

12-1-2011

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Recommended Citation

(2011) "The Genealogical Society (GF) of Sweden," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 31 : No. 4 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol31/iss4/12>

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The Genealogical Society of Sweden (GF)

The *Genealogiska Föreningen (GF)* or The Genealogical Society of Sweden started in 1933 in Stockholm. During this long period there have been ups and downs, but right now it is definitely an “up” period with a rapid increase in the membership, (now around 2,500 members) as well as a growing number of volunteers.

Already in the 1930s GF started to clip births, marriages, and death notices from the Stockholm newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet*, and from the middle of the 1960s also from the *Dagens Nyheter*, also from Stockholm. The clippings are organized alphabetically, and even contain scores of Anderssons and Johanssons. There are some 2 million clippings up to 1990, when the project stopped. Through volunteer efforts all these clippings have been digitized, and are available to the members on the society’s web site.

All societies publish a journal, and GF started in 1950 to publish *Släkt och Hävd* (Family and Traditions),

which is still published, and has during the years contained many valuable articles that are still often cited. Now with modern technology the years 1950-1989, with name indexes, are to be found on CD:s.

Other publications have also appeared, for instance a series of family genealogies, *GF:s Släktböcker*.

Naturally during these almost 80 years the society has also built a huge library, geared towards genealogy and topography. A donation some years ago also added many books on German genealogy, which is important as so many ties connect Germany and Sweden.

The GF has members all over Sweden, but organizes meetings and lectures mostly in the Stockholm area, as that is where the headquarters of the society are. The Society shares premises with several other organizations: The Swedish Federation of Genealogical Societies (*Sveriges Släktforskarförbund*), The StorStockholm Genealogical Society

(local society for Stockholm), The Blacksmith’s Genealogical Society (*Föreningen för Smedsläktsforskning*), The Walloon Society (*Sällskapet Vallonättlingarna*), and The DIS-Öst (local genealogical computer society). Together the societies organize Open Days and other ways of getting the public interested in genealogy.

There is also a group that handles research requests from Sweden and abroad. This is fee-based and all income goes to maintaining the library. *Link on page 30.*

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The computer research room at GF. Several computers with many databases and internet subscriptions like Ancestry and Arkiv Digital are available for free to members, and to other people for a small fee.