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Cover picture:
This is Lewis Lawson, age 17, in the Civil War. See article page 19.
(Marilyn Bode picture collection).
Who Are These Swedish Immigrants of Attleboro, Massachusetts?

or

Questions I Wish I Had Asked My Grandparents Before It Was Too Late!

by Darlene Johnson Norman

In the fall of 2002, I had asked my father about a certain old picture that I believed was in my Grandparents' photo box now stored in my aunt's house. In spite of the fact that they didn't find the picture I requested, I received a group picture of 37 persons from my Aunt Edith at Christmastime. I had never seen it before and it had no identification. The picture was mounted on heavy cardboard but the border, which might have given the name of the photographer, had been removed in order to make it fit in a standard 8 x 10" frame covered with glass. My father could recognize both my grandfather, Emil Johnson, as number 32 in the third row and his Uncle Anton who was seated. We believe the picture may have been taken about 1906.

Attleboro immigrants

To help provide some background information, I will share what is known about a few of the Swedish immigrants in Attleboro. Emil Johnson was the youngest of eight children in his family who immigrated to America. His older brother, Anton, and family are seated in the second row. Anton and Elizabeth's first child, Alfhild, was born 23 January 1905, so the picture may have been taken about 1906-7. Copies of this picture have been sent to several persons with the hope that someone may provide names for more individuals.

Chain migration from Halland

Our genealogical research has shown that numerous young Swedish adults on our family tree immigrated to the Providence/Attleboro area in the late 1800s. In 1883, 19 year-old Ben (Bernander Berntsson) Benson emigrated from his home parish, Skällinge, which is located a few kilometers east of Varberg in Halland län. He was followed by three of his siblings before a cousin, named Hanna (Eliasdotter) Johnson, of a neighboring parish called Nosslinge, emigrated in 1891. At 18 years of age, she was the first member of her family to leave her homeland.

Hanna's destination was Providence, Rhode Island, but in later years she lived in Pawtucket. All of Hanna's seven siblings immigrated to America between 1891 and 1905. They were Johan (John), Albertina, Emelia, Anton, Carl, Josefina, and Emil Johnson, my grandfather. Interestingly, four of them eventually returned to Sweden to live for the rest of their lives. In Sweden, their father's name was Elias Johansson and following the patronymic naming pattern, they were known as Eliassons, but when they arrived in America, each of them called themselves Johnson. John Johnson settled in Providence while six of his younger siblings went on to the town of Attleboro, Massachusetts, which was the hub of jewelry production in those days.

Since three of their cousins, Ben, John A., and John B. Benson, had already emigrated to Attleboro, they must have heard about the job market in that city through letters. The oldest cousin, Ben Benson, had found a job driving a streetcar and was listed as a motorman in the Attleboro city directories. At one time John B. Benson was a gardener and later he built a large home at the foot of Cliff street where they took in boarders for many years. He was a
janitor at the high school for many years. When Emelia and Josefina (Eliasson) Johnson arrived in Attleboro, they found work in a huge wood-framed mansion called the Sheffield House on North Main Street. They became the “cook” and “housekeeper” for the wealthy family of George Sheffield.8 When their brother, Carl Johnson, immigrated in 1903, he also was employed by that family for a few years according to his son, George.

The three Benson brothers came from a family of ten children in Sweden.9 Their older sister, Bernhardina, had married Johan Svensson and they also had ten children. Subsequently, beginning in 1901, Bernhardina’s five older children began immigrating to America.10 First to come were Alma and Carl Johansson in 1901, followed by Oscar, Axel, and Ellen. However, each of the five siblings used the surname Arvidson in America though they would have been Johanssons had they followed the patronymic naming pattern in Sweden. As it happens, the five younger siblings that remained in Sweden are known as “Svenssons.” Doesn’t that make a case for diligent preservation of the original family surname?

A Västergötland addition

Meanwhile, not far from Skällinge, in the parish of Mårdaklev in Älvsborg län, lived the family of Anders and Johanna Johansson. They had twelve children.11 “America Fever” affected young people in all of the Swedish parishes along the west coast and the first of the Andersson siblings to emigrate was Klara. At 18 years of age, she arrived in Pawtucket in 1887 and was known by the surname Anderson. By 1913, ten of the twelve Anderson children had immigrated to Attleboro. As time went by, three of these Anderson siblings married into our family tree that includes the Benson, Johnsons, and Arvidsoms. They are Anna Louisa Anderson, who married John B. Benson, H. Elizabeth Anderson, who married Anton Johnson, and Ed Anderson who married Alma Arvidson.

The Swedish community in Attleboro

The Swedish immigrant families brought their language, traditions, and faith with them when they came to a new country in search of greater opportunities. In Attleboro, they tended to live in the same neighborhood as other relatives and friends where they felt comfortable communicating in their native language.12 When the new immigrants arrived, they frequently boarded in the homes of relatives. Language and family kept the immigrants closely bonded together.

Some of the Swedes were skilled in construction and woodworking. They built homes three stories high called “three-deckers” in which there was a full apartment on each floor. When a son or daughter married, they could move into the upper flat of their parents’ home and get a bargain on the rent.

As early as 1892, some of the Swedes in Attleboro gathered to worship in each other’s homes until their meetings grew too large and then they rented a room in the YMCA.13 In 1903, the Swedish Evangelical Free Church was formed with twenty-five charter members. In the 1913 Attleboro City Directory it is listed as the “Swedish Evangelical Free Church, South Main, cor Beacon” which indicates it was located at the corner of South Main Street and Beacon Street. They continued to use Swedish as their primary language in the Church’s business meetings until 1944 and in some worship services until 1946. In 1949, the name of the church was changed from Swedish Evangelical Free Church to Evangelical Covenant Church of Attleboro and its affiliation with that denomination was formalized in 1953. The congregation now worships in North Attleboro.

Church Records tells

Early church record books show the date persons were received into membership or were married, and also include lists of students in the confirmation classes that are still preserved in the Evangelical Covenant Church.14 The pastor even recorded the name of the parish in Sweden from which the members had come. We know that Carl and Hulda Johnson’s children were confirmed in the Covenant Church.15 Anton and Elizabeth Johnson were faithful members of the same church.

Emil Johnson worked in a jewelry factory during the five years he lived in Attleboro and he boarded at the home of his brother, Anton, at 48 John Street.16 He left in 1911 to settle near more Swedes in rural Houston County, Minnesota, where he married Ada (Augustsdotter) Johnson whom he had met in Attleboro. They continued to speak Swedish in their farm home near the town of Houston. Swedish was the primary language of their children until they entered first grade in the one-room country school and the time had arrived to learn English.

Who are they?

We wonder if this picture shows a group of young families who gathered for a church meeting in Attleboro? Or could it be a group of relatives who had gathered for an evening of fellowship or reunion? The picture shows that thirty-seven people, dressed in their Sunday best, had gathered together inside someone’s home. They took the time to arrange themselves into orderly rows in front of the piano so that almost everyone could be seen by the camera. Could there be a copy of this picture in your ancestor’s box of memories? Did anyone write down the names of everyone pictured for descendants to contemplate almost one hundred years later?

The Anderson Family had a wonderful group picture taken of their whole family with spouses and children outdoors on a lovely day in 1910. Amazingly, a copy of that picture was found with all persons identified! With the help of some Anderson descendants, it has been possible to determine the names of some persons on this indoor group picture.

Swedish American Genealogist 2004:3
Indoor Group Picture Identification taken about 1906.

Front Row:
1. ...................................................
2. ...................................................
3. ...................................................
4. ...................................................
5. Selma Svenson Johnson

Row 2:
6. Anna Svenson Ström (EL)
7. ...................................................
8. ...................................................
9. Anton Johnson (DN)
10. Alfhild Johnson
11. Elizabeth Anderson Johnson
12. Birger Johnson (PM)

Row 3:
13. ...................................................
14. ...................................................
15. ...................................................
16. ...................................................
17. ...................................................
18. ...................................................
19. ...................................................
20. ...................................................
21. ...................................................
22. ...................................................

Row 4:
23. Johanna Anderson (PM)
24. Klas Charles Anderson (PM)
25. Nathaniel Sandberg (AH)
26. Hilda Anderson Sandberg (AH)
27. Clara Anderson Swanson
28. Ruth Swanson? (GE)
29. Lillian Swanson? (GE)
30. Alma Anderson
31. ...................................................
32. Emil Johnson (DN)
33. Carl Adolf Anderson
34. Louis Anderson

Row 5:
35. Edward Anderson
36. John Benson (PM)
37. Annie Anderson Benson (PM)

(AH) per Anita Sandberg Hanna 2/2003
(PM) per Priscilla Anderson MacGregor 6/03
(GE) per Gertrude Swanson Erickson
(DN) per Darlene Johnson Norman

Swedish American Genealogist 2004:3
On 20 April 1883, Bernander Berntsson boarded the Orlando and left Göteborg bound for Hull, England, along with the following three young men: Adolf E. Anderson, Swen A. Jonson, and Swen J. Anderson. Both Adolf and Bernander listed their destination as New York while the two Swens were bound for Sheffield. FHL film #0216594, page 3.

Three of Bernander’s siblings were: Johan Albin Berntsson, age 18, passenger #3572, boarded the Romeo and left Göteborg bound for Hull, England, on 4 May 1888. His destination was Providence, RI. FHL film #0216600. On 29 March 1889, Matilda Berntsson, age 23, passenger #3461, boarded the Livorno bound for Hull, England. Her destination was Boston, MA. FHL film #0216602. On 20 June 1890, J. B. Berntsson, age 21 from Skällinge, Halland, boarded the Romeo and left Göteborg bound for Hull, England. His destination was Boston. FHL film #0216604.

On 27 March 1891, Hanne Eliason, age 18, passenger #7425, boarded the Romeo and left Göteborg bound for Hull, England. Her destination was New York. FHL film #0216606.

On 20 October 1899, Beata Eliason, age 24, passenger #8930 and her brother, Anton, age 23, passenger #8931, from Nösslinge parish in Halland, boarded the Romeo in Göteborg bound for Hull, England. FHL film #0216617.

On 25 March 1903, Carl O. Johansson, age 22, passenger #35432 of Nösslinge, boarded the Rollo bound for Grimsby, England. FHL film #0216622. He left Liverpool aboard the Umbria, passenger #35432, and arrived in New York 6 April 1903. His destination was his brother, Anton Johanson, 19 Cliff Street, Attleboro, MA. FHL film #01399021.

On 4 September 1903, Josefin Johansson, age 20, passenger #41109 of Nösslinge, boarded the Ariosto bound for Hull, England. FHL film #0216623. She left Liverpool 8 September 1903 aboard the Saxonia, passenger #26, and arrived in Boston on 17 September, 1903. Her destination was her sisters, Emelia Jonson-Mrs. Geo. Sheffields, Attleboro, MA & Hannah Berntsson, 25 Washington St., Pawtucket. FHL film #1404191.


1910 Federal Census for Attleboro, MA, ED 102, Supervisor’s District 49, Ward Precinct W, Sheet 13A. The Sheffield family lived at 302 N Main Street.

The ten children of Bernt Aron Johansson and Anna Louisa Andersdotter are listed on the 1863-1872 husförhörslängd for the Öfleria farm in Skällinge parish on page 194 in the middle of FHL film #0,400,305. They are Johan Adolf, Bernhardina Albertina, Anton Edvard, Bernander, Matilda Louisa, Johan Bernt, Johan Albin, Clas Aron, Carolina Augusta, and Carl Julius.

Listed on husförhörslängd for Nedralia farm on page 81 in Skällinge parish in Halland län. Bernhardina’s children were Alma Elfrida, Carl, Clara Matilda (died young), Axel, Oscar, Clara Melissa, Ellen Elizabeth, Bernardina Charlotta, Sven Daniel, Gunnar, Ernst, and Arvid. FHL film #0400305.

Received information regarding immigration of five Arvidson siblings from Edith Arvidson Layton, the daughter of Carl Arvidson who immigrated in 1901 and lived on East Fourth Street according to 1930 Federal Census of Attleboro City in Bristol County, Ward 2, ED 3-16, Supervisor’s District 10, Sheet # 16B, Line 84. In spite of spending some time searching the 1901 immigration index for exact surname and date that Carl left Sweden, the search has been unsuccessful.

Children of Anders Johansson and Johanna Gustafva were Gustafva Clare Lina, Johannes Andrew, Clara Josefin, Claus (Charles), Anna Louise, Johan August, Edward L., Hanna Elizabeth, Carl Adolf, Ida Sofia, Axel Ludvig (Louis A.), and Hilda Maria. Received list of children from Gertrude Swanson Erickson, daughter of Ida Sofia Anderson Swanson, whose husband was one of the first to gather Anderson genealogy.

