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# What's in a Swedish Surname?

Nils William Olsson

The use of surnames in Sweden is of comparatively late date. Prior to the 15th and 16th Centuries, all Swedes used patronymics, i.e. the father's name in conjunction with the word *-son* (son) or *-dotter* (daughter). This practice was not unique in Sweden, but existed in practically all European cultures. Whereas in Sweden the patronymic was a suffix, coming at the end of the father's baptismal name, it was a prefix in the British Isles, where the word *Fitz* (from the French *filz* meaning son) was prefixed to the father's Christian name, thus giving rise to such forms as *Fitzgerald*, *Fitzpatrick* and *Fitzsimmons*. In Ireland the prefix was *O'* as in *O'Connell*, *O'Grady* and *O'Neill*. In Scotland where the word for son was *Mac*, patronymics became *MacAdams*, *MacCarthy* and *MacDonald*.

It should be emphasized that the patronymic is not identical with a family name. It was not until the latter part of the 19th Century that the patronymic in Sweden congealed to become a family name. Before that time it had changed with each generation. Thus persons named *Sven* and *Anna*, the children of *Anders*, were known as *Sven Andersson* and *Anna Andersdotter*. If *Sven* in turn had a son, he became *Svensson* and his daughter became *Svensdotter*. Iceland is the only Scandinavian country today, which retains the system of patronymics. Even the telephone directories follow this custom by listing Icelandic telephone subscribers by their Christian names. The patronymic follows in second place.

## Aristocratic Names

By the 15th and 16th Centuries family names begin appearing in Sweden, at first confined almost exclusively to the aristocracy, somewhat later but in a parallel development to what was happening in the British Isles and on the Continent. At first the family name was simply an identifier added to the patronymic. This identifier was usually the symbol emblazoned on the field of the escutcheon, thus *Ture Jönsson Tre Rosor*, a Swedish political leader, who died in 1532 was named thus because of the three roses inscribed on his coat of arms. Gustaf I (1521–1560), the first of the modern kings of Sweden was known as *Gustaf Eriksson Vasa* or *Vase* because of the fact that his escutcheon was inscribed with a *vase* (*fasces* in English). One of the oldest Swedish families of



nobility used an escutcheon on which the chief or upper half was emblazoned in gold, the lower half or base was inscribed in blue. In the popular jargon of the day the family which carried this heraldic emblem was first known as *Dag och Natt*, later changed to *Natt och Dag* (Night and Day), a name carried by the family to the present time.

Sweden's House of Nobles (*Riddarhuset*) in Stockholm contains the records of many thousands of families, who across the years have been ennobled by Swedish royalty for services rendered the monarch or in the service of Sweden. While many of them retained their original names, it was customary that when dubbed a knight, the individual so honored was given, not only a coat of arms, but also a new name "more fitting" to his new social station in life. Some of these names were derived from his earlier name, as for instance the name of *af Klercker*, derived from *Klerck*, but often a new name was created for the peer. This is no place to go into the flora of aristocratic names, which have come to the fore across more than 350 years of history since *Riddarhuset* was founded, suffice it to say that we have here a vast collection of Swedish surnames allied with the Swedish nobility.

### Clerical Names

By the 17th Century the clergy had begun to adopt family names. In the pre-Reformation era young men who entered the church automatically latinized their baptismal names as well as their patronymics. This custom continued in the 16th Century and into the beginning of the 17th. Thus patronymics like *Andersson* became *Andrae*, *Eriksson* — *Erici*, *Håkansson* — *Haqvini*, *Hermansson* — *Hermannii* and *Petersson* — *Petri*, etc. Though they were latinized forms, they were still the patronymics they had inherited at birth. By the beginning of the 17th Century, young clerics went one step farther. They actually adopted new family names, using their knowledge of Latin and Greek. The young student pursued various methods to concoct a new surname. One method was to take a name of the farm, village or parish in which he was born and simply translate it into Latin. Thus *Berg*, meaning mountain, became *Montanus*. This was the route taken by the hero in Ludvig Holberg's delightful comedy, *Jeppe på Bjerget* (*Jeppe on the Hill*), in which the rustic student, possessing a smattering of Latin attempts to impress his home village neighbors with his learning, by having taken the name of *Montanus*. There are legions of such names. Another name, which has become internationally known is that of *Anders Celsius*, inventor of the centigrade thermometer, whose ancestors came from the manse of Högen in Ovanåker Parish in the province of Hälsingland. Another interesting transformation is the name *Cavallius* taken by a student from Håldala in Småland, who simply translated the name of his home village into Latin — *cava vallis*. A Danish counterpart is the name of *Pontoppidan*, taken by a young student from Broby, who likewise translated the Danish into Latin — *ponto* (bridge) and *oppidanus* (town).



