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## Literature

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# Literature

*Under this heading the editor hopes to bring to the attention of the readers of SAG pertinent literature in the field of Swedish American genealogy. Some of the material may have been in print for some time, some may be of recent origin. For further information concerning these titles and for help in locating pertinent literature please write to SAG under the address given in the front of this magazine.*

One of the most important aids in researching one's Swedish origins is Carl-Erik Johansson's *Cradled in Sweden*. For some time out of print, the good news is that the publishers will be bringing out the third revised edition sometime in early June. The tentative price of the volume is \$12.95.

First brought out in 1972, Mr. Johansson's volume has gone through two editions, both of them eagerly sought for by students of Swedish genealogy. Originally published by Mr. Johansson for his students in his courses in family and local history at Brigham Young University in Provo, UT, the text is beamed primarily at an audience affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. This approach, however, does not in any way detract from the usefulness of the guide, which for years has been a veritable gold mine of information and a must for every serious student interested in following his lines back to Sweden.

Swedish vital statistics have always been the concern of the established Lutheran Church. It was, and still is, the concern of every parish to supervise the recording of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths. When it comes to non-church related activities such as last wills and testaments, tax lists, estate inventories and census lists, various Swedish administrative units were responsible.

The author of *Cradled in Sweden* gives the reader a brief presentation of the Swedish language and outlines the differences between the Swedish and the English language, so far as orthography and pronunciation are concerned.

There are references to the geographical names in Sweden, how to locate them on maps and he takes up the discussion of Swedish personal names, how they have been derived, either from the older Norse sources or from the beginning of the Christian era when first names, derived from the Latin and Greek, were introduced. He discusses the use of Swedish patronymics in the Swedish



rural population and explains the peculiarity of Swedish soldiers' names.

The author has included a very useful chapter on the handwriting of pertinent documents. Until the beginning of the 19th Century, Swedish writing conformed in style to the German, known in Sweden as *kanslistil*, also known as Gothic script. Since it differs markedly from Latin and English, it takes special practice to decipher it and *Cradled in Sweden* contains a good guide to solve some of these writings.

The main section of Mr. Johansson's book is devoted to the records themselves, not only those which originate within the church, but also court records, military records, land and census materials, emigration records both in Sweden and in the United States, as well as a chapter on the Swedish Mission records of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

The final section of the book is given over to valuable appendices, such as tables of Swedish and Finnish army units (Finland was for hundreds of years an integral part of Sweden). Another section deals with probate records for each judicial district in Sweden, as well as the dates of the earliest available records.

There is a complete list of Swedish parishes, arranged alphabetically with the name of the parish before 1952, the year of the big reform, when hundreds of parishes were merged to form larger communal blocks.

All in all, Mr. Johansson's *Cradled in Sweden* constitutes the one available guide book in English to the genealogical material to be found in Sweden. Readers are eagerly looking forward to the third edition.



Nils William Olsson's pamphlet, *Tracing Your Swedish Ancestry*, is an unpretentious guide for the beginner searching for his Swedish identity. Originally published in 1963 by the Swedish Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, it was re-published in 1974 in a second and expanded version. It is distributed by the Swedish Institute in Stockholm and may be had through any Swedish Consulate General and Consulate in the United States.

*Tracing Your Swedish Ancestry* seeks to introduce the beginning student to the sources at his disposal both in the United States and Sweden. The main emphasis is placed on learning as much as possible concerning the Swedish immigrant in the United States, before the attempt is made to continue the story in Sweden. All too often the genealogical student is too impatient in his research and approaches the Swedish sources with insufficient information, thereby wasting his time as well as that of the Swedish archival authorities. The main thrust of the pamphlet is to document as much as possible of the American story before proceeding across the Atlantic.





While H. Arnold Barton's excellent family history, *The Search for Ancestors*, is not a genealogical guide book in the narrow sense of that word, it is an outstanding example of how family history should be written. *The Search for Ancestors* is a personal narrative, in which the author seeks to trace his roots back to Småland in Sweden. The volume contains a wealth of practical genealogical information and in the course of the story he makes clear such difficult Swedish terms as *mantal*, *skattejord*, *frälsejord*, *skattebonde*, etc.

There is no mistaking Dr. Barton's enthusiasm for the task at hand. He pulls his reader along and invites him to follow his journey step by step as he unravels the skeins of his family saga.

*The Search for Ancestors* contains six genealogical tables and is well illustrated. It is published by the Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, IL and sells for \$11.95.



Two books on Swedish genealogical research are available in the Swedish language and should be mentioned here for the benefit of the reader who understands Swedish. Both are excellent treatises and are to be recommended. The first is the late Börje Furtenbach's *Släktforskning för alla* (*Genealogical Research for Every Man*), published in 1971 by the ICA Publishing Co. in Västerås, Sweden. Mr. Furtenbach was for many years the president of the Genealogical Society of Sweden and was instrumental in building the membership of this prestigious organization to an all-time high at the time of his death.

*Släktforskning för alla* does not miss a single trick. It begins with a general introduction to genealogical research and then takes the student on a survey tour of bibliography, including newspapers, discusses ancestral charts and pedigrees and archival organisations in Sweden. He has a chapter on reading the old Gothic script and dwells at length on the ecclesiastical records in Sweden. From this section he moves to the secular sources, legal sources and various specialized archives. All in all it is a comprehensive inventory of how to go about conducting genealogical research in Sweden. Unfortunately he does not touch on emigration sources in Sweden or the United States.

The second source book on Swedish genealogy is Dr. Ulf Beijbom's *Släkt- och hembygdsforskning* (*Genealogical and Local Historical Research*), published in Sweden in 1978 by Natur och Kultur Publishing Co., Stockholm.

Dr. Beijbom, the director of the Emigrant Institute in Växjö, Sweden, covers approximately the same ground as Mr. Furtenbach, but extends his field to include also the "unknown relatives" in the United States. In his final chapter he spends a great deal of time explaining the various emigration sources in Swedish archives, such as exit lists in the various church and parish archives, the passport journals in the Royal War Archives in Stockholm, etc. He also goes into the material extant in the United States, showing how it is possible to trace the

“unknown relatives” on American soil. He dwells on the microfilming of the Swedish American church archives, which has been one of the projects of the Emigrant Institute. Again, as with Mr. Furtenbach’s guide, Dr. Beijbom’s volume is restricted to those persons who can read Swedish.