

ROOTED

no 10 2013

in Sweden



**Swedgen Tour
DIS' Chairman
Folklore in Sweden
Historical Statistics**

DISBYT HAS LOOKED THE SAME FOR SEVERAL YEARS, EVEN though the database has been expanding steadily. It is probably one of DIS's greatest assets and the reason why I became a member some years ago. DISBYT was originally developed together with DIS-Norway, so now, when it's time for a facelift, we return to DIS-Norway for another cooperative project.

As a member of DIS Sweden you also have access to the Norwegian and Danish versions of DISBYT. If you log on to DISBYT on DIS-Norway's webpage, you can easily search all three databases.

The first step is a facelift and some improvements to the search function. Later steps may include a commentary function and possibilities to send rectification requests.

DISBYT aims to connect genealogists researching the same people by facilitating information exchange. The goal is not for each member to just copy the data from the DISBYT database into their own research (even if this is often the case), but instead to work together.

Our genealogy program DISGEN is also being updated. The work is mainly done by our full-time developer, Patrik. The database in DISGEN must be replaced by a more modern one as the old database is preventing new development. It's a big job, but an early prototype of "DISGEN X" has already been tested. When the new database is finished the work with new features will commence. Same-sex marriages and multiple parent groups are features of top priority, but it's too early to say which ones will actually become part of the next version of DISGEN.

As you can see, work is being done even if the results are not yet visible.

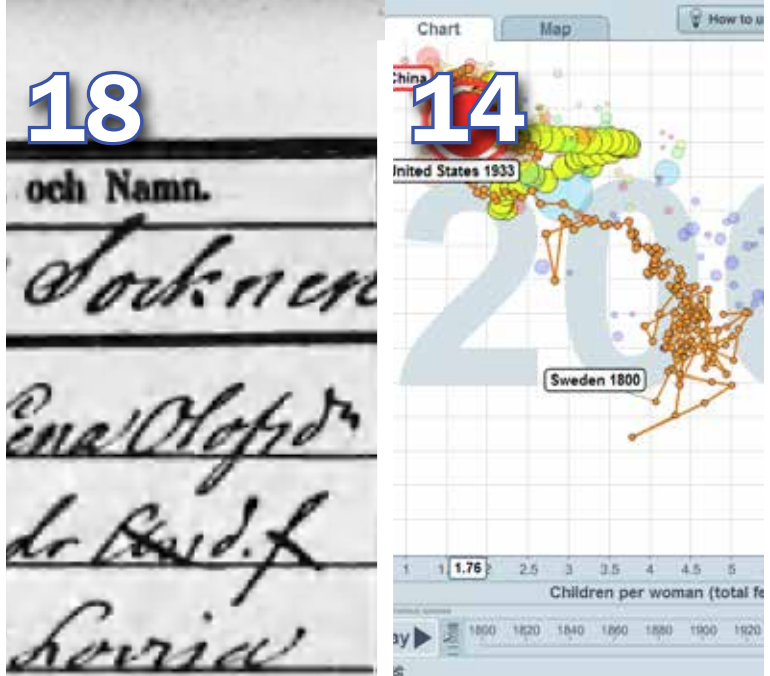
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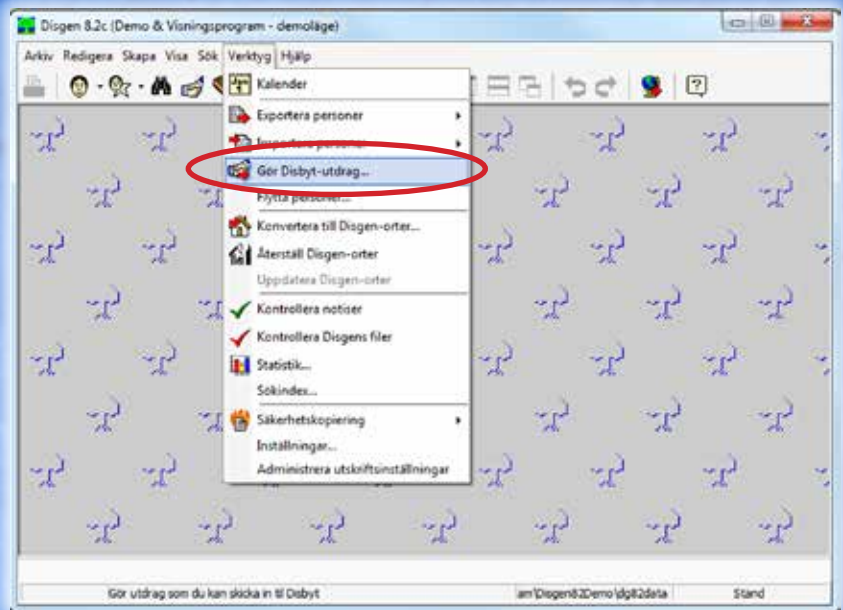


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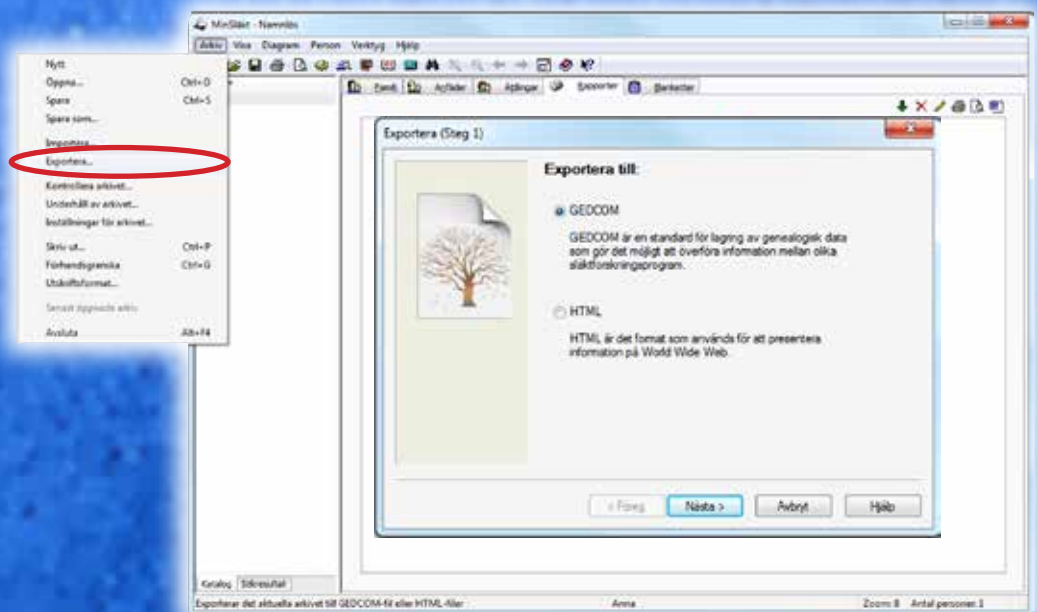
Cover photo: Ove Klingberg. The richly ornamented pulpit in God's house in Habo parish.

