SWEDISH GENEALOGY

BEGINNING SWEDISH GENEALOGY AND DISCUSSION OF RESOURCES

Kathy Meade
Presentation Overview

- Introduction
- Sweden
  - Country and Emigration
- Begin Your Search
  - Names and Spelling
  - Geography
- Find your Ancestor’s Place of Origin
  - Personal Sources
  - Public Sources
- Swedish Records
- Church Records
- Case Studies
- Questions and Answers
SWEDEN - THE COUNTRY

- Northern Europe
  - Scandinavian
  - Nordic
  - Member of EU
- Capital - Stockholm
- Population – 9 million
- Area – 174,000 square miles
Swedish Emigration

• 1638 – New Sweden
  – Royal colony – Delaware river
  – 700 to 800 Swedes settled in the area
  – Colony took over by Dutch 1655

• Large emigration 1840 – 1930
• 1.25 million emigrated
Getting Started - Books

- **Recommended Reading**
  - *Your Swedish Roots: A Step by Step Handbook*
    - Per Clemensson & Kjell Andersson
  - *Cradled in Sweden*
    - Carl-Erik Johansson
Getting Started – Online Resources

Guides and Tips

– **Family Search Wiki – Sweden**

– **Tracing your Swedish Heritage**
  • http://genealogy.about.com/library/weekly/aa062601a.htm

– **Swedish Roots**
  • http://www.genealogi.se/roots/
Welcome to the Sweden portal page! FamilySearch Wiki is a community website dedicated to helping people throughout the world learn how to find their ancestors. Through the Sweden Portal page you can learn how to find, use, and analyze Swedish records of genealogical value. The content is variously targeted to beginners, intermediate, and expert researchers. Please visit the help page to learn more about using the site. The Sweden Portal Page is a work in progress, your contributions and feedback are essential!
Preparing for the dig

• Swedish Alphabet
  – Three distinct and separate letters following “z’
  – Å Ä Ö

• Names
  – Patronymics
  – Military Names
  – Nobility, Clergy, Townsfolk

• Geography
  – Parish is key
Swedish Alphabet

• Swedish Alphabet
  – Three distinct and separate letters following “z’
  – Å Ä Ö å ä ö

• Typing Swedish characters
  – å, Å : ALT + 0229, ALT + 0197
  – ä, Ä : ALT + 0228, ALT + 0196
  – ö, Ö : ALT + 0246, ALT + 0214
Names - Patronymics

Johan Persson

Birgitta Johansdotter  Erik Johansson

Maria Eriksdotter  Karl Eriksson

Sven Karlsson
Names

- Soldier Names
  - Personal character
    - Stark (strong), Rapp (quick)
  - Military
    - Pantzar, Kula (bullet)
  - Associated with place where soldier served
- Some kept name after military service whereas other didn’t
Other Names

• Nobility
  – Less than 1% of population
  – Special noble names
    • e.g. vonRosen, Drakenberg, Bonde
  – Nobility listings
    • Printed calendars Adelskalendern
• Priests
  – Names with Greek or Roman endings (-ander, ius) from the names of the parishes or their birthplaces
• Townspeople
  – Changed name so not perceived as “common folk”
  – Nature names – Lindberg, Ekberg
    • Berg – mountain
    • Borg – castle
    • Blom – flower
    • Dal valley
    • Holm little island
    • Strand – beach
American Names

• Emigrants
  – Kept the patronymic
  – Used the surname they already had
    • Anglicized the name
      – Dropped the double s
      – Phonetic spelling
      – Karl – Charles
      – Ljung – Young
      – Bengtsson – bentson, benson
  – Made up a totally new name

• Tips
  – Patronymics
    • Son of
    • Daughter of
    • Possessive 2 s’ – Andersson
  – No Surnames
    • Child will have no surname in records until moving out of household
    – Wife keeps maiden name
Geography - Swedish Counties vs. Provinces
The Swedish Counties

Sweden
Counties: 24
Parishes: 2,700

Härad = district
Socken or församling = parish
Swedish Geography

- **Geographical Divisions**
  - County (*län*)
    - Tax records
    - Civil Registrations (SCB)
  - Judicial Districts
    - (*härad*)
      - Judicial Records
  - Parishes (2700+)
    - *Socken* or *församlingar*
      - Church Records

- **Parishes**
  - Rural
    - District (*Rotar*)
      - Village (*by*)
      - Estate (*herrgård*)
      - Farm (*gård*)
      - Croft (*torp*)
  - City
    - Blocks (*kvarters*)
      - House numbers
Resources - Maps and Gazetteers

