

TRACING
YOUR SWEDISH
ANCESTRY



In this map of Sweden, cities in which the regional archives are located are indicated with circles. Other major Swedish cities are indicated with solid circles.

TRACING YOUR SWEDISH ANCESTRY

by James E. Erickson and Nils William Olsson

SWEDISH INFORMATION SERVICE
NEW YORK

This is a new edition of Nils William Olsson's *Tracing Your Swedish Ancestry*. The booklet has been revised several times since the first edition appeared in 1963, and it has enjoyed a wide circulation, particularly in North America.

As the popularity and enthusiasm for tracing one's ancestry has grown and the availability of new Internet resources has revolutionized the way we conduct research, now is an opportune time to present an updated version of Dr. Olsson's useful guide.

The Swedish Information Service is greatly indebted to James E. Erickson, PhD., Normandale Community College, Bloomington, MN, and Editor of the journal *Swedish American Genealogist* for all his efforts in preparing this new edition.

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INTRODUCTION.

With each passing year, more and more Americans visit Europe. Those of Swedish origin take the opportunity to visit the land of their ancestors, many of them hoping to find the original parish, city, or farm from which their immigrant ancestor came. Many are successful in their quest. They are able to locate the source of their origin—the medieval church where their ancestors worshiped, the city streets that they walked, or the old farm or cottage where they lived. Some are even fortunate enough to locate distant relatives with whom they have been able to reknit bonds of kinship.

Others who make the trip, perhaps the first and only such journey of their lives, also hope to find something concerning their ancestors. Having arrived in Sweden, however, they find that they do not have the information necessary to identify any ancestral places with certainty, much less of finding any living relatives. The journey, perhaps begun on a high note of expectancy, becomes fraught with frustration and disappointment as the visitor attempts in vain to recollect or reconstruct the name of the parish of the ancestor's birth, the port of embarkation, or even the surname of the ancestor.

Americans planning a visit to the land of their forebears spend many hours and even days in preparation for the journey. They equip themselves with the latest luggage, the necessary clothing, the finest of cameras, and adequate funds. They read illustrated travel guides concerning Sweden, they trace their travel routes on Swedish maps, and they discuss hotels and sightseeing with their travel agent. In fact, many plan their itinerary in minutest detail, with one glaring exception—they fail to ground themselves sufficiently in their family's background. At best, their information is sketchy, incomplete and, at times, even faulty. Thus, when they arrive in Sweden, they are often stunned to find that the problem is much more complex than anticipated. Having learned that the original immigrant came from Stockholm, they learn that Stockholm and its environs contain dozens of parishes. They learn that such places as

Småland or Dalarna or Värmland are extensive areas that contain a multitude of parishes, each with its own records and history. Unless endowed with extraordinary luck, such travelers will not attain one of the goals of their visit; but, instead, will return to America disappointed that their pilgrimage of the heart did not produce what they had hoped.

The aim of this brief study, therefore, is to provide prospective travelers to Sweden, or students of Swedish family history, with the basic guidelines by which they can plan their journey before actual departure. By checking oral and written records and doing a little advance research into the family history, they should be able to add much to the enjoyment of their trip. Newly discovered relatives can also add new dimensions to the journey, by giving visitors a better insight into Swedish life and culture. Therefore, a well-planned journey, which also includes a thorough preparation in the area of one's background and origin, can give the visitor more than he or she possibly had hoped for.

Any search by Americans for ancestors in Sweden must, however, begin on American soil. Hence the search becomes a two-fold project — one dealing with the family in the United States or Canada and the other with the family in Sweden. The Swedish portion cannot be properly studied or surveyed until the American segment is known.

RESEARCH IN AMERICA.

Since any genealogical research must begin with an individual, it is incumbent upon you to know something about yourself, before you venture into the area of preceding generations. This may seem elementary, but it is nonetheless most important.

Let us assume, however, that you, as a student of family history, know your own origin — your birth date and birthplace. You should then proceed to the next step, that of finding all there is to know about your parents. If they are alive and were born in Sweden, the task becomes quite easy. It is then only necessary to ask them for their birth dates and the names of the parishes in which they were born. Since there are more than 2,500 parishes in Sweden, some with duplicate names, it is also important to know the name of the county (*län*) in which a particular parish is located. For example, the counties of Halland, Kronoberg, Västmanland, Västra Götaland, and Östergötland each have a parish named Torpa.

Another important thing to ascertain is the original Swedish name of an ancestor in question, that is, how a particular individual's name was registered in the Swedish records. Many Swedes changed their names upon arrival in the United States, whether for the sake of convenience of spelling, or the desire to anglicize their names, or the need to drop Swedish names that in English had a peculiar sound or a derogatory meaning. Included in this latter category would be such names as *Hellberg*, *Hellqvist*, *Högberg*, *Högström*, and *Rot*.

Thousands of Swedes changed their names as easily as they changed their shirts. There are a great many examples, including the following: *Persson* was changed to *Perkins*, *Olsson* to *Oliver* or *Wilson*, *Sjöstrand* to *Seashore*, *Berg* to *Berry* or *Barry*, *Löfto Leaf*, *Björkegren* to *Burke*, *Löfgren* to *Lovegreen*, *Stadig* to *Sturdy*, *Sköld* to *Shold*, and *Stålhammar* to *Steele*. Patronymics like *Johnsson*, *Jansson*, *Jeansson*, *Jonasson*, *Johansson*, *Johannesson*, and *Jonsson* all fused into the form of *Johnson*.

If the Swedish ancestor was a woman who married in the United States, it is important to know her maiden name as recorded originally in Sweden. Many female immigrants of the last century used the older patronymic that ended in *-dotter*, as for example *Andersdotter*, *Persdotter*, *Jansdotter*, *Karlsdotter*, and *Samuelsdotter*, indicating that they were daughters of *Anders*, *Per*, *Jan*, *Karl*, or *Samuel*, respectively. Often these women changed their names to the easier *-son* form.

So far we have dealt with cases where the researcher can go directly to an individual, whether this be a parent, grandparent, aunt, or great-uncle, who came from Sweden. The information gathered from such a source is primary material

and is usually adequate to enable you to pursue the hunt on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, provided that it is correct. It is most important, therefore, to check the original spelling of the immigrant's name and the parish name, as well as the dates of birth and emigration.

Where it is impossible to find living relatives from whom to procure such cardinal items, the researcher must make use of such records as exist. These are usually of the following two types: 1) personal documents that are to be found in the custody of relatives, and 2) public documents that are to be found in libraries, archives, and official institutions.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTS.

Virtually every person has an innate desire to keep personal papers, documents, and legal instruments. These should be utilized to the greatest extent possible, in order to determine how much information is available about the family, both in this country and in Sweden. They are of the following types:

1. *Flyttningsbetyg (fig. 1)*

This is the official exit permit issued by the pastor of the parish in Sweden from which the immigrant came. It is an important document, since technically Swedes could not leave their home parish without this permit. It provides a person's full name, date of birth, place of birth, character reference, and knowledge of the Catechism and the Bible. It probably also gives the name of the parish to which an individual moved or, if an emigrant came directly to America, the destination is given merely as *Norra Amerika*, since many did not know precisely where they were going. This type of document is extremely useful in providing the pertinent information from which to proceed directly to Swedish records. Unfortunately, many of these documents have been lost through the years, particularly at times of settling estates, when the documents, written in Swedish, often were destroyed.

2. *The Family Bible (fig. 2)*

For most people the Bible was the most important book and often a treasured possession. Since it was usually handed down from father to son, it was used to record important dates in the history of the family — births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials.