Send us a Disbyt excerpt

In DISBYT, the database for genealogy data exchange, about 6,950 members are participating with excerpts from their genealogy software, which together make up about 25.5 million entries. Almost 55% of the population born in Sweden between 1750–1900 is represented in the DISBYT database. About 8 million searches in the database are made during a year.



1. Make sure all places are specified with both place name (ortnamn) and County (län) consistent with the place name tree of DISGEN.
 2. Make a DISBYT excerpt in DISGEN or make a GEDCOM export from another genealogy program.
 3. Choose which people to include in your DISBYT excerpt—your whole research or parts of it.
 4. Make sure your file is named *Dbnnnnn.txt* or *DBnnnnn.ged*, where nnnnn is your membership number.
 5. E-mail the file to a DISBYT agent (ombud). Include your membership number.
- If you want to keep your address information a secret, you should not participate in DISBYT.



DIS' Chairman Daniel Berglund

Grandma's family stories were interesting enough, but it was not until it was possible to do research on the Internet that Daniel Berglund wanted to start doing genealogy research himself.

BY ANNA LINDER

DANIEL IS BORN AND RAISED IN GOTHENBURG, WHERE HE has lived for most of his life.

"None of my parents are from Gothenburg. Actually, I have no ancestors from Gothenburg," Daniel says. Like many other genealogists, Daniel started his research by trying to get as far back as possible, but he has since widened his score. Some of the oldest branches he has traced back to the end of the 17th century.

"I haven't reached further back than that. I don't have any noble men or priests in my family. It's mostly the likes of farmers and cottagers in my family."

Several relatives on both sides have done genealogy research. Daniel's paternal grandma and grandpa did an inventory of all living relatives. They were very much up to date with family matters and left all their material to Daniel for him to continue the research.

"I had a comfortable start. I could start my research in the mid 1800s, the more recent material being complete."

There's a lot of vivid information about individuals in the family, thanks to his grandparents' extensive collection of notes. Daniel's grandpa had made thick booklets that were handed out to relatives.

Daniel focused his studies on natural science and computer science in high school before studying engineering physics in college.

"My brother had taken the program and recommended it. I selected computer science for every single optional class, which resulted in an education with strong focus on computers."

After his studies he was a bit ambivalent on his future and decided to study biology and systematic botany for a few years. He quit when he realized how grim the job market looked for biologists. Today, Daniel works for a company called Kvaser in Mölndal outside Gothenburg. He has worked there since 1993 when he did his master's thesis with them.

"I usually say that I work with computer networks in cars. We're pretty specialised in doing one thing: a PC-interface looking at a certain type of computer network, a so called CAN-bus. In modern cars you use a small computer network instead of large cable clusters. It saves both cable and gives extra functionality to the car. The technique was invented in the 1980s and spread to the car industry during the 1990s. Since then it has spread to other industries, being the basis for automation in the medicinal industry as well as airplanes and trains."

Outside of doing genealogical research Daniel has spent a lot of time hiking in the Swedish mountains, kayaking, and other outdoor activities. Another great interest is running: "I usually run a few long-distance races every year. But I don't do it for the results, I do it because it's fun."

Daniel's family comes from the south of Sweden, mainly Småland, Kalmar, Blekinge and eastern Västergötland.

"I don't have any family north of Askersund. They're all from the south. The name Berglund, for example, comes from Karlskrona where a butcher's trainee had the name. I haven't figured out where he came from. There was a fire in 1791, so most of the archive records probably went lost."

"I took up genealogy around 2002 when Genline had finished their Kalmar work. I started thanks to Genline. I hadn't visited any archives or ordered any microsheets to any larger extent until then. I didn't bother with genealogical research until it was possible to download archive records to your computer."

Last time Daniel had time to sit down with his genealogy he looked at the pistol blacksmith in Fremberg in the Jönköping region. But, once he finds the time the next time, he will look at something else.

"I study what seems interesting for the moment."

Daniel joined DIS in 2002 to get access to DISBYT. He didn't find the society or DISGEN particularly interesting at the time. He used other genealogy software then since he didn't find DISGEN to be sufficient for his purposes.

"Then I tired of the program I was using since it lacked several functions. I looked at DISGEN again, but still didn't think it was

”I really think that Disbyt is the most important resource of this society.”

good enough. I wrote and was active at the DIS Forum which lead to me being asked to participate in the development of DISGEN. It was easy for me to get going since I use the same computer environment at work.”

Daniel has many visions for the DIS society, first and foremost, though, is the development of DISBYT.

”I really think that DISBYT is the most important resource of this society. I would like to see a future, in about ten years or so, where you can expand the DISBYT database and create links from your own genealogy software to data in an extended database. Then you can do extended research on your closest ancestors, whereas the more distant relatives will be linked from a larger DISBYT database.

The question of ensuring the quality of the input will of course have to be solved in a satisfactory way. You have to be able to make a distinction between what belongs to your own research and what stems from the database, and then see it in your family tree.

It would be fun if you in the extended DISBYT database could cooperate around different genealogy projects and contribute with your own research and, at the same time, pick up pieces from the database and puzzle into your own research.” 🍷



Translated by Joachim Schönström



A Painted House of God

Even the Devil Has to See

BY EWA KLINGBERG

CHURCHES ARE A GREAT ARCHITECTURAL TREASURE AND IF ONE CONSIDERS the interiors and objects connected to them they represent invaluable cultural and aesthetic values. These attributes could have sealed them away forever, only to be opened on special occasion, but thankfully that is not the case. Most of our churches are open to those of the public in need of some peace, spirituality and contemplation.

God's house in Habo parish is located in the utmost south-east corner of Västra Götaland's County. This building is unique in more ways than one, as it lies there, catching the eye of travelers. The deep red exterior carries its age visibly—as a matter of fact there has been a church in this location since the 1100s, seeing people being baptized in this spot a thousand years after the birth of Christ. The building standing here today does not have quite as many years to its name, but it has been here since 1723, making it venerable in its own right.

"It was reverend Martinus Seth who drew the plans for the new church," the guide Daniel Carlsson tells us.

Seth began his service in Habo during the early 1700s and wanted, right away, to rebuild the church, but was stalled by war, inflation and pestilence. On top of this the parishioners were not too happy about the extra money they were sure this building would cost them.

The reverend himself had a vision of a wooden church, but the Bishop thought that stone would be better. But when a calculation, made by Seth, showed that the Bishop's stone church would be much too expensive for the parish, the wooden model got green lighted. The parishioners also thought that this was still much too expensive and tried to postpone the project. When the church council finally started to build, it progressed at high speed.

The church was not so much rebuilt—a new church was, more or less, built in its place. The only remaining parts of the church from 1680 are the outer walls of the nave. The vestry dating from the middle ages was also incorporated into the new structure. From the outside the most noticeable detail is the heightened nave with its beautiful light inlets and the tower that

is just for show, as the three bells are in the steeple next to the church.

"The steeple was in fact erected in 1760," Daniel points out. "So it is younger than the church."

The big bell is mentioned for the first time 1756 when it is re-cast. The middle bell was restored the following year when it also received an inscription. The smallest of the three bells would most likely be from 1760.