Received information and pictures of homes in Swedish neighborhood in Attleboro from Anita Sandberg Hanna, daughter of Hilda Maria Anderson Sandberg, who grew up in Attleboro.


Search Book 1 and Book 2 of Evangelical Covenant Church in North Attleboro by appointment on October 7, 2003. Those records are also available on film at the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

Ibid. Book 2, page 218, Confirmation Classes, list for class of 1922 and 1929.


The author, Darlene Johnson Norman, lives in Brookfield, Wisconsin. She can be reached by e-mail: <darnorman@aol.com>
Listening to the Prairie

The old Jansson homestead in Minnesota is visited by a descendant. Part III

BY DENNIS L. JOHNSON

Growing town of Bernadotte

The same year (1871) Gustafsson's new general store had opened across from the church, and it had a post office. After Sunday services, settlers could stop for their mail, buy a few things, and deliver butter and eggs for sale.

A new one-room schoolhouse had been built only a mile north of the Johnson's farm, and school was held for two months in the winter and two months in the summer. By 1870, they had 27 children of all ages attending. One of them no doubt was Ephraim, now 14 years old, and learning to speak English so he could teach his family at home. Mathilda and Wilhelmina might have gone as well, but they were older and may not have wanted to join all the little children.

A few years later, Otto would also begin his schooling in this little classroom, and become proficient in English.

By 1870, land prices in the area had risen to nearly 6 dollars an acre from the $1.50 of just a few years earlier when Jonas arrived in the township. Most of the land around the Johnson farm was now settled, and the church was filled every Sunday. At the general store, butter could be sold for about 20 cents a pound, a dozen eggs would bring 15 cents. Their chicken flock grew larger, and little Otto helped Ephraim and Mathilda collect the eggs every day, leaving one egg behind so the hens would not stop laying. Stina kept all the butter and egg money in a jar behind the stove; this was her money to be used for needed items at the store, or for the infrequent trips into St. Peter for shopping.

Farm chores

There was milk in the household now, with several milk cows in their new cow shed. The cows had to be milked daily and the cream separated from the milk. From the cream they made butter, cheese from the milk, and any excess milk and buttermilk was drunk, fed to the calves, or sold. The farm had acquired a stray cat who settled in to help keep the mice at bay, and who always showed up at milking time for her share.

Plowing was easier now; Jonas had bought a team of horses and given them new Swedish names. He built a shed large enough for the pair, the harness and equipment, and enough feed to last a winter. Now he would also plant barley and oats to feed these hard-working horses. To add new acres to the plowing, however, he still had to borrow a team to hitch in tandem to his own, or perhaps use John Hed's oxen, to break new sod. He could also plow the vegetable garden for the women to plant and tend; it would be a little larger every year. They tried a little sweet corn, and raised turnips, carrots, pumpkins, cabbage, beans, and peas. Some of the Swedish farmers built familiar zigzag rail fences; Jonas found posts with the new barbed wire more practical.

Dangers

Spring and fall, when the grass and fields were dry, brought the threat of prairie fires, usually signaled by smoke in the western sky. The more experienced farmers would quickly hitch up their team and plow a firebreak around their woodlot to protect their house and other buildings, but the fires would sometimes jump the firebreaks in the strong winds.

In July of 1873, another kind of cloud appeared on the horizon. A plague of locusts swept over the land, one which was to reappear every year for four years more. The desperate farmers fought back, but these locusts, or grasshoppers, could strip a field bare in a few hours. People were paid from 3 to 10 cents per bushel by the county for dead locusts.

Jonas and his neighbors tried everything to save their crops. Some used a drag, a flat pan coated with molasses to drag the fields and trap the insects. Others used long, sticky ropes to drag through the fields, all to little avail. With luck, the swarms moved on and not too much of the valuable grain was lost. Yields were poor in those years, and the families...
had to struggle to get by. A fund was set up to help families that lost their entire crops, and by 1878, the locusts had pretty much gone away. The winters became milder in 1877 and 1878 and in 1880-81, and yields improved.

**Children leaving**

By 1874 Lars Johan, the oldest son of Jonas and Stina Johnson, was 28 years old and had worked for his father since coming to Minnesota eight years before. He was ready to start his own farm and to marry and raise a family. He had a sweetheart, Betsy Morshare, the daughter of a farmer who lived about two miles down their road to the west. Lars had seen Betsy regularly in church and at other gatherings, and they were married in 1874. They had six children in the next twelve years.

Tragedy struck in 1889 when Lars Johan was killed by a falling tree on his farm. He was only 43 years old, and left Betsy a widow with six young children to raise.

After Mathilda left home in 1873 and Lars in 1874, the family had become smaller and the house was now less crowded. More work fell on the shoulders of Wilhelmina, now 24, and Ephraim, a young man at 18.

Otto was by now 7 years old and learning to help around the farm. He collected all the eggs from the henhouse, chased rabbits and the occasional deer away from the garden, and had learned not to fear the mean rooster that sometimes used to chase him into the house, strutting about and acting as if the entire farmyard was his territory. Otto had learned to read and write in English at school, and tried to teach his family new words as best he could. He had a pet dog now, his father had brought home a pup from a neighbor's farm, and between them they would bring the cows in from the field at night, into the barn. Otto William was good with his hands, and began to try and make things from scraps of wood he found in the shed. He wasn't so sure he wanted to be a farmer, however. He hated it when the locusts came and ate the crops. He liked the trips into St. Peter, he thought that was a splendid town.

July and August brought hotter weather than any of the Swedes had experienced in the old country. Summer storms, usually at the end of hot and humid days, could be violent and frightening. The sky would become black, a deep greenish black like they had never seen before, and lightning would flash and the thunder would roll. Powerful winds would suddenly shatter the calm, and send all the farmers and their families to their root cellars for safety. (On July 7, 1869, Alfred Johnson [not a relative] and another man were killed by lightning in Bernadotte Township, and by 5:00 the same day, a tornado had struck St. Peter and damaged many homes and buildings.) After a storm had passed, it would be a little cooler for a time, then the heat would resume. Sometimes weeks on end would pass without rain, or the rain would miss their farm completely, until the wheat was shriveled and dry. The farmers had to take what came their way and continue with their lives.

**Golden years**

The 1880's brought better weather and many signs of progress to the prairie. The worst of the locust years were over, all the fields were now producing crops across the entire township as far as the eye could see, except for a few undrained sloughs and small lakes. The price of wheat had risen to over a dollar a bushel by 1881, higher than in the 1890's and later. The winters in the '80's were among the coldest, with temperature records that would stand until almost a century later, in the 1970's. The growing seasons were pretty good, however, and many farmers were turning to corn as the demand for beef in the growing cities made this a valuable feed crop. The new Minnesota River Valley Railroad had been extended through St. Peter by 1869, so river boat traffic had declined, and the railroads now hauled crops to market.

**The railroad comes**

In 1881, the year President Garfield was assassinated, a new railroad was extended west from Henderson on the Minnesota River to Breckenridge, and a new depot was built near Titloe Lake, only seven miles or so north of Bernadotte. The town of Gaylord quickly sprung up around the depot, with a general store, grain elevators, post office, and saloon. Other stores quickly opened, and this soon became the nearest town for shopping and other needs. There was even a telegraph in Gaylord, but the first telephone was not to come until 1897, with a line extended to Bernadotte in 1902. Party line telephones to each farm were not to become common until the 1920's and later.

**More marriages**

In May of 1879, Jonas and Stina's older daughter, Wilhelmina, 29, was married to John Holberg, and they moved to the Holberg farm a little ways away.

Then on January 31, 1881, son Ephraim, now 25, married Ida Liljegren, 21, daughter of August and Maria Liljegren. They were also members of the Bernadotte Church, and had come from Sweden a little after Jonas's family.

Ephraim had been a big help to Jonas on the farm after Lars Johan married, but he was restless to own his own place. Good land in Minnesota had by the 1880's all been taken up, and the cost of buying a farm had risen to nearly eight dollars an acre. He had heard of good homestead land available way out in Washington State, in the Willamette valley, and began making plans to leave and seek his own fortune. Ephraim knew the pioneer life well, and he and Ida were young and unafraid.

**Thoughts of the future**

By 1883, Jonas was able to start thinking about his and Stina's own future. He was now 63 years old and Stina was 60. Despite help from his sons and son-in-law Charles Hed, the work was tiring and aches and pains
began to slow them both down. Otto was now 16 years old, had done well in school, but showed little sign of wanting to be a farmer. He seemed mostly to enjoy working in the shed, making things of wood and repairing the farm equipment. Ephraim and Ida wanted to leave to make a start in Washington, and perhaps could use a little help.

Jonas had built up this farm from empty prairie during his eighteen years in Bernadotte, and didn't want to see it pass out of the family. They knew it was soon time to rest from their labors, but they still needed a way to live. It was time to make some hard decisions, and he talked many times to Stina to see what she thought.

**Last Christmas together**

The whole family gathered at the Jansson homestead for Christmas, 1882, for a Christmas Eve dinner before going to the Yuletide services at the Bernadotte church. Stina had roasted three chickens in her new kitchen range, and had even made some lutefisk from dried cod that they found at Gustafson's store. Gifts were exchanged in the Swedish fashion on Christmas Eve, mostly little things that each had made for the others. There was Lars Johan, his wife Betsy, and their children Anna, 5, and Albert, 3. Wilhelmina and John Holberg had been married three years, but so far had no children. Mathilda and Charles Hed brought Anna, 9, Johan, 7, Jennie, 5, Emma, 2, and Mathilda was expecting. Ephraim and Ida had been married only a year, and had no children yet. And there was Otto, the youngest of Jonas's children, still only 15 and enjoying his status as uncle to his six young nephews and nieces. He had made them each a toy in his workshop in the barn. The little ones enjoyed seeing their cousins again, and romped together as children do.

Jonas sat and watched them at play, marveling at all the new young lives, the fruit of his and Stina's marriage. There would be 17 souls around his Julbord this year, a little makeshift with the adults at the big table and all the children sitting nearby around the kitchen table. Jonas led in the saying of an old Swedish table prayer, then Stina and the mothers rose to tend to passing the foods and helping the little ones. After coffee and lots of Christmas cookies, Jonas told some stories about Christmas in Sweden and Stina taught the children some songs she had sung as a little girl.

It was soon time for Jonas and Otto to go out and hitch up the team and sleigh for the ride to church. Lars drove his own team, the others all crowded into Jonas's sleigh. The stars shone bright and clear in the night sky, and the children's eyes filled with wonder as they saw the big church dressed and decorated for Christmas. The chandeliers held dozens of candles, and there were more on stands along the center aisle, in the windows, and in the chancel.

Christmas Day was more quiet, a day of rest, and a time for Jonas to think about the future. He walked to the barn to check on the animals, the team of horses quiet in their stalls, the three cows munching hay in the yard near the hay barn. A few chickens wandered about, pecking at the snow covered ground but most stayed in the hen house out of the cold wind. He looked over his equipment, now taking up quite a bit of space in the shed and waiting for planting time. Jonas pumped up some more water into the cattle trough, breaking the ice on what remained. Someday he would get one of those windmill kits to pump water automatically and fill the trough as needed.

The house gleamed white in the bright sun, and the yard was neat with a new picket fence around the vegetable garden. Across the road and down a ways, smoke was rising from Charles and Mathilda's chimney almost straight up into the blue sky. He came back in the kitchen door, stomping his boots on the stoop to shake off the snow, and hung up his Mackinaw. Stina was starting dinner, this time a ham she had bought for Christmas Day. Otto was reading a book in English at the table by the stove, and there would be only the three of them for dinner, their married children would be visiting their spouse's parents' houses today. Perhaps a few friends would stop by to visit in the parlor in the afternoon; Stina would make coffee and serve cakes and Christmas buns.

Jonas walked into the front room, once their first bedroom. They now had several pieces of furniture, chests, and a davenport. Today they would open the parlor, furnished with their best things, and a new carpet bought in town, for their guests. He wound the tall clock in the parlor, the one that struck the hours night and day, and raised the window shades to let the sun shine in. Stina had asked him to build up a fire in the parlor stove, in case company stopped by. He put in some kindling and corn cobs, some paper, and a few pieces of oak from the nearby rack and struck a match, watching the fire catch hold and blaze up. He closed down the damper, and sat down in his newest easy chair to warm himself.

**Summing up**

From this chair he could also see the road and watch who was passing by, recognizing them by their team of horses. It was not a bad life, and he decided that leaving Sweden for America was not his worst decision. Both his and Stina's parents were now dead, but he did get a letter once a year from his older brother, still farming in Brålanda parish. Things were a little better in Sweden, his brother reported, now that so many people had left for America. There was an addition to the Brålanda church, and the new railroad now passed by and went all the way to Göteborg.

