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## Welcome to Rooted in Sweden



Ever since the DIS SOCIETY was founded back in 1980, the purpose of our organization has been stated as "to investigate methods and develop computer tools to support genealogy research, and in general stimulate Swedish genealogy".

Until now DIS has mostly supported genealogists living in Sweden. Now we feel it is time to further extend the meaning of "Swedish genealogy" to include every person on earth having Swedish ancestors or other relatives. Millions of Swedish-Americans, Swedish-Australians and so on are part of Swedish genealogy.

Thousands of Swedish DIS members have found their unknown relatives abroad by using computer-based research.

Now we want to make it easier also the other way, that is to support Swedish descendants all over the world to make it easier to establish contact with their previously unknown Swedish relatives. Our database DISBYT is a powerful tool to establish the important first contact.

Very often these new opportunities lead to family reunions, either in the "new" country or back in "old Sweden". It is fascinating to read stories about such reunions and realize how strong family ties can be, even if a century or so has elapsed since the original emigration. Do you have such a story to tell?

We hope that ROOTED IN SWEDEN will make it more comfortable to be a non-Swedish speaking member of DIS, and will result in even more DIS members outside Scandinavia. There is a great potential, remembering that there is said to be more Swedish descendants in America than in Sweden itself.

STURE BJELKÅKER, DIS PRESIDENT

### Important note

ROOTED IN SWEDEN will primarily be issued on Internet as a PDF file, therefore it is very important that we always have your current e-mail address, so we can tell you promptly when there is a new issue to download.

We also want to know if you still want to receive the DIS magazine DISKULOGEN, which will be in Swedish only. See further information enclosed in this letter.

# SwedGenTour to visit Salt Lake City, Seattle and Vancouver

We are happy to announce that Charlotte Börjesson and Olof Cronberg from the DIS Society will participate in the SwedGenTour 2005. We hope that many of you will have the opportunity to visit our workshops.

In September 2005, the Swedish Genealogical Tour will visit Salt Lake City, Seattle and Vancouver. We will participate in lectures and workshops to help and assist Swedish-Americans find their Swedish roots. We will have access to several Swedish databases with genealogical data, some of them not yet published. With the expert knowledge from the SwedGenTour group, we hope to help you be able to start your search for you Swedish roots or to solve your problems if you don't know how to proceed.

## Program

The same program will repeated each day, so you only will need to plan for one day. Preregistration will be needed for the

## Program

**Sept 5-6: Workshops and lectures at Family History Library, Salt Lake City**

**Sept 8-10: Participation at the exhibition at FGS Annual Conference, Salt Lake City**

**Sept 11-12: Workshops and lectures at Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle**

**Sept 14-15: Workshops and lectures at BC Genealogical Society, Vancouver, Canada**

workshops except for the Federation of Genealogical Societies' (FGS) Conference.

At this tour, six well known Swedish genealogist will participate representing the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (Sveriges Släktforskarförbund) and the Computer Genealogy Society of Sweden (the DIS Society). We are also happy to have four participants from the Swedish Archives Information (SVAR) and two participants from Genline North America.

In August 2002, SwedGenTour visited Ontario (California), Kingsburg (California) and Salt Lake City (Utah). We were then successfully able to solve many mysteries and find the roots in Sweden. Since then the possibilities to find the Swedish connections have



*Olof Cronberg is showing how to find roots in the DISBYT database at the Family History Library at Salt Lake City.*



The 2002 version of the SwedGenTour at the FGS Conference in Ontario, California. From left: Olof Cronberg, Sam Blixt, Lisa Quiberg, Ted Rosvall, Anneli Andersson, Anna-Lena Hultman, Charlotte Börjesson and Hans Egeskog.

become even better. The number of databases has increased and the amount of data as well.

### The SwedGenTour web pages

The purpose with these web pages is to prepare you and to prepare us for the tour. In order to save some time at the meetings, you will have the possibility to submit your query before the tour. We will then do some check-ups before the tour and we will hand over the result at the meetings. The better data you are able to provide, the larger is the probability that we can help you to find your Swedish relatives. The two main questions we will try to answer are

- 1) Where in Sweden was your immigrant born?
- 2) Is it possible to find somebody related

to you in Sweden?

Last time in 2002, we had the ambition to be online with Sweden. However, there were so many Swedish American genealogists asking for help, so we did not have time to stay in contact with Sweden. This year, we plan to show you how to find help in Sweden yourself. Browse these web pages. Try to find as much information about your Swedish immigrant as possible.

### Fill out a reseach query form

Since we will have much to do during the workshops, we will try to prepare ourselves in advance. If you intend to take part in one of the workshops and you have a research query that you really want to be able to discuss let us know in advance. Fill out the research query form, and submit it to us. We will then try to

see if we can solve your problem and show the solution to you at the meeting.

