

12-1-2002

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Recommended Citation

Seaholm, Jill (2002) "Parish Catalogs from SVAR," *Swedish American Genealogist*. Vol. 22 : No. 4 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol22/iss4/10>

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Parish Catalogs from SVAR

Jill Seaholm*

SVAR (*Svensk Arkivinformation*) has been busily indexing Swedish parish records to make it faster to find information within them. In doing so, they have made indexes that they call Parish Catalogs. Parish Catalogs are available for most of the parishes in most of the Swedish *län* or counties.

The Parish Catalogs contain names of farms and villages within parishes, showing you the page number(s) in the record book where you will find the farm or village you need (or if you are using SVAR microfiche, it also tells you which fiche your farm/village is on within a volume as well as the row and column on that fiche). It also serves as a handy list of place names within a parish, which will help you when trying to decipher names of farms/villages in the records.

For details about which parishes have catalogs available and their prices, call or write to the Swenson Center or check our web page at <<http://www.augustana.edu/administration/swenson/svarcats.html>>. Please note that the Parish catalogs do not contain actual records. They are listings of record availability for parishes. The parish catalogs alone will not be useful to you. They are to be used with the parish records or in deciding which records to order.

Example of parish catalogs' usefulness. Let's say that your ancestor lived in the village of Björnamo in Gårdsby Parish in Kronoberg *län*, and you want to find that village in the household records that cover the years 1820-1828 (volume AI:5). Farms/villages are not in the records alphabetically, but are grouped geographically. The Gårdsby Parish Catalog says that records for Björnamo are on pages 486-496 in volume AI:5, and that they are on the fifth fiche out of six. Knowing that saves you from having to buy all six fiche.

The parish catalog prices range from \$10.00 to \$30.00, including sales tax, postage, and handling. Price is determined by the number of pages in the catalog.

The Swenson Center does not have all of the Swedish parish records or catalogs on the premises. We order them for you from Sweden. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by phone at 309-794-7204 or by e-mail at <sag@augustana.edu>. You may also write to the following address:

SVAR Microfiche
Swenson Center
Augustana College
639 38th St.
Rock Island, IL 61201-2296

Please feel free to visit our web site at <<http://www.augustana.edu/administration/swenson/>>.

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