Still another method was to add the Latin *-ius* to a Swedish name, usually derived from a place name, as for example *Bergi*us from Berg. A few other *-ius* forms which come to mind are names like *Abel*ius, *Acre*lius, *Agre*lius, *Arrhe*nius, *Barchae*lius, *Boëth*ius, *Crae*lius, *Dare*lius, *Dryse*lius, *Forn*elius, *Fors*elius, *Gumae*lius, *Håll*enius, *Hag*elius, *Hagre*lius, *Haze*lius, *Hesse*lius, *Lothig*ius, *Mose*lius, *Netze*lius, *Nobe*lius, *Norm*elius, *Nyse*lius, *Top*elius and *Unon*ius. Most of these surnames are also formed after the principle of using a first syllable anchored in a Swedish place name. There are exceptions as with *Unon*ius, which originally was the latinized form of the Christian man's name *Uno*. With succeeding generations, the bearers of these typically clerical names, entering into secular professions, often would lop off the *-ius* ending, calling themselves *Abel*, *Acrel*, *Agrell*, *Darell*, *Drysell*, *Hagrell*, *Mosell*, *Netzell*, *Nobel*, *Normell*, etc.

Another favorite Latin ending was *-aeus* as in such surnames as *Barchaeus*, *Bosaeus*, *Tranaeus* and the modern 20th Century form *Lonaeus*.

Some scholars preferred to use the suffix *-ander*, derived from the Greek word for man, *andró(s)*. This suffix became so popular, that it is used even today to create new Swedish surnames, despite its clerical past. Surnames ending in *-ander* are as numerous as there are persons with fertile minds to fashion a new variant. The following are only a few samples from this sea of names, most of them arising from using the first syllable with some allusion to a native place name: *Ah*lander, *Aki*lander, *Al*lander, *All*lander, *Aren*lander, *Bell*lander, *Björk*lander, *Bol*lander, *Bon*lander, *Brol*lander, *Chrysa*nder, *Dahl*lander, *Duv*lander, *Dyl*lander, *El*lander, *En*lander, *Erl*lander, *Fjell*lander, *Forn*lander, *Fors*lander, *Frös*lander, *Gall*lander, *Gass*lander, *Gull*lander, *Grav*lander, *Håll*lander, *Huss*lander, *Is*lander, *Jar*lander, *Kil*lander, *Ky*lander, *Kyll*lander, *Lek*lander, *Lev*lander, *Lith*lander, *Lots*lander, *Mell*lander, *Mos*lander, *Ny*lander, *Olan*der, *Os*lander, *Pal*lander, *Pel*lander, *Pet*lander, *Ros*lander, *Särn*lander, *Sall*lander, *Selan*der, *Solan*der, *Spolan*der, *Sval*lander, *Tell*lander, *Tholan*der, *Ull*lander, *Wall*lander, *Wel*lander, *Wik*lander, *Ys*lander, etc.

These are but a few of the clerical names in vogue in Sweden, but they give a good indication as to the endless variety which exists.

The next social group to drop the patronymics in favor of surnames were the citizens of the towns and villages, as well as the itinerant craftsmen, who coming from rural parishes, sought improved economic conditions within the cities and towns. These name changes begin occurring toward the middle of the 17th Century. At first the artisans and craftsmen were content with a nickname which had allusion to their trade and craft, such as *Thomas smed* (Thomas the smith), *Sven skräddare* (Sven the tailor) or *David bagare* (David the baker). But *David bagare's* son was not necessarily a baker, and there was therefore a need to differentiate people with identical names as the population increased. Hence the gradual emergence of fixed family names.



## Nature Names

It is not certain why and how Swedish nature names were formed. Sweden and Finland alone in Scandinavia use this unique form. Since Finland is an integral part of Sweden for hundreds of years, it is not peculiar that the Swedish Finns as well as the Finns themselves have followed Swedish name usage. In Norway and Denmark, where these forms are unusual it was customary to take the name of the farm or the dwelling and adopt this as a surname. This method has of late been introduced in Sweden also. The taking of nature names may have been inspired by an unconscious effort to borrow from the nobility, not their names, which was illegal, but to use the same techniques, except where the nobility used the vocabulary of heraldry with copious allusions to martial exploits, the burghers were content to use names which incorporated the vocabulary of the peaceful Swedish countryside.