If the exterior of Habo church demands attention, it is nothing compared to the interior. The paintings that greet today's visitors almost solely derive from the period of 1741–1743. The artists were Johan Kinnerus and Johan Christian Peterson, both hailing from Jönköping. They were, and are, both known for paintings in churches as well as mundane buildings.

The motifs are the Lutheran catechizes which it was everyone's holy duty to know by heart. In this church no one will forget the Ten Commandments as they literally line the walls. At the front of the church roof John the Baptist baptizes Jesus Christ to remind of the sacrament that is the bap-



Habo Church which has the Ten Commandments written across the interior walls.

tism. The communion is represented by Judas leaving the room as the Devil peeks out from beneath the tablecloth. The Devil is also depicted in the confession of faith, in connection with the line “But deliver us from evil”.

“When the artist was doing this piece he had a visit from Old Nick himself,” Daniel tells us with a crooked smile.

After a closer look it turns out that here is a real legend to be heard. The miracles are written down in *Miracles de Notre Dame* and tell us the following: In Björsäter an artist was working on a picture featuring the Virgin Mary with her foot upon the Devil. Of course the artist depicted the Devil as gruesome and ugly, but was immediately punished when his ladder was torn out from under him. Just in the nick of time the depiction of the Virgin Mary held out her hand to stop the man from falling.

Another entry tells of Johan Kinnerus who, while working on a church in Brandtorp, which is in the vicinity of Habo, had to finish his depiction of hell sitting on a bible after being harassed by the Devil. And as it seems Habo has its own version

of this legend. Exactly which artist that was harassed is not known for sure, but by looking at the paintings it is considered likely that Peterson created the confession of faith and as such would have been the man knocked of his ladder by Lucifer. He is said to have fallen so badly that he hurt his face and received two hornlike scars. Again, the reason for the Devil's anger was that he had been depicted too ugly according to himself.

Vicar at the time was Christoffer Ljungmarker and one can assume that the educational paintings were his idea, and they would surely have given the parishioners a better insight into the teachings of the bible.

The balconies that stretch along the inner roof were reserved for the maids and farmhands while the farmers sat down on floor level, the more important the closer to the altar. The very rich and powerful would rent one of the six booths closest to the altar when these were auctioned out once a year.

The holders of these booths had their own entrance to the church and were allowed to have a drink or two before the service.

There were other things going on in the balconies that were not allowed, but none the less happened. In the summer the balconies would get hot as a furnace, and in winter it was freezing.

The low temperatures in winter led the parishioners to stomp their feet to try and get their body heat up, and with this noise some of the maids and farmhands let other things than God's words come into focus. There was plenty of room between the tallow candles and the bad lighting allowed for the maids to climb into the lap of their favorite farmhand. One can only assume that there are a good number of parishioners who were conceived in this way. The problem was so serious that the reverend for periods of time closed the balconies, but with such a large parish and so many people wanting into the church that was never a long term solution. In the 1700s there lived around two thousand persons in Habo and the church was crowded even without closing the balconies.

The baptismal font made from brownstone dates back to the 1200s and is thereby the oldest object in the church. It lacks or



The interior paintings are from the 1740s.

Photo: Ove Klingberg

→ namentation and is very simple. Perhaps that is why, in the early 1900s when taking stock, it was labeled as “Mortar to mix red paint.” It remained forgotten and misused for many years but was finally discovered and saved and is now placed in the southern part of the choir.

“There are still traces of red paint if you look closely,” Daniel tells us and points at the font.

He also tells us about the stone vestry that is the absolutely oldest part of the church and is located in the northwestern corner. It is accessed from the church by a low iron door and is used today as a solitary contemplation and prayer room. He who enters here is truly in the arms of history, with the 13th century wooden sculpture of John the Baptist and icons older than seven hundred years watching from the walls.

Just as the baptismal font the altar is also made from brownstone. It is dated to the 1300s from a feretory found in 1716. In this there was a note with writing telling

of the consecration of the altar by Bishop Sigge from Skara, and historical records show us that Bishop Sigge worked during the mid-1300s.

The churches stocktaking contains numerous historical treasures and interesting items. Its interior is literally covered in unique paintings and decorations and most certainly no visitor leaves this place unimpressed, not even the Devil. 🗿

“...the reason for the Devils anger was that he had been depicted too ugly according to himself.”

FOLKLORE IN SWEDEN

This article was also published on Folklore in Sweden, a webpage that launched in August 2010. It is a meeting place and online knowledge bank created for the English speaking community. A large part of our target group is found among the descendants of the millions of Swedish citizens that left their home country during the 1800s and well into the 1900s. Here they have the possibility to find information about their ancestors and the homes, history and culture of those ancestors. At the same time they can access the latest advances in genealogical research and gain a direct line into the Swedish community with all its historical and cultural treasures.

www.folkloreinsweden.com

Andrea Flanagan and Julia Potts in Lanse, helping each other figure out the Swedish surnames.

Swedgen Tour 2010

by Charlotte Börjesson

Photo: Charlotte Börjesson

Here comes a report from the Swedgen Tour in 2010 which visited Worcester, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Lanse, Michigan. The three following articles are written by one of the tour participants—Charlotte Börjesson.

When SwedGenTour 2010 was passing through in Jamestown, New York in October, we were able to take photographs of some church records of the First Lutheran Church. When we were there in 2007, we photographed gravestones in Levant Cemetery, where many Swedes are buried. The largest cemetery, Lakeview Cemetery, had already been photographed by local forces and is now published and searchable on the internet.

The church records we photographed are from the years 1857–1905. In the records you can see that the church members came mainly from the counties of Västergötland, Halland, Småland, Östergötland and Örebro.

I myself have a penchant for looking for immigrants from the Södermanland County. Those are relatively few and therefore I usually don't find that many. Most of my relatives have their roots in Södermanland. I have done a lot of genealogy research in the area so I am familiar with Södermanland. While I am looking for and find people from Södermanland I register them in my genealogy program, DISGEN. Maybe someday I'll find a family connection – who knows?

