of deceased benefactors and donors to the Svinnegar Church of Uppsala lan preserved from this time at the provincial archives in Uppsala.

See Series D, No. 4 of the Genealogical Society’s research papers, Major Genealogical Record Sources in Finland.
1527, 24 June  THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Evangelical Lutheran Church was established on this date as the official religion of Sweden, and with the abolishment of Catholicism, the estates of the Catholic bishops were confiscated by the crown. The nobility received back their lands that had been in the hands of the Roman Catholic Church since 1454. From the advent of Lutheranism as the state religion, the church has had the responsibility of serving as recorder and keeper of the nation's vital records.7

1541-1633 PROVINCIAL ACCOUNTS

The provincial accounts, known in Swedish as landskapshandlingar, list the names of residents of various farms.5

1570 and 1613 ALVSborgS RANSOM

Alvsborgs lösen is the name applied to the ransom paid by Sweden to Denmark for release of the properties confiscated during conquests by Denmark in 1563 and 1612. A stipulation of the treaties at Stettin in December 1570 and at Knäred in January 1613 was that Sweden would pay a certain sum to regain possession of Alvsborg Castle and the surrounding lands. In order to raise the money a tax was levied and the names of those persons taxed were recorded. These lists still exist and can be useful to the genealogist fortunate enough to trace his ancestral lines to this period.

1571 PARISH REGISTERS

King Johan III proclaimed that certain books should be maintained at each church, in which vital statistical information should be recorded, but these instructions were not generally obeyed. If any parish registers were made because of this proclamation, they no longer exist.

1600s MANORIAL RECORDS

During the 1600s approximately one-third of Sweden's farmers were employed by the nobility, with a large percentage of the peasantry living on estate lands. These farmers were exempt from paying taxes to the crown, and thus their names and residences are not found in the civil land records. The best source of information about them, except for the parish registers, is the land records of the various manorial archives.

1600s TRADE GUILDS

During the first five decades of the 1600s, craftsmen migrated to Sweden from other Scandinavian countries and continental Europe. According to law most crafts were performed in the cities, with exception of the few that were required in rural areas, and burghership in a city was a prerequisite to practice a trade. Trade guilds were organized which also included many of these foreign craftsmen. Records are available for some of these guilds from 1604 and for most of them from later years. They contain minutes, names of members, and those seeking membership. Sometimes certificates are found that were given to the guild officials as proof of age, parentage, and birthplace. Other important information can be found in the burghership records in the various city archives.10

1607-1609 PARISH REGISTERS

The oldest record preserved that can be classified as a parish register (kyr kobok) is a death register from Skultuna parish in Västmanland län. Olaus Martini, Archbishop of Sweden, gave an order to the ministers of his diocese that a record should be kept of all baptisms, marriages, and burials performed in the parishes

7 See under the titles “Parish Registers” and “Provincial Archives” this paper.
8 For a more detailed description of this and other genealogical sources and their availability, see Series D, No. 3 of the Genealogical Society's research paper, Major Genealogical Record Sources in Sweden.
9 Ella Hecksher, Sex Kapitel om Slaktforskning, Stockholm 1959 pp. 56-58.
10 Ibid. pp. 66-70.
under his jurisdiction. Two registers are preserved from this time: 1) a death record from Trefaldighet's parish in Uppsala from 1608; 2) a marriage record beginning in 1609 from Storkyrkan parish in Stockholm City.

1614 CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEAL
The Svea hovrätt was originally established as the Supreme Court for all of Sweden, and functioned as such until 1634. After the organization of the Göta hovrätt that year, it became an appellate court for eastern and northern Sweden only. Minutes of civil and criminal court sessions are available from 1614. Another important genealogical source are the copies of these courts' minutes that were submitted to the courts of appeal for inspection and preservation.

1616 PARISH REGISTERS
The oldest parish registers preserved from Östergötland are from Skedevi parish, beginning with 1616.

1617 CONQUESTS
The Swedes conquered that part of Karelia (later annexed to Russia in 1721) which was previously under the rule of Novgorod, thus securing all of Finland to the Swedish crown. Ingria was also conquered and remained a Swedish possession until 1703.

1618, 16 October NATIONAL ARCHIVES
Under the direction of Axel Oxenstierna, chancellor to King Gustavus Adolphus, a central record office or "archives of the realm" was established to preserve and protect the old documents extant from medieval times. Eventually this record office evolved into the National Archives, which has become the supreme authority for the public records system. Its holdings include the written documents of the government, the higher courts, and the central administration.

1620 CHURCH RECORDS
Under the leadership of Johannes Rudbekius parishes were divided, the number of clergymen increased, and their knowledge was tested at yearly meetings. Religious education was promoted and a more definite system of recording events such as christenings, marriages, burials, communions, etc., was introduced into the Västerås Diocese. Some church books are preserved from this period.

1620 MILITARY RECORDS
New regulations were issued governing the conscription of men for military service. It was required that men between 15 and 65 years of age should be present at the general conscription, where they were divided into groups of ten men. From each group one man was selected as a recruit for military duty. The parish minister was expected to be present to substantiate the information compiled by the civil officials about every male parishioner in this age group. To do this, the minister had to keep a vital statistical record of every male in the parish. In many instances this record was the forerunner to the official parish register, although the majority of them do not exist for this early period.