### Preregistration needed

All details are not yet ready, but there will be preregistration to the different workshops. Check the web pages for more details.

Look for the blue and yellow flag at the meetings and you will find us. Welcome!

OLOF CRONBERG

**More info at <http://www.dis.se/swedgentour/>**



*Joan has found her origin - the farm at Älmesåsens Södregård, Moheda parish, Småland*

# Go on family history safari

In september 2003, my mother's American second cousin's confirmation friend's daughter visited my hometown Växjö. Joan had visited Copenhagen, Denmark, and came by train to Växjö to search for her Swedish roots. For two days, she had been studying at the Swedish Emigrant Institute, when we met for dinner.

## Check the records

After the dinner, I showed how to do research in an effective way using Genline on the Internet (see p. 6-7). We were able to fast and easy find additional information and were also able to clarify some information found at the Emigrant Institute. She wanted very much to see the places where her ancestors came from, and since some of her ancestors came from Moheda just a few miles outside of Växjö, we went on a family safari.

When I have visitors from overseas, I use to pass the village Härlöv. It is beautifully situated by the little lake Härlövsjön with an old church in the center surrounded by 19<sup>th</sup> century farms.

We then passed Johanssons lantcafé in Öhr, which is an old-style countryside shop and café, where we had a brunch.

## Älmesåsen Södregård

Then it was time to find the first goal for the trip. During the 1850s, Johannes Pålsson had lived with his family at the farm Älmesåsens Södregård, Moheda parish. We turned off to a dust road. I didn't have a detailed map and there are no signs on the farms. When I thought we were at the right place, we stopped and knocked on a door. We were told that we still were in Ör parish, and we were going to pass a little creek before getting into Moheda parish. The first house should be empty. In the next house, two old ladies were living, but they were probably in Växjö. In the third house, there should be a family living, we were told.

Above the door at the third house, a sign said JJ 1852. You may assume that JJ means Johan Johansson, so it didn't fit. A woman opened the door and told that the village consisted of three farm situated together close to this farm, but

were parceling-out in the end of 1850s. She didn't know much of the village, but she knew that one of the old ladies in the second house was at home. Before we had time to get out of the car, the old lady opened the door to see who were coming. She was used to having Americans knock on her door. Her grandfather's brother and two uncles had emigrated from Sweden to the United States, and their descendants had visited the old homestead several times. When she saw the print out of the household examination roll, she could at once tell us that Johannes Pålsson had lived in the first farm, which today was empty.

## The farm

Johannes Pålsson's farm was a classic red Småland two-floor house with white corners. The house was empty and was a little aged. On the other hand, someone had started to improve the house. The roof was new and some logs were exchanged. The old logs were fastened with handmade nails. Through the windows, we could see an old iron stove

from Klavreström's iron factory. There was also an old kitchen table, which was more than 100 years old. Joan was quite excited and thought the house was lovely. She couldn't understand why her ancestors had left this beautiful Småland countryside to move to the American plain prairie.

### Vegby Thoragård

Next stop was Vegby Thoragård, which also is situated in Moheda parish. When we arrived to the farm, which was a large yellow wooden building with several barns, two men were standing talking outside a stable. The younger of them, who owned the farm, had some papers in his hand. He had just received a first proof of what should become a local history book about the village Vegby. In the book there was a description of the owners farm by farm. Under the farm Thoragård, we found Joans gg grandmother Regina Petersdotter mentioned. The young farm owner told us that it was his father who had done the research and now should proof read the book. After five minutes the father came driving and he told us the history of the farm, but also that the most important week of the year was soon to arrive – the week when the annual moose hunt would start.

Later we passed the church of Slätthög with an emigrant monument on our way to Skövelsåkra. Also in this village, there were several houses to choose from, and for the first time we had bad luck. The man we met had only lived in the house for a few years, and his 80 years old neighbor wasn't at home.

### Helpful countryside

After this roundtrip Joan was full of impressions. When I left her at the Alvesta railroad station I realized that she had taken more than a hundred photos. Since my own ancestors left the countryside rather early, I haven't done this kind of roundtrips on my own. I was impressed by the positive attitude that we met throughout the trip. When one told them that you were in company with a Swedish-American visitor you were even more welcomed.

Take the chance next summer and go on a family safari to Sweden.

OLOF CRONBERG

# A recommended web site: Swedish Roots

Swedish Roots is the name of the English web pages of the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies. It is a good place to start a surf tour in Swedish genealogy. At these pages, you will find a lot of useful information about not only genealogy, but also Swedish history and language.