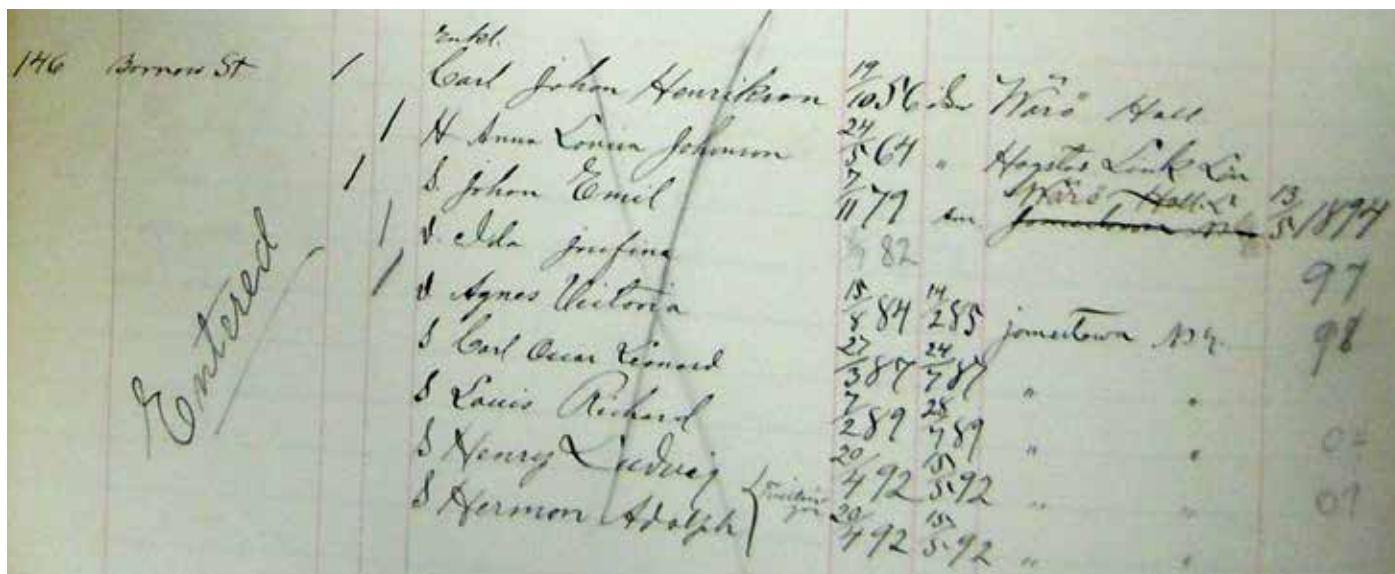
I also searched in DISBYT to see if there are any members who have submitted the people I found in church records. Henry Franzen, who I'm also related to, had the father of one Anna Larsdotter born in Västra Vingåker and was married Magnusson. Henry had no direct family connection to Anna and her parents, but maybe a connection to us will be revealed in the future.

I made several searches in DISBYT, looking for names in the church records. I found a Charges John Henry, born October 19, 1856, in Värö parish, Halland. In DISBYT he is recorded with his siblings and the parents, Henry Jackson and Johanna Christina Andersdotter, both born in Värö. It's Ann-Charlotte Martinsson in

Torslanda, close to Gothenburg, who has submitted her family genealogy to DISBYT. Ann-Charlotte had the source of the birth entry for Charles John which made it quick and easy for me to go to the birth record through DISPOS and the link to Genline or AD-Online, which I subscribe to, to verify the birth information. Carl Johan was born in Skällåkra No 8.

I still don't know if Ann-Charlotte is a relative of Carl Johan. Or, if she knows about his emigration in 1880 to Jamestown in New York, with his wife and son. Either way, I hope this article may be useful for anyone who wants to do research on immigrants coming to America.

When doing searches like this, all information should be examined in the primary source when possible. The spelling of names, both first and last, often changes from the original Swedish names. Sometimes names and even dates and years are different. In this article I'll show you that even those who were born in the U.S. and remained there all their lives, were not exempt from clerical errors in the sources that we use for our genealogy research. That's why it can be very difficult to find and track people in the U.S. →



Carl Johan Henrikson (Hendrickson) and family in the member record of First Lutheran Church.



What I found in the First Lutheran Church record was what I assumed to find:

- Widower. Carl Johan Henrikson was born October 19, 1856 in Wäro, Hall
- Wife. Anna Louisa Jackson was born May 24, 1864 in the Supreme, Link. Counties
- S. John Emil was born November 7, 1879 in Wäro, Hall
- D. Ida Josephina was born September 8, 1884
- D. Agnes Victoria was born August 15, 1884 in Jamestown, NY
- S. Carl Oscar Leonard was born March 27, 1887 in Jamestown, NY
- S. Louis Richard was born February 7, 1889 in Jamestown, NY
- S. Henry Louis was born April 20, 1892 in Jamestown, NY (twin)
- S. Herman Adolph was born April 20, 1892 in Jamestown, NY (twin).

In addition to this data, it appears that they lived at 146 St. Borrow when the children were baptized and confirmed. Carl and Anna were married in January 27, 1892, probably in Jamestown since they both lived there. He was a widower.

After I found Carl in DISBYT I looked him up in *Emibas* (CD) and *Emiweb* (subscription) but there were no information about

him, his wife or his son. In these sources I was hoping to get personal information of the family. On *Emigration Popular* and *Emigration 2001* (both CD) I found only C.J Henriksson, Värö, travelling alone. When I instead searched using the code of his emigration source and then raised it by one I got a hit on Johansson C.J, Värö, a year younger than Charles was, which I interpret being his wife. The destination was New York. I still don't know anything about the wife who probably is the mother of John Emil.

I now had an emigration date of April 8, 1880 and I was able to look in the record of people who moved out of Värö. There I found the family with personal data and date for moving out from Skällåkra No 8. The wife's name was Anna Brita Johansdotter, born April 13, 1857 in Värö and they were married in August 29, 1879

In *Emibas* and *Emiweb* I found Carl's second wife, Anna Louise, who emigrated in April 28, 1882, probably to the U.S, as Lindblad Johansdotter from the farm Mörby (Frälsegård) in Hogstad, Östergötland. I didn't find her on *Emigranten 2001* or *Emigration Popular*.

In The First Lutheran Church records I looked for his first wife's death, but couldn't

find it or any information of where the family lived when they came to Jamestown. I found, however, confirmation dates for some of the children he had with his two wives.

I now continued my search on www.ancestry.com. I started by searching for the name Henrikson in Jamestown in all the archives, but it didn't give any hits. I tried the passenger list to New York and found Carl, Anna and Emil Henrikson on the boat Neckar, which operated on both Bremen in Germany and Southampton in England. It arrived in New York on April 24, 1880. I tried to search the Census records, with various spellings of surnames and also just the first names together with Jamestown, and it seems that the family used the spelling Hendrickson for the most part. I easily found the family in the Census for 1900–1930, Carl is not listed in the 1910 result but he can be found in the original document. (See original image above).

First names vary a lot between the years of search results. Carl Johan from Carl to Charles J. Johan Emil, John E to John F. Carl Oscar Leonard from Leonard, Leonard C, Leonard C O to Leanord C Escar. Louis Richard from Louie R to Lewis R. It means that you have to do many searches