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11 See under the title, this paper. See also The Court Records of Sweden — How Valuable is their Content as a Genealogical Source?, presented as a lecture at the World Conference on Records in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 1969, by Dr. Birgitta Lager of Stockholm, Sweden.
12 A good description of the Royal Military Record Office in Stockholm and its holdings is contained in the book Kungliga Krigsarkivet 150 år, 1605-1955, Nerikes Allehandas Tryckeri, Örebro 1955. Two books useful in locating military residences are: C. Grill, Statistiskt Sammandrag af Svenska Indelningsverket published 1856-1858 (GS film No. 13497), and the register of all Swedish regiments found in Forteckning över serien Generalmönsterrullor (23) compiled by the Royal Military Record Office (GS film No. 13498).
1620 UPPSALA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
This is the largest library in Sweden. It was founded by King Gustavus Adolphus when he donated remnants of the foremost Swedish medieval libraries, together with the books left by King Johan III. Many collections of genealogies and biographies are housed here, and have been microfilmed for the Genealogical Society.

1620 CENSUS RECORDS (MANTALSLÄNGDER)
This is a record of all inhabitants of a parish between the ages of 15 and 63 years inclusive, who were required to pay a poll tax. However, each person is not enumerated by name; usually only the head of the household is listed. The nobility and their servants were exempt from this tax from 1640 to 1810 and are generally not recorded in these lists. Soldiers were also exempt, so only their wives and children are enumerated. Usually after 1800 the names of some of the children over age 15 begin to appear, and the more recent the census the more detailed the information becomes.

1620-1641 AGRICULTURAL TAX LISTS (BOSKAPSRÄKNING)
Agricultural taxes were one of many taxes levied by parliament to raise funds to pay the national debt and provide finances for the country's defenses. It required payment of a specified sum for each animal and each acre of planted land. These documents list the names of land owners and tenants, their residences, and the tax levied.

1621 PARISH REGISTERS
The oldest parish register from Lund's Diocese is a birth register from Fulltofta parish beginning with the year 1621.

1626, 16 January HOUSE OF NOBLES
The House of Nobles (Riddarhuset) was founded, where genealogies, pedigrees, and other documents about the nobility are kept. The nobility were permitted to submit their probate records to the various hovrätt during the years 1737-1916, otherwise they were sent to the respective håradsrätt.13

1629 CONQUESTS
Quite often, during the long wars between Sweden and Poland, Livonia became the scene for major battles. Finally, the armies of Gustavus Adolphus conquered the land and from the treaties in Altmark in 1629 and Stuhmsdorf in 1635, Sweden gained possession of the country. However, as a result of the Great Northern War, Livonia was lost to Russia in 1721. Usually the only records generated by the conquerors in these countries were of a military nature,14 since no general law had been enacted requiring the recording of vital statistics.

1630 LAND RECORDS (JORDEBÖCKER)15
These documents are a record generated for tax purposes, which list the names of land owners and tenants, their places of residence, valuation of the land, and military jurisdiction of the property. If property was inherited from father to son this can usually be determined from the similarity in names appearing generation after generation in these books. However, other sources should be consulted before any such conclusions are accepted as fact.

1630 THIRTY YEARS' WAR
From its participation in the Thirty Years' War during 1630-1645, Sweden acquired the following territories on the German mainland: Hither Pomerania and Rügen, part of Farther Pomerania, Wismar, and the Bishoprics of Bremen and Verden. Though these conquered areas were administered by Swedish civil and military authorities, many of whom had their families with them, there were few Swedish nationals

14 See under title "Military Records," this paper.
15 For an explanation of the various classes of land, see Heckscher, Stäktforskning, pp 54-56.
who migrated to these areas to colonize or establish residences. The majority of those persons who did move to these places usually returned to Sweden proper when these territories were relinquished to their former owners or other powers. Records of the civil and military administrative authorities are the only documents preserved.

1633-1640 PARISH REGISTERS
Parish registers from about 100 parishes in Linköping’s Diocese begin during this period. They usually contain births or christenings, marriages, and deaths or burials. Some church accounts are also extant from this period.

1634 CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEAL
The Götahovrätt was established in 1634 and included all of Götaland with the archives located in Jönköping. Its records are similar to those of the Svea hovrätt.16

Map showing Swedish Colony of “NEW SWEDEN” in North America

1638 COLONY IN NORTH AMERICA
Under the direction of Axel Oxenstierna, a project was begun to establish a Swedish colony in North America. In the fall of 1637 two ships, the Kalmar Nyckel and the Fogel Grip, sailed from Gothenburg, arriving at the Delaware River in March, 1638. Land was purchased from the Indians and soon Fort Christina was built on the present sight of Wilmington, Delaware. Several expeditions followed with the settlements expanding to adjacent areas of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Hundreds of colonists came and today their descendants are numerous. In 1655 the colony was conquered by the Dutch and came under their jurisdiction.17

16 See under the title Svea hovrätt this paper. The island of Gotland did not come under the jurisdiction of Götahovrätt but rather Svea hovrätt. In 1820 the provinces of Skåne and Blekinge were excluded from Götahovrätt with the formation of the Skåne-Blekinge hovrätt.
17 For a very detailed history of these Swedish colonies see Amandus Johnson, The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware 1638-1664, 2 vols. Philadelphia 1911. Biographies and lists of the officers, soldiers, servants and colonists are found in vol. II.
1640s PARISH REGISTERS
About thirty parishes from the Lund Diocese have registers extant from this period.