Jonas counted his blessings. His family was establishing themselves and independent, except for young Otto, filled with dreams about the city. Farming had grown easier, with
the new horse-drawn plows, planters, cultivators, and harrows. Harvest was no longer back-breaking work, threshing crews with mechanical threshing machines went from farm to farm to harvest the wheat and leave the straw tied into bales. Jonas had even heard of steam-powered threshing machines in the County. He had put aside a little money in the bank, but not enough to live on for long. He still had a small mortgage he had taken out to build the new hay barn, but it was slowly being paid off. He and Stina had their health, but who knows how long that will last? And the little grandchildren were the joy of their lives, and still more of them to come.

The decision
Within a few more weeks, the decision was made. Jonas would retire from farming and sell the farm to his son-in-law and daughter Mathilda. This energetic and successful farmer was prospering, and would surely look after the farm. Lars and Wilhelmina were doing well also, but lived a little further away and stood to inherit land from their in-laws. Ephraim was restless and wanted to move to Washington, and Otto did not appear to have much desire to be a farmer.

By March 12, 1883, a contract had been drawn up by a lawyer in St. Peter, in which Jonas agreed to sell his farm to Charles for the sum of $900.00. That was a little less than market value, but Charles agreed to pay off the remaining mortgage of $160.00 also. Charles also agreed “to provide hay for 3 cows and 1 team, and feed for the team.” Jonas and Stina would have the right to live in their house for “the rest of their natural lives.”

Idleness did not sit well with either Jonas or Stina, however, and when Ephraim and Ida decided to go out to Washington State in 1884, Jonas and Stina decided to go along with them and help them get started. Otto, 17, would stay in Minnesota and live with his sister Mathilda, looking after their house and helping Charles Hed with the farm work. They stayed in Washington State for nearly four years, until Ephraim and Ida had established themselves on a homestead near Creston, Washington. They farmed there for many years, and raised six children, the first not being born until 1886, when Ephraim’s parents returned to their farm in Bernadotte. Jonas and Stina moved back into their home, rejoined the Bernadotte church, and resumed their retirement on the farm. Jonas helped his children where he could, and Stina helped look after the grandchildren when needed.

Old folks’ life
Otto moved back in with his parents and helped with the heavy chores. He found himself traveling often in to St. Peter, borrowing one of the horses or now and then taking the team and a wagon, sometimes doing errands and picking up things in the stores for his parents. Jonas wondered if maybe Otto was seeing a young lady in St. Peter, and hoped it was a nice Swedish girl.

Life was quieter now, and the aging couple often just sat by the stove and talked of old times. They enjoyed seeing their friends in church on Sundays, now almost all more prosperous looking. Gone were the sheepskin or buffalo coats and old style homemade clothes. The men, mostly bearded, all had proper suits to wear, and looked distinguished in their hats (except when removed indoors to reveal their “farmer’s tan,” deep brown cheeks and face but a very white forehead). The ladies wore store-bought big fancy hats decorated with ribbons and flowers. Seldom seen any more were the old style Swedish caps or the prairie bonnets. Stina had several nice dresses she had bought in town, and Jonas even on workdays wore shirts and overalls from the dry goods store. No more home-made clothes!

Stina kept busy with her crocheting, making decorative cloths to cover dresser tops or the backs and arms of upholstered chairs. She knitted sweaters and layettes for the little grandchildren as they came along, and made many more rag rugs and quilts, most of which she gave away to her children. Cooking was easier now, they had bought a big new icebox to keep butter and meat in. An ice man brought a big block of ice every other day to keep things cold, and another dray man picked up a few cans of milk and their eggs at the road twice a week, for their account at the creamery. Despite many hardships along the way, life

A last look at the deserted Jansson homestead.
had been good to them and there were no regrets about breaking loose from their roots in Sweden and coming to pioneer in Minnesota. None at all.

Epilogue
The children of Jonas and Stina continued to grow and prosper in their new land.

Lars Johan and Betsy had six children by 1889 when tragedy befall them in the death of Lars, killed while felling a tree on his farm. The family struggled on with help from all their relatives and friends. Jonas and Stina never really recovered from the shock of this loss, their sturdy oldest son who had been through so much, and had been such a help to them. Stina said little, but Jonas knew her heart was crushed by the loss of her firstborn in the prime of his life.

Wilhelmina and John Holberg had five children, she died fairly young in 1897, at the age of only 47. The cause of her death was lung fever.

Charles Hed became one of the more successful farmers in the area, adding land and leading in mechanization. He and Mathilda had 11 children, one died in childhood but many of their children had large families.

Ephraim and Ida had 6 children and began a whole new branch of the family in Washington State. Ephraim died in 1915 at the age of 58, of lung fever and a heart lesion.

In November, 1894, Otto William, age 27, married 24-year-old Mathilda Brink in St. Peter, a Swedish girl from Skara in Västergötland. They settled in St. Peter, where Otto (known as Bill, or ‘Willie’) built a house on St. Paul Street just a few doors down the hill from Gustavus Adolphus College. He worked as a carpenter most of his life for the State Mental Institution at the southern edge of town. They had four children; their second son was my father, Hilding Ephraim.

The end of the story
Jonas Jansson, after feeling poorly for a few years, died of consumption on the 12th of April, 1894, just three months short of celebrating his and Stina’s 50th wedding anniversary, and about six months before his youngest son, Otto, was married. Stina after a time moved in with her daughter Mathilda, and lived with her until her death on Feb. 25, 1904. At the time of her death, Stina had 33 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. They and their descendants now live in all parts of the United States.

Only one descendant continues to be a member of the Bernadotte Church. Duane Anderson, grandson of Mathilda and Charles Hed, has a dairy farm near the church and only one mile west of the Jansson homestead. All others now have a variety of urban careers, living in cities and small towns throughout this country.

The first Bernadotte church, to meet the needs of a growing congregation, was replaced by a new and larger brick church in 1897. In 1894 the congregation had 525 adult members and 472 children.

Sources:
Busse, Arlene, Chair, Gaylord History Committee, Gaylord, Hub of Sibley County, Gaylord, Minnesota, 1982.
County Clerk, Nicollet County, St. Peter, Minnesota
County Clerk, Sibley County, Gaylord, Minnesota
Family records and papers, collected by Dennis L. Johnson.
Gothenberg Landsarkivet, Parish Records of Brålunda Parish.
Gustavus Adolphus College archives, St. Peter, Minnesota.
Nicollet County (Minnesota) Historical Society and Museum.
Palm, Gunnar, Brålanda Kyrka, Short history and description, CW Carlssons Tryckeri, Vänersborg, 1978.
Pamphlet, Diamond Jubilee of the Bernadotte Evangelical Lutheran Church held June 20-22, 1941, author not given.

An example of a name change
My Swedish great-grandfather changed his name at naturalization. He came to the U.S. as Karl Käll, and became Charles Schell at naturalization. The family story is that his naturalization lawyer was a German, thus the German spelling for Shell. As his brothers and sisters came to the U.S., they also used the surname Schell. In a similar way, my great-grandmother came as Selma Christine (or Kristin) Andersdotter, but was known in the U.S. as Selma Christine Anderson until marriage.

Karl Käll was born in Norra Sandsjö parish, province of Småland, Sweden, Dec. 11, 1867. At the age of 19 he left Sweden on Nov. 11, 1887 for Duluth, Minnesota. There he was married to Selma Anderson Sept. 15, 1894. They had seven children.

He worked as a baker most of his life and died in Seattle on Feb. 5, 1937.

Valorie Zimmerman
valoriez@zimres.net
Swedish census

At www.arkion.se you will find the decennial censuses as searchable databases
1890 is complete and contains 4 800 000 individuals
1900 - 3 300 000 individuals
1880 - 281 000
1870 - 170 000
1860 - 12 000
A total of 8 563 000 posts and constantly growing.

You will find information on family status, occupation, place of birth, other members of the household with different names and much more. In the 1900 census most posts are linked to images of the original pages.

You may add your own information for other researchers to see, or find information others have added.

Released prisoners

At www.arkion.se there is a database of released prisoners during the period of 1876-1925. The information on each prisoner contains information on his name, place of birth, current sentence and previous convictions, personal description (hair and eye color etc) and a photograph.

www.arkion.se is constantly growing

Where do you find it all? www.arkion.se

The databases are in English, still need help, look at our translation help, still need help?
Contact support@arkion.ra.se and we will do our best to guide you right.
Arkion Storgatan 77 881 31 Sollefteå Sweden +46 620 259 10

Swedish American Genealogist 2004:3
This section usually features news from the Swenson Center, but in this issue we are pleased to feature two volunteers whose efforts over the years have helped improve our research resources. They diligently wade through materials that would otherwise remain untouched. We are deeply grateful for the work of volunteers.

**Pastor Robert Pearson of East Moline, Illinois**

Bob Pearson has volunteered nearly every Wednesday afternoon for the past five years processing archival material from Upsala College. When Upsala College in East Orange, New Jersey, closed its doors in 1995, several hundred boxes of the school’s archival holdings were donated to the Swenson Center where they are being preserved for the future.

Working with the records from Upsala College fascinates Bob Pearson for personal reasons. Bob earned a B.A. from Upsala College in 1958. He eventually became a U.S. Army Chaplain where he served around the world until he finished his career in the ministry serving Lutheran parishes in the Midwest.

He has processed over 117 linear feet of the material so far. The Upsala College collection does not include student transcripts, but it does contain, among other things, presidential papers, files from the dean’s office, records of board of trustee meetings, faculty publications, photos of early campus life, and student theses. Bob sorts the papers and is generating a detailed finding aid for the collection. The closing of an historically Swedish-American college is unfortunate, but Bob appreciates working with the archives. He finds the correspondence endlessly interesting. The Swenson Center is fortunate to have the opportunity to preserve the history of Upsala College and grateful for the hundreds of hours that Bob Pearson has volunteered.

**Robert Seaholm of Moline, Illinois**

Bob Seaholm has been a volunteer at the Swenson Center off and on for the last 10 years. He makes indexes of immigrant members of Swedish-American churches for use in genealogical research.

Bob was born in Moline, and raised in Andover, Illinois. All of his ancestors emigrated from Skåne, Småland, and Västergötland to Moline, and Andover. In the 1980s Bob’s wife Marjorie (Marge) and her cousin Doris Anderson began making card indexes of church records by pulling names of immigrants from the membership books and noting the book and page number where the person was found. Indexed in that era were Augustana Lutheran in Andover, IL, First Lutheran in Moline, IL, and First Lutheran in Rock Island, IL.

After Bob retired from his job as a draftsman at Deere & Company’s headquarters in Moline, Marge started bringing him along to help make church indexes. In the 1990s, Bob and Marge would occasionally come in and work on other churches and to see their daughter Jill, who works at the Swenson Center. Marge worked on the enormous Immanuel Lutheran in Chicago while Bob indexed St. Paul Lutheran in Orion, IL. Bob has a sentimental attachment to the family names and the churches whose records he works with, so he works on churches from his own family background whenever possible.

Widowed in August 2003, Bob has since dutifully volunteered every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, and has completed St. Paul in Orion, Immanuel in Chicago, and recently indexed Immanuel Lutheran in East Moline, where he himself was baptized. He enjoys the atmosphere of the Swenson Center and the challenge of deciphering old Swedish handwriting. We are extremely thankful for Bob Seaholm’s help and company twice a week in our Reading Room.
Some Thoughts on Citing Swedish Records – Why Should I???

BY ELISABETH THORSSELL

By now one hopes that it is no longer necessary to explain why it is important to cite one’s sources? But, just in case, here are a few reasons.

1. You do it for your own needs, you never know if you need to backtrack and see who else was listed on that page in the cl. survey. And that is much easier to do if you have made proper citations.

2. You do it for the sake of the ones that continues your research. How are they to know if you had looked in this or that record, unless you have made notes of the sources?

3. You do it for the people you wish to share your research with. During the years you read the records for Lommaryd, you probably will meet with others who have roots in the same parish, and it is much easier to compare results if you have the proper citations.

We agree about this, don’t we?

So, how do you cite sources? You do it in such a way that it is possible for anyone to trace the document where you found that specific piece of evidence that showed that your Johan was indeed the son of Nils in Lillegården.

There are two good books in English that shows the how and why of citing sources; see the end of this article for titles.

Those books are very good but they do not mention some specific things about Swedish church records that are quite important.

Swedish church records

The Swedish archives have organized the church records in the same way since they started to care for them in the late 1800s. Each parish archive was supposed to keep the same kind of records as every other parish in the country.

The main categories were clerical surveys or household examination records (husförhörslängder), removal records (flyttningslängder), birth and baptism records (födelse- och dopböcker), banns and marriage records (lysningss- och vigselböcker), and death and burial records (död- och begravningsböcker).

