

Sweden

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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, [COUNTY], [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.

RECORDS SELECTION TABLE

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.

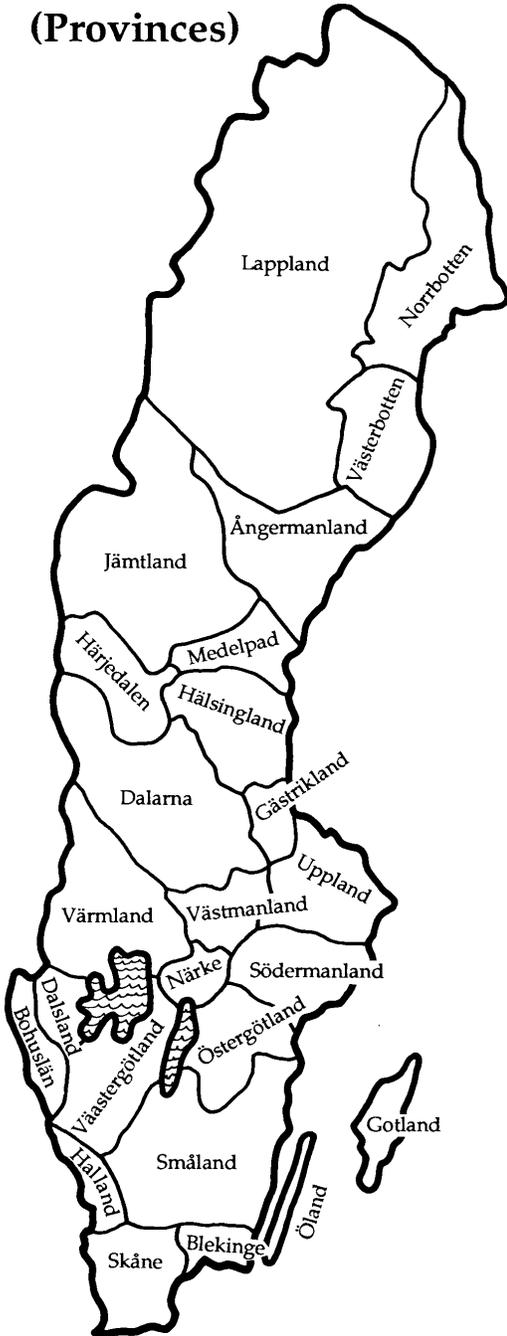
The terms used in columns 2 and 3 are the same as the subject headings used in this outline and in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog.

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.

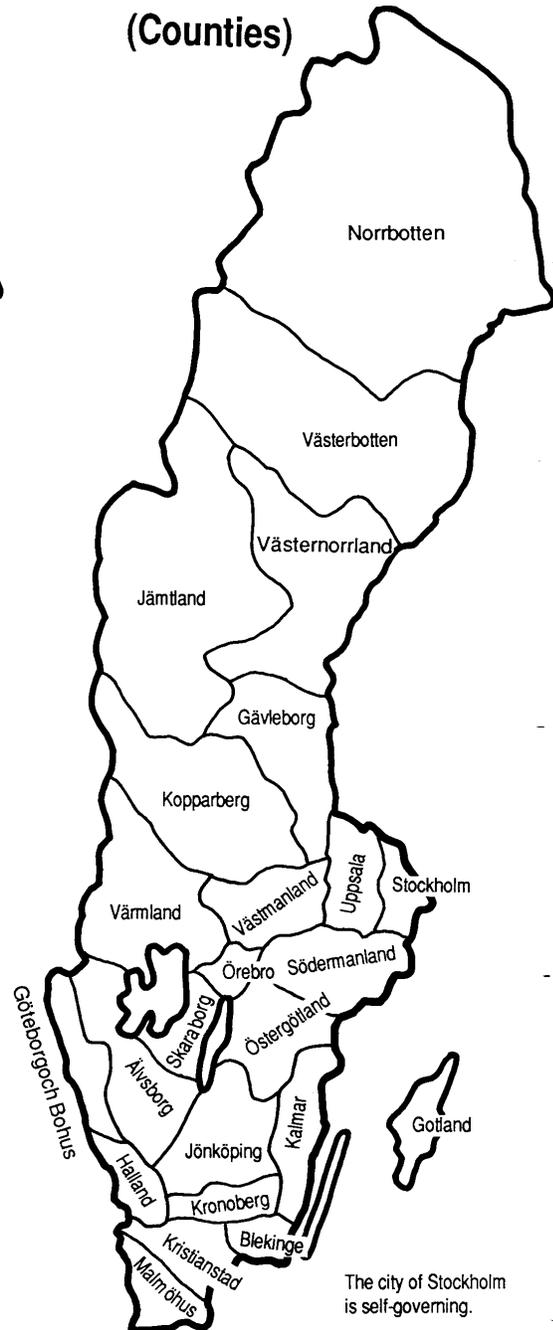
1. If You Need	2. Look First In	3. Then Search
Age	Church Records Civil Registration (after 1860)	Census
Birth date	Church Records Civil Registration (after 1860)	—
Birthplace	Church Records Civil Registration (after 1860)	—
Death	Church Records Civil Registration (after 1860)	Probate Records
Emigration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