1645 ACQUISITION OF HALLAND, GOTLAND AND SAREMA
Halland province on the Swedish mainland, a part of the Danish Empire since at least the eleventh century, and the island of Gotland, a Danish possession since 1570, were ceded to Sweden by the Treaty of Brömsebro in 1645. Gotland was occupied temporarily by the Danes 1676-1679 and 1808. Sarema, an island in the East Baltic Sea, had been a Danish possession for nearly 100 years but passed to Sweden in 1645. It was ceded to Russia in 1721.
1645  ACQUISITION OF JÄMTLAND AND HÄRJEDALEN
The provinces of Jämtland and Härjedalen were acquired from Norway by treaty as a result of the war 1643-1645, and now comprise the county (län) of Jämtland.

1658, 26 February   PEACE TREATY OF ROSKILDE
After a remarkable march from Poland to Copenhagen, with little resistance along the way, Sweden's king, Karl Gustaf, was able to arrange a treaty at Roskilde, Denmark, whereby Sweden acquired from Denmark the provinces of Skåne, Blekinge, and Bohuslän on the Swedish mainland, and the island of Bornholm in the Baltic Sea. Sweden also gained possession of Trondhjem's län (Trøndelag) in Norway.

1660  PROBATE RECORDS
Called hoppistekning in Swedish, this type of record, available from approximately 1660 for some areas of the country to the present, contains names of deceased persons and sometimes dates of death; names of heirs, ages, sometimes dates of birth; residences, guardians, relationships; real and personal property and its distribution.16

1660  SWEDISH POSSESSIONS RETURNED TO FORMER OWNERS
The island of Bornholm was returned to Denmark and the area of Norway known as Trondelag was returned to that country. Any records generated are now part of the collections housed in those areas.

1675-1676  WAR IN SKÅNE
During this period, all of Skåne except Malmö City fell into Danish hands. In December the bloodiest battle in Swedish history was fought near Lund, where half the fighters died in battle, and Skåne was secured to the Swedish Crown.

1686, 3 September  CHURCH RECORDS
The official Church Law governing the recording of events for all parishes in Sweden was issued by the king. This decree required that a record be kept in each parish of all births, marriages, deaths, and persons removing from or arriving to the parish; and that a record be kept of those who attended communion or were preparing for confirmation. This record keeping was the duty of the Lutheran clergy. Finland was governed by the same law even after separation from Sweden, until 16 December 1869. Many parish registers exist from this period.

1697, 7 May  NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND ROYAL LIBRARY DESTROYED
A catastrophic fire in the Royal Palace in Stockholm, where the National Archives and Royal Library were housed, resulted in the destruction of two-thirds of the records.

1700-1721  GREAT NORTHERN WAR
During this period Poland, Denmark, and Russia united against Sweden. Thousands of Swedish peasants were called into military service and died in battle. There was severe fighting in Poland that depleted the Swedish forces there, and thousands perished in the Russian winter of 1708. Sweden was defeated and lost most of her German territories and also Livonia, Estonia, Ingría and Karelia. It is likely that some losses to church records were incurred in Skåne from the invading Danish armies and the ensuing battles in which the enemy was driven back to Denmark. Also, the Russian fleet with its accompanying soldiers plundered several coastal cities of the Baltic, burning and destroying buildings, lands and livestock. Sweden's condition was deplorable with its great losses of manpower and finances. Because of these great losses and the conditions of the treaties with foreign powers, Swedish supremacy over the Baltic and the North came to an end.

1710 PLAGUE

Along with the wars came the plague, which spread over most of Sweden. Stockholm City, with a population of about 60,000, witnessed the death of more than 23,000 persons. The death registers extant for this period from the smitten areas of the country contain numerous entries, and sometimes only the number of deceased persons is given because of the many deaths. Only the provinces of Bohuslän, Dalsland and Värmland seem to have been spared this catastrophe.

1749 NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

The Swedish Statistiska centralbyråns, the oldest statistical office in the world, was established in 1749. Its library and archives were begun in 1858. Of interest to the genealogist are its collections of church records extracts and emigration lists.16

1750 CLERICAL SURVEY RECORDS

The husförhörsland, as they are known in Swedish, is a unique record to Sweden and Finland. A forerunner to this method of record keeping was the catechistical or confirmation records that exist from approximately 1686.17 In these early lists the names of persons preparing for confirmation were recorded, often with reference to the youth's father and residence. Some of these catechistical lists include the father's full name, the mother's given name and the given names of children who were of age to attend communion.

In 1750 a change came about which eventually caused these records to become a more complete listing of all parish inhabitants, with the information including each person's name, date and place of birth or age, marriage, removals and arrivals, and death.

1753 CALENDAR CHANGE

In 1753 Sweden changed from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, with February 18th becoming March 1st.