3. *Letters to and from Sweden (fig. 3)*

Old letters, extant from earlier days and written in Swedish, can often be discovered among family papers. Though the language may be unintelligible to latter-day descendants, the letter or postal card may yield an old address in Sweden, which can be a valuable clue in determining the origin of the family. Sometimes the postmark on a Swedish letter may give a clue. Instances are known where an inquiry to the Swedish post office or the clergyman in the parish has brought results. Letters such as the one shown in figure 3, reported to loved ones in the old country on conditions in the new land. These came in Sweden to be called *Amerikabrev* ("America letters").

4. *Diaries*

Written in Swedish or English, these documents can be of inestimable value in pinpointing vital information.

5. Certificates of Naturalization

Most Swedes who immigrated to America sought American citizenship as soon as possible. Declarations of Intention of becoming U.S. citizens or Certificates of Naturalization are, therefore, important documents (*fig. 4*). While they may not always give the birthplace, they may give the date of entry into the United States, an important factor in further research. They may also give the name of the vessel on which the immigrant came to the United States. A U.S. Passport (*fig. 5*) could in some cases also provide the date when the citizenship was actually granted.

6. Documents of Vital Statistics

Birth, marriage, and death certificates in private possession are obviously excellent sources. To this should be added cemetery certificates, last wills and testaments, pension records for veterans, seamen's papers, and homesteading documents as well as land deeds. Letters from Sweden often contained clippings from provincial newspapers calling attention to family events, such as birthdays, weddings, and funerals. Such announcements are valuable in tracing the parish or getting the names of relatives who remained behind.

7. Photographs

Properly identified photographs may also be quite valuable since, in most cases, the photographer had his advertising card printed on the reverse side of the photo. If the picture was taken in Sweden, this clue can be of importance.

88 f

Flyttningsbevis. (Fol. 380)

19

Förman Jan Erik Jansson Philp
från *Ösjöhöjden*
och hans hustru *Ida Karolina Andersdotter*

Mannen	Enstran
är född den <i>5 Nov. 1849</i> (företags)	är född den <i>14 Juli 1850</i> (företags)
i <i>Hjulsjö</i> församling	i <i>Hjulsjö</i> församling
af <i>Örebro</i> län,	af <i>Örebro</i> län,
Har haft skyddskoppor, är döpt	Har haft skyddskoppor, är döpt
Innanläsning: <i>god</i>	Innanläsning: <i>god</i>
Kristendomskunskap: <i>ärogl. god</i>	Kristendomskunskap <i>god</i>
Bevistat förbären	Bevistat förbären
Till <i>H. H. Natvard</i> förhindrad <i>och har begär H. H. Natvard</i>	Till <i>H. H. Natvard</i> förhindrad <i>och har begär H. H. Natvard</i>
Eger medborgerligt förtroende.	Eger medborgerligt förtroende.

POLISKAMMAREN I GÖTTORP

Makarna, som blevo i äktenskap förenade den *1 November 1872* (företags) aflytta till *N. Amerika* församling af _____ län.

_____ mantalskrifven här till nästa år

Betygas *Hjulsjö* församling af *Örebro* län
den *29 Mars* 1888 (ämbets)

A. J. Andersson
P. L.

Vänd!

Förs. Betyg. Årsmöte
Blankett för Kyrka. N:o 10.

FIG. 1 An exit permit (flyttningsbevis — also known as flyttningsbetyg) issued to Jan Erik Jansson Philp and his wife Ida Karolina Andersdotter, born in Hjulsjö parish in Örebro län on 5 November 1849 and 14 July 1850, respectively. On the reverse side of the document, the names and birth dates of their three children (Carl Oskar, Jenny Kristina and Viktor Valdemar) are listed. The document indicates that the family left Ösjöhöjden in Hjulsjö parish for North America and is dated 29 March 1888.

Lenna Hellye, Bebbila, äger nu, af,
 Himmans ägeren, ~~Håkan Ohlsson~~
 och hustru, ~~Johanna~~
 Johanna Mathilda Bengtst~~en~~
 i Strömmarne af Sandsjö i Kronobergs län
 Länket. År 1873

~~Salomon Ahlgren~~
 Tiu hör HÅKANORDAHL

~~År 1868~~
 Dottern Ylva Augusta föddes i Strömmarne
 den 4 Augusti 1873

Men hustrun Johanna Mathilda Bengts dotter
 Konfirmationsdag i Sandsjö kyrka den 17^{de} Maj
 1863 Ps 119, 1, 2 Joh. 5: 39,

Men Konfirmationsdag var i Spånarsälatorps
 kyrka Söndagen den 29, Maj 1864

Dottern Helena Josephina föddes i Strömmarne
 den 21^{de} Augusti 1875

Dottern P. Cecilia föddes i Strömmarne
 den 2. September 1877

Sonen Johan Götafred föddes i Strömmarne
 den 20 Augusti 1879

Sonen Bengt Theodor föddes i White Bear
 Lake Minnesota North America den 11^{de}

FIG.2 Often vital statistical material is to be found in old family Bibles. This entry in a Bible, brought to Minnesota circa 1880, shows that Håkan Ohlsson, who later added Nordahl to his name, acquired this Bible from the school teacher in Sandsjö parish in Kronobergs län, whose name was Salomon Ahlgren. Håkan Ohlsson added the name of his wife and then listed the births of all his children, including a son, Bengt Theodor, born in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, 11 January 1883. Note that the family came from Strömmarna, a farm in Sandsjö parish.

