

9-1-2005

News from the Swenson Center

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Recommended Citation

Seaholm, Jill (2005) "News from the Swenson Center," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 25 : No. 3 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol25/iss3/7>

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News from the Swenson Center

Welcome to the Swenson Center's newest, most exciting Swedish genealogy resource!

The Swenson Center now has a subscription to *Genline*, the Swedish parish record images online. Visitors to the Swenson Center now have the potential to trace their Swedish ancestry back to the beginning of record-keeping in Sweden, often into the early 1700s.

Important things to note before making your appointment to come to the Swenson Center to use Genline:

Only by appointment

We have one Genline subscription and it is available for the public to use only by appointment at least a day in advance. Appointments are available for an hour at a time, a whole morning (3 hours), a whole afternoon (3½ hours), or a whole day (6½ hours).

You must already know the name of the parish and county (*län*) or province (*landskap*) in which you plan to do Genline research.

Next, it is important to determine if Genline has all of the records for your parish. They are still scanning the parish records and do not yet have them all ready to view. Some parishes are complete, while some are only partially done. There is no pattern to it, so each parish must be verified ahead of time. As of August 2005, they were 85% done scanning. Their goal for completion is the end of 2005. When done, they should have all available parishes from each parish's beginning up to the year 1900 and you will then have the potential to trace your ancestry through two hundred years of Swedish parish records.

Because the Swedish parish records are in the pastor's original

handwriting and all in Swedish, they can be time-consuming to use and especially to learn to use. One can not type in the ancestor's name and have his or her birth record magically appear on the screen.

For new and/or experienced researchers

If you are a beginner to Swedish parish records, Genline appointments will be available to you only on *Tuesday* and *Wednesday* mornings when our volunteers are available to assist you. Our volunteers will give you free assistance and show you how to use the records and software, and we hope that you will then have the confidence to continue using Genline on your own in the afternoon.

If you have experience with Genline or other forms of the Swedish parish records, you may schedule a Genline appointment for any other time during our open hours Tuesday through Friday.

If you are new to the Swedish parish records, we recommend that you try to read a bit about them before coming, using one of the books *Cradled in Sweden* by Carl-Erik Johansson or *Your Swedish Roots* by Per Clemensson & Kjell Andersson, or by finding a web page that explains parish records, like the ones below.

We cannot guarantee that we will be able to read all of the handwriting

for you, especially in the older records, but we will give it the very best try.

We charge an hourly fee for the use of Genline: \$10/hour for non-members of the Swenson Center and \$5/hour for members.

Questions we will ask you on the phone or via e-mail:

- 1) Have you used Genline before?
- 2) Have you used Swedish parish records before in some other format?
- 3) Does Genline have the parish(es) that you need?
- 4) Give us a few dates/parishes of birth so that we can verify that Genline has records for the dates and time periods you need for those parishes.
- 5) Are you aware of our Genline usage fees? Our daily entrance fee?
- 6) Are you a member of the Swenson Center?

E-mail us now to make your appointment <sag@augustana.edu>, with Genline in the subject line, or call 309.794.7204.

Jill Seaholm

Good web sites on Swedish Church Records

[http://www.algonet.se/~hogman/swe_genealogy.htm].

[<http://www.genealogi.se/roots/kyrkoeng.htm>]

[http://www.ddb.umu.se/ddbmaterial/kb_eng.htm]