- **Swedish Gazetteer**
  - [http://www.sna.se/gazetteer.html](http://www.sna.se/gazetteer.html)

- **Swedish Atlas – 1992 County Map**

- **National Land Survey of Sweden**
  - Check for historical Maps

- **Rosenberg Gazetteer**
  - CD
  - National Swedish Archives – SVAR
    - [http://www.svar.ra.se/](http://www.svar.ra.se/)
Find your ancestor’s place of origin

• Personal Sources
  – Family Members
  – Family Bible
  – Letters – Post Cards – Photographs
  – Diaries
  – Vital documents (birth, marriage, death certificates)
Find your ancestor’s place of origin

- Public Records
  - U.S Census Records
    - 1900 Census gives birth year and month and emigration year
  - U. S. Naturalization Records
  - State Census Records
  - Swedish American church records
  - Swedish-American newspapers
  - City Directories
Find your Ancestor’s Place of Origin

• **Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center**
  – [http://www.augustana.edu/swenson/index.htm](http://www.augustana.edu/swenson/index.htm)
  
  – Swedish-American Church Records
  – Swedish-American Lodge Records
  – Name indexes to Illinois books
  – Name indexes to Texas books
  – Name indexes to California
Find your Ancestor’s Place of Origin

• Emigration Records
  – 1820-1850
    • Printed Book – Nils William Olsson
      – *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in US 1820-1850*
      – *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York 1820-1850*
  – 1851-1860
    • SCB – 14,000 names – microfilm
  – 1865-1940
    • Emigrant lists (SCB) – county level – microfilm
Find your Ancestor’s Place of Origin

- **Swedish Passenger Ship Lists**
  - 1869-1950
    - Index
      - Landsarkivet in Göteborg
      - Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö
      - Swenson Center in Rock Island, IL
    - 1.4 million names – Source Police Records
      - Emigranten – 2 volume CD
      - Emigranten Populär CD
        » Available also on Ancestry World Edition

- **Norwegian Emigrants** – Digitalarkivet [www.digitalarkivet.no](http://www.digitalarkivet.no)
- **Danish Emigrants** – [www.emiarch.dk](http://www.emiarch.dk)
- **Emibas CD**
  - 1.1 million names 1845-1930
  - Source church records
- **Emiweb.se** – Emigration records - $ subscription site
Danish Emigration Records
http://www.emiarch.dk/
Search UK migration records 1793 - 1960

We have a wide range of records designed to help you uncover details of your UK ancestors who moved, travelled, or worked abroad.

Our exclusive Passenger Lists, available in partnership with The National Archives, hold the details of over 24 million passengers leaving the UK on long-haul voyages between 1890 and 1960.

Use our Passenger Lists in combination with the Register of Passport Applications, and our other migration records, to learn more about the movements of your nineteenth and twentieth-century ancestors.

You can search for free, you’ll just need to pay to look at transcripts and original records.

Discover which of our payment options is best for you.

<table>
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<th>Migration</th>
<th>Search</th>
<th>PayAsYouGo Credits</th>
<th>Subscriptions</th>
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<td>Search</td>
<td>5-30</td>
<td>Full</td>
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Find your ancestor’s parish

- Emibas CD
  - 1.1 million name of emigrants leaving Sweden between 1845 and 1930
  - Searchable
    - Names
    - Place
    - Dates
  - Results
    - Birth information
    - Emigration information
**Emibas CD**

**Emibas**

Version 1.00

**EMIBAS**

**6959 selected records**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12004</td>
<td>Albrecht Bengtsson, Josefin Maria</td>
<td>1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**Emigration group**

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albrecht, Axel John William</td>
<td>1/26/1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albrecht Bengtsson, Maria</td>
<td>1868</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sakaner eftermann), John Brydolf 10/8/1891

**Source:**


**Emibas migration file ID:** Halmstad N 1892 083

**Un-normalized versions:**

- Country of destination: Usa

- Emigrated 5/11/1892
- from Slottsmöllan, Halmstad, Hallands län (Halland) to USA
EmiWeb – www.emiweb.se

EmiWeb is the first web based archive of its kind covering migration to and from Scandinavia. It’s a profit organisation within non-profit organisations. The purpose is getting archives online and contribute to non-profit organisations research and development.

Archives in EmiWeb

- The Danish emigration database (400 000) Now!
- Swedish emigration (1 100 000)
- Swedish immigration (Davieborg, Västerbotten, Örebro and Värmland counties 35 000)
- Obituaries from Swedish-American newspapers (63 000)
- Obituaries from Värmland newspapers (4 300)

News

090636: OBS! EmiWeb will be down for maintenance work between 15-17 of June 2005. This means that there will be very limited of no access during this period. If you have questions about this, please contact support.