1784 COLONY

In 1784 an effort was made to establish a colony in the West Indies. Sweden obtained the island of Saint Bartholomew (Saint Barthélemy) in the Leeward Islands, from France. A fort was built, settlers arrived, and the colony flourished for almost one hundred years but was returned to France by purchase in 1878.21

19 See under the titles “Parish Register Abstracts” and “Emigration Records” this paper.
20 See under the titles “Church Records” 1620 and 1686, this paper.
1798 PASSPORT JOURNALS

“Since the late 18th Century Swedish authorities have required Swedish citizens to possess passports for travel outside the borders of their own country. The small fee charged for this document was set aside in a fund used to pension Swedish naval personnel... These registers are arranged annually and consist of all the reports sent in to the navy headquarters by the governors of the various provinces.” These lists cover the period 1798-1851, and although the information contained in them varies, they usually give the date of issue, name of the person to whom the passport was issued, occupation, former place of residence, destination, and amount paid as the passport fee. Some of the entries even give the place of birth, year of birth, or age.

1805 ROYAL MILITARY RECORD OFFICE

Founded in 1805, Krigsarkivet served mainly as a repository for maps and other documents originating from the many wars in which Sweden had been involved. Documents of a military unit were the property of the commanding officer, and it was not until 1873 that arrangements were made for these scattered military archives to be gathered to one central location. Its holdings of interest to the genealogist consist of rotations and inductions, general muster rolls, pension and salary lists, and biographical records for both the army and navy.

1809 FINLAND CEDEDED TO RUSSIA

As a result of the war in 1808, Finland, having been a part of the Kingdom of Sweden since the 12th century, was ceded to Russia. However, the Russian form of government was not imposed upon the Finns and they became organized as an autonomous grand duchy. As a result of the peace treaty with Russia at Fredrikshamn on 17 September 1809, Russia received one-third of the Kingdom of Sweden, namely all of Swedish Finland, the island of Aland, and a part of Vasterbotten and Swedish Lappmark. The Russian Revolution gave the Finns an opportunity to proclaim their independence which was recognized by Russia in December 1917. Because of the unsettled conditions that existed in Finland during the war with Russia 1715-1721, many parish registers were destroyed or were not kept, so only a few church records are preserved from this time.

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23 See footnote 12, this paper; also Johansson, Cradled in Sweden, chapter 14.
As a result of World War II, the Karelian Isthmus and adjoining regions were once again ceded to Russia. Approximately 500,000 persons, the entire population of this area, moved to other parts of the country. Once more it was not possible to save all church records. 24

1814 LOSS OF SWEDISH POMERANIA AND UNION WITH NORWAY
During the Napoleonic wars, Sweden sided with England and Russia against France and her allies, one of which was the united kingdom of Denmark-Norway. By the Treaty of Kiel in 1814, Sweden ceded Swedish Pomerania (the island of Rugen and the adjoining territory on the mainland north of the Peene River) to Prussia, and Norway was ceded by Denmark to Sweden. Norway had its own constitution during this union with Sweden, which was dissolved in 1905. This was the last war in which Sweden was involved, having remained neutral in all succeeding conflicts. Parish registers were kept by the local clergy and remained in these countries.

1820 CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEAL
The Skåne och Blekinge hovrätt was formed in 1820 and includes the counties of Malmöhus, Kristianstad and Blekinge. Its archives were first located in Kristianstad City but were moved to Malmö City in 1917. The records kept by this court are similar to those of the Svea hovrätt and Göta hovrätt. 25

1820 EMIGRATION
The great migration from Sweden, which prior to this time was insignificant, began to gain momentum during the period 1820-1850 when over 5,000 persons emigrated, the majority going to the United States. From 1851 to 1890 there was in excess of 520,000 emigrants, and from 1891 to 1925 the total was more than 555,000. Poor harvests during the years 1867-1869 caused more than 60,000 persons to leave their native land. Economic conditions in Sweden, the influence of those who had already emigrated, and availability of cheap land in the United States all seemed to be influencing factors for emigration. Records generated as a result of emigration are mentioned under the title Emigration Records. 26

1851-1940 EMIGRATION RECORDS
The variety of records produced as a result of emigration from Sweden are a valuable research source to the genealogist and historian. One of these sources is the series of emigration lists at first submitted by county officials to the National Central Bureau of Statistics in Stockholm, then later by the parish ministers. The lists from 1851-1855 are probably not as complete as those for later years, but they usually show the name of the emigrant or head of the household with the number of persons in the family, occupations, parish of residence, and destination. Sometimes ages and complete dates of birth are given. Some of the lists are compiled on a county basis, others on a parish basis. The lists for the years 1856-1860 are similar in content to the earlier ones. The next series were compiled in 1865 and include information about emigrants from 1861-1865. From 1865 the lists run yearly.