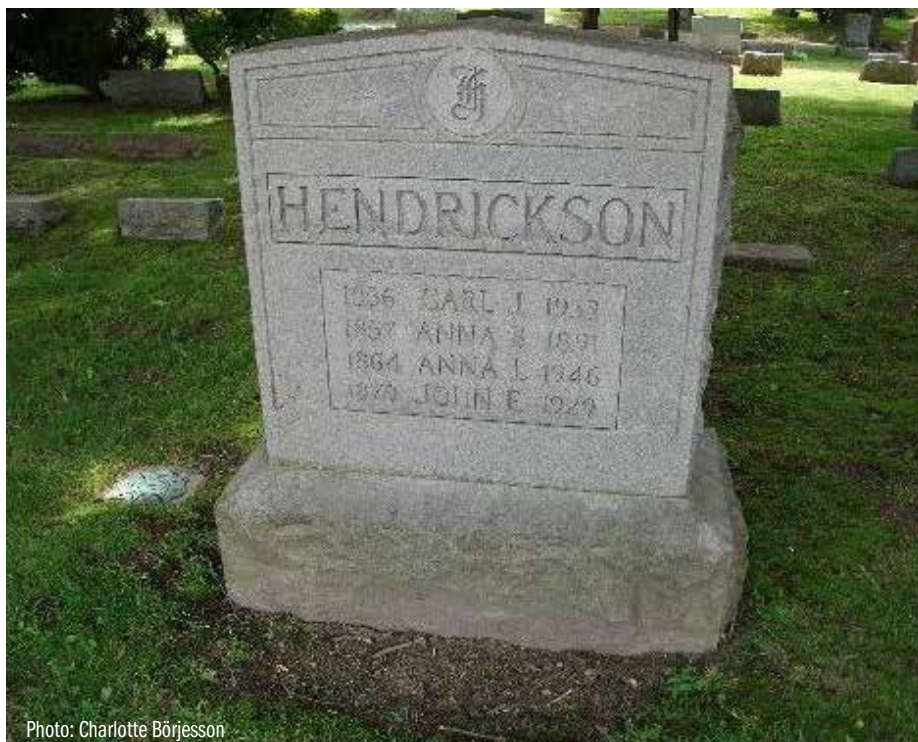


Photo: Charlotte Börjesson

"All information needs to be checked in the primary sources if possible."

One of the Hendrickson family gravestones in Lake View Cemetery. This picture is taken from the website: Find A Grave.

and have a lot of patience and imagination with the spelling of names to find the right person.

I found Carl, Anna and John E. Hendrickson in the Census of 1880 when they lived in Ellicott, adjacent to Jamestown, but at that time they were probably not in the First Lutheran Church, because I do not find them in the parish register.

Carl and his first wife Anna had five children in Jamestown, if I understand it correctly from the wedding date with his second wife Anna. With his second wife he had four children: Florence A, Ruth M., William J. and Lawrence R. according to the Census of 1910. It's also clear that one child has died and it could be Herman, twin brother of Henry, because I haven't found any trace of him after 1900.

The girls Ida J, Agnes V, Florence A, Ruth M probably married but I haven't found them later in life, not even with the help of Social Security Death Index when I searched their names and birth dates.

Carl Johan was a worker when he emigrated and was still a worker in Jamestown, but he became a foreman later in life. Several of the children lived at home even as adults and remained unmarried. Four of the sons I found enlisted to fight in World

War I, however, the registration cards are a bit unclear but you can see their signatures. Leonard C was a firefighter. Henry L married Thyra J and they had a son and a daughter who could be alive today. Now, when I have come so far I decided to look for gravestones, because I have not done so well when it comes to finding the date of death. Among the gravestones we photographed in 2007 of Levant Cemetery, I didn't find any with Hendrickson. Instead I searched on *Find A Grave*, and it turns out that most of the family was buried there in Jamestown. I can also see Carl's first wife, Anna here; she died in 1891.

With SwedGenTour we want to build bridges between our countries and bring family members and genealogists together. One way to accomplish this, of course, is to join and use DISBYT, the subject of this article. Now I have to wait and see whether Ann-Charlotte has found anything new and useful in her family history. I have sent her this article and all images from the church record, and all the other sources that this article is based on. 🙏

Links

- Read more about SwedGen Tour: www.swedgentour.blogg.se and www.lilleskogen.se
- Search in 53 million grave records for free at: www.findagrave.com
- Ancestry: www.ancestry.com
- Emiweb: www.emiweb.nu
- Demographic Database for Southern Sweden: www.ddss.nu



For the SwedGen Tour 2011 we travelled by car from Salt Lake City to Chicago. We made several stops along the way, and some detours like a visit to Lindsborg, Kansas. SwedGen Tour 2012 was located on the east coast, in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania. Read more about these adventures in upcoming issues of *Rooted in Sweden*.

Andrea Flanagan and Charlotte have Högsbyn, Ör in common



The house Gammelstugan. The window of Glader's chamber is on the first floor to the right. The picture is from the 1950's.

IN LANSE, PENNSYLVANIA, SWEDGEN TOUR 2010 HELD LECTURES AND one-on-ones the day before we went back home to Sweden. Andrea Flanagan who lives in Clearfield, not so far from Lance, came and wanted to meet Anneli, as Andrea has her roots in Dalsland. Her ancestors and family emigrated from Ed belonging to Högsbyn in Ör parish. Anneli told her that I had spent my childhood summers in Högsbyn. Andrea and I had no time to speak to each other then, but we have been in contact with each other using e-mail.

It's always fun to have something in common with people you meet. Andrea's relative named Jonathan took the surname Edlund when he immigrated to the U.S. I myself am not related to her relatives in Högsbyn but my family has owned and owns houses in the vicinity of the cottage that was once inhabited and owned by An-

drea's family. I have met descendants of her family who remained in the surroundings of Högsbyn and know where some of the cottages were located.

When Andrea told me that one of her ancestors was a soldier named Glader, I lightened up. In my very first year I lived with my family in the house called Gammelstugan (the old cottage). In this house, all bedrooms had names and my bedroom was named Glader's chamber. I plan to begin research to discover if it is the very same soldier who is the originator of the name. The pictures and information I come across, I will share with Andrea. Andrea is hoping for a trip to Dalsland and then I will, maybe even together with Anneli, show her around in her ancestral lands. I'm very much looking forward to that.

Andrea has given me access to her family tree, Levin Family Tree, on Ancestry.

Andrea has been ambitious in her family history research and in the recording of her family tree, where she has made use of all the features of the family tree in Ancestry. She has entered a portrait of John and his wife Betty. Andrea has used Genline for research in the Swedish church records.

All sources she used, she has saved as image files. She has also scanned photographs, books, newspapers and other documents dealing with the family and saved as image files. These image files, she has inserted in her family tree so that you can click on sources which expand and become readable. Andrea also uses the sources in Ancestry to merge them with the current events in the family tree. 🌳



SwedGenTour 2010 from the left:
Charlotte Börjesson
Anna-Lena Hultman
Anneli Andersson
Siv Bergman

When GENEALOGY feels good

VISITORS WHO WISHED TO MEET WITH US FOR A one-on-one session for 30 minutes on the SwedGen Tour 2010 were required to submit, in advance, what they wanted help with.

We had nearly 50 visitors during the trip and as we wanted them to get as much help as possible during the sessions, we did some preliminary research before we went away on our tour.

Issues included everything from where a farm or a cottage was located, to difficult assignments like finding people and their route to the U.S. We aren't supposed to do all the research for the visitors, but they should get help from us with advice and tips on how to move on themselves. I especially admire all those family researchers who aren't familiar with the Swedish language, but still use the church records and interpret all kinds of writings in old Swedish. It's amazing that they can understand so much.

In Worcester, MA, I was booked for a one-on-one session by DIS member Judith Mitrowski. The assignment I received from her in advance was:

My father, Nils Edwin Bergman, was born on November 11, 1908 in Örkened son of Charles John ??? Bergman, born August 5, 1874 and Bengta Nilsdotter March 11, 1869. I would like to know more about where they were born, and if possible, something more about his family.