Swedish nature names are based upon the topographical features of the Swedish landscape, almost all types of Swedish flora and fauna, as well as parts of the mineral kingdom, the four points of the compass and innumerable references to Swedish place names, ranging from the smallest croft, hummock and rivulet to the larger cities, counties and towns.

The nature names generally consist of one or two syllables, very rarely three, as in *Bergendahl*, *Levenhagen* and *Björkegren*. As a result of an ongoing campaign in Sweden for persons to change their patronymic surnames for new names, the trend has been to take three syllable names, which for many years was frowned upon as being too foreign-sounding. Since we are dealing with names brought over by emigrants, antedating the modern name-changing process, we shall confine this study to the two syllable names. Here follows a partial list of the common topographic elements which go into the structure of a nature name. The Swedish word is to the left, followed by an English translation of the element to the right:

Å — creek

Åker — field, arable land

Älv (old form was *Elf*) — large river

Äng (old form was *Eng*) — meadow

Bäck — rivulet

Backe — small hill

Berg — mountain

Brant, Bratt — steep incline

Dal (old form was *Dahl*) — valley

Fall — a clearing in the forest

Fjäll (old form was *Fjell*) — a large mountain

Fält (old form was *Felt*, *Feldt*) — field

Flod — river

Fors — rapids

Häll (old form was *Hell*) — a flat rock



*Hage* — paddock

*Hall* — a rock formation

*Hammar* — a rock formation

*Hav* (old form was *Haf*) — the sea, ocean

*Hed* — heath

*Hög* — hummock, hillock

*Holme* — island

*Hult* — wooded area

*Källa* (old form was *Kella*, often in surnames written *Kjell*) — well, spring

*Kil* (old form was *Kihl*) — a small inlet of the ocean

*Klev* (old form was *Klef*) — a rock formation

*Kulle* — a small hill

*Land* — land

*Lid* — a gradual incline

*Lund* — a grove

*Mark* — land, ground

*Mo* — heath

*Mosse* — low lying pasture

*Myr* — swamp

*Ö* — island

*Ryd* (from the Swedish verb *rödja*, to clear ground) — clearing

*Säter* (old form was *Seter*, also written *Setter*, *Zäter*, *Zäther*, *Zätter* in surnames) — farm in the mountains

*Sand* — sand

*Sjö* — lake

*Skär* — skerry

*Skog* — forest

*Sten* — stone

*Strand* — shore

*Ström* — stream

*Sund* — narrows

*Tun* (old form was *Thun*) — open place in front of farmstead

*Vad* (old form was *Wad*) — wading place, ford

*Vall* (old form was *Wall*) — pasture

*Vik* (old form was *Wik*, sometimes written *Wiik*, *Wijk* in surnames) — bay

Most of these monosyllables can function alone as surnames. Words ending in *e*, however, drop the *e* in combination with another element — thus the compound form would have *Back-*, *Hag-*, *Holm-*, *Kull-* and *Moss-*. In some instances both *Back* and *Holm* are also used as surnames. It is questionable if *Å* and *Ö* can stand alone. At least the writer has never seen references to such surnames.

By far the most common practice is to combine two of these elements to form a family name. There are myriads of combinations. If we take the form



*Berg*, as an example, we come up with surnames like: *Åberg, Elfberg, Engberg, Brantberg, Brattberg, Bergdahl, Dahlberg, Fallberg, Fjellberg, Flodberg, Forsberg, Hellberg, Hagberg, Hallberg, Hammarberg, Högberg, Holmberg, Hultberg, Kihlberg, Klefberg, Kjellberg, Kellberg, Landberg, Lundberg, Mossberg, Myrberg, Öberg, Rydberg, Skogsberg(h), Strömberg, Bergström, Sundberg, Tunberg, Thunberg, Wadberg, Wikberg, Wijkberg, Wallberg, Sandberg, Strandberg, Sjöberg, Bergstrand, Bergsjö, Bergstedt, Berglund* and *Bergwall*, to name a few.