24 For a brief history of Finland and a good description of records sources and genealogical procedures, see Finnish Genealogical Research — Methods and Procedures, presented as a lecture at the World Conference on Records in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 1969, by Harry Walli of Helsinki, Finland.
25 See under these titles, this paper and also footnote 11. In more recent years other circuit courts of appeal have been formed in Sweden, but their records are of such a recent nature they are of very little value to the present-day genealogist. Other courts with records of genealogical value are the Lagmansrätt (inferior courts of appeal), Rådhusrätt (magistrate courts), and Häradsrätt (rural courts). Because their years of organization are so varied, they have not been included individually in the chronological listing. The probate records, wills, marriage settlements, and mortgage records kept by these courts are of genealogical importance.
26 An excellent listing of over 4,000 Swedish immigrants to the United States is contained in Dr. Nils William Olsson’s book Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York 1820-1850, Chicago 1967. Also see Along the Scandinavian Emigrant Trail, Part III, Sweden, a lecture presented by Dr. Olsson at the World Conference on Records held in Salt Lake City, Utah, in August 1969.
The Larsson Brothers & Company Emigration Agency assisted many thousands of persons who wished to emigrate. Documents produced from their years of operation, 1876-1913, include correspondence between the emigration agency and persons inquiring about emigration or who had already emigrated; names of correspondents and their residences in Sweden; sometimes names of relatives and their residences both in Sweden and abroad are mentioned. These records are not indexed and are time-consuming to use.

Another vital emigration source are the records maintained by the police authorities in Gothenburg (Göteborg), Stockholm and Malmö. These collections comprise lists of persons leaving Sweden through these ports and include names of persons, places of residence or places of birth, ages or dates of birth, destination in foreign lands, relationships of persons traveling as a family unit, and names of ships and sailing dates.

1860 PARISH REGISTER ABSTRACTS
From 1860 to 1949 the ministers of every parish were required to submit yearly to the National Central Bureau of Statistics abstracts of all births, marriages and deaths. Abstracts of the clerical survey records (husförhörslängder) are sent to this office every ten years. These records were compiled for statistical purposes only but are the major source of vital statistical data for those parishes where the church records are missing during this period. They usually contain the same information as the original source but the names of persons who appeared as witnesses at the christening of a child are not included. The clerical survey abstracts are much briefer than the original.

1899 PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
The provincial archive at Vadstena, which is housed in a sixteenth century castle, was established in 1899. Its jurisdiction includes the areas of Kalmar, Jönköping, Östergötland and Kronoberg. Records from the civil administration of these län, together with the rural and city courts and the parishes, are transferred here after 100 years has elapsed. The court records and parish registers are of most value to the genealogist.

1903 PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
Provincial archives were established at Lund and Uppsala this year. The Lund archives is for Southern Sweden, i.e., the län of Malmöhus, Kristianstad, Blekinge and Halland. The Uppsala archives cover the län of Stockholm, Uppsala, Örebro, Kopparberg, Södermanland and Västmanland. The records housed here also originated with the civil and ecclesiastical offices of these areas. However, the majority of the parish registers from Kopparberg län were exempt from the delivery obligation and remain in the individual parishes.

1905 PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
An archive was established at Visby for the island of Gotland. Formerly called an archive depot (arkivdepå), it has in recent years been designated as a provincial archive (landsarkiv). Its contents are similar to those described above.

1907, 6 December DISPENSATION OF ARCHIVE MATERIAL
According to a directive dated 6 December 1907, many rural and city parishes were given the right to retain their church books at the parish archives and became exempt by law from the obligation to deliver their older church books to the provincial archives. These parishes are located mainly in Kopparberg län, but others are found in scattered areas of the country. Since 1916 no other parishes have been given this right, and many that had this privilege have since delivered their books to the provincial archives.

1911 PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
During 1911 another provincial archive was established, this one being at Gothenburg (Göteborg). It has the obligation to collect records of a civil and ecclesiastical nature from the län of Skaraborg, Älvsborg, Göteborg och Bohus and Värmland.

Following the program begun in 1899 to provide adequate storage facilities and protection for the nation’s written documents, a county archive was built in Östersund with jurisdiction over Jämtland’s län. The records housed here are similar in nature to those of the other provincial archives. Recently this archive was given the designation of a provincial archive (landsarkiv).

The latest provincial archive to be established is the one in Härnösand with jurisdiction over the län of Gävleborg, Norrbotten, Västernorrland and Västerbotten. Here, too, as in the other provincial archives, one finds both civil and ecclesiastical documents.
Sweden Historical Background

History

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, and migrations may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records, such as land and military documents, that mention your family.

Your ancestors will become more interesting as you learn about the events in which they may have participated.

Below are some key dates and events in Swedish history:

1397  The Union of Kalmar united Sweden with Denmark and Norway.
1477  The University of Uppsala was founded.
1523  The Union of Kalmar dissolved, and Gustaf Vasa was elected King of Sweden.
1544  The Lutheran Church becomes the state religion of Sweden.
1638  "New Sweden" was founded in Delaware.
1666  The University of Lund was founded.
1753  Sweden changed from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar.
1809  Sweden lost Finland to Russia.
1814  Norway united with Sweden.
1905  Norway dissolved the union with Sweden.
1914  World War I started. Sweden was neutral.
1919  Voting rights were given to women.
1939  World War II began. Again Sweden was neutral.

The Family History Library has some published histories of Sweden, such as:


You can find histories in the Family History Library Catalog under:

SWEDEN - HISTORY
SWEDEN, [COUNTRY] - HISTORY
SWEDEN, [COUNTRY], [CITY or PARISH] - HISTORY

Local Histories

Local histories should be studied and enjoyed for the background information they can provide about your family's life-style and environment. Published histories of parishes, towns, and counties often contain genealogies and family histories.
An important association founded in 1916 to preserve traditional culture is:

Riksförbundet för Hembygdsvård (The National Association for the Preservation of Local Nature and Culture)
Box 30193
S-104 25 Stockholm
Sweden

Local societies publish their own histories, including stories of emigration and genealogical research done.

