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Swedes in California in 1852

There is a California state census that was taken in 1852. The reason for this was that the first federal census of California was taken in 1850. However, many of the residents had come to California because of the Gold Rush and were continually on the move. This made the accuracy of the 1850 census questionable.

In addition, the records for the counties of Contra Costa, San Francisco, and Santa Clara were lost or destroyed. As a result, the state of California conducted its own census in 1852. This is the only state census for California.

It is possible to search the census by place of birth, and when searching for Sweden about 550 hits appeared. Here are a few of the Swedes that were in California in 1852, presumably mostly trying their luck in the gold fields.

The information given is their name, year of birth, and county of residence:


Digging for gold in California.


Source: California State Census, 1852. California State Archives, Sacramento. FHL Microfilm, 6 rolls. Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Accessed on April 20, 2012 at www.familysearch.org

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