I assumed that Nils Edwin was born in Graveboda in Örkened (L) and I noted the name and birth details of his four siblings I found in the birth records. I found that Nils Edwin and his brother emigrated to Thomaston, Connecticut.

His father's name was Carl Johan Bergman, born in Berg, Öxnevalla (P) and he had nine siblings. Their mother Bengta was also born in Graveboda in Örkened (L) and she had seven siblings. Bengta had been in the U.S. for a few years and had come back home. During the time she was in the U.S, Nils Edvin moved to the farm. Both her parents died in Örkened (L) and I also found out who their parents were.

All the sources I used were recorded accurately, as well as the church records with page numbers, so that Judith could easily verify this information. Through these information sources Judith may also find out more information about all of the siblings.

I wanted to find out more for Judith and searched DISBYT for information. Unfortunately it didn't have any more information at this time. I took copies of both old and new maps before leaving the research.

A few days later I returned to the research. Could I find any relatives who were still alive? It is entirely possible as there were so many siblings. Doing that research would be too time consuming, so I decide to abandon that.

So, what research opportunities exist in Skåne? I searched my memory and recalled both the Historical Society and the database DDSS (Demographic Database for Southern Sweden).

I searched the DDSS and found a very special list which is called Nickname Database for Örkened parish. In the drop down list of names I found Bergman Bengta and chose that and then clicked Search. Wow, I was amazed and pleasantly surprised by what I found on Bengta. It's when you least expect to find something that the pleasure is the greatest. I was walking on clouds the rest of the day. The database had an unusual amount of information about Bengta's life. It was about her parents, siblings, travel and work, spouse and children. Many dates and locations were also mentioned.

A whole week seemed to be a very long time to wait until I got to meet Judith, since I didn't want to reveal anything in advance. I wanted to be with Judith when I told her what I found on her family. Now afterwards, I'm still happy and, I'm not exaggerating, joyful tears fell down her cheeks, like it did for me, when we had our half hour together. I'm sorry that I forgot to have someone take a picture of us together with her sister who joined us. I will never forget either Judith or this exciting research. 🐾



Historical statistics

Even if individual information is the most interesting for genealogists, statistical information can help us place the individual in the bigger picture.

There are a number of websites containing historical statistics. One specific site, Gapminder, show results in a very pedagogic way. Hans Rosling, the creator of Gapminder, has won awards for his method of showing statistics using bubble graphs. With its global span you can make interesting comparisons between different countries, for example Sweden and USA.

Hans Rosling is Professor of International Health at the Karolinska Institute. He is passionate about making statistics comprehensible. Statistics can give us a better picture of different developments in the world and help leading politicians make better decisions.

Gapminder has recently been acquired by Google. Google has launched an ani-

mated bubble graph called Motion Chart, that is free to download. Motion Chart can be found at Google gadgets. With bubble graphs you can show statistics from your own genealogical research or gather statistics from other sources to show the material in a more attractive manor.

To use Gapminder, visit the website www.gapminder.org > *Gapminder World*. Then you just pick the information you want to show on the x- and y-axle. Furthest to the right you can also tick one or many countries you want to follow. Newer data is more reliable than old. Information about the sources used can be found on the website.

In the category Population, you can find statistics of interest for genealogists. All my example pictures have life expectancy on the y-axle. In all the graphs you can see that the life expectancy in 1800 was 32 years, in 1900 it was 52 years, and in 2005 it had increased to 81 years. Life expectancy lowers drastically in 1918, possibly because of the Spanish Flu. The American equivalents are 1800: 39 and 2005: 78 years. The U.S graph also takes interesting turns. It stays at 39

years until about 1880 when it takes off and reaches 50 already in 1901. Perhaps one of our readers can give an explanation to this?

You can see that women's age at their first marriage goes down during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s in Sweden. Not until the 1980s does the age at first marriage increase to the same level as it was during the 1950s, 26 years. This is also the same as at the beginning of the 19th century. In 2005 it was 32 years. In the U.S the equivalent for 2005 is much lower at 25 years. In general though, the American graph follows the same pattern as the Swedish graph.

The number of children born per woman in Sweden has gone down from 4.07 in 1800 and 1900 to 1,84 in 2005. The American pattern is the same here as well, although the numbers vary slightly. In 1800 it was 7.03 children per female, in 1900 3.85 and in 2005 it was 2.09.

The changes over time can be seen as an animation and you can see the bubbles move back and forth through the decades and you can see where Sweden and USA are in the global picture. The two biggest bubbles represent India and China.

SCB

At Statistics Sweden's homepage, www.scb.se, you choose *Finding statistics* > *Statistics by subject area* > *Population* to find statistics about the Swedish population. At the start page you can also choose *Namesearch* and find out how common different Swedish names are. There are statistics for all first names and last names, both included in the Swedish national registration on 31 December, 2012 and for all newborns.

Johansson and Andersson are the most common surnames. The most common surnames that are not derived from a patronymicon are Lindberg, Lindström, Lindqvist, Lindgren and Berg.

As mentioned in the last issue of Rooted in Sweden there's also a historic name statistics database at DIS' website called DIS-COUNT.

by Anna Linder & Joachim Schönström

Child mortality (0–5 years) has gone down from 240 per 1,000 births in 1800 to 86 in 1900 and 2.8 in 2009. There are no records for the American figures until 1933 where the child mortality rate was 76. In 2009 the figure was 7.8, about three times as high as in Sweden.

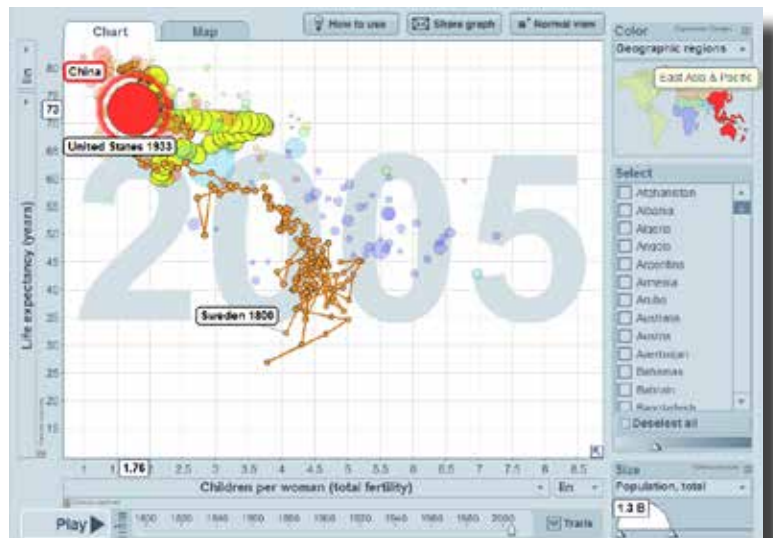
You can also see the average annual income per person in US Dollar. The income in Sweden was \$1,100 in 1800, \$2,897 in 1900 and \$33,860 in 2009. In the U.S the average income was \$1,913 in 1800, \$6,624 in 1900 and \$41,256 in 2009.

There are other things to look at on gapminder.org, for example lectures and a documentary video about the founder, Hans Rosling.