The Family History Library has many local histories for Swedish towns. They are listed in the catalog under the above headings. Some of these histories are also available at major public and university libraries in the midwestern United States.

Calendar Changes
The Gregorian calendar, the calendar in common use today, corrected the Julian calendar that had been in use since A. D. 46. Leap years had been miscalculated in the Julian calendar, and by 1582 the calendar was ten days behind the solar year.

Sweden changed from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar on 17 February 1753. At that time, eleven days were omitted to bring the calendar into line with the solar year. The day after 17 February 1753 became 1 March 1753.
SWEDEN: Patronymics and Other Naming Customs

I. SURNAMES: Surnames were seldom used in Sweden until the late 19th Century.

A. An established surname is an identifying name that is used in a family for at least three generations. EXAMPLES: Smith, Bush, Rodman, Quayle

B. Surnames were first used in Sweden by the wealthier, more educated people.
   1. The nobility established permanent surnames as early as the 13th century.
   2. The clergy, merchants, tradesmen and army officers soon followed their example.
   3. People in towns used surnames more often than people living in rural areas.
   4. Many used both a patronymic name and a surname. EXAMPLE: Anders Jonsson Planck

II. PATRONYMICS: Patronymic names were the usual Swedish means of identifying people.

A. The Swedish patronymic is a name formed by the addition of a suffix indicating relationship to one's father. This is not really a surname because it changes with each generation. EXAMPLES: Anne Olsdotter
   Peder Andersson, whose son would be Rasmus Pedersson

B. Several centuries ago there were so few people in most areas that a person could usually be identified by only ONE name. Later, as the population increased, additional identification was needed and the name of the father began to be indicated. EXAMPLES: Peder son of Anders, Anne daughter of Ole
   1. This was later contracted to a patronymic name.
      EXAMPLES: Peder Andersson, Anne Olesdotter
   2. The use of a single name continued for many years when the name was an unusual one, such as Ambrosius, Thor, Luisa.

D. Records of the late 19th century are sometimes confusing because the patronymic suffix was giving way to established surnames.
   1. Early in the century the "dotter" ending was frequently changed to "son." EXAMPLE: Margrete Larson instead of Margrete Larsdotter
   2. Older persons often kept the patronymic suffix; younger ones took a surname.
   3. The change was gradual; not all parishes changed at the same time.

III. OTHER IDENTIFYING NAMES: In addition to patronymics, Swedes used various other kinds of identifying names to distinguish one person from another.

A. Only a few names were commonly used in Sweden; this led to numerous people having the same name; i.e. there could be several persons in a single parish with such a name as "Anders Olsson" or "Maren Hansdatter."

C. A person was often identified by the name of the village or farm on which he lived. EXAMPLES: Jons af Moren, Jons Olsson Moren, Moren Jons Olsson
   1. If he moved from one farm to another, his name was changed to match the name of the farm. EXAMPLE: Anders, who lived on the farm named Naes, might appear in the records as "Anders Naes". If he moved to another farm, named Sars, he might then be known as "Anders Sars".
   2. The farm name might be written first: EXAMPLE: Eric Parsson from the farm "Sars" was often recorded as "Sars Eric Parsson."
   3. A man who acquired a farm by marriage or inheritance often took the family name of the former owner.
D. A man was commonly identified by his occupation. EXAMPLE: Ole Rasmussen, a shoemaker (skomaker), usually appeared in parish records as "Ole Rasmussen Skomaker", "Skomaker Ole Rasmussen," or as just "Ole Skomaker."

E. When a man went into the armed services, he was usually given a "soldier name," which often changed as he changed rank: 
EXAMPLE: Eric Hansson became "Eric Holm" when he first entered the army. When he was promoted to corporal, he became "Eric Springfield."

F. Often a nickname was used as identification. EXAMPLES: "Lille [little] Per Olsson," "Anders Jonsson Gammal" [old], Anders Jonsson Ung" [young]

G. A married woman was usually identified by her husband's name.
EXAMPLES: Holms Anne Olsdotter, Anne Olsdotter Eric Holms

H. Swedish names are less of a problem than a researcher might anticipate because the minister/clerk was trying to identify correctly the individuals in his parish and therefore was usually consistent in his identifying references to them.

IV. OTHER NAMING CUSTOMS: Swedes had other unusual naming customs.

A. An illegitimate child might be given his patronymic name from either his mother or his father.

B. Some names have interchangeable forms: EXAMPLES: Magnus, Måns, Muns; Nils, Nicolaus, Niclas, Nisse, Niels; Catrine, Katrina, Catharina, Caisa, Kaisa

C. Traditional naming patterns are not proof but can give clues for identification.
1. The first son born in the second marriage of a widow, was usually given the name of the deceased first husband. Similarly the first daughter born in the second marriage of a widower was usually given the name of the deceased first wife.
2. If a child died, the first child of the same sex born thereafter was usually given the deceased child's name.
3. The first son was traditionally named after his paternal grandfather; the second son after his maternal grandfather; the first daughter after her maternal grandmother; the second daughter after her paternal grandmother.
4. Thus several children in a family were often given the same name.