Each category of books were given a code letter (Swedish: signum) and then a volume figure.

These letters are:

A = clerical surveys
B = removal records
C = birth and baptism records
E = banns and marriage records
F = death and burial records

Book Lommaryd AI:2 thus is the second volume of the clerical surveys for Lommaryd. When you have found that your ancestors lived at Degla farm, on page 234 in Lommaryd AI:2, you can cite the source for that family as “Lommaryd AI:2, p.234,” or just “Lommaryd AI:2:234.”

But that is mostly convenient when you are at the Vastena archives, where they have the original records.

If you are using the microfilms of the Family History Library, you should add FHL Film 135601. So then the citation says “Lommaryd AI:2:234, FHL Film 135601.”

Those Swedish code letters, mentioned above, appear on the first page of every microfilmed volume, and on the same page you can see what years the volume covers. It might be a good idea to add those years to your citation. So now it has become a little longer again:

“Lommaryd AI:2:234, FHL Film 135601, 1789-1791.”

The good thing about adding the years for the volume is that when the archive that has the original books for some reason changes the volume number, you still know what years you are looking for.

If you are going to work in Swedish archives, you will have no help of the FHL film numbers, as they are virtually unknown in Sweden.

If you receive what looks like a well documented genealogy from cousin Stina in Sweden, you might see that she references to SVAR numbers. Those numbers are found on the microfiche, and can look like this: “Hedemora AI:16d; 12420, 2/5” which means Hedemora clerical survey 16; d is the 4th volume for the same time period, 12420 is the SVAR number which identifies parish and volume in their catalog. 2/5 means that the info was found on the 2nd microfiche of volume 16b.

The main thing is to remember to make a citation so you can easily find your way back to a document you looked at several years ago, and that other people also can find it.

Many of the modern computer programs have good facilities for citations, but if they do not fit your requirements, you can always write a text note.

More reading:


The Old Picture

About this picture P. Robert Willey of Bloomington, Ill., writes:

"Stored in a box of my mother’s memorabilia was an old unlabeled photograph of “family” from Höganäs, Sweden. My brothers and I did not know who they were. I recently contacted a relative who lives in Höganäs to see if he could recognize them.

“To my surprise he had a copy of the same photograph and sent me an e-mail identifying all the individuals. The woman is Paulina (Svensson) Karlsson, a sister to my maternal grandfather (morfar); her husband August Karlsson and their six children. Shown in the picture is David, one of the children, who is the father of the relative I contacted. Also in the photograph were Philip and Bertil whom I knew as a child in Worcester, Mass. This picture was taken shortly before Philip and Bertil immigrated to this country in 1910. They lived with my grandparents.”

P. Robert Willey can be reached at <bawille@ilstu.edu>.

Front row: Sigrid Paulina (b. 1863 in Höganäs, as are all the children), David (b. 1905), Gurli Elisabet (b. 1898), Åke (b. 1902), and August (b. 1865 in Växtorp, Hall.). Back row: Hugo Martin (b.1895), John Philip (b. 1890), and Kurt Bertil (b. 1893).

House of Emigrants in Göteborg now open!

The House of Emigrants in Göteborg opened officially on Aug.26, 2004, after a struggle of more than 20 years to get funding. It is based in the old Customs House (Tullhuset), which all the emigrants had to pass through.

They have a research room with CDs and Internet databases and a small library. At the moment the most interesting item is the exhibition about Sillgatan, the main street down to the harbor.

The institution is open weekdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesdays also 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.


The web site is still under construction and the e-mail address also.

To the right in this picture is the Tullhuset (Customs House), where the new House of Emigrants is based.
More Census Names at Ancestry.com

The Ancestry Daily News of September 22 announced that the 1900 Census now has indexed all names and linked them to images of the actual census page. This is an on-going project and so far the index exists for the states of Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Ohio.

Ancestry.com is a subscription service, so these indexes are not free.

John Norton of Moline receives prize

The Swedish Bishop Hill Society (see SAG 2/04) celebrated its 20th anniversary in June 2004. In conjunction with the festivities, John Norton of Moline, Ill., received the 2004 Olov Isaksson prize from the hands of Mrs. Britt Isaksson. Mr. Norton was chosen because of his long and enthusiastic struggle to preserve Bishop Hill, all in the spirit of the late Olov Isaksson.

Nordic Family Research Center in Chicago

In late June the Swedish American Museum Center in Chicago opened their Nordic Family Research Center. The project leader Marilynn Jeglum writes “We have three microfiche readers and one microfiche reader-printer; two computers (very old ones), but are expecting to receive more up-to-date computers soon. We have Genline, and already have subscriptions to Ancestry.com and Genealogy Library (Family Tree Maker's online searchers); We have the Mormons’ Genealogy Index, the Swedish Emigration CD's from 2001 or 2; microfiche for several parishes; many, many FTM's World Family Tree CD's; about a dozen grona karta and plan to purchase more (they are so helpful for the American Swedes); Passenger Immigration, Census, Canadian, and other CD's. Our library really has some valuable resources.”

Check the Museum's web site for more info at http://www.samac.org/index1.html

Thord Bylund retired

The eminent archivist Thord Bylund retired from his duties at the Provincial Archives (Landsarkivet) in Härnösand at the end of October. He will be greatly missed by the Norrland researchers, but it is hoped that he will use some of his time to continue his research into the biographical problems of northern Sweden. He was honored by the Landsarkivet with a special seminar on Norrland matters in the middle of October.

Värmländergårdar in Moline

The Moline Swedish Friendship Association offers a scholarship of $500 for studies in the cultural exchange between Värmland and the Moline area. The recipient will publish his/her study in The Dispatch, The Bridge, and other suitable publications. The result is also supposed to be presented in a lecture to the public in both Moline and Karlstad.

Contact David Gustafson, 1414 25th Street, Moline, IL 61265, or e-mail: <drgustaf@mchsi.com>

(Thord Bridge 02/2004)

Interesting Web Sites

(All links have been tried in September 2004 and should work)

Partial index to the 1901 Canadian Census:
http://automatedgenealogy.com/census/NationalSummary.jsp

Hans Högman’s pages about the Allotment System:
http://www.algonet.se/~hogman/slsoldat_eng.htm

A small multi-language genealogical glossary: http://home.online.no/~cfscheel/gg-index.htm

Soldiers from Missouri during WWI (service records): http://www.sos.mo.gov/ww1/Default.asp

Members of the Swedish Church in Jamestown, NY:
http://www.rootsweb.com/~nychauta/CHURCH/SWEDISH.HTM

The San Francisco Call database 1869-1891: http://feefhs.org/fdb2/sfcalli.html

The Swedes in Knox County, Illinois:
http://www.iltrails.org/knox/Immigrants/Immigrants.html
This is the first part of the probate for Nils Carlsson of Stjelkhammar in Ukna parish in Kalmar län, who died in 1879.

This kind of record is more difficult to read than the church records as the wording can be much more varied than in the Birth records, for instance.

However, in a probate you can expect to find the name of the person, who died, and then the names of the heirs and most often also where they lived. If they are under age, the guardian will also be mentioned.

A transcription and translation is found on page 26.
Great-Grandpa Was a Soldier

– How can I find out more?

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

From the late 1600s until 1901, Sweden had its very own system of recruiting soldiers. In Swedish it is called Indelningsverket, which has been translated as “The Allotment System.” In short it meant that a group of farms (a rote) hired a young man to be the soldier for them. His salary was the use of a cottage and some farming land, some foodstuffs in kind and a small sum of money. Maybe he could also borrow a horse or a pair of oxen when he needed to.

The rote farmers took care of the farming when the soldier had to go to war. If he died, his family had to move elsewhere, as the new soldier for the rote needed the cottage.

During the centuries it is estimated that almost 500,000 men were soldiers for the various rotar, which means that most families have one or more soldiers among their ancestors.

Swedish Military Records

The Swedish army and navy kept detailed records about their soldiers and boatsmen, but how can you access them?

First a little about the most common types of records. The basic record is the Generalmönsterrulla [General Muster Roll, GMR], which was rewritten every three years in peacetime. In the GMR you can find information on when the soldier was enrolled and when he was discharged, his height, marital status, age, and from where he came. During the later 1800s his previous name is listed and also his exact birth date and parish of birth. During earlier times one only gets to know that he was an östgöte or smålänningsmän, which is not much help when you try to trace him. His patronymic is probably missing, but genealogy is not supposed to be easy, or it would not be a sport.

Other than the GMR there are many other kinds of rolls, kept on the company level, like brödrullor (bread rolls), sjukrullor (sick rolls), and straffrullor (penal rolls). There are also orderböcker (command books) and huseysynsprotokoll (inspection minutes) from soldiers’ cottages. All the original records are kept in the Krigsarkivet (War Archives) in Stockholm.

The GMRs and lots of other military records are microfilmed, and can be bought on microfiche from SVAR in Sweden. The Family History Library [FHL] in Salt Lake City has most of the records too.

Finding great-grandpa?

From earlier research you know that great-grandfather was named Sven Ring and that he lived in Ringarum parish in Östergötland. You also know that he served for the Andra Livgrenadjärregejementet [2nd Regiment of Life Grenadiers].

Help from the Mormons

In the FHL catalog you go to, for instance, the “Place search” and enter “Östergötland”, and then go down the page to “Military records” and Bingo! there you have the GMR for the Andra Livgrenadjärregejementet.

A normal regiment in the old days consisted of 1,200 men, divided into 8 companies, so do you have to read through all 1,200 individuals? No, the companies were made up by soldiers from the same area, a härad [legal district] or two, and the name of the company often pointed to that area. But that still leaves 150 men to look through. Is there no extra help in finding great-grandpa?

What is Grill?

Yes, there is a most useful book called Statistiskt sammandrag af svenska indelningsverket [Statistical Digest of the Swedish Army System] by Claes Grill, first published in 1855-1858 in four volumes. This work, usually just called Grill, was thus printed while the system was not much changed from the way it was in the late 1600s.

Grill has been reprinted in two volumes during the 1970s, and again in the 1980s. When you want to use Grill, be sure to get hold of one of the reprints, as they contain a most
useful parish index which is lacking in the original.

The FHL catalog has the following call number for the reprint: **948.5 M27g v. 2**, but it is not available on microfilm. They do have the original on microfilm: **FHL Film 84652**, but then you miss the parish index.

**How to use Grill**

Now, your ancestor was the soldier *Sven Ring* from Ringarum in Östergötland. This is what you do:

**Step 1**

Find Ringarum in the parish index in the front of the first Grill volume.

Ringarum (E) has three references, and you start by looking up page 157 in the first volume.

**Step 2**

Here you find first the name of the härad (legal district), Hammarkind, then the parish, and within the parish the names of three rotar, and you recognise that Sven Ring lived at Fastebo, and thus had number 31.

The next question is which company did he serve in? Follow the Ringarum line to the right, until you come to the number of soldiers for the parish. then follow that column upwards until you reach the company names. Sven Ring was soldier #31 of the Lif-Companiet (Life Company), which incidentally was commanded by the colonel himself.

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Step 3

The first part of the information for each regiment has a very short history of it, where you can find name changes, and changes from cavalry to infantry, etc. In short the following picture tells the story of the Andra Livgrenadjärrgårdet. The regiment started as the Östgöta Kavalleriregemente (f.d. means före detta (previous)) Cavalry. In 1770 they changed the name to Cuirassiers, and in 1791 the regiment was de-horsed, no more use for so many cavalry soldiers, and united with the Förrsta Livgrenadjärrgårdet, the former Östgöta Infantry Regiment. The regiment, as a former cavalry regiment, only numbered 1,000 men, from Östergötland and Kalmar län.

F. D. ÖSTGÖTA KAVALLERI-REGEMENTET.

from 1770 Cuirassiers, swt 1791, and förändrades till Infanteri, mot hästvaks-avgifts erlåggande af de rustade — ifatt på 50 års, och efter denna tids förlopp ytterligare på 5 och sista på 25 år eller till år 1871 — var från 1791 förrätad, under en gemensam Chef, med Östgöta Infanteri, och kallades Liv-Grenadier-Regementets Rusthills-Division, hvarchef detta organisation är 1816, samtidigt med Brigadendets införande, upphörde, och detta Regemente blev kalladt

ANDRA LIF-GRENADIER-REGEMENTET.

Det är indelt på 1000 nummer i Östergötland och en del av Småland (Linköping och Kalmar län), har N:o 5 vid Infanteriet, riknas till Kungens Lif- och Hustrupper samt till 2:a Militär-distriktet, och är indeladt uti 8 Companier, som förut.

Step 4

Since you now have your Sven Ring as soldier #31 of the Lif-Companiet of the Second Regiment of Life Grenadiers (Andra Livgrenadjärregementet) you can find the GMR and follow him through his service.