### Getting started

There is a section about the first steps you need to know to start your search for Swedish ancestors. For example, it is important to write the Swedish characters ÅÄÖ correctly from the beginning. There you can learn how to write ÅÄÖ on a American keyboard.

### Shop of books and CDs

The Federation is selling several books and CDs. Most of the publications are in Swedish, but some of the CDs have English menus. Unfortunately, the shop pages are still only in Swedish and so far you can't pay by credit card, but I think

there is hope for better times.

### Message board

Anbytarforum - ancestor exchange forum is the Federation's widely used message board. It has a section for discussions in English, but you can also post questions or information at the other pages. If you know the parish your ancestor came from or they had a family name apart from the son-names, then you can post your query at the actual parish or family name. You will surprisingly often get good answers on this message board.

### Swedish records

Elisabeth Thorsell has written good introductions to Swedish records such as church records, legal records, taxation records and Swedish archives. There are also a short introduction to Swedish history, Swedish language and Swedish names.

OLOF CRONBERG

[www.genealogi.se/roots/](http://www.genealogi.se/roots/)



# Find the vital records on the net

Since some years Genline is publishing the Swedish church records on the Internet. You can now search your family from your computer at home. However, the vital records 1860-1895 could be tricky to find. Here you can learn how to find them.

If you have been doing research at a Family History Center or at Genline on the Internet, you may have had difficulties to find the vital records after 1860. The reason is that the Church of Latter Day Saints only filmed the extract of the church records at Statistics Sweden's (Statistiska centralbyrån - SCB). These extracts are not divided by parish but divided by län (district/county). On the other hand, the household examination rolls (clerical surveys) are usually available in original records until 1895 and listed by parish.

## Find the län

To find a birth record between 1860 and approximately 1895, you need to know the parish name and the län. Be aware that some parishes have changed län. For most parishes, the län is the same as in the Genline list. If Genline refer to two different läns, then you may check both läns to be sure to find what you are looking for. You may also check the place name list at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). (Select Library, Family History Library Catalog and Place search.)

## Genline Family Finder

Below I have tried to show a step-by-step approach to find a record. I assume

that you have a Genline subscription ([www.genline.com](http://www.genline.com)), but if you have access to the film rolls the approach is the same. Genline has a new browser called Genline Family Finder 2 (GFF2). The GFF1 will work as well, but there are small differences.

## Find a birth record

My maternal great grandmother's brother Harald Royen was born 1882 in Motala. How do I find his birth record in the SCB extracts?

1. Establish in which län Motala is situated. You may use the GFF2. Press the select button for Counties and select All Counties and Ok. Then press the select button for parishes and look for Motala. When you find Motala you will find the län Östergötland in parenthesis, thus Motala is situated in Östergötland's län.

2. Don't select Motala, but press cancel. Instead, you should press the select button for the county (län) field, and there you select Östergötland. Don't forget that the Swedish characters ÅÄÖ are in the end of the alphabet. Then press ok.

3. Next you will press the select button for Parish and select the SCB extracts, which are called \_sc Östergötlands. You will find them at the

top in GFF2 and at the letter S in GFF1. Select \_sc Östergötlands and press ok.

4. In GFF2 you will now see the volumes. (If you are using GFF1 you will have to press the Search button, and you will see the volumes.) As you can see there are three lines with Birth, Marriages and Deaths in 1882. This means that the volume has been split on three microfilm rolls when filmed. Östergötland is a large län, and so there are a lot of records.

5. Check which of the Genline volumes is the first volume. There should be a page called "Register start" in the beginning. If there is a page "Continued from previous film", then check the next volume.

6. Often, you will also see that the first pages are called Statistik and shows Statistics of the län. These pages are important because they tell in what order all the parishes appear. The order is often first the countryside by härad (legal district) and then the towns. I find Motala in the end of Aska härad. It is important to note the härad because it can speed up the search. It could also be a good idea to print these pages to help you to navigate.

7. Now it is time to look for the birth records. On the top of the page, it should say "Födelsebok" or something similar. By the end of the first volume it is