V. AMERICANIZATION OF NAMES: When immigrants came to America, their names were often Anglicized, translated or otherwise changed.

A. Names were often spelled according to the understanding and/or whim of American officials. EXAMPLE: Anders Rasmusson might become "Andrew Robertson".

B. Patronymic names were often changed to American style surnames.
EXAMPLE: Karen, dtr of Jens Andersson, might be called "Karen Anderson"

C. An extra identifying name was often taken as a surname.
EXAMPLES: Peder Jensson Forsberg might become "Peter Forsberg" Anders Olsson Skraedder [tailor] might become "Andrew Taylor" Vilhelm Jonsson of Ljungby might become "William Young"
APPENDIX 4: NAMES

NAMING CUSTOMS

You need to be aware of a few peculiarities regarding Swedish names.

Patronymics

The primary naming system used in Sweden prior to about 1865 was patronymics. With this method of naming, an individual's surname was formed by adding a suffix to his father's given name. For example, Lars, the son of Lars Andersson, was known as Lars Larsson (that is, Lars, the son of Lars). His daughter, Anna, was known as Anna Larsdotter (Anna, the daughter of Lars). However, in most extractions you are not required to record a surname for the principal unless it is given in the entry.

Prefixed Names

In Dalarna province (Kopparbergs lan), prefixed names are quite common. For example, Per Larsson was born on a farm known as Nils-Olof. He was identified by that particular farm and called Nils-Olof Per Larsson. It is difficult to distinguish some of these farm names from actual given names, but usually you can identify them by the genitive ending s or es, for instance, Frans Erik Ersson, Pers Johan Andersson, Lasses Olof Larsson, and Nilses Per Jonsson. Similar methods of recording names may be encountered elsewhere in Sweden, but they are most prominent in Dalarna. When extracting, do not incorporate these farm names into the actual names of persons.

Locality Names

It was common on Gotland and, to a lesser extent, throughout Sweden for a person to be identified by a locality name in addition to a given name, such as Lars Botreifs or Kristina Lingsarve. In each case, the second name identifies the person by the residence. If the given name and locality name (rather than a surname) are the names used in the parish register, extract these names. This rule also applies to females. For example, if you were extracting the above names, you would write, "LARS / BOTREIFS" and "KRISTINA / LINGSARVE." If a given name, patronymic surname, and locality name are used (such as Lars Andersson Botreifs), extract only the given name and patronymic surname (for example, "LARS / ANDERSSON"). The locality name will not be used.

Military Names

Upon entering military service, a recruit was usually given a name other than a patronymic for identification purposes. Such names generally did not become established family surnames until more recently. Children of military personnel normally used the patronymic for their surname.

ABBREVIATED NAMES

Many entries contain names that have been abbreviated for recording convenience. For example, Christina may have been abbreviated Chr., Christa, Kstina, or Ch:\. It is not always possible to determine what name an abbreviation represents.
For example, are Anders, Chris, Mar, and Ol, Anders or Andreas; Christopher, Christian, or Christian; Maria or Margareta; Olof, Ola, or Olaus?

Record abbreviated names as they appear in the entry. If raised letters are used, record them on the same line with the other letters. For example, extract “Joh:’s Andersson” as “JOH. / ANDERSSON.” Other examples: “OL. / HANSSON” and “JAC. / XSTENSSON.” The female surname ending dotter should always be recorded as DR, without a period. For example, record “Dortha Jonsdotter” as “DORTHA / JONSDR” (without a period). Other abbreviated names should be followed by a period.

COMMON NAMES

The most common names in Swedish parish registers are:

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<tr>
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<th>Female</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anders</td>
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<td>Erik</td>
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### SWEDISH GIVEN NAMES

#### Males

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*(Names beginning with the letter C can also begin with the letter K.)*

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Rörík
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Rudolf, Rudolph
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Runulf
Runvid
Rutger
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Salvador
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Stig
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Sván
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Sven
Svenald
Svenbjörn
Svening
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Svente
Svenung
Sverker
Sverkíl
Swán
Swen
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can also begin with
the letter Z.)

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Teofil
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Thomas
Thor
Timoteus
Tíodulf
Tjál, Tjáll
Tjel, Tjell
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Toke
Tol
Tolf
Tolle
Tomas
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Tønnes
Tor
Torald
Torben
Torber
Torber

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Names beginning
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Udde
Uddorn
Uffe
Ulf
Ulle
Ulrik, Ulrich
Ume
Ung
Unne
Uriel

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and W are combined
below.)
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Veste
Wetle
Vibjörn
Vibrand
Vidrik
Vidulf
Vifve
Viger
Vigmund
Vigulf
Viktor
Wilhelm
Ville
Virik
Woldedrik
Wolfdidrik
Wollmar