If we go to the Swedish flora and begin with tree nomenclature, we find the following common Swedish trees, which all can stand alone as surnames or can be combined with other elements:

<i>Ahl</i> — alder	<i>Fur</i> — pine
<i>Alm</i> — elm	<i>Gran</i> — fir
<i>Asp</i> — aspen	<i>Hägg</i> — chokecherry
<i>Björk</i> — birch	<i>Hassel</i> — hazel
<i>Bok</i> — beech	<i>Lind</i> — linden
<i>Ek</i> — oak	<i>Lönn</i> — maple
<i>En</i> — juniper	<i>Rönn</i> — mountain ash

Add to these native trees and bushes the very popular exotic trees, *Ceder* (cedar) *Lager* (laurel) and *Palm* (palm), and we have thus covered the more common elements from the area of trees.

Some Swedish flowers and plants which have been used to fashion surnames are the following:

<i>Blom</i> — flower, bloom	<i>Ört</i> — herb
<i>Lilja</i> — lily	<i>Ros</i> — rose
<i>Ljung</i> — heather	<i>Säv</i> (old form was <i>Säf</i> ) — rush
<i>Myrten</i> — myrtle	

Parts of Swedish trees and plants are also incorporated into the names:

<i>Bark</i> — bark
<i>Blad</i> — leaf
<i>Gren</i> — bough or branch
<i>Kvist</i> (old form was <i>Qvist</i> ) — twig
<i>Löv</i> (old form was <i>Löf</i> ) — leaf
<i>Rot</i> — root
<i>Stam</i> — stem or trunk

Certain fruits and berries also lend themselves to the formation of family names, but not all. The older Swedish word for apple was *Apel*. This occurs in surnames but not the modern word *Äpple*. Neither is *Päron*, the word for pear, in the surname vocabulary. On the one side we have several family names in which the word *Hallon* occurs, the word for raspberry, but no strawberry (*Jordgubbe*). The word for plum is *Plommon* in Swedish and is found in the surname *Plomgren*, but the writer has never seen a name based on *Körsbär* (cherry).

Except for the fruit names, all of the above forms can stand alone as surnames. Combined with other elements in the floral kingdom, we find such names as *Blomgren*, *Blomqvist*, *Hallongren*, *Hallonqvist*, *Liljebloom*, *Liljebloom*, *Liljegren*, *Liljefors*, *Liljeros*, *Liljestam*, *Ros(en)qvist* and *Ros(en)gren*.

Again it is perfectly proper to combine any of the Swedish topographic elements with those in the botanical library and names like *Blomberg*, *Dahlgren*, *Dahlqvist*, *Dahllöf*, *Hellqvist*, *Hallgren*, *Hammarqvist*, *Hedblom*, *Holmqvist* and *Rydqvist* are quite numerous.

In the animal kingdom we find the following birds:

*Fågel* (old form was *Fogel*) — bird

*Duva* — dove

*Häger* — heron

*Hök* — hawk

*Svala* — swallow

*Svan* — swan

*Sparv* (old form was *Sparf*) — sparrow

*Ugla* — owl

But not *Höna* (hen), *Tupp* (rooster), *Anka* (duck) nor *Gås* (goose).

The quadrupeds are represented by:

*Älg* (old form was *Elg*) — moose, elk

*Djur* (old form for deer)

*Hjort* — hart

*Lejon* — lion

*Ren* (old form was *Rehn*) — reindeer

*Varg* (old form was *Warg*) — wolf

But not *Ko* (cow) nor *Hund* (dog).

Examples of names derived from the animal kingdom are *Hjort*, *Hjortsberg*, *Elgqvist*, *Elgström*, *Djurberg*, *Lejonberg*, *Varg* and *Warg*.

Fishes are represented by:

*Gädda* (old forms were *Gedda* or *Giedda*) — pike

*Gös* — walleyed pike

*Haj* — shark

*Lax* — salmon

*Sik* — whitefish

*Val* (old form was *Wahl*) — whale

Several Swedish families are named *Gedda* and the words *Haj* and *Lax* have also been used in combinations with other elements. The most popular fish is the whale, and it may be the first part of such names as *Wahlberg*, *Wahlund*, *Wahlqvist* and *Wahlström*.

If we turn to the mineral kingdom we find a few elements which are used in family names. *Malm*, the word for ore is found in *Malmberg*, *Malmqvist* and *Malmström*. *Guld*(*Gull*) for gold and *Silver* for silver are found in such names as



*Gullberg, Guldström, Gullstrand and Silverberg.*

Names of precious stones have apparently not caught the fancy of the Swedes wishing to change their names. We find no native *Diamant, Rubin* nor *Safir* names.