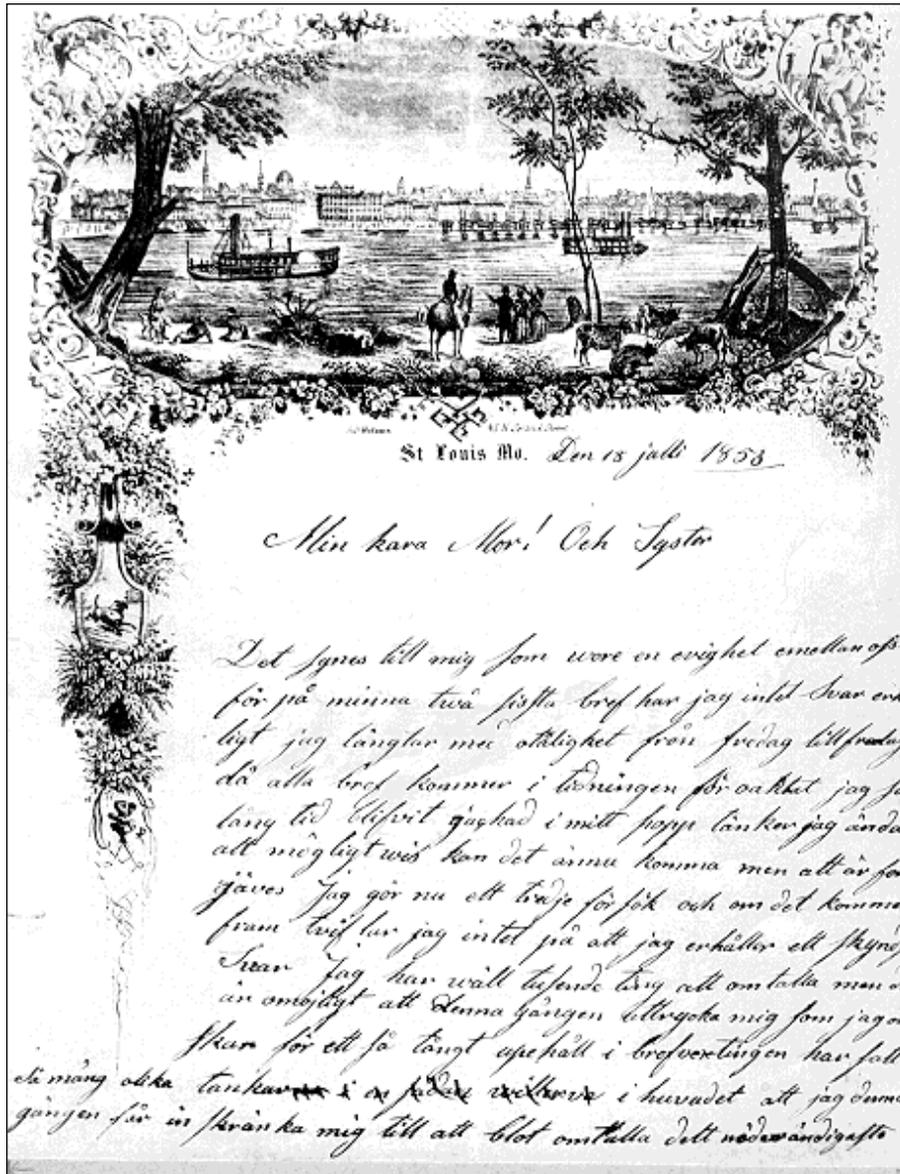


FIG. 3 Amerikabrev ("America letter") sent by Carl Johan Svensson from St. Louis, Missouri, 18 July 1853, to his mother and sister in the province of Skåne. Some of these early letters are invaluable for the local color and for the first-hand impressions they convey.

United States
of North America.



State of Pennsylvania, }
City of Philadelphia. }

BE IT KNOWN, that on the day and date hereof, before the undersigned Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by lawful authority duly elected and sworn, and by law authorized to administer oaths and affirmations, and issue certificates under my hand and the Corporate Seal of the said City, personally appeared *Johan Olof Liedberg* being of the following description:

<i>Age twenty eight years</i>	<i>Mouth of middling size</i>
<i>Height five feet eleven inches</i>	<i>Chin - round - full</i>
<i>Forehead - of ordinary description</i>	<i>Hair - light</i>
<i>Eyes light gray</i>	<i>Complexion - light</i>
<i>Nose ordinary shape & size</i>	<i>Face - full - round</i>

who produced satisfactory evidence that he is a Citizen of the United States of North America - having declared his intentions of so becoming in the Year 1843. as per document in his possession

whereof an attestation being required, I have granted this under my hand and the Corporate Seal of the said City, and hereby request all whom it may concern, to permit safely and freely to pass wheresoever his lawful pursuits may call him, the said

Johan Olof Liedberg

the person above described, and in case of need, to give him all lawful aid and protection.



Signature of the Mayor.

Johan Olof, Liedberg

Done at Philadelphia, this twenty sixth
day of February - 1850.

Jacob Jones MAYOR.

FIG. 5 An American passport issued to Johan Olof Liedberg (his name has been misspelled) in Philadelphia, 26 February 1850. These documents also list physical characteristics of the bearer, and in this instance the document also mentions that Liedberg received his U.S. citizenship in 1843.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

If you have exhausted the possibilities of finding personal papers that can aid in your search, you should then give attention to public documents. Older papers are usually found in archives, libraries, or special genealogical collections throughout the country. The following are the most useful:

1. *Passenger Manifests (figs. 7 and 8)*

Beginning in 1820, each master bringing in a vessel to the chief ports in the United States was required on oath to divulge the names of his passengers, their gender, age, occupation, country of nativity, and destination. The original passenger manifests were kept at the port of entry for many years, but are now housed in either the National Archives in Washington, D.C., or the Balch Institute in Philadelphia. The ship passenger list index for immigrants from Scandinavia is part of an ongoing project at the Temple-Balch Center for Immigration Research and, therefore, not yet available. Nonetheless, most of the original passenger manifests have been microfilmed and are available in the National Archives, the Family History Library of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City, or any Family History Center associated with a local Mormon church.

Researchers interested in early Swedish arrivals in U.S. ports are fortunate to have at their disposal the seminal work, *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States 1820-1850* (Stockholm 1995), written by Nils William Olsson and Erik Wikén. This valuable reference provides a comprehensive view of the more than 5,000 Swedish passengers who arrived in the United States during this early migration period.

2. *U.S. Census Records*

The federal censuses (population schedules) for the years 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910 and 1920 are available on microfilm. The 1890 census was destroyed by fire. It is possible to consult these in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., or in most public libraries, state historical societies, and larger genealogical collections.

3. *U.S. Naturalization Records*

Registers listing foreigners who either took out intentions of becoming U.S. citizens or who finally received their naturalization papers are not to be found in a central depository. They are scattered throughout the country in the municipal, district, and federal courts. They often give valuable information about an individual's birthplace, date of arrival in the United States, and the name of the vessel on which the individual arrived. The naturalization records for the New England states are now available in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

4. Vital Statistics

While the registration of births, marriages, and deaths shows a great unevenness throughout the country — some communities having waited until the beginning of the twentieth century before recording vital statistics — there are a number of communities that have records going back to the nineteenth century. Death certificates can be very important, since they often give birth date and birth-place as well as next of kin. These records are to be found in local city halls or county courthouses. In some states, the records have been centralized in the state capital.

5. Military Records

The National Archives in Washington, D.C., has an excellent collection of military records going back to the Revolutionary War. For determining the country of origin, however, one cannot get much information prior to the Civil War. Beginning with this conflict, the records are more specific as to date of birth and often place of birth. The pension records housed in the National Archives are also an excellent source.

6. Land Records

With the opening up of the western lands through the establishment of the Homestead Act in 1862, it became possible for immigrants to purchase land inexpensively from the federal government. The records of these transactions may sometimes help in determining the early years of the immigrant's life. It is necessary, however, to have a complete description of the land. The Land Record Office in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., has many records that can be helpful. Otherwise, it is best to go to the Registrar of Deeds in the local county courthouse.

7. Church Records

Contrary to the practice in Sweden, where the clergy of the established Lutheran Church were required to keep careful vital statistics of parishioners, the American churches, being disestablished, have never been obliged to keep records of their church members or their vital statistics. However, many churches did; and, if the church to which the immigrant belonged is known, it is quite often possible to get the information from these church books. This is particularly true of the Augustana Lutheran Church (formerly an independent synod; now part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), which, as the daughter church of the Lutheran Church in Sweden, often accepted at full value the *flyttningsbevis* (fig.1) as the official record of transfer from the Old World to the New.

Most Augustana Lutheran churches, as well as many other immigrant congregations in such denominations as the Evangelical Covenant, Evangelical Free, Methodist, Baptist, and a few Episcopal churches, kept fairly good membership records. In the Augustana churches, the tradition was kept more conscientiously, and it is often possible to find the parish of birth in Sweden, the date of birth, as well as the date of arrival in the United States. An eleven-year project designed to microfilm Swedish-American church archives, which was sponsored by the Wallenberg Foundation and carried out by the Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö, Sweden, resulted in 1,651 rolls of microfilm representing 1,710 Swedish-American parishes. Complete sets of these microfilms, as well as indexes organized by state, name of community, and name(s) of parish(es) in that community, are available for researchers at the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, and the Swedish Emigrant Institute (*Svenska Emigrantinstitutet*), Växjö, Sweden.