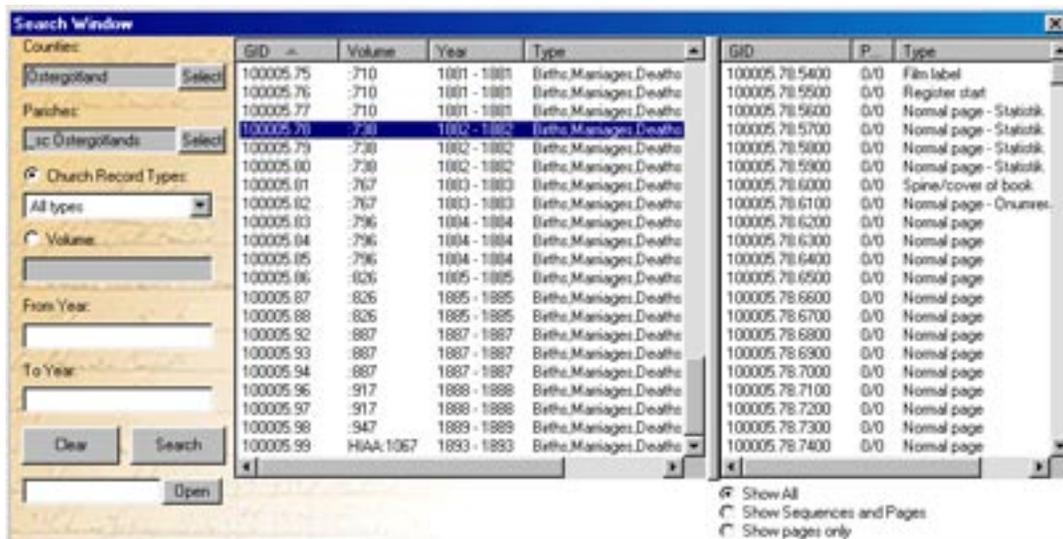


Fig 1. The Genline Family Finder 2 should look like this when you have selected Östergötlands län and the SCB records. The center table shows the available volumes. The right table shows the pages of the selected volume. The "statistik" pages shows the order of parishes in the volume.

Fig 3. The printed pages in the beginning of the volume called "statistik" shows the order of the parishes. In the margin is the name of the härad, then the parish name. The numbers in the columns are the area and the population of the parishes.

still Födelsebok but not yet Aska härad or a town, so I turn to the next volume. By jumping in the volume, I finally find Aska härad, and start to look for Motala. In this case, I find Motala landsförsamling (countryside parish), but not Motala stadsförsamling (town parish). Eventually, I find Motala stadsförsamling after the other towns in the end.

8. On May 6<sup>th</sup> Harald is born. About the parents it is written: Royen, Ole, styrman fr Qvar 11:62, 35 (in a column to the right) Håkansson, Johanna Kristina, hu (wife), mott i Vadstena, 1876, 27 (in a column to the right) The rightmost column is a little hard to read, but it tells that according to an attest the child was baptized by a priest in Vadstena. Apparently, the child was born and baptized in Vadstena although the family was living in Motala. The information "Qvar 11:62" is important, because that is the address where the family lives. 1876 is probably the marriage year. 35 and 27 is the age

Fig 2. The uppermost record is the birth record of Harald. It shows the date of birth, sex, name of the child, the parents' name, occupation and age. The place where they live is often also noted, in this case Qvar. 11:62, which is useful when you want to find the family in the household examination roll.

of the parents. Sometimes there also is information on the number of children in the marriage.

9. The next step would be to look up the family in a household examination roll, which you will find under the parish name, in this case Motala köping (smalltown). To be continued...

I hope that this step-by-step will help you to find your relatives born in the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The ambition is to write short guides to several common ways to retrieve information. If there is a problem you would like to have explained, please send a message to the newsletter.

OLOF CRONBERG

## What is Genline?

Genline is a Swedish company that ISscanning the LDS microfilm of Swedish church records and publishing it on the Internet. At present, more than 13 million images have been scanned. All available church records on LDS microfilm will probably be scanned by the end of the year. At the Genline web pages you may check if the records for your parishes are available.

### All church records before 1895

Genline is covering the church records from the beginning (usually in the end of the 1600s) until approximately 1895. The church records include vital records as birth, marriage and death records, but also migration records. The household examination rolls (clerical surveys) are also included. In these rolls you can follow every farm in the parish.

### Subscription needed

You need to subscribe to get access to the Genline records. The standard annual fee is approx. USD 350,-, but there are several discount options and also short term subscriptions. As a member of the DIS Society you are entitled to the "Special SSf Offer" where the annual fee is approx USD 260,-.

More info at

[www.genline.com](http://www.genline.com)

# Great book on how to find your Swedish roots

The possibilities to do Swedish research have never been so great. The Internet has made many sources available at your fingertips at home. Still it is hard to find your Swedish roots if you don't know how to do it.