MAP OF SWEDEN

LANDSKAP
(Provinces)



LAN
(Counties)



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:

Jägerskiöld, Olof. *Riksarkivet 1618-1968* (National Archives 1618-1968). Stockholm: P.A. Norstedt & Söner, 1968. (FHL book 948.5 J5j.)

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.)

The Scandinavian Biographical Archives. New York: K.G. Saur, 1989. (On microfiche 6060424-31, 6060441-45, 6060452-66. Index in FHL book 948 D32s.) The second section contains Swedish and Finnish biographical sketches. The information is from many sources. Both sections are in alphabetical order. You will find the microfiche numbers in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under SWEDEN - BIOGRAPHY.

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:

Lext, Gösta. *Mantalskrivningen i Sverige före 1860* (Census Records in Sweden before 1860). Göteborg: Göteborgs Universitet, 1968. (FHL Book 948.5 X21.)

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:

Pastorexpeditionen
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.

	Original Lists	Indexes
Göteborg	1869-1920	1869-1951
Malmö	1874-1939	1874-1886; 1888-1929; 1931-1939
Norrköping		1860-1921
Stockholm	1869-1904	1869-1920

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: www.swemi.netrix.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:

Clemensson, Per and Kjell Andersson. *Emigrantforskning! Steg för steg* (Emigration Research. Step by Step). Falköping: Gummessons Tryckeri AB, 1996. (FHL book 948.5 D27ce.)

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:

Olsson, Nils William and Erik Wikèn. *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States 1820-1850*. Stockholm: N. W. Olsson and E. Wikèn, 1995. (FHL book 973 W3on.)

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

ENCYCLOPEDIAS 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.

GAZETTEERS

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:

Svensk ortförteckning: till bruk för trafikverken och deras kunder (Swedish Postal and Shipping Guide). Stockholm: C. E. Fritzes kungl hovbokhandel, 1935. (FHL book 948.5 E8sv; film 418349; 1960 edition fiche 6030028-37; 1968 edition film 547579.)

Svenska orter, atlas över Sverige med ortbeskrivning (Swedish Topographical Dictionary and Atlas). Stockholm: Generalstabens Litografiska Anstalt, 1932. (FHL book 948.5 E5so; films 874376-78.)

Höjer, Magnus Mauritz. *Konungariket Sverige: en topografisk statistisk beskrifning med historiska anmärkningar* (Topographical, Statistical Dictionary of Sweden). Stockholm: Jos. Seligmann, 1875-1883. (FHL book 948.5 E5h; films 824123-24.)

Rosenberg, Carl Martin. *Geografiskt-statistiskt handlexikon öfver Sverige* (Swedish Gazetteer with Statistical Information). Stockholm: A.V. Carlsson,

1882-1883. (FHL book 948.5 E5r; films 873678-79; fiche 6030050-074.) Reprinted. Göteborg: Landsarkivet och Genealogisk ungdom, 1982.

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 slägtkalender* (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).

Elgenstierna, Gustaf and Ulla Elgenstierna, comp. *Svenska sälltkalendern* (Genealogies of Well-Known Swedish Families). Stockholm: Albert Bonniers förlag, 1912-1950. (FHL book 948.5 D25sk.)

This work has been superseded by:

Berg, Gösta, ed. *Svenska slätkalendern. Ny följd* (Genealogies of Well-Known Swedish Families. Continued). Stockholm: Albert Bonniers förlag, 1962-. (FHL book 948.5 D25sk.)

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.)

Dahlby, Frithiof. *Svensk heraldisk uppslagsbok* (Reference Book of Swedish Heraldry). Stockholm: Bonniers, 1964. (FHL book 948.5 D6da.)