8. *Swedish-American Newspapers*

Swedish immigrants in the United States were zealous newspaper readers who longed for news from the old country as well as stories about Swedish immigrants in the New World. Hundreds of Swedish-American newspapers were published from coast to coast for shorter or longer periods. Columns of these newspapers were often devoted to personal notices — primarily marriages, deaths, and birthdays. Often these files can give vital information about generations now long since gone. Files of these newspapers can be found in many libraries, particularly the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, the University of Chicago Library, the University of Illinois Library, the Augustana College Library, and the Minnesota Historical Society Library. In Sweden, the Royal Library (*Kungliga Biblioteket*) in Stockholm has one of the largest extant collections of Swedish-American newspapers. A project sponsored by Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, and the Royal Library in Stockholm has, to date, resulted in the microfilming of 236 Swedish-American newspapers published in North America. Over 1,500 rolls of microfilm are currently accessible to researchers either at the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, or through inter-library loan.

9. *City Directories*

City directories, published by cities and towns throughout the United States, can be of great help in locating missing relatives. Although they have a distinct value, they must be used with caution, since they are a secondary source and sometimes carelessly edited. General collections of U.S. city directories and telephone catalogues are to be found in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Each city or town library, however, usually maintains a fairly complete set of the directories of its own community.

DISTRICT OF NEW YORK—PORT OF NEW YORK.

I, *Andrus Timney* do solemnly, sincerely and truly swear, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of New York, contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the *Br. Brig Victor* whereof I am Master, from *Göteborg, Swed.*

So Help me God,

Sworn to this *17th* day of *August* 1850
 Before me *Andrus Timney*
 List of Manifest of Passengers taken on board the *Br. Brig Victor* whereof *Victor* is Master, from *Göteborg, Swed.* to New York, on the *17th* day of *August* 1850.

Names	The country to which they are bound to	whereof
<i>A. B. Nyberg</i>	<i>Sweden</i>	tons,
<i>A. C. Nyberg</i>	<i>Sweden</i>	
<i>A. C. Nyberg</i>	<i>Sweden</i>	
<i>E. Nyberg</i>	<i>Sweden</i>	
<i>Sarah</i>	<i>Sweden</i>	

A. Timney

FPO
 existing scan might be better?

FIG.7 Passenger manifest of the British brig Viktor, which arrived in New York, 17 August 1850, from Göteborg, Sweden.

List of all passengers taken on board the Swedish Bark Virginia, whereof Erik Sandgren is Master, at the Port of Gothenburg
Printed and Sold by J. B. Snow, 14 Chestnut Street.

NAMES	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	Country to which they belong	Country of which they intend to become inhabitants	Number that have on the Passage
N. G. Sallander	46	Male	Farmer	Sweden	Sweden	1
A. S. Sallander	41	Female	Farmer	Sweden	Sweden	1
John Peter Gustafson	8	Male	Farmer	Sweden	Sweden	1
Amalia Sallander	30	Female	Farmer	Sweden	Sweden	1
Charlotte Sallander	16	Female	Farmer	Sweden	Sweden	1
L. S. Ammerman	29	Male	Farmer	Sweden	Sweden	1
A. M. Dahlhjelm	57	Male	Farmer	Sweden	Sweden	1
Olaf Dahlhjelm	33	Male	Farmer	Sweden	Sweden	1
Line Anna Christensen	31	Female	Farmer	Sweden	Sweden	1
Anna Sophia Christensen	18	Female	Farmer	Sweden	Sweden	1
A. S. Christensen	40	Male	Farmer	Sweden	Sweden	1
E. Christensen	31	Male	Farmer	Sweden	Sweden	1

FIG. 8 Passenger manifest of the Swedish bark Virginia, which arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana, 5 April 1851. Note that one of the passengers was [A]xel M[agnus] Dahlhjelm, one of the pioneers in the Chisago settlement in Minnesota.

AMERICAN ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES AND SOCIETIES.

Many public libraries in major American cities maintain genealogical collections. Librarians in charge of these collections are knowledgeable and might be of great assistance. Before your search is switched to Sweden, it is important to utilize the holdings of such libraries to their fullest extent, as well as those of the major institutions and societies listed below.

Please note that the website addresses listed below and on the following pages may in some cases have changed. Websites are itinerant entities and the reader may need to do some searching in order to find the websites described here. Our recommendation is that the reader use any of the better-known American or Swedish search engines to locate a website that has moved. Yahoo and Alta Vista are, for example, search engines that have a presence in both the U.S. and in Sweden (www.yahoo.com or www.yahoo.se and www.altavista.com or www.altavista.se).

Family History Library of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Address: 35 North West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150

Telephone: 801-240-2331

Website: <http://www.familysearch.org>

This institution has a unique collection of all of the important Scandinavian ecclesiastical and legal records available on microfilm. The library has a staff of genealogists who do research for a modest fee.

Many American communities also have Family History Centers associated with a local Mormon church. For a fee, these libraries will gladly order copies of pertinent microfilms dealing with Swedish church and court records and have them available for their patrons' use within the library.

Call (U.S.) 1-800-346-6044 or visit the website

<<http://www.kbyu.byu.edu/ancestors.html>>

to locate the Family History Center nearest you.

Library of Congress (Local History and Genealogy Reading Room)

Address: 10 First Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20540

Website: <http://www.loc.gov/library>

For genealogists, the most useful page at the Library of Congress website is probably the one entitled, "Using the Library: Catalogs, Collections, and Research Services."

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

Address: 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20408

Telephone: 202-501-5400; 202-523-3218

E-mail: webmaster@nara.gov

Website: <http://www.nara.gov>

The Genealogy Page, which can be accessed from the home page, provides information about the following categories of NARA's holdings: Policy Issues Affecting Genealogists; Genealogical Publications; Catalogs of Microfilm Publications; Regional Records Services Facilities; Genealogy Workshops and Courses; Genealogical Data in NAIL; and Genealogical Resources on the World Wide Web.

National Archives of Canada (Archives nationales du Canada)
Address: 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3
Telephone (General Information): 613-995-5138
Telephone (Genealogical Reference): 613-996-7458
Website: http://www.archives.ca/04/0415_e.html

National Genealogical Society
Address: 4527 17th Street N., Arlington, VA 22207-2399
Website: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>
Publication: National Genealogical Society Quarterly

The Swedish-American Historical Society
Address: North Park College, 5125 N. Spaulding Ave., Chicago, IL 60625-4816
Telephone: 773-583-5722
E-mail: kanderson@northpark.edu
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Publication: Swedish American Genealogist

This quarterly journal is devoted to articles, ancestral charts, genealogical queries, book reviews, and useful hints on how to proceed in furthering one's genealogical research in Swedish America as well as in Sweden. The journal is broad enough in its scope to also include material on Swedish American biography and family history. For further information concerning either subscriptions, which are \$25 annually, or editorial content, interested persons should write directly to the Swenson Center or e-mail: sag@augustana.edu.

AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL AIDS.

Books

Allen, Desmond Walls

First Steps in Genealogy: A Beginner's Guide to Researching Your Family History.
Cincinnati, OH: Betterway Books, 1998.

Barton, H. Arnold

The Search for Ancestors: A Swedish-American Family Saga.
Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 1979.

Bentley, Elizabeth Petty

The Genealogist's Address Book. 4th ed.
Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1998.

Carmack, Sharon Debartolo

The Genealogy Sourcebook. Los Angeles, CA: Lowell House, 1998.

Carmack, Sharon Debartolo

*Organizing Your Family History Search: Efficient & Effective Ways to Gather
and Protect Your Genealogical Research.* Cincinnati, OH: Betterway Books, 1999.

Carson, Dina C.

*Directory of Genealogical and Historical Society Libraries, Archives and Collections
in the US and Canada.* Niwot, CO: Iron Gate Publishing, 1998.