Yjar
Yngve
Ynnert

Zacharias, Zachris
Zander
Zefanias
Females

Abigail
Ada
Adamina
Adela
Adelheid
Adelina
Adis
Adolfina
Afrid
Agata
Agda
Agnes
Agneta
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Ajnes
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Ala
Alexandra
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Alfreda
Alma
Alrika
Alva
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Annicka
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Ása
Asta
Astrid
Augusta
Avida
Axelina
Babro
Beata
Bella
Bengta
Berna
Bernhardina
Bernhild
Berta
Bertha
Bertila
Bertolda
Betti, Betty
Billa
Bina
Birgit
Birgitta
Blanceflor
Blandina
Blenda
Blida
Boel
Boletta
Bolla
Borghild
Börjina
Börta, Börtha
Botella
Bothild
Botild
Botilda
Bride
Bridget
Brigida
Brigitta
Brita
Brynild

Cari
Carin
Carla
Carina
Carola
Carolina
Catharina
Cecilia
Charlotta
Christiana
Christina
Cilla
Cissa
Cissela
Clara
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Dorotea, Loretha
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Edla
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Elsa
Else
Elva
Emanuella
Emilia
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Estrid
Ev
Evaldina
Evangelina
Fastrun
Fernanda
Fernandina
Fia
Fiken
Filippa
Fina
Flora
Fredrika
Frida
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*Names beginning with the letter N* can also begin with the letter **O**.

*Names beginning with the letter L* can also begin with the letter **P**.

*Names beginning with the letter M* can also begin with the letter **W**.
NAMING CUSTOMS

It was traditional in earlier centuries for a person to be known by only one name. During the Middle Ages, however, it became common for persons in the higher classes of society to use more than one given name. After 1814 this practice became widespread among all classes of people.

Example: Johan Christian Wilhelm, son of Gerhard Geelmeyden and Anna Elisabeeth Ebbel.

Patronymics

The primary naming system used in Scandinavia before about 1865 was patronymics. With this method of naming, an individual's surname was formed by adding a suffix to his father's given name. For example, Lars, the son of Lars Andersson, was known as Lars Larsson (that is, Lars, the son of Lars).

Sigrid, daughter of Haagen Sigurdson, would be known as Sigrid Haagensdatter. Unless a person carried an established family name, a nobility name, or was of royal birth, he was nearly always identified by a patronymic surname.

Prefixed Names (Sweden)

In Dalarna province (Kopparbergs län), prefixed names are quite common. For example, Per Larsson was born on a farm known as Nils-Ols. He was identified by that particular farm and called Nils-Ols Per Larsson. It is difficult to distinguish some of these farm names from actual given names, but usually you can identify them by the genitive ending s or es, for instance, frans Erik Ersson, Pers Johan Andersson, Lasses Olof Larsson, and Nilses Per Jonsson. Similar methods of recording names may be encountered elsewhere in Sweden, but they are most prominent in Dalarna. When extracting, do not incorporate these farm names into the actual names of persons.

Locality Names (Sweden)

It was common on Gotland and, to a lesser extent, throughout Sweden for a person to be identified by a locality name in addition to a given name, such as Lars Botreifs or Kristina Lingsarve. In each case, the second name identifies the person by his residence. If the given name and locality name (rather than a surname) are the names used in the parish register, extract these names. This rule also applies to females. For example, if you were extracting the above names, you would write, "LARS / BOTREIFS" and "KRISTINA / LINGSARVE." If a given name, patronymic surname, and locality name are used (such as Lars Andersson Botreifs), extract only
the given name and patronymic surname (for example, "LARS/ANDERSSON"). The locality name will not be used.

(Norway)

The use of farm names or locality names as family surnames was common and has been supported by legislation since 1923. When extracting, include the farm name where no patronymic surname is recorded.

Examples:

1. "The 12th of July 1785 was christened Endre Wennen's son, Joen." Wennen is a farm name indicating the family residence and should be extracted as the father's surname.

2. "Married the 13th of Oct. 1674 farmer Joen Revsdahl and Anna Olstad."

Revsdahl and Olstad are farm names indicating the residence of the bridegroom and bride and should be extracted as surnames.

3. "The 8th of Nov. 1820 christened Haagen Nielsen Hofstad and Ingeborg Olsdatter's daughter, Sigrid."

Hofstad is a farm name and should not be extracted as the father's surname because a patronymic surname (Nielsen) is included in the entry.

4. "Married the 27th of June 1845 Shoemaker Mads Jensen Grannen and Brithe Rasmusdatter Fordal."

Grannen and Fordal are farm names and should not be extracted because patronymic surnames (Jensen and Rasmusdatter) are included in the entry for the bridegroom and bride.

Military Names (Sweden)

Upon entering military service, a recruit was usually given a name other than a patronymic for identification purposes. Such names generally did not become established family surnames until more recently. Children of military personnel normally used the patronymic for their surname.

Abbreviated Names

Many entries contain names that have been abbreviated for recording convenience. For example, Christina may have been abbreviated Chr., Christ., Xstina, or Ch:.

It is not always possible to determine what name an abbreviation represents.

Example:

And:, Chris:, Marr:, and Ol:, Anders or Andreas; Christopher, Christen, or Christian; Maria or Margareta; Olof, Ola, or Olaus?
Other Resources Sweden

Cyndi’s List Sweden Links
http://www.cyndislist.com/sweden.htm

Sweden Archives
http://longstrom.com/sweden_archives.htm

Sweden Article on Wikipedia

Sweden’s World Genweb Page
http://www.rootsweb.com/~wgsweden/

**Genealogical guidebook & atlas of Sweden** by Thomsen, Finn A.