When the last edition of Carl Eric Johansson's *Cradled in Sweden* appeared in 1995, the access to Internet was very limited. I remember that I then asked some representative of the Church of Latter-day Saints, when the International

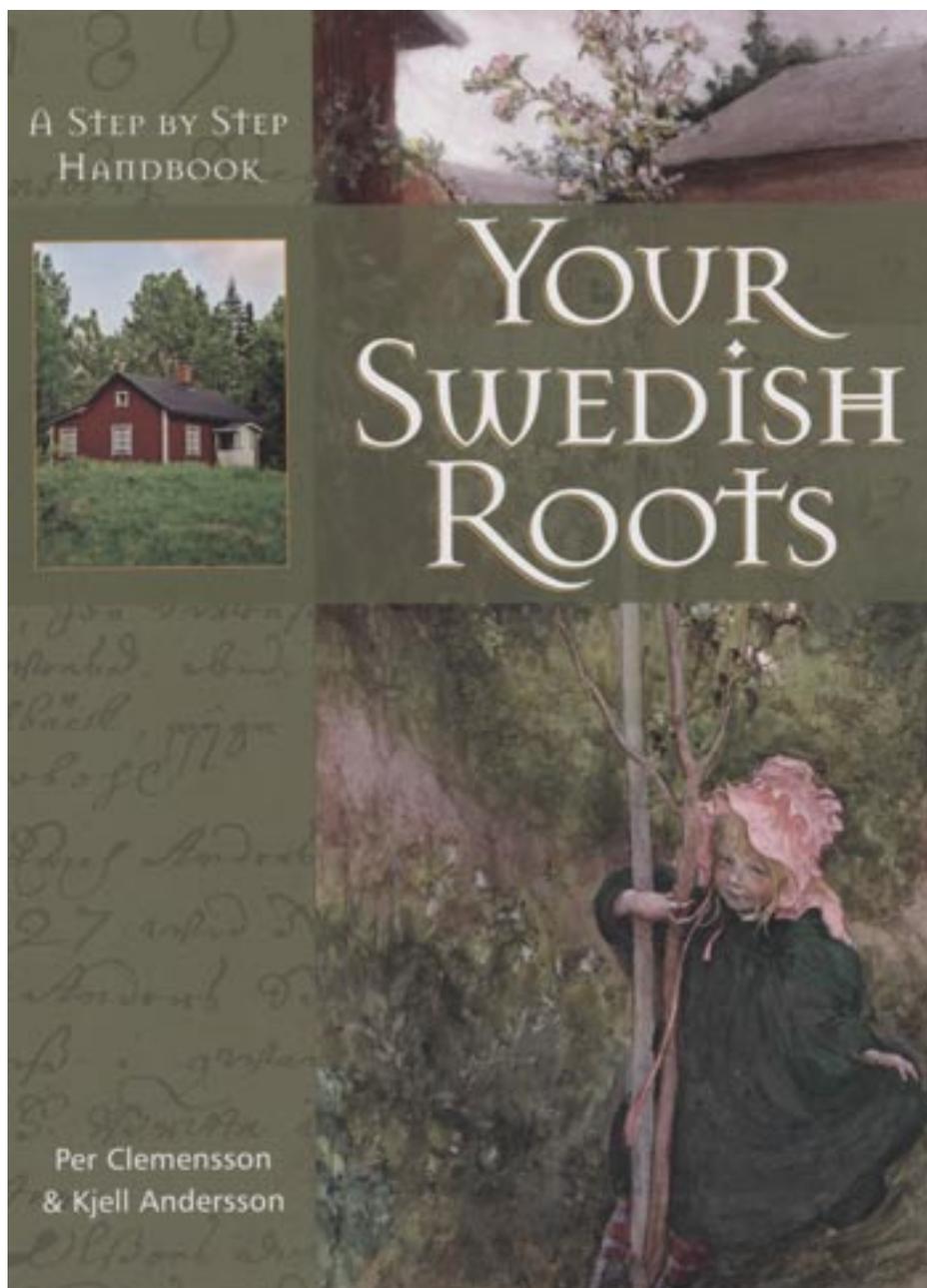
Genealogical Index (IGI) would be available on the Internet. I was told that the IGI probably never would appear on the net, but a few years later FamilySearch was one of the most accessed services.

Last year, a new step-by-step

handbook on how to find your Swedish roots was published. The authors have earlier written a similar book in Swedish, which has been the leading get-started-book in Sweden. The book starts with a tombstone of Adolph Rapp and Anna C Carlson in Portland, Connecticut, and follows the search for the Swedish origin by showing and explaining both US and Swedish records. The ship's manifests on both sides are presented. For each source, an original page with family is shown, the different pieces of information is translated to English and explained. In every situation, the question "Where do we go from here?" is answered.

The book also contains a lot of information on Swedish history with emphasis on the migration, the geographical division into län (district), härad (legal districts) and församlingar (parishes), the naming tradition (changing "son-names" for each generation), the mystery of ÅÄÖ, the different ways of spelling and old hand writing. There is also a section on the provinces and their main tourist spots. However, if you intend to visit Sweden, I recommend that you consult a guidebook as well.