Cerny, Johni and Wendy Elliott, eds.

The Library: A Guide to the LDS Family History Library.
Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry Inc., 1988.

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Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy. 3d ed.
Cincinnati, OH: Betterway Books, 1995.

Crowe, Elizabeth Powell

Genealogy Online: Researching Your Roots.
web ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 1998.

Everton, George B., comp.

The Handy Book for Genealogists. 9th ed.
Logan, UT: The Everton Publishers, Inc., 1999.

Hartlely, William G.

The Everything Family Tree Book: Finding, Charting, and Preserving Your Family History.
Holbrook, MA: Adams Media Corporation, 1998.

- Helm, Matthew L. and April Leigh Helm
Genealogy Online for Dummies. 2d ed.
Foster City, CA: IDG Books Worldwide Inc., 1999.
- Johansson, Carl-Erik
Cradled in Sweden: A Practical Help to Genealogical Research in Swedish Records.
Logan, UT: The Everton Publishers, Inc., 1995.
- Kemp, Thomas Jay
Virtual Roots: A Guide to Genealogy and Local History on the World Wide Web.
Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 1997.
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Swedish Exodus.
Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 1979, 1996.
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Printed Sources: A Guide to Published Genealogical Records.
Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry Inc., 1998.
- Neagles, James C. assisted by Mark C. Neagles
The Library of Congress: A Guide to Genealogical and Historical Research.
Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry Inc., 1990.
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U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present.
Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry Inc., 1994.
- Pladsen, Phyllis and Joseph Huber
Swedish Genealogical Dictionary. White Bear Lake, MN, 1997.
- Rose, Christine and Kay Germain Ingalls
The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy. New York, NY: Alpha Books, 1997.
- Schaefer, Christina K.
Guide to Naturalization Records of the United States.
Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1997.
- Scott, Franklin D.
Sweden: The Nation's History. rev. ed.
Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 1988.
- Szucs, Loretto Dennis and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, eds.
The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy. rev. ed.
Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry Inc., 1997.

Internet Resources

Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet — Sweden/Sverige

<http://www.CyndisList.com/sweden.htm>

The Genealogy Home Page

<http://www.genhomepage.com>

Genealogy Online

<http://www.genealogy.org>

Swedish Information Service (Consulate General of Sweden in New York)

<http://www.swedeninfo.com>

Swedish Resources (The Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study)

<http://www.byu.edu/sasslink>

The USGenWeb Project

<http://www.usgenweb.org>

Yahoo's listing of Genealogy Sites

<http://www.yahoo.com/Arts/Humanities/History/Genealogy>

RESEARCH IN SWEDEN.

You have now, hopefully, collected all information available through your sources in America. If you have been successful, you will have found and verified the essential information — the original name or names, the birth dates, and birth-places. You will have negotiated the most crucial, yet difficult, hurdle of all. You will have discovered the link that bridges the Atlantic Ocean and puts you in touch with myriad possibilities that lie on the other side.

We now come to the next step. What can be found in Sweden? For a person who has never visited Sweden, this question may be perplexing. How does one go about it? Where does an individual turn in order to do genealogical research there?

It is best to first look at the Swedish system of recording vital statistics. Until 1991, the keeping of vital statistics in Sweden was the duty of the established church. Every parish in Sweden was required to maintain the records of its parishioners, even if some of them never set foot inside the church itself. Every birth, death, marriage, removal from the parish, or entry into it was carefully recorded by the clergyman of the parish or his assistant; or, if in a large city, by the clerical staff at his service. This system was put into effect in the latter half of the seventeenth century and, except in such parishes where the manse or the church office burned, the records are extant today.

Before proceeding with a description of these records and the various archives in which they are deposited, it might be well to mention the Swedish system of administration. The country is divided into twenty-one counties (*län*), roughly equivalent to individual states in the United States (see *fig. 9*). Sometimes these *län* are identical with the historical province, known as *landskap*, which is not an administrative unit but, rather, a geographical concept. There may be more than one *län* in a *landskap*, as for instance Småland, which contains within it three *län*; namely, Kronoberg, Jönköping, and Kalmar. Each *län* is subdivided into smaller units, each known as *fögderi*. These *fögderier* as well as the towns and cities have their own administration. Juridically, each *län* is divided into other units, each known as *härad*. A *fögderi* may include several *härad*er. Ecclesiastically, each *län* is further divided into smaller units known as parishes. These were at one time called *socknar*, but are today known as *församlingar*. For our purposes, it is the material from the *härad* (juridical) and the parish (vital statistical) that interests us the most. In order to simplify the storing and archiving of records and to make them more readily available to scholars, records from the parishes of one or more *län*, one hundred years old or more, are kept in regional archives called *landsarkiv*. A few cities have been given the right to establish their own city archives (*stadsarkiv*), which handle the records of the churches and courts within their jurisdiction. Here follows an enumeration of some of the documents that will provide important information to the researcher.



FIG. 9 Maps showing division of Sweden into landskap (provinces), the geographical units, and län (counties), the administrative units. Please note that the county borders have as of 1999 been changed. For research purposes, however, the current map provides the most relevant information.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

1. Parish Records

It is in the parish that you must first look for the records that will bring you closer to the information you seek. Since the parish clergyman was responsible for keeping these records, it is in the parish that we find the registers of births and christenings (*födelselängd* and *doplängd*), marriages (*vigsellängd*), deaths and burials (*dödslängd* and *begravningslängd*), communion attendance (*kommunionlängd*), confirmation classes (*konfirmationslängd*), movement of individuals into or out of the parish (*inflyttningslängd* and *utflyttningslängd*), and the very important series of *husförhörslängder*.

These latter documents, known as household examination rolls or clerical surveys (*fig.10*), were originally set up by the clergyman when making his visitations throughout the parish to see how his parishioners were faring physically and spiritually. In cities household examination rolls were organized by blocks (*kvarter*) and house numbers, whereas in rural areas they were organized first by districts or wards (*rotar*) and then by type of residence, for example, village (*by*), estate (*herrgård*), farm (*gård*) or croft (*torp*) within the ward (*rote*).

The household examination rolls give information about all members of a household, including their names, occupations, relationships, birth dates, birthplaces, departures and arrivals and, often, their marriages and deaths. Information is also given about people who boarded in the household, such as aged parents, servants, cobblers, tailors, retired military personnel, and poorhouse inmates. Here we find bits of information about the educational status of the persons enumerated, their character, and notes about their undesirability as parishioners, such as being mentally challenged, chronic alcoholics, or criminals.

These rolls are interesting from a sociological point of view as well. Taken as a source, the *husförhörslängder* are probably the single most unique and important type of Swedish record, since they give an overall view of a family and its place in parish society. The earliest, known as *katekismilängder*, go back as far as the 1620s (Västerås Diocese); some in Linköping Diocese begin as early as 1714; and a number of *husförhörslängder* from Växjö Diocese date back to 1717 or 1718. Generally speaking, though, the majority begin about 1750, when the national Central Bureau of Statistics (*Statistiska Centralbyrån*) began its activity. In 1895 the character of the *husförhörslängder* was changed somewhat and they were renamed *församlingsböcker*.

In 1946 a reform was initiated that changed the system of keeping vital statistical records. In addition to the information supplied in the parish registers, each

person was given a *personakt* (personal record), which contains an extract of all the pertinent data appearing in the parish records. If an individual moves to another parish, the *personakt* is taken to the new parish. If an individual dies or emigrates, his or her *personakt* is sent to the national Central Bureau of Statistics in Stockholm. Here two series are kept — one of deaths and one of emigrations. For the latter category, there is a supplementary register arranged according to dates of birth. Today in each *län* there is also a record of addresses, arranged alphabetically, for all persons living in that *län*.