Points of the compass are popular in the formation of Swedish family names, either standing alone or in combination with nature elements or names of flowers and trees.

*Väst(er)* (old form was *West* or *Wester*) — west

*Öst(er)* — east

*Nord, Norr* — north

*Söder* — south

The points of the compass are popular in themselves as family names but in combination with other elements they form a large proportion of the Swedish name flora: *Westberg, Westerberg, Westerdahl, Westerstrand, Östberg, Nordström, Norström, Nordgren, Norgren, Nordqvist, Norqvist, Söderberg* and *Söderqvist*.

The adjective *Ny*, meaning new, has been very popular in forming names, thus we find countless families named *Nyland, Nylund, Nyberg, Nyström, Nygren, Nyqvist, Nystedt* and *Nystrand*.

If we, for a moment, look at surnames formed from Swedish place names, we shall discover that the list is endless. Particularly in recent years, when the campaign has been going on to induce Swedes to take new names, thousands of new names have been selected, most of them based on a Swedish place names. Only two examples will be given here, in order to show how many names have their origin in the Swedish countryside. Two of Sweden's largest lakes are *Vänern* (old form was *Wenern*) and *Vättern* (old form was *Wettern*) which have given birth to many such names as *Wennerberg, Wennerström, Wennerstrand, Wetterberg, Wetterdahl* and *Wetterström*.

## Walloon Names

In the late 16th Century and early 17th, Swedish kings, wishing to revitalize and modernize the Swedish iron and steel industry, brought in from what is today Belgium, several hundred French-speaking Walloon families. Walloon smiths were well-known for their excellent craftsmanship in the working of steel, iron, copper and brass. They were hard workers and their knowledge and skills had been handed down from father to son for many generations. The infusion into Sweden of this foreign "knowhow" brought about a veritable revolution in the Swedish metal industry and laid the foundation for the fact that the Swedish metallurgical industry today enjoys world-wide reputation. The Walloons were not only gifted smiths, but they brought into the life stream of Sweden new blood and new ideas.

The Walloons and their descendants have remained a small but highly influential segment of Swedish life, numbering at the present time about 30,000,



and residing for the most part in those areas of Sweden, where the iron manufacturing industry has had its center of activity, in the *län* of Kopparberg, Uppsala, Västmanland, Örebro and Östergötland.

The physical characteristics of the Walloons have somehow persisted and have often been dominant across the centuries despite intermarriage with Swedish women. Their brown eyes, dark complexion and high foreheads constitute a type which one can spot quite easily in Bergslagen, the part of Sweden where they first settled.

Though many of the old Walloon names are gone, having been dropped by latter-day descendants in favor of patronymics and Swedish surnames, there are still a number of them in use today, names like *Anjou*, *Bedoire*, *Boivie*, *Bouveng*, *de Besche*, *De Geer*, *Galon*, *Gauffin*, *Gefvert* or *Gäfvert*, *Gille*, *Gilljam*, *Hybinette*, *Laurin*, *Lemon*, *Pousette* and *Sporrong*.

### Military Names

A very characteristic part of Swedish nomenclature is the existence of a number of military names. They are to be found in every segment of Swedish life and have been transported, as well, across the ocean to America, where they can be found in great numbers, even if in a slightly altered form or perhaps totally anglicized.

The story goes back a long time, to the time when Sweden had to fill its cadres of army and navy personnel with recruits from the rural areas in the land. The standing army was small and Sweden had to rely on the mustering of a great many men, who during peace time were occupied mostly with the tilling of the land. They were thus assigned small cottages with a small piece of land, which they could work, but be ready at a moment's notice to leave home and join the army and the navy, should a military emergency arise. These cottages, provided by the government, were called *soldattorp* or *båtsmanstorp*, depending upon whether the inhabitant was a member of the army or the navy.

Usually the recruit, as he arrived for the first time to be mustered into the military service, had a patronymic which was all too common and easily led to confusion. The military scribe therefore assigned a new name to the soldier or sailor, a name which was usually short and pithy and in some way alluded to his new profession. The name could be an object from the arsenal of the weaponry he used or a martial characteristic he was supposed to possess, or simply a name fashioned from the place name of his *torp*.