When you do this, it is wise to check a Swedish history and find out which years Sweden was at war, as the rolls often are missing during wartime, and you may not find him when you expect to. Instead there is a new soldier, and sometimes there is a note that he succeeded Sven Ring, and sometimes not. The easiest way to find out when Sven Ring died is to check the probate index for the härad (legal district) where he lived.

If you do not find the notes about your Sven under #31 in the GMR, look around under neighboring numbers, as those could have changed a little during the centuries.

Other ways of finding soldiers

There is a great interest in the soldiers in Sweden too. Several projects have been started to register all soldiers from a certain area. These projects are called Soldatregister and they work together to build a national Soldatregister. A CD was published a few years ago with the current material, and it has also been put on the Internet, but removed again, due to security reasons. Its is still hoped that the Soldatregister will be back on a more secure server.

Questions about the soldatregister can be sent to

CENTRALA SOLDATREGISTER
Garnisonsmuseum
Box 604
541 29 SKÖVDE, SWEDEN.
E-mail: <bjorn.lippold@p4.mil.se>

Anbytarforum

It is also possible to post a query on the Swedish site Anbytarforum (The Ancestor Exchange), where discussions in English are welcome. The address is

http://genealogi.aland.net/discus/

In the lefthand column there is a link to instructions in English on how to use the Anbytarforum.

Endnotes

1. When Per Andersson enlisted in the army, he was most often given a specific soldatnamn (soldier’s name) by his officers. The name could be of many kinds, the object was to give the man a name that was unique for him, so he was not confused with 20 other Anderssons.

2. The origin given as smålännung means that the man was born in the province of Småland. In the same way an östgöte was born in Östergötland or a dalkarl in the province of Dalarna.

3. SVAR is a branch of the Swedish Riksarkivet (National Archives) and they produce microfiche and sell them to the public. The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center is its American agent. The SVAR web site can be found at http://www.svar.ra.se/. Unfortunately it is only in Swedish.

4. The letters that follows the parish names in this picture [Ringarum (E)] are the länsbokstäver, code letters for the various län in Sweden. See SAG's back cover for a map of the län.

5. Two good books about the history of Sweden are:


A link to a good web site on The Allotment System is found on the Web Site Page, page 14.
From Sweden to Iowa: The Lawson Family

BY MARILYN BODE

The Family Church Letter

The following is a translation from Swedish of a church letter of transfer, mostly a word for word translation. The letter is from the church pastor in Sweden. The translation is by Rev. Ole Olson, minister at the Methodist Church in Dexter, Iowa, around 1950.

"From Sweden and also from Halland län, Högs county (härad), Veinge parish, moving to North America the following household: Former farm owner Pehr Larsson of this place and of the parents Lars Bengtsson and Elna Hansdotter, born the 8th and baptized the 15th of May, 1815, and his wife Elna Nilsdotter in Tönnersjö parish, and of the parents Nils Andersson and Pernilla Andersdotter, born the 6th of June and baptized the 4th of July, 1813, and bringing with them eight children.

"The daughters, Pernilla, born the 25th and baptized the 30th of June, 1839. Beate, born the 4th and baptized the 8th of March, 1842. Christina, born the 7th and baptized the 11th of September, 1844.

"And also the sons Lars, born the 11th and baptized the 21st of February, 1847. Nils born the 6th and baptized the 17th of June, 1849. Hans born the 9th and baptized the 17th of January, 1851. Anders, born the 23rd and baptized the 29th of May, 1853. And Jacob, born the 20th and baptized the 31st of December, 1855, all within Veinge parish. [One line out, but seemingly it has to do with the ability to read and about Bible knowledge].

"Pernilla can read and has tolerable Bible knowledge, Beate and Christina with help can read and can recite from memory from the Catechism. Parents have forgotten. Oldest daughter has retained what she learned and only with her and her father is found tolerable good conception of Christianity. Of the children, only the oldest daughter Pernilla is to the Lord's Holy Communion permitted and she together with the parents were of this partakers on the day of Ascension on the first of the present month. All members of the household possess good character and the oldest daughter is for marriage free (marriageable). With the exception of the youngest son, the parents and all children are vaccinated.

"The Lord being through life their leader, their comfort (consolation) and help, and having over them his sheltering hand.

"Veinge rectory the 8th of May, 1856 [Name undecipherable] Dean.

Pehr and Elna Larsson came to the United States in 1856 with their 8 children, the youngest of whom, Jacob, was less than a year old. He was my great-grandfather. In the United States, the family changed its name to Lawson and changed several of their first names as well: Pehr became Peter; Elna became Ellen; Pernilla, Nellie; Beate became Beatrice; Lars, Lewis; Hans, Peter (called Pete); Nils, Nelson; and Anders, Andrew.

After taking up residence in Illinois, Peter and Ellen had two more children, Emma and Albert. The 1870 census indicates that Emma was 11 in 1870 and Albert was 8. In 1870, the family was living in Cedar township, Knox County, Illinois, just south of Galesburg. Peter was a farmer and his sons worked on the farm.
shows the land as being in sections 14 and 15 of Cedar township.

**Lewis went to war**

In 1864 while living in Illinois, Lewis, who would have been 17 at the time, served in the Civil War (for the Union). The address given on his papers is Abingdon, Illinois, a small town about 15 miles south of Galesburg. He listed his occupation as farmer. These papers also indicate that he was 5 feet 1 inch tall with blond hair and blue eyes. Lewis was part of the 137th Infantry Illinois volunteers which served 100 days during 1864 beginning June 5 and mustering out September 4, 1864. The 137th Infantry was stationed near Memphis, Tennessee, where they were on picket duty on the Hernando road. He was later given a certificate signed by Abraham Lincoln thanking him for his service, dated December 15, 1864. The original certificate remains in the family.

**Editor's note:** see his picture on the front cover.

**The daughters**

Nellie was married to Jacob Nelson in August, 1859, by the Rev. T. N. Hasselquist. They had two children. Beatrice married Paul Tulin in Knox County (date unknown) and had one child. It is not known what happened to Christina as there is no record of her after the church letter in Sweden. Emma never married.

**Life in Iowa**

Twenty-five years later, in the 1880s, the Lawsons all moved to Iowa. They bought 700 acres of land in Adair and Madison counties. Their main residence was in Harrison township south of Stuart. Nellie and Jacob Nelson and Beatrice and Paul Tulin also moved their families to Iowa. According to family lore, Albert left home and went west before 1900 and it is not known where he lived or when he died.

The parents, Peter and Ellen, died only a few hours apart in December, 1899. She died on Christmas Eve and he died on Christmas Day, unaware that Ellen had passed away a few hours earlier. Ellen was 87 and Peter 85 at the time of their deaths. They are buried in the cemetery in Stuart, Iowa.

**The married brothers**

Of the brothers, only Nelson and Jacob married. Nelson married Clara Hoffman and had one son who died young. Jacob (always called Jake) married Minnie Smith in 1888 and lived in Lincoln township south of Dexter. They had three children: Jacob Clyde Lawson (born in 1890 and always called Clyde), Robin Lawson (born in 1891), and Darlene Lawson (born in 1905). Jake had Bright’s disease, a kidney disease, and traveled out west in 1909 looking for a cure from the hot springs in several states. There are a series of postcards that Jake sent to Minnie during this time indicating where he was seeking relief from the pain of his disease. Minnie had heart trouble and her sister, Elizabeth Smith, took care of her and Darlene. Jake and Minnie moved off the farm to a house next to Elizabeth’s in Stuart. Minnie died in 1910 at age 43 when Darlene, the youngest child, was about 5 years old, and Jake died 10 weeks later in 1911 of kidney disease at age 55. Minnie’s sister, Elizabeth, raised Darlene after her parents’ deaths. Neither Robin nor Darlene married.

**The bachelor farmers**

The three bachelor brothers, Lewis, Andrew, and Pete, farmed with their parents until the deaths of Peter and Ellen and then continued farming together living with their sister Emma until their deaths. Andrew was known for his fine horses and fancy buggies and he served as Director of the Lincoln Mutual Telephone Company in 1902. He had several glass eyes because he had
lost an eye while farming. Each brother specialized in some aspect of the farming operation: Andrew planted the corn and was known for laying out perfectly straight rows. Pete raised the cattle and Lewis was the hog farmer. They also sold seed corn. In his old age, Lewis liked to work with wood and made wooden puzzles. Lewis was an active member of the GAR [Grand Army of the Republic] for many years and was commissioned by the commander-in-chief of Grand Army as an aide-de-camp in 1936. Emma kept house for her three brothers. They built a rather grand farm house on one of the farms south of Stuart but would not spend the money to paint the walls or hang curtains. Although they spoke English and were good businessmen, they sometimes chose to speak Swedish to each other, probably to keep others out of the conversation. Their nieces and nephews remember them as taciturn, somewhat humorless old people, who did not offer information about their lives as immigrants. Pictures of them in their younger days indicate that they were dapper young men, very well dressed. Pictures of the young Emma show an vibrant, stylish young woman. They lived long lives: Peter died in 1936 at age 85; both Andrew, at age 87, and Lewis, at age 93, died in 1940; and Emma, at age 88, died in 1947. All four are buried in Stuart.

The heirs to the Lawson farms were the children of Clyde Lawson. He married Sarah May Wilder in 1920 and they had seven children: Esther, Robert, Sylvia, Fred, Gene, Roy, and Ruth. Three of the farms still survive as century farms - farms bought and farmed by the Lawson family for more than 100 years. My father is Robert and he and my mother still live on one of the farms.

Our trip to Sweden
In 2000, my parents, my cousin, my husband and I traveled to Sweden to see where our ancestors had lived. From the church letter, we knew where to find the churches that Pehr and Elna had attended. I made reservations for us to stay in a bed and breakfast called Aislöfs Gård on a farm near Veinge. Ingrid and Carl-Viktor Olsson were our hosts and are wonderfully friendly people.

When Ingrid learned that I was interested in the history of my family, she showed me a 3-ring binder with the church records of the Veinge parish - all typed. In those records, I was able to trace Per Larsson’s family back for several generations, starting with the information in the church letter.

We attended a church service at Tönnersjö, Elna’s family’s church. Although the service was in Swedish and we do not speak Swedish, I could sometimes follow the service because of the cadence of some of the elements of the liturgy. For example, there is a cadence to the Lord’s prayer that is recognizable, as is the Apostle’s Creed. We loved seeing the inside of the church and marveled at how old it is. The churchgoers there were very friendly to us.

We also visited the Veinge church and walked the graveyards at both churches. We know of no relatives in Sweden. The church records indicated that the Larsson family lived in Skogsgård before coming to America. Our Bed and Breakfast host told us how to get there, it was only a short distance away, and we went there to see the land that Pehr and Elna had farmed before coming to Iowa. There are two large stone barns at Aislöfs Gård, one was built in 1837. I like to imagine that Pehr helped to build that barn when he lived in that neighborhood.

Although there are a few mysteries left unsolved with the Lawson family – what happened to Christina and Albert, for example – we know much about the fate of the Larsson/Lawson family that left Sweden in 1856. The primary source of information has been the church letter and some information passed down through the family regarding the name changes and approximately where the Lawson family had lived in Illinois before coming to Iowa. Because the Swedish bachelor farmers and their sister Emma lived such long lives, their great-nephews and great-nieces had access to them when they were willing to give out any information. Several pictures still exist of the original immigrants and their families.

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A new CD:  
The Population of Sweden in 1980

A few years ago a CD was published by Sveriges Släktforskarförbund (Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies) called Sveriges befolkning 1970 (Population of Sweden in 1970), based on the first preserved countywide tax indexes in digital form. This CD has been of enormous help to many genealogists, tracing living relatives, and also, for instance, lawyers tracing heirs, cemetery offices tracing owners of grave lots, and many others.

Now the Släktforskarförbundet has published another similar CD with more recent information. The new Sveriges befolkning 1980 contains information on almost 8.3 million individuals residing in Sweden in November 1980. Due to a missing computer file, the information for Göteborg och Bohus län concerns either 1979 or 1981.

In the database you find the following information:

- Given name (all of them)
- Surname
- Street address
- Postal address
- Date of birth
- Parish of birth
- Parish of residence
- Land title (fastighetsbeteckning)

All these various pieces of information are searchable in any combination.

There are no family relationships mentioned, nor anyone's marital status. However, if you have a person with an unusual surname and click on the button “samma address” or “samma fastighet”, you can often find a family.

The CD is sold by the Sveriges Släktforskarförbund, and you can e-mail them at <info@genealogi.se> and ask for the current price, depending on the value of the dollar.

The Search window. Fill in the fields that you know, and then click on the SÖK-button.

To be able to search spelling variations, click on the List-search button, chose one spelling after another and right click on them, so they get a little red tick-mark. When you are done, click on the traffic light in the lower left corner and you will be back in the Search window.