If the information you seek is more than one hundred years old, you have to go the *landsarkiv* or *stadsarkiv*, depending upon where the parish records are stored, to continue the search backwards in time. A few parishes, primarily in the *landskap* of Dalarna, enjoy a so-called dispensation and have been allowed to keep all of their records. There are about forty such parishes. An inquiry to the nearest *landsarkiv* will usually bring a reply, if the parish sought is one of this privileged class.

2. Court and Civil Records.

In addition to the parish records, these city and regional archives also contain many other interesting documents, such as the inventories of the estates of deceased persons, *bouppteckningar*, which are somewhat similar to our probate court records. Here are also the records of the courts and the court decisions, *domböcker*, as well as minor documents, *småprotokoll*, consisting of the transfer of real estate, the records of marriage settlements, mortgages, and guardianships. *Renovationer*, or copies of *domböcker* and *småprotokoll*, are found in the archives of the respective courts. For Svea Court of Appeal (*Svea hovrätt*), the earlier records are kept in the National Archives (*Riksarkivet*), whereas for Göta Court of Appeal (*Göta hovrätt*), they are still in the archives of *Göta hovrätt* in Jönköping. The earlier records of the Court of Appeal for Skåne and Blekinge are deposited in *Landsarkivet* in Lund.

The regional archives (*landsarkiven*) also contain the civil records of the *härad* or *län*, which are of special interest to the genealogist. The primary source here is the *mantalslängd*, or census, which was made annually. Although incomplete for earlier years, it can be quite useful. Here are also the *jordböcker*, the lists of real property, with the names of the owners and also certain fiscal and tax information. Since some of these records go back to approximately 1630, they antedate the parish registers.

A copy of every *mantalslängd* and *jordbok* was also sent to the Cameral Archives (*Kammararkivet*) in Stockholm, which thus becomes a center for all information contained in these documents. Because the material in these records is mostly

of a fiscal character, it is more difficult to use and is, by its very nature, an auxiliary source to the parish registers. The material contained in this archive antedates even the formation of the *län* in 1630, and may in some instances go back as far as 1540, thus holding out the hope of tracing your family back more than 400 years.

3. *Emigration Records (figs. 11 and 12)*

Of inestimable value to the student of Swedish emigration are the records kept by the Swedish police in Malmö and Göteborg (Gothenburg), the chief ports of embarkation (fig. 11). All emigrants passing through these ports had to register with the police, who recorded the names of the emigrants, occasionally the trade or profession, the age, gender, and parish of nativity. Another piece of information contained in these registers is the destination in the United States or Canada. The ticket contract number is also recorded and, thanks to the large archives left by the Larsson Brothers, emigrant agents in Göteborg, and now deposited in *Landsarkivet* in Göteborg, it is possible to get rather complete information about the passengers bound for America. Unfortunately, the police records do not begin until 1869, but since the emigration after this date is so much larger than that which antedated it, the majority of the Swedes who left for America will be recorded in these records. They have been indexed and are available at *Landsarkivet* in Göteborg, the Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö, the Emigrant Register in Karlstad, and the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center in Rock Island. A database on a CD called *Emigranten* (The Emigrant) is now available for those who want to do computerized searches for emigrants who left Swedish ports using one or more of the following parameters: name of emigrant, home parish, year of emigration, port of embarkation, and destination.

At the port cities, a passport journal (*Pass Journal*) was also kept, such as the one shown in figure 12, in which the names of travelers, their date of embarkation and their destination were recorded.

4. *Other Public Records.*

For persons who held official positions in Sweden, as well as those who served in the armed forces, much material can be gleaned from the records in the National Archives and the Military Archives (*Krigsarkivet*). Information about Swedish diplomats and Swedes who served abroad, or about whom the Ministry for Foreign Affairs may have inquired from Swedish representatives abroad, will be found in the Archives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (*Utrikesdepartementets arkiv*). Members of the House of the Nobility (*Riddarhuset*) have their genealogies recorded in the Archives of the House of the Nobility.

Finally, it should be pointed out that the national Central Bureau of Statistics in Stockholm has excellent collections of extracts from registers of births, marriages, and deaths for each year from 1860 to 1947, as well as extracts from the *husförhörslängder* and parish registers for each ten-year period from 1860 to the present. From 1860, one can also find summaries of individuals who emigrated from Sweden to foreign countries, listed by parishes. Each person who emigrated is listed here, together with age, occupation, and country of destination.

RESEARCH DIFFICULTIES.

A word of warning should be given to those who may wish to do research in Swedish archives, but who do not have a knowledge of the language or, even if conversant with Swedish, have no experience working with ancient documents. The manuscripts are often recorded in the old German script generally in use in Sweden until the end of the eighteenth century. Furthermore, the penmanship varies from parish to parish. Though one may find beautiful examples of handwriting, the opposite is all too often true. It can thus be quite frustrating to attempt to decipher the records. Under such circumstances, it would be advisable for you to enlist the services of a trained genealogist used to working with Swedish documents.

Usually each archive can provide a list of reputable and trained researchers, who would be willing to take on commissions for those who may not have the time or training to do this themselves. The fees are not exorbitant, but an agreement should be reached beforehand, so that before any search is started, the genealogist and the client are agreed mutually as to the size of the task and the fee to be paid. This will avoid many a misunderstanding.

Födelse.		Fyttningar.			Omständigheter.	
År.	Ort.	År.	Hvån.	År.	Till.	
1814	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1815	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1816	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1817	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1818	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1819	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1820	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1821	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1822	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1823	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1824	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1825	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1826	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1827	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1828	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1829	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1830	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1831	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1832	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1833	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1834	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1835	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1836	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1837	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1838	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1839	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1840	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1841	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1842	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1843	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1844	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1845	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1846	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1847	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1848	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1849	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1850	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1851	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1852	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1853	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1854	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1855	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1856	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1857	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1858	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1859	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1860	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1861	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1862	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1863	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1864	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1865	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1866	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1867	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1868	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1869	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1870	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1871	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1872	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1873	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1874	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1875	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1876	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1877	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1878	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1879	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1880	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1881	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1882	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1883	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1884	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1885	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1886	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1887	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1888	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1889	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1890	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1891	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1892	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1893	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1894	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1895	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1896	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1897	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1898	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1899	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	
1900	Stångby 1813	1813	1813	1813	1813	

FIG. 10 Household examination roll (husförhörslängd) for the home of Sven Israelsson in Lättarp, Barkeryd parish in the province of Småland. Note that his son, Sven Magnus Svensson, is listed as being in America. He is better known as Svante M. Svensson, Texas pioneer, farm owner and banker, who arrived in New York on 27 June 1836.