- Links:
- www.gapminder.org
- www.scb.se



Women's age at 1st marriage







Children per woman



Child mortality rate

the digital race

Update on Swedish Online Resources (information as of February 2013)

	SVAR 	Genline 	Ancestry 	ArkivDigital 
Church records (+ vital records) -1895	Complete.	Complete. Complete vital records (SCB extracts).	Complete. Complete vital records (SCB extracts).	Complete.
Church records 1895-1942	Complete for Gotlands, Göteborgs och Bohus, Kopparbergs, Skaraborgs, Stockholms län and stad, Södermanlands, Uppsala (-1925), Värmlands, Västmanlands, Älvsborgs, Örebro (-1925), Östergötlands, Jönköpings, Kalmar and Kronobergs län. The rest are in progress.	Complete SCB extracts until 1941. Will publish 1942 during 2013.	Complete SCB extracts until 1941. Will publish 1942 during 2013.	Complete, except for Blekinge, Halland, Kristianstad and Malmöhus län.
Vital records 1860-1942	Complete SCB extracts.	1898-1942: Complete SCB extracts until 1941. Will publish 1942 during 2013.	1898-1942: Complete SCB extracts until 1941. Will publish 1942 during 2013.	In production.
Taxation records 1530-1820	Complete.	-	-	Partly.
Probate records	-1860 Complete for Svea hovrätt, Göta hovrätt, Gotlands, Gävleborgs, Jämtlands, Kopparbergs, Norrbottens, Skaraborgs, Södermanlands, Uppsala, Värmlands, Västerbottens, Västernorrlands, Västmanlands, Älvsborgs, Örebro, Stockholms län and stad, Göteborgs och Bohus län.	-	-	-1900 Complete for Blekinge, Malmöhus and Kristianstads län.
Census indexes	1860 and 1870 partly. 1880, 1890 and 1900 complete. 1910 in production.	-	-	-
Other records	Court records, convicts and military records, indexes of seamen and Rosenberg-Geographic dictionary of Sweden.	-	Emigranten populär, passenger lists from Göteborg, births from the Swedish death book 1901-2006, Swedish indexed birth records, 1880-1920, and many other collections.	Court records, military records, school records, prison records, name registers, and much more.
Fee - lowest fee	50 kr (8 USD) for 3 hours.	195 kr (30 USD) for a month.	Free to try, but 45 USD for a month.	75 kr (12 USD) for a week.
Fee - annual fee	995 kr (154 USD)	1295 kr (200 USD)	300 USD	1045 kr (162 USD) (DIS Members offer)
Web site	www.svar.ra.se	www.genline.com	www.ancestry.com	www.arkivdigital.net

DISPOS

by Sture Bjelkåker & Anna Linder

Soon you can avoid the tedious and time consuming work trying to find a specific farm or village in the Household Examination Rolls (Husförhörslängderna). Dispos will help you.

DISPOS gives members of DIS an effective and effortless way into the primary and secondary genealogy sources that are available on the internet or other digital media. DISPOS, which was developed by Olof Cronberg, has been around for several years now. You can easily find the correct pages in the birth, death and marriage records for a given year, in a parish of interest.

This function was accomplished by utilizing all the extra information about births, marriages and deaths that the DISBYT participants make in their source citations. Through interpolation of this data DISPOS can with great accuracy calculate page numbers in the church records for a specific year. You can get to the desired page in the church record by a single click in DISPOS, provided you have a subscription to either Ancestry, Genline, ArkivDigital or SVAR. Regardless of which genealogy software you use, DISPOS can be used as a short cut into the sources.

This short cut is now also available for the Household Examination Rolls. You

can enter a name of a farm or village in a parish and then, with the help of DISPOS, click your way to the correct pages in that parish's Household Examination Rolls. You are actually able to browse through an entire series of Household Examination Rolls with a few keystrokes, a procedure that is normally rather time consuming.

"It's pretty amazing. When you have made an index in GIDx you can get to the right page of the household examination roll just by typing in a village name and a year in the search form," says Olof Cronberg.

The new functionality has been made possible through the GIDx project where the farm and village names are indexed. The project is run by DIS and Genline. So far, more than half of Sweden's parishes have been indexed this way, largely thanks to the voluntary work of some 350 members of DIS.

The indexing has been made using Genline's system. DIS has by agreement been given a copy of the GIDx database to create corresponding source search functionality in DISPOS.

By synchronizing page references in GIDx with corresponding paginations of ArkivDigital, SVAR and Ancestry, DIS has been able to use the index to point to the correct pages for these providers of online church records also. That's why symbols for the four providers often show up in the

results of a DISPOS search. The GIDx project has been beneficial to all DIS members, regardless of which church record provider they use.

"In addition, it's a great directory of place names. But not every name variation will be searchable—they will be normalized to some extent," Olof Cronberg notes.

On Dis' webpage, click on "DISPOS – vägen till källorna" and log in using your membership number and password (the same used in DISBYT). Enter what you are searching for in the search form to the left.

The results show available church record volumes for the given year. Then index to clerical surveys/ household examination rolls contains references to the page numbers where the parish is located in the household examination rolls, for the given year and some years thereafter.

Click in the list on the logo that represents your online church record provider. Now you should see the sought after page. If not, scroll one or two pages backwards or forwards, and you'll find what you're looking for.

About 120,000 searches in the DISPOS database are made during each year. The database contains about 7 million entries.

See which parishes, about 1850, that are indexed in the first link on the page www.dis.se > Projekt > GIDx gårdsindexering. 🗺

The screenshot shows the DISPOS website interface. At the top, it says "DISPOS - Looking for Household examinations in brunnsbo, klockerike 1870". Below this, there's a search form with fields for "PLACE (Name of village)", "PARISH", "DATE", and "SEARCH". The main content area displays a table of "Available church records volumes" and an "Index to clerical surveys/household examination rolls". The table lists various church records with columns for Volume, Period, Contents, Show volume*, and Synoh. The index table lists Place name, Year, Page, and Show page*. A map of Sweden is visible on the right side of the page.

Volume	Period	Contents	Show volume*	Synoh
AI:13	1866-1870	Clerical Surveys		
B:3	1846-1870	Moving In, Moving Out		
BI:3	1846-1870	Inflyttningslängder		
C:7	1861-1870	Födelse- och dopböcker		
EI:1	1861-1870	Lysnings- och vigselböcker		
F:1	1861-1870	Död- och begravningsböcker		

Place name	Year	Page	Show page*
Brunnsbo	1866	195	
Brunnsbo	1871	195	
Brunnsbo	1876	211	
Brunnsbo	1881	219	
Brunnsbo	1886	237	
Brunnsbo	1891	236	

Swedish Class

“Efter socknen”

by Joachim Schönström

416.

År	Hemvist och Namn.	Född		
		Mån. o. dag.	År.	Uti
	Efter Socknen			
	Enk Brita Lena Olofsd.	16 12	06	Glasbyn
	Lars Fredr. Bernd.	13 1	42	do
	Emma Lovisa	1 4	45	do

Time for some more clues to the many mysteries one encounters while exploring the Swedish church records. As these are mysteries even to those who are Swedish native speakers, it should provide valuable clues for those who aren't.