The result window. In the left half you see the possibles that the program has found. You can scroll up and down, and check the information in the right half, until you find your cousin.

Next, if you want to find this person’s family, click on [samma adress] or [samma fastighet].

To print-out. Use the [skriv ut] button in the lower left-hand corner and practise a little with the various possibilities.

To exit. Just click on the [klar] button.

PC Windows 98 or later. 64 Mb RAM. 16 bit color.
Johansson, Kjellberg, Lindelius, Leijonhuvud, and Rask:

Names in Sweden Throughout History

BY KERSTIN JONMYREN

Quite often I get questions from my research clients about Swedish name changes. They are confused because they don't understand why and how our names were passed down. To identify people by their father's name is not a new idea. There are examples already in the Bible: Jacob, son of Zebedee, and Jacob, son of Alpheus.

At the end of the Viking era, a large number of rune stones were raised in Sweden; several reasons for this have been offered: one of the better suggestions is that the stones became a fashion among the more powerful farmers to memorialize their families; another that they denote a deed to the land area. There people are sometimes named as son or daughter of someone. One example is Ojul, Erik's son, named on the famous Sparlosa stone.

After the Viking age, this usage solidified; Erik's son became Eriksson, Jacob's daughter became Jacobsdotter. This naming model is usually called patronymics and was in practice in all of the Nordic countries. One was given a name at baptism and later was identified also by his or her patronymic, mostly in formal and written contexts. This completely logical naming system lived on unchanged all the way into the 1900s in many places in our country. In principle, patronymics applied to all people, poor or rich. Our 16th century king, known in our time as Gustaf Vasa, was not called that in his time. He signed his documents in various ways: with only Gustaff or with Gustaff Eriksson, because his father was the nobleman Erik Johansson. He came to be called Vasa during later centuries, long after his death, because his family had a picture of a vase, a sheaf, on their coat of arms.

Foreign influences

The Scandinavian countries did not live in isolation. We had active ties with countries on the continent, particularly Germany, where another naming practice, family names, was used, the same system as in ancient Rome, where children inherited the family name. Germans, like the British, often had names that described occupations: Müller, Meyer, and Schumacher, and Miller, Cooper, and Mason.

Old habits change

Sometime in the mid-1800s, when Swedish society was changing, our old naming habits began to change too. Adopting family names had begun earlier; city-dwellers and skilled workers had begun doing so in the early 1700s, and from the middle of the 1800s this custom became common even in the countryside.

The names followed a certain pattern. Some chose nature words like lind (linden tree), berg (mountain), gren (branch), sjö (lake), and holm (island), and put them together to their liking, such as Berggren, Lindberg, Holmsjö, etc. There were also other patterns to follow: Östergren, Söderlund, Paulin, Berglin, Holmer, Linder, etc. It was rare that farmers took family names. They were described by the people in their villages using the names of their farm. It was Sven i Västergården or Anna i Hultet. On the other hand, for a craftsman it could be useful to be known by his own family name. The same would apply for city-dwellers, where there were no places to help describe someone during a time when cities were undergoing rapid growth.

Different names in the same family

It was not unusual that one changed family names between generations or that siblings took different family names. I know of a case from the latter half of the 1800s where the father's name was Olof Cedergren. One son was called Olofsson, one daughter Olofsdotter, one son Cedergren, and one son Höglander. To begin with, many people with new family names were written in the church records with both the patronymic and surname; Sven Johansson Nordin or Erik Svensson Högblund, but soon they became just Sven Nordin or Erik Höglander. The family name was inherited as a rule by the children.

Women's names

The wife of the family was written with her own surname; either a patronymic or a family name from her father. Well into the 1900s the women began to be written with their husbands' surnames, sometimes with the addition of 'née-something,' such as 'Elisabeth Carls-
son, née von Malmborg.” This might have indicated that she felt that her birth family was of a higher social standing than her husband’s.

The patronymic form -dotter disappeared during the later part of the 1800s and was changed into -son. The pastors wrote Larsson for Larsdotter or Andersson for Andersdotter. In research in the second half of the 1800s one can never guess which surname a child, such as an emigrant, would take, and one must find that out in each case. Maria, daughter of Lars Svensson, could call herself Larsson or Svensson or perhaps even Larsdotter. All this shows that the very old naming system in the Nordic countries was completely dissolving by the end of the 1800s.

The 1900s

Because of social changes, ordinary people, beginning in the cities, began to be titled as Mr., Mrs., and Miss. These titles had earlier been only for the nobility and were used with first names: Mrs. Ebba, Mr. Peder, and Miss Elin. But around the turn of the 20th century there arose the wholly illogical vocative forms Miss Pettersson and Mrs. Gustafsson. First names were reserved for private use within the family, and surnames became the important ones. Businessmen and craftsmen wrote their names often with just first initials and surname, such as Editor E.A. Johansson.

Titles in daily use

Various titles, more or less fanciful, began to be used as a form of address, and it became difficult to know how to address people. Many chose to use circumlocutions because it became so awkward. An example would be that if a neighboring woman was married to a doctor, she would be known as doktorinnan, and if you spoke to her you would say “Can Mrs. Doctor Larsson please tell me the time?”

As luck would have it, this time of strange titling did not last long. Now in Sweden we are back to first names as what people go by most and the last names are used in more formal contexts. The custom of the family name remains, as in the Johansson family or the Österberg family, but upon marriage a Swedish couple today can choose whether each will keep his or her own surname, or both will take the man’s or woman’s name, or they can even choose a totally new third name. If the parents each have different surnames, they can freely choose which of them the child shall have. But the next child, born of the same parents, is to have the same surname as the older sibling.

An almost similar name trend has happened in all three of the Scandinavian countries. Iceland has still kept the logical naming system with -son and -dotter because foreign immigration has never been especially big there.

The First Names

Beginning in the early 1600s, foreign influences showed in that children could be given two or more first names, as opposed to the single names used before. This custom began in the upper classes but slowly became very common among country folk from the 1800s on. To give one’s children several, often fanciful and romantic names was free and something even poor people were allowed.

Earlier the number of Swedish first names was very limited and children often were named after their paternal or maternal grandparents. In every village there were perhaps no more than 6 or 7 male or female names. If we name Anders, Erik, Sven, Olof, Johan, and Peter, or Anna, Maria, Lena, Catharina, Elisabeth, and Christina and their parallel forms, we have covered a large part of the 16th century’s Swedish population. This means that when doing research, one must be very precise when identifying people. From the 1800s when people to a large extent became literate, they gained access to stories from outside and with that suggestions of new and flowery names. Then came Amanda, Augusta, Wilhelmina, Selma, and Laura, as well as Erland, Anton, Ver ner, Oskar, and Valter, and many others.

When a child was given two or more first names anyone of them could be used in daily speech, and unless you knew the person, you could not be certain if he was known as Per or Johan or Albert, if he was baptized Per Johan Albert. I can take an example of this tiresome system from my own family. My father and uncle, born 1898 and 1900, got four first names each. My father went by his second name, my uncle, his fourth. My mother was called by her second of three first names; I myself by the first of three. My sons all go by the second of three first names.

Out-of-wedlock children

There was a large group that was always in a jam during the old logical naming system: children born out of wedlock, those who had no official father. In most cases there is no father’s name listed in the birth books for illegitimate children, but quite often they have received a patronymic as an adult. Evidently the pastors approved the name that the child in question stated as an adult and created a patronymic from it. In most cases the people in the parishes also knew who the fathers of these children were.

Still there was a group of children who had no known father. They could sometimes have their mother’s patronymic, or make up a new proper family name for themself. Sometimes, but rather unusual, is the usage of a metronymic, Karinsdotter or Stinasson.

Soldiers’ names

The military officers did not approve of all the Johanssons and Anderssons, etc. They wanted to be able to separate the enlisted soldiers by names. Thus short and sometimes strange last names based on different attributes were introduced, for instance: Stark, Modig, and Stolt (English: Strong, Brave, and Proud). Normally a certain last name was based on the place from where the soldier came. When a new soldier
enlisted and moved there, he normally inherited his predecessor’s name. If the soldier left the service he often took a new name or kept his original one. Soldiers’ children normally never adopted their fathers’ military last names, until during the latter part of the 19th century, when the old name customs changed.

Let us take an example: in one place the soldiers were called Stark. A young man called Erik Johansson enlisted. In the church record he became noted as the soldier Erik Johansson Stark. After a number of years he left the army. Then he was just Erik Johansson again or even Erik Höglund, quite a new name. His children were called Anna Eriksdotter and Johan Eriksson. During the latter part of the 19th century they might have kept the surname Stark.

The Pastors’ Names

Many, perhaps most, of our pastors throughout the centuries came from the farmer class, sons from slightly larger farms. They left home with ordinary names like Erik Persson, Johan Nilsson, or Anders Andersson, but soon changed their names. A pastor, a man of learning, needed a surname and it was fitting to have a Latin name. They soon became Eriacus Petri, Johannes Nicolai and Andreas Andreae. During the later 1600s they usually added a surname, based on their home. There were Angermanus (from Ångermanland), Heltingsius (from Hälsingland), Crucimontanus (from Korsberga), Axtelius (from Axsta). These family names could be inherited and the daughters then went by the feminine form, like Angermannia and Helsingia. But if a pastor’s son became a pastor he could just as well take over his father’s surname as adopt a new one. On the other hand, if he became something else, such as a merchant, the latin pastor’s name often felt wrong, and then he could adopt another name that was more fitting, such as Kjellgren or Almkvist.

Names in the cities

During the latter half of the 1800s industrialization began in Sweden. Then people were sought at all of the newly-opened factories, and jobless people streamed in from the overpopulated countryside. This happened despite the living conditions being significantly worse in the cities than in the country: miserable and crowded dwellings, the water supply wretched, and sewer and waste removal non-existent.

This made for a shorter life span and greater death rate in the cities than in the country, but that was where the work was. In the cities there was a greater need to be able to tell people’s names apart, and there one began to use family names far earlier than in the countryside, even if patronymics existed as well. Almost all well-do-to city people such as merchants and craftsmen adopted family names. These were mostly inherited by the children, names like Lundin, Paulin, Bergström, and Nordgren. Women kept their inherited family names.

Nobility and Carl Linnaeus

The nobility initially began with the same naming practice as the common folk: first names plus patronymics. Increasingly they began to be identified by their coats of arms to distinguish them. It could be Gumschwud, Sparre, and Bielke.

After the House of Nobility (Riddarhuset) was founded in 1625 by Axel Oxenstierna, there was a rule that stipulated that every family should have a proper surname. It could be based on their coat of arms, but did not have to be. Many German and Baltic nobles came into Sweden; we got von Rosen, von Köhler, and von Essen. Ramsay and Hamilton came from Scotland and many other similar names from the outside. Many higher government offices were reserved for members of the nobility, and the sovereign king ennobled people to fill those offices, and also for many military deeds. Bishop’s children were usually ennobled, as a token of gratitude for their father’s services. Prominent scientists could also be ennobled.

The world-renowned botanist Carl Linnaeus is an example of the latter. His origin is an interesting example of movement from one social class to another, it is called ståndsersättning (circulation between the estates, social classes).

Linnaeus’ paternal grandfather was a farmer in the 1600s in Vittaryd parish in Småland and was named Ingemar Bengtsson. Because Ingemar had a farm of respectable size and was wealthy, his son Nils Ingemarsson could go to Upsala and study to become a pastor. There Nils adopted the latin name Linnaeus, which was, according to legend, inspired by a big linden (Ind) tree on his father’s farm. He then became Nicolaus Ingenmari Linnaeus and eventually pastor in Stenbrohult in Småland, which is where his son Carl grew up. When he came to Upsala to study he called himself Carolus Nicolai Linnaeus. During diligent work he became famous even internationally for his research results, and in 1757 he was ennobled by king Adolf Fredrik. He became Carl von Linné, as French type names were modern then. From farmer to nobleman in three generations!

Carl von Linné’s only son, Carl, died at age 42 and was unmarried, so the noble name von Linné did not survive. His sisters married nobles and their descendants had family names like Bergencrantz and Duse.

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More reading:

Wikén, Erik: When did Swedish Patronymics Become Surnames. SAG 1982:1
The Solution to the Handwriting Example

Transcription


Då endast de 2:e omyndige varit i hemmet under den aflidnes död, sa ålägges dem i Gemenskap med deras godman Anders Gustaf Jansson att efter lag uppgifva skulder och tillgångar. Hverefter uppteckningen företogs som följer:

Translation

The year 1880 on the 9th of March an estate inventory was taken after the widower Nils Carlsson of Stjelkhammar in Ukna parish, who died the 16th of December 1879, and left the following direct heirs; Carl Johan born 1 October 1848. Jonas August born 15 March 1855, living in Northern America. Nils Peter born 27 January 1858. Carolina Sofia born 27 July 1860, and Gustaf Adolf born 2 April 1864. For the two last-mentioned the homestead owner Anders Gustaf Jansson of Mantorp in Hannäs parish was present to guard their rights, who is also proposed to be their guardian, as his honesty and integrity are well known. The rights of the sons in America were guarded by the homestead owner Carl Ulrik Andersson in Holmbo of Hannäs parish, according to a power of attorney.