Utrikes Tafs Journal Kåmar: *Calmar*
 20 Lund Gaublit år 1845

År	Ma	En utreis namn, ykte af hvarj	Utrikes ort	Var utreis gjord	Utrikes Ort
Febr	28	1. Medfiska besökinnarna Major Grenov	Köpenhamn	2 månader	16
	17	2. Janar Otto Lööf	Stor York	2 år	8
	9	3. Andspisningsvärdinnan Ernst August Lundh	Köpenhamn	2 månader	8
April	11	4. Händaren Peter Andersson med hustru Christina Lovisa Lagerholm, dotter Christina Leths ut för Ernst August	Ormsö Amerika	2 år	8
	17	5. Caspersten Skjerman N. T. Ringman	London	2 år	16
	21	6. Janar Carl Holmlund	Helsingör	2 månader	8
	22	7. Händaren P. Löwen och hans hustru Christina A. J. Löwen	Sjyckland	ut hit åter för reisa	29
Maj	23	8. Händaren Anis	Sjyckland	1. September	16
	30	9. Händaren Sjyckland Engström	Sjyckland	6 månader	8
Juni	5	10. Danke bröfvarn Götter Olof Jansson (gen- mar 1845 från Köpenhamn d. 6 Nov. 1844)	Danmarks	reisa	16
	6	11. Medicinske Läkaren Peter Carl Petersen	Köpenhamn	2 år	16
	16	12. Händaren Peter Carl Petersen med hustru P. & O. Petersen	Helsingör	2 månader	22
	17	13. Medicinske Läkaren Peter Carl Petersen med hustru P. & O. Petersen	Köpenhamn	reisa	16
	19	14. Händaren Malmberg	Stockholm	2 månader	16
	20	15. Medicinske Läkaren J. Engström	Sjyckland	6 månader	16
	25	16. Händaren Peter Carl Petersen	Sjyckland	6 år	16
	27	17. Händaren Peter Carl Petersen	Köpenhamn	1. månad	8
	18	18. Händaren P. Malmberg	Stockholm	2 år	16

FIG. 12 Passport journal from Kalmar (here spelled "Calmar") showing names of travelers and their destinations between February 28 and June 27, 1845.

SWEDISH ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES, SOCIETIES,
AND RESEARCH CENTERS.....

National and Regional Archives

Riksarkivet (RA)

(The National Archives of Sweden)
Postal Address: Box 12541, SE-102 29 Stockholm, Sweden
Street Address: Fyrverkarbacken 13-17
Telephone: 08-737 63 50
Fax: 08-737 64 74
E-mail: riksarkivet@riksarkivet.ra.se
Website: <http://www.ra.se>

Landsarkivet i Göteborg (GLA)

(Västra Götaland county)
Postal Address: Box 19035, 400 12 Göteborg, Sweden
Street Address: Geijersgatan 1
Telephone: 031-778 68 00
Fax: 031-778 68 25
E-mail: landsarkivet@landsarkivet-goteborg.ra.se
Website: <http://www.ra.se/gla>

Landsarkivet i Härnösand (HLA)

(Gävleborg, Norrbotten, Västerbotten and Västernorrland counties)
Postal Address: Box 161, 871 01 Härnösand, Sweden
Street Address: Rosenbäcksallén 18
Telephone: 0611-835 00
Fax: 0611-835 28
E-mail: landsarkivet@landsarkivet-harnosand.ra.se
Website: <http://www.ra.se/hla>

Landsarkivet i Lund (LLA)

(Blekinge, Halland, Kristianstad and Skåne counties)
Postal Address: Box 2016, 220 02 Lund, Sweden
Street Address: Dalbyvägen 4
Telephone: 046-19 70 00
Fax: 046-19 70 70
E-mail: landsarkivet@landsarkivet-lund.ra.se
Website: <http://www.ra.se/lla>

Landsarkivet i Uppsala (ULA)

(Dalarna, Södermanland, Uppsala, Västmanland, and Örebro counties)

Postal Address: Box 135, 751 04 Uppsala, Sweden

Street Address: Dag Hammarskjölds väg 19

Telephone: 018-65 21 00

Fax: 018-65 21 03

E-mail: landsarkivet@landsarkivet-uppsala.ra.se

Website: <http://www.ra.se/ula>

Landsarkivet i Vadstena (VaLA)

(Jönköping, Kalmar, Kronoberg, and Östergötland counties)

Postal Address: Box 126, 592 23 Vadstena, Sweden

Street Address: Slottet

Telephone: 0143-130 30

Fax: 0143-102 54

E-mail: landsarkivet@landsarkivet-vadstena.ra.se

Website: <http://www.ra.se/vala>

Landsarkivet i Visby (ViLA) (Gotland county)

Postal Address: Visborgsgatan 1, 621 57 Visby, Sweden

Street Address: Visborgsgatan 1

Telephone: 0498-21 05 14

Fax: 0498-21 29 55

E-mail: landsarkivet@landsarkivet-visby.ra.se

Website: <http://www.ra.se/vila>

Landsarkivet i Östersund (ÖLA) (Jämtland county)

Postal Address: Arkivvägen 1, 831 31 Östersund, Sweden

Street Address: Arkivvägen 1 (Museiplan)

Telephone: 063-10 84 85

Fax: 063-12 18 24

E-mail: landsarkivet@landsarkivet-ostersund.ra.se

Website: <http://www.ra.se/ola>

Stadsarkivet i Malmö (MSA) (Malmö city)

Address: Stora Varvsgatan 11, 211 19 Malmö, Sweden

Telephone: 040-10 53-30

Fax: 040-97 51 05

E-mail: birgit.backarfwidsson@malmö.se

Website: <http://www.malmö.se/kommuninfo/stadsarkiv>

Stockholms stadsarkiv (SSA) (Stockholm city and county)

Postal Address: Box 22063, S-104 22 Stockholm, Sweden

Street Address: Kungsklippan 6

Telephone: 08-508 283 00

Fax: 08-508 283 01

E-mail: stadsarkivet@ssa.stockholm.se

Website: <http://www.ssa.stockholm.se>

Värmlandsarkiv (VA) (Värmland county)

Postal Address: Box 475, 651 11 Karlstad, Sweden

Street Address: Hööksgatan 2

Telephone: 054-10 77 30

Fax: 054-10 77 31

E-mail: varmlandsarkiv@telia.com

Website: <http://www.ra.se/varmla>

City Archives

Borås stadsarkiv

Address: 501 80 Borås, Sweden

Website: <http://www.boras.se/adk/arkiv/index.htm>

Eskilstuna stadsarkiv

Address: Careliigatan 8, 632 20, Eskilstuna, Sweden

Website: <http://www.eskilstuna.se/kommunstyrelsen/stadsarkivet/stadsark.html>

Helsingborgs stadsarkiv

Address: 251 89 Helsingborg, Sweden

Website: <http://kommun.helsingborg.se/stadsarkiv/starkiv.htm>

Jönköpings läns museet, stadsbibliotek, arkiv

Address: Dag Hammarskjölds plats 1, Box 2133, 550 02 Jönköping, Sweden

Website: <http://www.jkpglm.se/museet.htm>

Linköpings stadsarkiv

Address: 581 81 Linköping, Sweden

Website: http://www.linkoping.se/kommun/allmaninfo/stadsarkivet/besok_kontakt.htm

Norrköpings stadsarkiv

Address: 601 81 Norrköping, Sweden

Website: <http://www.norrkoping.se/norrkoping/kommunen/ts/stadsarkivet/index.html>

Norrtälje stadsarkiv

Address: Box 802, 761 28 Norrtälje, Sweden

Website: <http://www.norrtalje.se/arkivet>

Stadsarkivet in Lund

Address: Box 111, 221 00 Lund, Sweden

Website: http://www.lund.se/kommuninformation/04_kommunensforvaltningar/kommunkontoret/09_stadsarkivet

Umeå stadsarkiv

Address: 901 84 Umeå, Sweden

Website: <http://www.umea.se/stadsarkivet>

Uppsala stadsarkiv

Address: Box 216, 751 04 Uppsala, Sweden

Website: <http://www.uppsala.se/stadsarkivet>

Västerås stadsarkiv

Address: Stadshuset, 721 87 Västerås, Sweden

Website: <http://www.vasteras.se/stadsarkivet>

Örebro stadsarkiv

Address: Box 300 40, 701 35 Örebro, Sweden

Website: <http://www.orebro.se/stadsarkiv>

Miscellaneous Archives

Krigsarkivet (KRA)