090626: The Swedish American book index now available, approx. 20 000 records.

090526: The Danish emigration database are now available, approx. 400 000 records.

The database contains over 1.6 million records with emigrants, immigrants, obituaries and much more.

Customers are now members

As a customer of EmiWeb you’re now also a member of the association. This means that you will get information about activities arranged by EmiWeb, such as: conferences and lectures regarding migration history.

We look forward to an exciting spring of 2009 with new archive owners in EmiWeb.
Swedish Records

- Census
  - 1880, 1890, 1900 – Complete
  - 1910, 1870, 1860 Partial
- Church Records
  - Parish
  - Civil registrations – annual extracts sent by ministers to Statistics Central Bureau (SCB) beginning in 1860
- Mantalängd – tax records (county)
- Jordeböcker (land records detailing property owners)
- Court Records
  - Bouppteckningar – probate records
    - Inventories of the estates of deceased persons
  - Domböcker - Court decisions
- Military Records
Swedish Church Records

- Swedish Church Maintained Vital Records Until 1991 – **Church Records are Primary Source**
- Background
  - Church ministers began keeping parish records in the 1500’s
  - Swedish Law 1686 mandated ministers to keep parish records
Civil Registration Records

- Statistiska Centralbyrån — SCB
  - Often called Civil Registrations
  - Law 1860 required ministers to send extracts of birth, marriage, deaths and emigration lists to SCB and every 10 years a census record
  - Records are at county level versus parish level
Swedish Church Records

- Record Types
  - Births and Christenings
  - Banns and Marriages
  - Deaths and Burials
  - Moving In Registers
  - Moving Out Registers
  - Church Accounts
  - Household Examination Book or Clerical Survey
Swedish Church Records (Cont.)

• Household Examination Record
  – Household examination (husförhör) – "clerical survey"
  – Purpose for minister to check to see how his parishioners were doing physically and spiritually
  – Examples of information
    • Name
    • Birth date, birth place,
    • Marriage information
    • Catechism understanding
    • Moving Information
    • Vaccination Information
Church Records – Where do you find them?

- Original books
  - Most books up to 1991
  - Some cases in parish
  - Regional archives within Sweden
- Microfilms and Microfiche
  - Records up to 1920
    - SVAR
    - Family History Library
- Online Sources
  - Genline.com $
  - Svar.ra.se $
  - Ancestry.com $
  - arkivdigital.se $
  - Familysearch.org
Swedish National Archives Site
www.svar.ra.se – Other Records

Swedish National Archives $$

- Census records
  Complete for 1880, 1890 and 1900 and parts of 1910
  1860 and 1870 available for a few Northern counties

- Tax registers from 1642-1820

- Rosenberg Gazetteer

- Seaman Register
  - Härnösand, Gamlakarleby, Västervik, Hudiksvall, Söderhamn, Gävle, Karlskrona, Oskarshamn, Visby and Örnsköldsviks

- Military Records
Stockholm City Archives
http://www.ssa.stockholm.se/

- Stockholm City Archives – Free site
  - Rote Database (1878 – 1926)
  - Death Index (1878-1926) – Not all Stockholm parishes
  - Orphanage (*Barnhus*) registers (1798 – 1908)
  - Tax register index (mantalsregister) (1800 -1883) & 1909
ArkivDigital.net

• **Types of Records**
  – Photographed Images of Church Books
    • Not all of Sweden but most counties are complete
  – Probate Records
  – Court Records
  – Military
  – Prison Records
  – School Records
Ancestry.com

- Types of Records
  - Swedish Church Records 1500-1940
    - The Genline collection has been added to Ancestry’s World Deluxe Collection
  - Swedish Emigration Records
    - Passenger Ship Index Registers
    - Gothenburg Passenger Ship Manifests
Discover Astrid Lindgren’s Ancestry

- Astrid Lindgren (1907 –2002)
  - Author of Pippi Longstocking books
  - Published over 100 books
  - Translated to more than 70 languages
  - Influenced by childhood growing up in small farm in Småland
Discover Astrid Lindgren’s Ancestry

WHAT WE KNOW

• Astrid Lindgren was born in 1907 in Näs, parish Vimmerby Landsförsamling, county Kalmar

• Her father, Samuel August, was born, January 5, 1875 in the parish Pelarne, in county Kalmar

GOAL

• Find Samuel August’s birth record