As only the two under age persons had been in the home at the time of the deceased’s death, they are requested, in the company of their guardian Anders Gustaf Jansson, to give information, according to law, on all debts and assets. After which the inventory was taken as follows: [end of document].

1. This line shows that the inventory was exhibited at the local district court at the 4th of October, at the Fall Meeting [Höste Ting]. The court usually had three meetings during the year; Winter, Summer, and Fall [Vinterting, Sommarting och Hösteting].

2. In 1880 a male person came of age at age 21, and a female (unmarried) at age 25.
A New Basic Manual


This book, about which rumors were first heard in the middle of the summer, is written by an experienced team. Together Per Clemensson, retired 1st archivist at the Provincial archives of Göteborg, and Kjell Andersson, a journalist, have written the most widely spread manual for Swedish genealogy – Släktforska! Steg för steg, and its sequel Släktforska vidare. In 1996 the team also produced a special book about emigration research – Emigrantforska! Steg för steg, which was very good.

So it was with high hopes I opened the new book, aimed at all the descendants of the emigrants to the New World.

After reading the book twice I still like it, but am a bit frustrated by a number of errors that points to a too big haste in compiling this book.

This book is produced in cooperation with Genline AB, the company that is making scanned pictures of the church records available on-line, so there are many references to them everywhere.

The book is divided into 19 sections, covering issues like *Clues to Your Family's History in Sweden, The Emigration from Sweden to America, How to Find the Place of Origin in Sweden, Swedish Names and Swedish Spelling*, etc.

In the chapter about Swedish names and spelling it is good that the quirks of the *gammalstavning* (old spelling) are explained, but for the handwriting no reference is made to any of the books on how to read old script.

In the section on how to find various sources the archives system is explained and also the role of SVAR as microfiche provider, except that The Swenson Center is not mentioned as their agent in the U.S.

When going through the organization of the church records a remark is made that the records from Statistics Sweden [SCB] are not on microfilm in the FHL, which is wrong. They are there, but in the catalog you must look under *läns* and then civil registration.

Then there comes a part where a specific family, the *Gustaf Adolf Rapp* family of Mölltorp is used as a research example. The starting point is the tombstone for G. A. Rapp and his wife Anna Carlson, from where the research continues in the Swedish American church records. Here the authors states that the microfilms of those records are available only at The Swenson Center in Rock Island and the Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö, but the majority of the films are also found at the Kinship Center in Karlstad.

When starting to go through the research example, the authors start with “Let us imagine that we are the ancestors of Gustaf Adolf Rapp.” If that was the case we would long be dead and have little interest in his fate. Let us rather imagine that we are the descendants.

In this case they go first to the Swedish American church records, but I think one would be more likely to start with Passenger lists and other records of that type. Many descendants have no knowledge of which church the emigrants belonged to, and find that information later, in an obituary or so.

Then when it comes to identifying the immigrants in Swedish records, it is stated that the moving-out-records for Mölltorp 1879 are to be found on Genline, which is not true. Their moving-out records end in 1868. This book is based on the idea that Genline has finished their project, but that is not so, many parishes are still missing, and the subscriber who does not realises this will be disappointed.

In the section on *How to Find the Place*, the authors mention the *Rosenberg Gazetteer*; and for some reason state that it was printed in five volumes and reprinted in 1883. It was printed in two volumes and the reprint in 1982 was in four volumes!

As Gustaf Adolf Rapp was born in a soldier’s family his home is also mentioned, where the authors coin a new term for the soldier’s cottage, they call it a “soldier’s stead,” which is confusing.

When describing the ongoing project of transcribing tombstones the authors, as in many other places, do not distinguish between projects handled by The Swedish Federation of Genealogical Societies (Sveriges Släktforskarförbund) and the older but much smaller Swedish Genealogical Society (Genealogiska Föreningen) who gets the kudos for the efforts of the Federation (somewhat irritating for me after 15 years with the Federation).

The text goes on with good illus-
Book Reviews

translations from the records and all remarks transcribed and translated. There are also many remarks that explain abbreviations and notes. Also there are discussions on how to continue the research.

The chapter on emigration records shows pictures of the original passenger lists and explains the matter of the source code. There is also a listing of existing passenger lists for various ports of departure, but Hamburg is not listed though some of their lists are on the Internet for the years around 1900, and the Bremen lists for the early 1920s.

In the discussion of the early, pre-1850, emigrants Dr. Nils William Olsson's and Dr. Erik Wikén's major work Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States 1820-1850 is said to be based on the List of fees to the Swedish Navy's Pension fund, when the fact is that the basis for this tremendous work are the arrival manifests from the U.S. ports, which have then been supplemented with information from Swedish records of many types.

Another research example concerns the nobleman Ivar Alexis Hall. To find information on people belonging to the nobility there is a huge 9-volume work Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor by Gustaf Eigenstierna, which is now available in a reprint and also in the Family History Library and on their microfilms, not only in Sweden as stated in the text.

Most reference books mentioned in this book can be found in the FHL Catalog with a little creative and thoughtful searching.

Latin names can be a problem as they change form according to their grammatical position, but the minister on p. 131 was certainly not named Catullo Nicolai Oriensulano, he must have been Catullus Nicolai Oriensulanus.

Also I do not understand the difficulties in reading the birth notice on p. 132, which clearly shows that "on the 3rd of January 1689 was born Anders Swens[son]'s daughter in Kåhlbäck, baptized on the 6th with the name Elisabeth." Instead there is a confused discussion of what the name of the baby was - another instance that shows that too little time has been spent on editing the text.

The main part of Your Swedish Roots concludes with a discussion of Other Old Records, which mentions special tax records, the mantalslagen and land records (jordbocker). A glaring omission is that the legal records are not mentioned, including the estate inventories (bouppteckningar), which are very important and mostly also on FHL films.

Next there is a section on how to trace living relatives, where the CD database Sveriges dödbok is mentioned as having data between 1968-1996, when for several years the version II has been out, with data for 1950 to 1999.

Then there are travel tips for making a trip to Sweden, which seems a bit unnecessary in a genealogical manual, but I console myself with the knowledge that "Swedes are easy-going and hospitable." This is followed by almost 20 pages with more tourist information, which we could also do without. Then comes a nice Word List, but no reference to Phyllis Pladsen's more comprehensive Swedish Genealogical Dictionary. Then there is a good list of abbreviations and a list of church records destroyed by fire.

Next comes 6 pages of addresses for local genealogical societies, of which many are already obsolete, it would be much better to just refer to the Federation's web site <www.genealogi.se> where the latest addresses are always to be found.

At last comes a web site listing with addresses both in Sweden and America. The bibliography is very short, only 15 titles, of which one is a totally confused citing of one of Nils William Olsson's books. The title I miss the most is of course, Swedish American Genealogist, but I could also think that John Philip Colletta's They Came in Ships, or Allan Kastrup's The Swedish Heritage in America could be of great interest to researchers. Or maybe O.R. Landelius' Swedish Placenames in North America, or...

Still, this book has many good points, especially the detailed explanations of the records, so I think I can recommend you buy it. But don't throw out your Cradled in Sweden, you will need that too.

Elisabeth Thorsell

Swedish Texans


There are five towns in the United States with the name Stockholm, after the largest city in Sweden: Stockholm, Maine; Stockholm, New Jersey; Stockholm, South Dakota; Stockholm, Wisconsin; and Stockholm, Minnesota. Once there were six. This is the story of one colony by this name which did not survive.

By 1912, most of the prime homestead farm land in the Midwest had been claimed, even many western states had seen their good agricultural areas come under the plow.
Advertisements were in both Swedish and English newspapers, and rail tours brought prospective buyers to the area to see the land. The land company heavily advertised and promoted this farm land and the promotion of development in ventures intended to make a profit for the developers.

In the early 1900's, southern Texas was a sparsely inhabited ranch country with no railroad access. It was dry and covered with brush and mesquite but could be irrigated for farming. By 1904, the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexican Railway had been extended to Brownsville, Texas, a town on the southernmost tip of the state and on the Mexican border. This railway made the Rio Grande Valley accessible to the rest of the country, and crops grown there could be economically shipped to northern markets. Land developers from the north bought up the cheap land, paying as little as $2.50 per acre. Reselling the land in small farm tracts could bring as much as $75.00 per acre, an immense profit.

In 1912, three Swedish American developers from Minneapolis, the Wallin, Johnson, and Matson Land Company, bought a ranch of slightly over 12,000 acres known as the Turner tract. This land, only a few miles from the new railroad and just west of a railroad station at Lyford, was to be the agricultural settlement that became the Stockholm community. The land company heavily advertised and promoted this farm land among Swedish Americans in Canada, Minnesota, and Texas. (There had been a substantial settlement of Swedes in Texas since the 1850's, mainly further north around Austin.) Advertisements were in both Swedish and English newspapers, and rail tours brought prospective buyers to the area to see the land.

By 1914, about 150 Swedes had purchased land in the Turner tract and nearly 2,000 acres had been cleared. By 1915, 28 houses had been built, silos and cattle barns added, and before long a school and a church, shared by a Lutheran and a Mission Congregation. The town of Stockholm had begun, there were telephone lines, a farm club was organized, and dirt roads were graded. Many farmers operated dairy farms, others grew cotton in the newly cleared and plowed fields. The town and community continued to grow through the 1920's, although many of the new residents found conditions too harsh and they moved elsewhere or returned to their origins. Most of the settlers in Stockholm were staged migrants; that is, they had lived elsewhere in the U.S. or Canada before coming to Stockholm. About sixty per cent came from Canada, Minnesota, and Texas, the remainder from a scattering of other locations.

The Depression of the 1930’s was the beginning of the end for Stockholm, when drought and poor markets for crops caused many of the settlers to give up and seek better conditions elsewhere. Fifteen of the original landowners were still there in 1935, but Stockholm had lost its school, the general store, and the last church. Remaining residents went to church in nearby Lyford. By 1985, a visitor to Stockholm would find only historical markers and a dust-blown cemetery. There remained only two families (both non-Swedish) living in the area.

The author, David Vassberg, grew up in the vicinity of Stockholm, Texas. His grandfather, John Ulrik Vassberg, was born in Sundsvall, Sweden in 1865 and he emigrated to the US in 1885. After working for a time as a salesman, he farmed in South Dakota and, after 1894, in Saskatchewan, Canada. John married Hannah Ericksson from Sweden and they had seven children. Disliking the cold Canadian winters, he became interested in Texas and purchased 240 acres near Stockholm in 1917. Several of his sons also settled in the Stockholm area, including Sven, father of the author. Sven lived in the area until he died in 1967. His oldest of three sons, David, was born in 1936 and graduated from nearby Lyford High School. He farmed with his father for five years, then went to the University of Texas in Austin, earning a Ph.D in history. He has had a distinguished academic career and became an expert on 16th century Spain.

David Vassberg taught History at the University of Texas-Pan American for 28 years and is now retired. He recently decided to write this book about Stockholm, Texas, fearing that the story of this town and its Swedish settlers would otherwise be lost to history. His view is that while Stockholm was unsuccessful as a colony, it was a resounding success in that the descendants of these pioneer settlers have now become mainstream participants in American society.

Vassberg’s book is thorough, well researched, indexed, and well documented. After describing the birth, growth, and decline of Stockholm in six chapters supplied with many historic photographs, over 100 pages entitled “Swedes of the Local Colony” are devoted to listing as many of the early settlers in Stockholm as he was able to identify. A brief description of their lives and experiences in Stockholm is given for each, even for a number of absentee owners who purchased land but did not ever live there. Any reader with roots in this part of Texas, or an interest in an unusual Swedish American farming colony will find this book a valuable resource and a most engaging story.
Genealogical Queries

Genealogical queries from subscribers to *Swedish American Genealogist* will be listed here free of charge on a "space available" basis. The editor reserves the right to edit these queries to conform to a general format. The inquirer is responsible for the contents of the query.

We would like to hear about your success if you receive useful information as a result of placing a query in this publication. Please send us your feedback, and we will endeavor to report your new discoveries in this section of the journal.