(The Military Archives)

Postal Address: Krigsarkivet, 115 88 Stockholm, Sweden

Street Address: Banérgatan 64

Telephone: 08-782 41 00

Fax: 08-782 69 76

E-mail: krigsarkivet@krigsarkivet.ra.se

Website: <http://www.ra.se/kra>

Svensk Arkivinformation (SVAR)

(Swedish Archive Information)

Postal Address: Box 160, S-880 40, Ramsele, Sweden

Street Address: Arkiv & Kulturhuset

Telephone: 0623-725 00

Fax: 0623-725 05

E-mail: forskarcentrum@svar.ra.se

Website: <http://www.svar.ra.se>

SVAR is a special section of Riksarkivet (RA) that is responsible for making archival materials (e.g., Swedish parish records on microfiche) accessible to family history researchers. In 1990 an agreement was reached between SVAR and the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Rock Island, IL, whereby all sales of SVAR microfiche to North Americans must be made through the Swenson Center (see address under American Archives, Libraries and Societies).

Statistiska Centralbyrån (SCB)

(The Central Bureau of Statistics)

Address: Box 24 300, 104 51 Stockholm, Sweden

Website: <http://www.scb.se/indexeng.htm>

Lantmäteriverkets arkiv

(The National Surveying Office Archives)

Address: Lantmäterigatan 2, 801 82 Gävle, Sweden

Website: <http://www.lm.se>

Kammararkivet

(The Cameral Archives)

Address: Box 12541, Fyrverkarbacken 13-17, 102 29 Stockholm, Sweden

Utrikesdepartementets arkiv
(The Ministry for Foreign Affairs Archives)
Address: Gustaf Adolfs Torg 1, 111 52 Stockholm, Sweden

Riddarhuset
(The House of the Nobility)
Address: Riddarhuset, Box 2022, 103 11 Stockholm, Sweden
Website: <http://www.riddarhuset.se>

Emigration Archives / Research Centers

Svenska Emigrantinstitutet (SEI)
(The Swedish Emigrant Institute)
Address: Box 201, 351 04 Växjö, Sweden
Telephone: 0470-201 20
Fax: 0470-394 16
E-mail: forskning@svenskaemigrantinstitutet.g.se
Website: <http://www.svenskaemigrantinstitutet.g.se>

Emigrantregistret i Karlstad
(The Emigrant Register in Karlstad)
Postal Address: Box 331, 651 08 Karlstad, Sweden
Street Address: Hööksgatan 2
Telephone: 054-10 77 20
Fax: 054-10 77 01

Migranternas Hus
(The House of Migrants)
Address: Ungmansvägen 3, 822 30 Alfta, Sweden
Telephone: 0271-10861
Fax: 0271-55726
E-mail: alfta@migranternas-hus.x.se
Website: <http://www.migranternas-hus.x.se>

Släktforskarnas Hus i Leksand
(The House of Genealogy in Leksand)
Address: Box 175, 793 24, Leksand, Sweden
Telephone: 0247-122 80
Fax: 0247-138 50
E-mail: Leksand@Genhouse-sweden.com
Website: <http://www.genhouse-sweden.com/geneng.htm>

Societies

Genealogiska Föreningen

(The Genealogical Society)

Address: Sabbatsbergsvägen 20, Box 6442, S-113 82 Stockholm, Sweden

E-mail: g.f@mbox.200.swipnet.se

Publication: Släkt och hävd (Family and History)

Personhistoriska Samfundet

(The Swedish Society for Personal History Research)

Address: Riksarkivet, . Box 12541, 102 29 Stockholm, Sweden

Telephone: 08-737 64 12

Fax: 08-737 64 74

E-mail: lena.animmer@riksarkivet.ra.se

Website: <http://www.ra.se/~phs>

Publication: Personhistorisk Tidskrift (Personal History Journal)

Sveriges Släktforskarförbund

(Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies)

Address: Box 30222, 104 25, Stockholm, Sweden

Telephone: 08-695 08 90

Fax: 08-695 08 24

E-mail: genealog@genealogi.se

Website: <http://www.genealogi.se>

Publication: Släkthistoriskt Forum (The Family History Forum)

SWEDISH GENEALOGICAL AIDS.

Books

Furtenbach, Börje

Släktforskning för alla (Family Research for Everyone).
4th rev. ed. Västerås: ICA bokförlag, 1983.

Clemensson, Per and Kjell Andersson

Släktforska: Steg för steg (Family Research: Step by Step).
5th rev. ed. Stockholm: LT:s förlag, 1997.

Clemensson, Per and Kjell Andersson

Hembygdsforska: Steg för steg (Researching Your Home Town: Step by Step).
Stockholm: LT:s förlag, 1990.

Clemensson, Per and Kjell Andersson

Emigrantforska: Steg för steg (Emigration Research: Step by Step).
Falköping: LT:s förlag, 1996.

Hildebrand, Bengt

Handbok i släkt- och personforskning (Family Research Guide).
Stockholm, 1977.

Lagevik, Elsa

De röda ladornas folk (The People of the Red Barns). Gävle, 1996.

Lindblom, Kjell and Elisabeth Thorsell

Prästens lilla kråka: Praktikfall för släktforskare ("Prästens lilla kråka": A Case Study for Family Researchers). Stockholm, 1997.

Rosenberg, C. M.

Geografiskt — statistiskt handlexikon öfver Sverige (A Geographical and Statistical handbook of Sweden). 4 vols. 1883.
Reprint, Uddevalla: MediaPrint, 1993.

Internet Resources

Länkar från Riksarkivet i Sverige

(Links from the National Archives of Sweden)

Website: <http://www.ra.se/lankar.html>

Nättidningen RÖTTER—för dig som släktforskar

(The Daily E-zine ROOTS — for You Who Are Genealogists)

Website: <http://www.genealogi.se>

The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (Sveriges Släktforskarförbund) publishes this excellent website, which has three self-proclaimed goals: "to spread knowledge, to facilitate contacts, and to nourish discussion." It is of inestimable value to Swedish and American genealogical researchers because of the breadth and diversity of its contents.

Sveriges församlingar genom tiderna

(Swedish Parishes through the Centuries)

Website: <http://www.rsv.se/folkbokforing/forsamlingar/index.html>

A catalog of Swedish parishes through the centuries.

Karta över Sveriges län

(Map of Swedish Administrative Districts)

Website: <http://home1.swipnet.se/~w-13626/cntymap.htm>

A clickable map of Swedish parishes and counties.

Sveriges släktforskarförteckning

(Swedish Genealogical Research Directory)

Website: <http://www.abc.se/~m2976/ssff>

A database that contains the names of 3,500 Swedish genealogists.

CONCLUSION.

This small guide has been written in the hope that it will give some help to those interested in tracing their Swedish ancestry in Sweden. It is meant as a start toward achieving this goal. Very little has been said about methods, which can be learned from any number of works on genealogical research that are available in most libraries.

Finally, a word of encouragement to those who may find the going difficult. Remember that the foremost problem to be solved is documenting the immigrant's origin in Sweden. Once this has been done, the rest of the task should be fairly easy. Sweden, with its excellent archives, will afford many opportunities to continue the chase there. But before the Swedish search can start, you must have all of the facts available. With ordinary luck you should be able to go back two hundred years in your family history. With a little patience and perseverance, you should be able to extend this period backward in time another one hundred years.

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