The possibility of reading the Swedish church books on line at Genline ([www.genline.com](http://www.genline.com)) is shortly explained. I feel that this part could have been more deeply described, since modern genealogists will to a larger extent start and perform the research over the Internet. On the other hand, such information have a tendency to get outdated fast when a new version is presented. Anyway, I miss a better presentation of what sources are available at Genline. Above all, it would have been very useful if the use of the Statistics Sweden's extract of the vital records 1860-95 was explained, which is rather tricky. Those records are available at the Family



History centers as well as at Genline. To gap this problem, I have written a short introduction (see p. 6-7).

I also think that the use of the American Censuses on line is essential to get to know the complete family, the year of emigration and an approximate birth year. This information is useful to establish that you have found the same family on both sides of the Ocean. When I get research queries, it is not uncommon that I start with checking the US Censuses in order to know what to look for.

I would have appreciated if there had been every now and then boxes with information on how to find the information on the Internet.

Also, the Internet links in the end of the book could have been explained more carefully. What resources can you find on the web site Swedish roots? Where can you post queries? What can you find at FamilySearch and at Ancestry or by using a common search engine as Google? What are the advantages and the disadvantages? Of course, you may say that the book deals only with primary sources, but today the Internet is a giant mixture of some primary and many secondary sources. But the beginner will meet the Internet sources early, and must learn how to avoid pitfalls.

The DISBYT database, which could be very useful, is only mentioned in the Internet link section. If you know which parish your ancestor is born in, you may find genealogists doing research in the same family. You may also search DISBYT to see if a surname exists in Sweden and how common a surname is. More than 20 % of all born in Sweden between 1750 and 1900 are in the DISBYT database. Of the families mentioned in the book, I find the Lagerin family in the database. It would be possible to contact a genealogist doing research in the same family.

Although these limitations, this is a great handbook on doing Swedish research. Reading this book would save a lot of time for many Swedish-Americans. Even if you have been doing research for a while, I think that you will find new pieces of information.

You can buy the book at the Genline bookstore at [www.genline.com](http://www.genline.com).

OLOF CRONBERG

# SHORT NOTES

## New CDs

There are new CDs appearing every year in an ever increasing speed. It is not easy to follow. In Sweden, the activity is spread to almost all local and regional societies as well as to the Swedish Federation of Genealogical Societies. In some cases the Federation even have helped the Archives to produce useful CDs. One example is the 1890 census CD mentioned below.

### Swedish census 1890

It is not a true census, but from our viewpoint it contains the same information. The CD contains the Statistics Sweden's (SCB's) extract of the household records by the end of 1890. It has been computerized by SVAR (Swedish Archives Information). It holds the complete population, but children are usually only mentioned by first name. It is compensated by excellent search opportunities. English version.

Price: SEK 495,-

From: <http://www.genealogi.se/roots/>

### Swedish census 1980

The Federation has earlier published the Swedish census 1970, which was the first year that a complete computerized index of the population was collected. The index include name, address, birth date and birth place. It doesn't contain family relations, but since you easily can see who lived under the same roof, you will get an idea of the family.

Price: SEK 495,-

From: <http://www.genealogi.se/roots/>

### Swedish Death Index 1947-2003

The Federation has made a cultural rescue action, by asking for extracts from old computer indexes, which today almost were not possible to read due to old computer tapes or that the reading machines don't exist any longer.

By combining several different indexes, the Federation has been able to produce a CD with all deceased in Sweden between 1947 and 2003. The data from 1947-50 are not complete. After 1950, the index is complete in the sense that all deaths are included. From the beginning, the records before 1970 was lacking an important

information - the name of the deceased. By a huge effort from local societies all over Sweden and in spite of problems with local authorities, the index has been completed with most names.

Price: SEK 495,-

From: <http://www.genealogi.se/roots/>

## Digitalization of records

Almost ten years ago, a private company, Genline, started to digitalize old church records by converting the microfilms to digital form and publish the result on the Internet.

Since then, the digitalization process has exploded. The archives have started to convert often used records to digital images. In south Sweden, a small company Digiarkiv simply shot all records with a digital camera, and sell the result on CDs.

All these methods make old records easy accessible from all over the world.