**Grill, Davis, Walker, Ogren**

My great-grandmother, Nellie Louisa Grill, daughter of Nils and Hannah Green Grill (pronounced Greeley), was born in Sweden on October 5, 1858. In 1872 at the age of fourteen, she immigrated to New Sweden, Maine. The only information my family has is that she may have been from the northern part of Sweden, come with a family as a child care provider and that she was running away from her stepmother. In 1878, she married William Henry Davis in the Hammond Street Baptist Church in Bangor, Maine. They had two children: Llewellyn M., born in New Sweden, and a daughter, Louisa Berniece, my grandmother, born in Brewer, Maine. William Henry, who went by Henry, was a sailor who fell overboard on a trip to Boston, Massachusetts, and died in 1890. In 1892, Nellie married Frank Walker and moved to the Walker Farm in Garland, Maine. She died in 1898 and is buried in East Bradford, Maine.

Nellie may have had relatives who arrived in New Sweden in 1871. In 1977, while my family was visiting in Sweden, I did some research in the Malmö Archives. I found Nils and Margaretta Grill who immigrated to New Sweden, Maine, in 1871, listed in the church records of the New Sweden Baptist Church. My father, who was born in 1898, had spoken of visiting Uncle Nils's farm but did not have any other memories. Nils and Margaretta did have a farm in Perham, Maine, the town next to New Sweden. They had two children: Hannah, born in Sweden in 1871, and Nils Jr., who was born in 1872, in New Sweden. Nils Jr., ran the farm after his parents died and was also known as a gifted jeweler. They are buried in the New Sweden Cemetary along with Nils Jr.'s wife, Louise Ogren of Caribou, Maine.

Marilyn Walker Fielding, 63 Chapman Ave, Westbrook, CT 06498-2163. E-mail: mjfielding@aol.com

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**New and Noteworthy**

(Short notes on interesting books and articles)


The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (Sveriges Släktforskarförbund) publishes every year a Yearbook (Släktforskarnas Årsbok) with very varied contents; family histories, court cases, transcribed lists of released soldiers, Middle Age genealogy, craftsmen's families, and much more. The articles can be very long or just a few pages but are all in Swedish. In the 2004 issue there is an interesting article called *Svenska arméofficerare i blått*, by Per Iko, MA, major. In this article the author tells about a number of Swedish army officers who obtained leaves of absence to seek positions in the Union army. Their number seems to have been about 20 and most of them that survived, returned to Sweden.

The October 2004 issue of *Family Tree Magazine* has a very nice article by David A. Fryxell about how to break through brick walls, and as the author also has Swedish roots, some of his tips refer to problems with the patronymics of Sweden.

*Tidningen*, Summer 2004 (Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota) has a long article about the Church of Sweden by John von Walter. In this he starts way back in Viking times and progresses through the Reformation and, in this issue, ends with the conflict between king Sigismund and his uncle, Duke Carl, in the late 1500s and the consequences for the country, when the clergymen met in Uppsala in 1593.
The Question Chest

The Question Chest is a new department in SAG, and the idea is that you, dear SAG reader, will send in your questions about anything BUT your ancestors to this page. We will try to get good answers to these questions, and will try get them together as fast as possible, but if it is a complicated matter, it might take some time.

Write or e-mail to the SAG editor, Elisabeth Thorsell, Hästskovägen 45, S-177 39 Järfalla, Sweden. E-mail: <sag@etgenealogy.se>

Question #1
One of my ancestors left Sweden from the port of Göteborg on May 21, 1880, aboard the steamship Argo, bound for Hull, England. However, the ship State of Indiana, aboard which he arrived at the Port of New York on June 9, 1880, departed from Glasgow and Larne, Ireland – both located a good distance north of any of England’s ports. Family oral history corroborates that he came by way of Glasgow. It could be presumed, therefore, that the Argo may have docked somewhere in Scotland’s Firth of Forth on its way to Hull, England, in order to put passengers ashore in Scotland.

What is known about the means by which those emigrants – a group of about 30 individuals, in my ancestor’s case – might have traveled from Scotland’s eastern coast to the Glasgow seaport on its western coast? Might they have traveled by rail? by canal? Did those who sold passage aboard the Argo and other Wilson Line ships include in the ticket a known travel arrangement across Scotland? If so, what else might be known about that portion of the Swedish emigrants’ journey?

Answer:
The State-Line Steamship Co Limited, usually known as The State Line started its operations in 1872 with one line going Glasgow – New York, and another one Glasgow – New Orleans. It was unusual for the emigrants to travel to other ports in Great Britain than Hull. In 1880 it is estimated that 94% of the Swedish emigrants traveled to Hull and then to Liverpool by train. It seems to be a very small proportion that travelled by way of Glasgow, and no references were found concerning the travel from Hull to Glasgow. It seems unlikely that Argo would have docked on the British coast to put passengers ashore elsewhere than Hull.

If someone has family traditions about how to travel to Glasgow from Hull, please contact SAG.


Question #2
What were 200 kronor worth in American money in 1903? That’s the amount my father paid for his passage from Sweden to America at that time.

Answer:
The exchange rate around 1900 was roughly 5 kronor, which makes your father’s ticket cost $40. That amount in today’s money would be ca $830, to compare with a return airplane ticket to Salt Lake City from Sweden for $932.

An industrial worker in Sweden in 1900 worked 61 hours/week and was paid 36 öre/hour.


Question #3
Where can I find passenger lists of Swedes traveling from Göteborg to Grimsby and Liverpool, England, from 1900 to 1915?

Answer:
The original Police Chamber lists for the port of Göteborg are kept in the Provincial Archives (Landsarkivet) in Göteborg. They are also available on microfilm through the LDS Family History Centers. The film numbers are FHL Film 1149181 to FHL Film 1149213.

Question #4
Why are there sometimes duplicate parish records (births, etc.) dupletter and are they sometimes just for part of the parish or usually for all? The researcher found someone in the regular records but not in the dupletter and wondered if, since it’s a huge parish (Tuna, Kalmar län), if it was possible that the dupletter were just from, say, half of the parish.

Answer:
Sometimes the church verger (kyrkvakten) kept a duplicate book for births, etc, as he could be the one to furnish the minister with the notes to be written in the proper book of records. But it is very unusual, and I have no explanation in the case of Tuna. Old Kalmar diocese generally has rather poor books, due to the bishops being little interested in records.

Question #5
A puzzle: On two of my Ahlqvist tombstones on Öland is this: “R.N.O.” What does it stand for and what does it mean?

Answer:
R.N.O. stands for Riddare av Nordstjerneorden (Knight of the Order of the Polar Star), one of the three Orders of Sweden, the other two are the Vasaorden and Serafimerorden.

Swedish American Genealogist 2004:3
Dear friends,

Thank you very much for your encouraging e-mails, which makes life good for a new editor. So keep them coming with new ideas for articles and suggestions for other things that could be discussed in SAG.

Should we open a discussion on the topic of egg-coffee? This kind of coffee is virtually unknown in Sweden, but I have had any number of questions about it in various parts of the U.S. So tell me your stories about it, and we will see how common it was, and maybe still is?

Recently I was allowed to see the list of SAG subscribers, and could see that there must be great possibilities to increase the number of subscribers in states like Connecticut (18), District of Columbia (4), Delaware (2 [Hi, Elsa and Bill!]), Indiana (12), Rhode Island (2), New Hampshire (4), Maine (8), Vermont (3), Pennsylvania (18), North Dakota (2), Montana (2), Nebraska (16), Utah (8), and several Southern states.

There are supposedly just as many Swedish descendants in the U.S. as we are here in “The Old Country,” roughly 9 million, so I see a huge growth potential, but we need your help! Tell your friends about SAG, bring it to church coffee and show your fellow Swedes, etc.

Well, summer of 2004 is just a memory when you read this, and I hope it was a nice summer. Here in Sweden we had our usual mixture of rainy, cool days, and then suddenly a few weeks of almost tropical heat, and then back to cool and wet again.

In my family we have a little “stuga” in Värmland, in the parish of Nordmark in Eastern Värmland, where we like to go and enjoy being in the forest, sometimes looking for moose and beavers. The “stuga” has been in the family for generations and now the youngest grandson (2½) made his first conscious visit there, and declared that he wanted to stay, when the parents wanted to go home. That was a good sign that the place will remain in the family in the future too.

In these days of constant change it is nice to have a retreat that mainly has stayed the same since my own childhood, and which can tell the youngsters about a past way of life (wooden stove, tiled oven, outdoor conveniences etc).

In the very near future is a trip for me to the U.S. First I will spend some days at The Swenson Center, to learn more about their resources, knowledge I will be sharing with you. Then I am going on to Salt Lake City and the SAG Workshop Week, one of the high points of the year. Perhaps one of the participants can be persuaded to share his/her experiences there. And lastly, a visit with relatives in Central California, where we will store sun and energy for the coming not-so-fun weather in the late fall in Sweden.

All the best!

Elisabeth Thorsell

Swenson Center does NOT have Swedish microfilm or microfiche

The new book Your Swedish Roots states on page 144 that The Swenson Center has microfilm of the Swedish church records. This is not so.

Swenson Center does have some microfilm for a few parishes, but does not have records for the whole country. Instead, go to your closest LDS Family History Center and they can help you to find the films for Sundborn or Örby.

New chairperson in Karlstad

The new county governor, Eva Eriks­son, was elected chairperson for The Kinship Center at Karlstad at their Annual General Meeting in April 2004. (The Bridge 02/04)

The 2004 Olsson scholar is revealed

The 2004 Olsson scholar is now revealed. She is Joanna Daxell, a doctoral student in Comparative Canadian Literature at Université de Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada. She will be at The Swenson Center for the first 3-1/2 weeks in November 2004.


She plans to explore the differences found in American and Canadian immigrant writing based on the different history of Swedish immigration to the United States, which starts already in the 1840s, and to Canada, where the majority of Swedish immigrants arrived at a later date. She plans to use the Swenson Center’s extensive book collection, Swedish-American newspapers, and archival collections.

She has worked with Elinor Barr on the Swedes in Canada project as a researcher and translator [See SAG 2/04 p. 12].

Swedish Council of America seeks new partners

The Swedish Council of America visited Stockholm in March 2004 to discuss closer contacts with, for instance, the Swedish Local Historical Society Federation (Sveriges Hembygsförbund) and Swedish museums and tourist organizations. A Swedish-American conference in 2006 in Sweden is in the planning stages. (The Bridge 02/04)
### Abbreviations

**Table 1.** Abbreviations for Swedish provinces (landskap) used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (as of March 2000) and *Sveriges Släktforskarförbund* (the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies, Stockholm [SSF]).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landskap (Province)</th>
<th>SAG &amp; SSF Abbr.</th>
<th>Landskap (Province)</th>
<th>SAG &amp; SSF Abbr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blekinge</td>
<td>Blek.</td>
<td>Närke</td>
<td>Närk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bohuslän</td>
<td>Bohu.</td>
<td>Skåne</td>
<td>Skån.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalarna</td>
<td>Dala.</td>
<td>Småland</td>
<td>Smål.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalsland</td>
<td>Dals.</td>
<td>Södermanland</td>
<td>Södm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gotland</td>
<td>Gotl.</td>
<td>Uppland</td>
<td>Uppl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gästrikland</td>
<td>Gäst.</td>
<td>Värmland</td>
<td>Vär.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halland</td>
<td>Hall.</td>
<td>Västerbotten</td>
<td>Väbo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Härjedalen</td>
<td>Härj.</td>
<td>Västmanland</td>
<td>Väsm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jämtland</td>
<td>Jämt.</td>
<td>Ångermanland</td>
<td>Änge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lappland</td>
<td>Lapp.</td>
<td>Öland</td>
<td>Öland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medelpad</td>
<td>Mede.</td>
<td>Östergötland</td>
<td>Östg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norrbotten</td>
<td>Nobo.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2.** Abbreviations and codes for Swedish counties (län) formerly used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (1981-1999) and currently used by *Statistiska centralbyråns* (SCB) (the Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Län (County)</th>
<th>SAG Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Code</th>
<th>Län (County)</th>
<th>SAG Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Abbr.</th>
<th>SCB Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gävleborg</td>
<td>Gavl.</td>
<td>Hall.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Värmland</td>
<td>Värm.</td>
<td>Vrml.</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kronoberg</td>
<td>Kron.</td>
<td>Norr.</td>
<td>BD</td>
<td>Örebro</td>
<td>Öre.</td>
<td>Öreb.</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norrbotten</td>
<td>Nbt.</td>
<td>Skån.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Östergötland</td>
<td>Ög.</td>
<td>Östg.</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skåne</td>
<td>Skån.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a* formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) län.

*b* includes the former counties (län) of Malmöhus (Malm.; M) and Kristianstad (Krist.; L).

*c* includes the former counties (län) of Göteborg and Bohus (Göt.; O), Skaraborg (Skar.; R), and Älvsborg (Älvs.; P).
The counties (län)  

The Provinces (landskap)  

Sweden 2004