Some of the names in the first category that come to mind are:

*Dolk* — a small knife, a stiletto

*Granat* — grenade

*Kanon* (old form was *Canon*) — cannon

*Hagel* — shot, lead pellet

*Kula* — cannon ball or bullet

*Pamp* — a large heavy sword



*Pil* (old form was *Pihl*) — arrow

*Pistol* — pistol

*Sabel* — sabre

*Sköld* — shield

*Skott* — shot, volley

*Skytt* — marksman

*Spjut* — spear

*Stål* — steel

*Strid* — battle, skirmish

*Svärd* (old form was *Swärd*) — words

Names based on a characteristic which a soldier was supposed to possess were:

*Ärlig* — honest

*Frimodig* — brave

*Glad* — happy

*Hurtig* — bold

*Modig* — courageous

*Munter* — jolly

*Säll* — blessed, ecstatic

*Stadig* — steady or sturdy

*Stark* — strong

*Stolt* — proud

*Tapper* — brave

*Trofast* — trustworthy

*Trotsig* or *Trotzig* — stubborn

It is not unusual to find some of these characteristic names partly or wholly anglicized among Americans of Swedish descent in America. Names like *Sell*, *Shield*, *Shields*, *Shold*, *Streed* and *Sturdy* are only a small part of the flora of Swedish American names with a martial past.

Before we leave the military names it should be mentioned that certain recruits who were assigned to *soldattorp* in the Swedish countryside, would often also inherit the name of the predecessor in that billet, even though no blood relationship existed. An example from the province of Västergötland comes to mind, where three generations of soldiers, none related, were billeted in the same cottage, one after the other, all bearing the name of *Ådahl*. Research showed that the name given to the first resident of this *soldattorp* was *Ådahl*, and subsequently all occupants came to be known by the same name. Caution should therefore be used in searching the military rolls and check how the soldiers inhabiting the identical *torp* with the same name could be related.

## Foreign Names

In addition to the Walloon names, other foreign names have also gained admittance to the catalog of Swedish surnames. Many of these names are linked



to the movement into Sweden of other nationalities at certain time periods of Swedish history. In the 16th and 17th Centuries, a number of Scottish and English mercenaries sought service in Sweden's armies, particularly in the service of Gustavus Adolphus during the Thirty Years War. Many of these young men won fame and fortune in this bloody conflict and elected to settle in Sweden, where some of them founded families, which exist to the present day. Some of these mercenaries were scions of British and Scottish noble families, who in Sweden sought entry and were admitted to the Swedish House of Nobles (*Riddarhuset*). Typical of these families were names like *Fleetwood*, *Hamilton* and *Montgomery*. Others who became a part of Swedish society were names like *Lejon (Lyon)*, *Klerck (Clark)*, *Forbus (Forbes)*. Later in the 18th Century we find English families in the city of Göteborg with names like *Gibson*, *Dickson*, *Chalmers* and in Karlskrona the *Sheldons*.

The Germans have always had strong ties to Sweden, going back to the Middle Ages, when German kings occupied the Swedish throne and the city government of Stockholm was dominated by German merchants and craftsmen. Many of the members of the St. Gertrude's Church in Stockholm (*Tyska kyrkan*), were immigrants from Germany, who had settled in Stockholm to ply their trade as printers, brewers, smiths, and tradesmen. In the 18th and 19th Centuries new waves of German tailors, shoemakers and other craftsmen came to Sweden to settle down and marry Swedish women.

Polish and Russian prisoners of war, captured in Sweden's many wars to the east, released from captivity, elected to settle in Sweden, where some of them still have descendants. Immigrants from southern Europe and France have entered Sweden from time to time, have settled down and have produced progeny represented by French names like *Giron* and *Richert* and Italian names like *Ambrosiani* and *Dominique*.

In the northern part of Sweden Finnish settlers have brought in Finnish names and throughout Sweden may be found families of Norwegian and Danish origin.

The influx of these disparate peoples have brought into Sweden a number of distinct and different surnames, which still live on to speak their language of foreign origin.

Swedish family names constitute a part of Swedish history and speak eloquently of the part that both natives and immigrant peoples have played in the making of modern Sweden.

It is the plan of *SAG* to bring to its readers in the future more complete essays on the various classes of Swedish names, particularly the military and Walloon names, which form such a distinct pattern in the formulation of Swedish surnames.