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## Swedish Parish Records 300 Years Old

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29. SAMUELSDOTTER, Sara, b. 1737; d. 2 Oct. 1788.
30. EDMUNDSSON, Johan.
31. MÅNSDOTTER, Catharina.
- V. 32. HEMMINGSSON, Sven, b. Vena 30 April 1732; m. Vena 26 Dec. 1750; d. Vena 4 Dec. 1804.
33. PEHRSDOTTER, Elsa, b. Vena 1 Jan. 1720; d. Vena 25 Feb. 1796.
34. ERIKSSON, Sven.
35. ERIKSDOTTER, Kerstin.
36. ERIKSSON, Olof, b. Vena 1707; m. Vena 2 Nov. 1729; d. Vena 1 Jan. 1768.
37. OLOFSDOTTER, Brita, b. Vena 3 Oct. 1725; d. Vena 7 Feb. 1819.
38. OLOFSSON, Nils.
39. CARLSDOTTER, Catharina.
40. ---, Nils.
42. OLOFSSON, Mäns, b. Södra Vi Parish (Kalm.) 12 Jan. 1720; m. Mållilla 13 May 1750; d. Mållilla 16 Oct. 1793.
43. NILSDOTTER, Maria, b. Mållilla 21 Feb. 1731; d. Mållilla 18 March 1797.
- VI. 74. PEHRSSON, Olof.
75. LARSDOTTER, Brita.
84. SUNESSON, Olof, b. Södra Vi ca. 1684; m. ca. 1708; d. Södra Vi 11 July 1762.
85. MÅNSDOTTER, Ingrid, b. ca. 1686; d. Södra Vi 10 June 1768.
86. ANDERSSON, Nils, b. Mållilla ca. 1696; m. Mållilla 14 June 1721; d. Mållilla 8 May 1757.
87. JONSDOTTER, Maria, b. Mållilla ca. 1691; d. Mållilla 25 June 1772.
- VII. 172. JONSSON, Anders (?).

Sources: Microfilms of Swedish Parish Records, The Genealogical Library, Salt Lake City, UT.

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## Swedish Parish Records 300 Years Old

On 2-3 Sept. this year the Swedes celebrated a unique anniversary, the tercentenary of the decision by the Swedish King, Charles XI, on 3 Sept. 1686 of instituting a new "church law," which was to regulate the affairs of the Swedish State Lutheran Church. Since the King, at this juncture of Swedish history held absolute power, this momentous piece of legislation, much of it still in force, was never approved by the Swedish Parliament or *Riksdag*.

One aspect of this new legislation was to institutionalize the keeping of records by each parish clergyman of the births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials within the parish. Additionally, each pastor had to document the knowledge of each parishioner of Christian dogma and teachings as well as knowledge of Martin Luther's Catechism.

This legislative action by Charles XI has become a boon to genealogists all over the world interested in tracing Swedish family connections. Swedish parish records are recognized as being some of the best in the world.

Since Finland 300 years ago was an integral part of Sweden, the Finnish Lutheran churches have followed the same course and can also boast of the same excellence.

Though the Swedish "church law" has been changed and modified across the years, the segment dealing with keeping parish records is just as rigorously observed today as it was 300 years ago.