## Old census before 1820 at SVAR

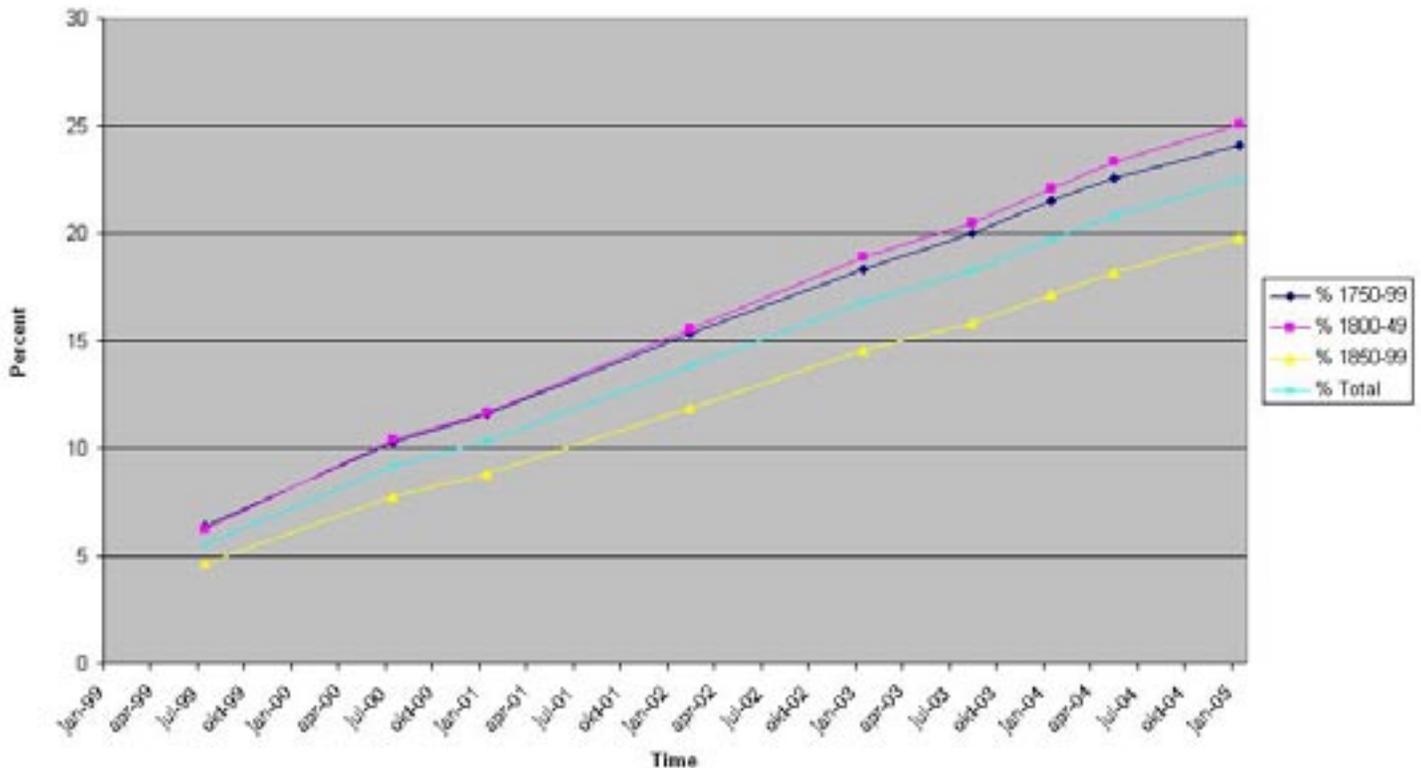
SVAR is in process of converting microfilm of taxation records - *mantalslängder* - between 1620 and 1820 to digital images. This process should be ready for the whole country during this year. These taxation records are important when there is no household examination rolls - *husförhörslängder*. Price: SEK 995,- annual subscription  
From: <http://www.svar.ra.se/>

## New Genline Family Finder

To browse Genline's church records, you need to have a browser called Genline Family Finder. The first version was running as an add-on feature to your browser. The new browser Genline Family Finder 2 (GFF2) is a stand alone software.

I have tested the GFF2, and there are several improvements. Firstly, you use the computer screen better, so the images are larger. You can have two pages active in the same time, so you can more easy move between church records and household examination rolls. You can also use bookmarks on important pages.  
From: <http://www.genline.com>

Number of birth records in the DISBYT database compared to births in Sweden



# DISBYT is growing - time to join

The flow of new data to the DISBYT database is on a steady level. By 2004, more than a fifth of all born in Sweden 1750-1900 are recorded in the database. It could be a good idea to join DISBYT.

2004 has been a great year for the DISBYT database. Below I will report some statistics. Last year, we also had asked our Swedish users about suggestions of improvement. During the spring we will add some new functions.

During 2004 more than 600 members submitted DISBYT extract for the first time. A total of more than 2000 DISBYT extracts were processed, which means that many members also have updated their old data. Updating is a good thing, since it means that new data are added and other data are corrected. If you actively are doing research,

we recommend that you update your DISBYT data approximately once every or every second year. Have you added much new data, then you are of course welcome to update more often. When you update your data, you should submit all data (new and old) that you want to be present in the DISBYT database.