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:

Den Svenska historien (Swedish History). Stockholm: Albert Bonniers Förlag, 1966. 10 vols. (FHL Scand book 948.5 H2dh.)

Scott, Franklin D. *Sweden, The Nation's History*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1977. (FHL book 948.5 H2sc.)

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:

Nöjd, Ruben. *McKay's Modern English-Swedish and Swedish-English Dictionary*. New York: McKay, 1954. (FHL book 439.7321 N699m.)

Ernolv, Carl. *Svensk-engelsk ordbok* (Swedish-English Dictionary). Stockholm: P.A. Norstedt, 1947. (FHL book 439.7321 Er65s; film 1124531 item 12.)

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:

KAK bilatlas (Maps of Sweden). Stockholm: Generalstabens Litografiska Anstalts Förlag, 1975. (FHL book 948.5 E3k.)

Svenska orter-atlas över Sverige (Swedish Topographical Dictionary and Atlas). Stockholm: Generalstabens Litografiska Anstalts Förlag, 1932. (FHL book 948.5 E5so; films 874376-378.)

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:

Grill, C. (Claes Lorentz). *Statistiskt sammandrag af Svenska indelningsverket* (Statistical Digest of the Swedish Army System). Stockholm: Isaac Marcus, 1856. (FHL book 948.5 M27g, film 084652.) Reprint. Goteborg: Landsarkivet och Sveriges Släktforskarförbund, 1988.

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:

Kungliga fortifikationens historia (History of the Royal Swedish Fortification). Stockholm: Norstedts, 1902-1945. (FHL book 948.5 M2kh.)

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

The Royal Military Archives. Stockholm: krigsarkivet, 1984 (Värnamo: Fälths tr.). (FHL book 948.5 A1 #67.)

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:

Handlingar, 1757-1880 (Army Pension Records). Salt Lake City: Filmed for the Genealogical Society of Utah by AB. Rekolid, 1957. (FHL films 167779-862.)

Meritband, 1751-1849 (Army Pension Records). Salt Lake City: Filmed for the Genealogical Society of Utah by AB. Rekolid, 1957. (FHL films 167652 items 1-2, 167732, 167654-167778.)

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.)

Biografica, 1556-1955 (Biographical Notes of Army Officers and Others). Salt Lake City: Filmed for the Genealogical Society of Utah by AB. Rekolid, 1957. (FHL films 190699-877.) Contains an excellent biographical collection of notes, newspaper clippings, and obituaries.

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:

Kjällerström, P. A. (Per August). *Svenska dopnamn och släktnamn* (Swedish Given Names and Surnames). Stockholm: Wahlström & Widstrand, 1913. (FHL films 1440226 item 14.)

Otterbjörk, Roland. *Svenska förnamn: krotfattat namnlexikon* (Swedish Given Names: A Brief Dictionary of Names). Stockholm: Esselte Studium, 1979. (FHL book 948.5 D4o.)

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.)

Elgenstierna, Gustaf. *Den introducerade Svenska adelns ättartavlor: med tillägg och rättelser* (Genealogy of the Introduced Nobility of Sweden). Stockholm: P.A. Norstedt & Söners Förlag, 1925-1936. (FHL book 948.5 D5e; films 1440193-5.)

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:

The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly. Chicago: The Society, 1982-. (FHL book 973 B25sp.)

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 tidskrift (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:

Parishes and Maps of Sweden. Family History Library, 1992. (FHL book 948.5 E77p; fiche 6068254.)

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:

Lorenzen, Lilly. *Of Swedish Ways*. Minneapolis: Dillon Press, Inc., 1981. (FHL book 948.5 H6lo.)

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

Personhistoriska Samfundet (The Personal History Association of Sweden)
Riksarkivet
Box 12541
102 29 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, Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc., 1995. (FHL book 948.5 D27j.)

Clemensson, Per and Kjell Andersson. *Släktforskning! Steg för steg* (Guidebook to Swedish Genealogy). Stockholm: LTs förlag, 1983. (FHL book 948.5 D27c.)

Clemensson, Per and Kjell Andersson. *Hembygdsforskning! Steg för steg* (Guide to Local History). Stockholm: LTs förlag, 1990. (FHL book 948.5 D27ca.)

Thorsell, Elisabeth and Ulf Schenkmanis. *Släktforskning-vägen till din egen historia* (Genealogy, The Road to Your Own History). Västerås: ICA-Förlaget, 1993.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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

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