When you start your genealogy research, you might initially have an ambition of finding prosperous and highly educated ancestors. You might even know that you come from a long line of priests, professors and noblemen.

And, sure, there is a chance that you will get lucky if this is indeed what you're striving for. However, digging deeper and searching your ancestors histories, especially in Sweden in the 18th and 19th century, you're far more likely to come upon poor peasants and other members of the populace.

In the villages most people lead steady lives, marrying, and raising their families, while making their living in the fields or in other occupations. And usually the families are easy to trace in the church records even if they regularly move from place to place as they stayed together until it was time for the next generation to start their own families.

Obviously, however, this wasn't always the case. Extramarital relations were com-

mon in those days as well, resulting in children born out of wedlock and in some cases split up families. Most of the time this wasn't documented, and even if the truth was obvious to the village community, future researchers will be left with the horrible phrase: Father unknown (fader okänd).

In some cases though, these relations are very well documented. In my own research I've come across such a case where the following can be read in the birth records:

The husband has before witnesses declared and sworn that he in two years time hasn't had relations with his wife, and therefore cannot be the father of the child, furthermore, the mother, who is known to be salacious, has without trying to hide it stayed with the farmer Sven Svensson and has created quarrels between him and his wife.

There are of course other reasons that families split up, more or less dramatic—poverty combined with a large number of children could mean that the family was unable to take care of all children and children growing up in foster families, often relatives, were common.

Therefore, sooner or later, most genealogists come across the Swedish phrase *Efter socknen* in the church records. Variations of the phrase are *På Socknen* or *På församlingen skriven*. These phrases are subject to great confusion. What does it mean in any individual case? What were their living conditions? Where did they live if they were entered on the *Efter socknen* page? And why were they entered there anyway?

Well, unfortunately, the meaning is not univocal. One established answer is that these people are in some way dependent on the parish for their livelihood—they were supported by the parish poverty fund or ambulated from farm to farm and received food and shelter. In some cases elderlies taken in by the poorhouse could be registered on these pages.

Sometimes the village public ground was inhabited by poor people. The public ground was an area not suitable for farming where the poor could live in small cottages. These public grounds, without any specific name, could often be referred to as *Efter socknen*.

Generally it should not be assumed that the people *på socknen* were dependent on the parish for support. It could also mean that, even if they belonged to the parish, they didn't have a house there. One common example is widows living with adult children in another parish. The new parish wouldn't take them in for fear of getting a future support responsibility on their hands. That's why they remained in their old parish.

There are also examples where the parish members have gone missing—some USA emigrants remain in the parish church records for years after they've left, since it wasn't reported. 🙄



Public transport

by Joachim Schönström

SJ train arriving one hour late

image: Joachim Schönström

Swedes generally take pride in living in one of the world's most modern countries. We're among the most elite nations when it comes to science and technology. We're especially proud that one day a year when the world turns its eyes to our small country and the festivities surrounding the Nobel Prize ceremonies, when outstanding achievements in science are rewarded.

We also generally view our society as a well-organized and structured one, and we've taken on a habit of thinking less of other countries' organization abilities, and even ridiculing them.

In the light of all this, an outsider can understand the humiliation we've experienced and the frustration that has been evident the past three years when our railway system hasn't worked properly.

During the autumn and winter of 2011 the Swedish railway passenger traffic has had big troubles, including many and long delays. In December, passenger traffic hit an all-time low with time tables merely existing in theory. Fifteen per cent of all SJ (Statens järnvägar, the national long range transport company) passenger trains were delayed by five minutes or more at their final destination. This is the worst record since 1986.

Defective railway carriages, badly maintained railway tracks and switches, and staff shortages are all contributing factors. Under dimensioned railway infrastructure, especially around the bigger cities, is another. All this together with an especially difficult winter involving large amounts of snow and severe cold, caused major delays for long periods of time. Railway switches and train sets have been iced which has caused severe malfunctions.

The extreme pressure on railway service staff, including threats, have caused many to request sick leave.

It's gone so absurdly off course that one of the world's biggest betting agents, Lad-

brokes, allowed anyone to place bets on the delays. It was the Saturday, 9:17 departure on January 15th from Malmö with destination Stockholm that was subject to the live betting. The journey is normally a 4.5 hours train ride and betting on arrival according to the time-table would give you eight times your money back with the return decreasing every minute the train is late by. Fifteen minutes or more would give 2.40 times your money back. The result? It was only seven minutes late...

So, you can understand that this certainly is the talk of the town among commuters these days. We talk about it every day, partly because the delays keep reminding us and maybe also because we need to process it in our heads by talking about it. And maybe this is a useful lesson in humility for all Swedes. 🇸🇪

Join the DIS Society!

Are you still not a member of the DIS Society?

The DIS Society is the Computer Genealogy Society of Sweden and produces this e-zine *Rooted in Sweden*. As a member you will also get access to the DISBYT database with over 25 million records, which covers a third of the total population who lived in Sweden before 1910. You will also get access to DISPOS, a tool to make it easier to find indexes to sources.

We already have more than 27,000 members. You are also welcome to join the DIS Society. Annual fee: USD 22 including e-zine *Rooted in Sweden*. USD 35 including the Swedish magazine *Diskulogen*.

<http://adm.dis.se/english>

Swedish rail history

The introduction of railways in Sweden in the mid-1800s was late compared to other European countries. Railways were not seen as necessary in the farming country of Sweden. Opponents claimed that this fast and ungodly way of travelling would be unhealthy for people. The development of railways couldn't be stopped, though, and it virtually exploded at the end of the century.

The railways changed society in many ways. The notion of time changed. A common national time had to be introduced to fit the train schedules. Previously every town has its own time which was more adapted to the daylight hours. People became more mobile and the common people could now afford to travel. New ground was broken along the railway tracks and natural resources, like iron ore and timber could be transported long distances, opening possibilities in the northern regions of Sweden.

The Swedish government decided that the long range railways would be government owned, whereas the more local networks would be privately financed. The result was that about 30% of the combined networks were government owned. This mixed system survived until 1939 when the financial return of the privately owned railways had deteriorated and it was systematically bought by the government, which resulted in a virtual monopoly. Statens Järnvägar (SJ) became the only operator.

In 1938, the Swedish railway network hit an all-time high combined distance covering 16,900 kilometers. After that, picking up speed in the 1950s, a large part of the network was shut down, and the rails were dismantled. Many stretches of the railway system ran through sparsely populated areas and more and more people had their own cars. As late as in the 1980s railways were looked upon as an old-fashioned way of transport and railways were still shut down in different parts of Sweden.

In 1988 another systematic change was made—SJ was split up into the National Rail Administration (Banverket) in charge of developing and maintaining the railways, and the new SJ that became a transport corporation. This allowed other private operators to enter the market in short range passenger transportation and freight traffic. The monopoly was however maintained for long range passenger transport.

Railways in Sweden have recently experienced a revival. Key words like comfort, speed and environment friendly are connected with modern railway traffic, and the general attitude towards it has improved. At least when it's working and the trains run according to the timetables... 🚂

by Joachim Schönström