

12-1-2006

Handwriting example 12

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Recommended Citation

(2006) "Handwriting example 12," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 26 : No. 4 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol26/iss4/7>

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A Handwriting Example XII

Fadrens namn	Hörs	Söbys	Härad	Allmogens	Annoteringar
J. Kertelä	1/4 Johana y. hufv	1	1	1	2. fagnings
	1/4 Pava aff.	1	1	1	2.
	1/4 Gunnar aff.	1	1	1	2.
	1/4 Hanna aff.	1	1	1	2.
	Sold. addest.			1	1.
	3/4 Anders Johans				
	aff. Sv. Sv.				
	aff. Jonat				
	aff. Annan Joha		1	2	2
					6.
Marik	1/3 hufv p. aff.	1	1	1	2.
	1/3 hufv p. aff.	1	1	1	4.
	2/4 hufv p. aff.	1	1	1	2.
	1/6 Sv. Sv.	1	1	1	2.
	1/6 Jon aff.	1	1	1	2.

This is a part of a page from the kind of records called *mantalslängder* or Tax Census/records.

In the early 1620s the king, Gustavus Adolphus, realized that he and the crown (*Kronan*) (the Swedish State) needed more income to be able to enter the Thirty Year's War. He and his advisors decided to tax the use of hand-mills in the homes, and for the first years that is what happened. But in a few years they decided that it was better if all adults had to pay a tax per person, and that is one of the meanings of the word *mantal* (tally of men). The sum to be paid was low, but still a worry for many, and there are many court cases where people were fined for

trying to avoid paying. Generally one can say that anyone between the ages of 15 and 63 had to pay the *mantal*, but there are many exceptions during the ages. The most usual one is that sailors and naval personnel (*båtsmän*) were exempted, but not their wives.

The tax records were written every year around the first of December, and they are organized by county, *härad* (legal district), and by parish. The record, as in the above example, was designated 1756, but really showed the situation for 1755. You need to trace someone in 1814? You should get hold of the record for 1815.

This tax was no longer paid after the 1930s, but the records were kept

until 1991, when the church records and the tax records merged under the auspices of the *Skatteverket* (Tax Authorities).

The information in these records is very scant, mostly just the first name of the farmer; the wife, children, and servants are just marked in columns. From 1812 you can often find the year of birth of the people, but still these records never become as detailed as the clerical surveys.

In the *Family History Library Catalog* you should first look for the county, then for taxation, and then the year you want. In Sweden they are available on microfiche, at the SVAR web site, and at the archives. **Solution on page 23.**