At New Year's Eve, the DISBYT database consisted of 8,4 million records. More than 1,1 million new data were added last year. Through comparing the number of unique birth records in the DISBYT database with the number of births in Sweden during the same period,

you may get an idea of the size of the database. The coverage level was 22,5 % for the period 1750-1900, i.e. more than a fifth of all born in Sweden are recorded in the DISBYT database. Thus the possibility to find the one you are looking for is high.

During 2004, there were 6,5 million searches in the DISBYT database. The spring and the fall are popular time to do genealogy. During the summer, the activity is lower. Many searches are performed during the evenings and week ends. About 5 % of the searches are performed by Americans, so there is

activity 24 hours a day.

During the spring, I have planned to introduced some small improvements. I will add them one by one. Already, I have added small arrows, which indicate if there is information about parents (up-arrow) or children (right-arrow). The arrows appear if there is a link in either direction, but sometimes there are no records for the next generation accepted in the DISBYT database. However, if arrows are missing, you can be quite sure there are no records.

Other new functions, that are planned, are some additions in the search window and possibility to decide what information about you as a submitter should be shown. Some of the new functions could be running when you reading this.

OLOF CRONBERG

## DISBYT Finland and DISTreff Norway

As a member of the DIS Society of Sweden, you will also have access to search the other DISBYT databases in Scandinavia. At present, there are similar databases in Norway and Finland, and there will soon appear a database with data from Denmark. The database from Finland has a limited amount of data.

## Use DISBYT to check spelling

Since the DISBYT database covers almost 25 % of the Swedish population, you may use the database to check if the spelling of a surname is used in Sweden. If you get many matches, the surname is ok. If you get no matches or just a few, the Swedish way of spelling the surname could be different. For example, if you search for *Mansson*, you will see that the spelling is uncommon, but *Månsson* is common.

## Problems writing ÅÄÖ

Since many overseas members, using keyboard without ÅÄÖ has problems to write those letters, we have improved the search script on the Internet. If you write A or O, the search engine check for any letter. (This is valid for all letters except for the three first letters in the surname.) If you search for the parish *Håbo*, you may write *Habo*, but then you must be aware that *Habo* and *Håbo* are different parishes. ÅÄÖ make a difference.

# What is DISBYT?

The DISBYT database consists of family trees submitted by more than 5000 DIS Society members. You have very good chances to find your relatives in the database. If you submit data yourself, you will get all your data compared to the DISBYT database, and you will get better access.

The DISBYT database consists of extract from genealogical software submitted by DIS members. It makes it possible for you to search for your ancestors and relatives, about whom other genealogists are researching. By getting in contact, you may exchange data. *Byt* in DISBYT is Swedish and means *to exchange*.

## Who can join?

All members in the DIS Society can submit data. The more submitters, the better possibilities to find connections.

## What info are in DISBYT?

For living people there is a 90 years limit, and for deceased there is a 25 year limit. Only data older than that is included.

Everybody can search the database on the Internet. The info presented are first name, surname, period, parish and län. The database is a secondary source, where each submitter is responsible for his or her data.

## How many has joined?

The database is growing and at present more than 5,000 members have submitted data to DISBYT. Soon there are 10 million records of birth, marriage, death or other events.

## How do you search DISBYT?

The database is available on the Internet, and there are three search levels.

As a non-member you may do a guest search, by writing **guest** both as username and password. Then, you will see a record with name, parish and year, but no info about the submitter.

As a DIS member, you enter your username **disxxxxx** and password **xxxxxx**, which you have received in your welcome letter. As a member, you will see name, parish, year for one person at the time, and contact info on the submitter.

When you submit data yourself, you will receive a new username **mxxxxxx** and password **xxxxxxx**. You will then be able to see the same info as before, but also be able to climb the family trees.

## How can I submit?

To submit data to DISBYT, you can use any genealogical software that can produce a Gedcom export. Almost all software can do that. Usually you find the possibility at the File menu - either at the Save dialog box or at a separate Export dialog box (see the user manual for your software).

The Gedcom file should be sent to a DISBYT-ombud at [disbyt@dis.se](mailto:disbyt@dis.se).

## What will happen then?

The DISBYT-ombud will process your data, and then compare all your data with data from all other submitters. You will receive three files in return.

The main file shows the search result comparing your data to the current DISBYT database. There you will see which data already are in the database listed by submitter. Usually, it is enough to submit data about only 10 persons to get a least some good matches.

In the end of the main file, you will also find your new username and password for better access.

The other files are a list of your place names and a list of warnings or errors that appeared when processing your file.

## How to proceed?

To get the most out of DISBYT, we encourage you to contact the submitters with whom you have matches. The knowledge of reading and writing English in Sweden is high, so you may try to write in English.

CHARLOTTE BÖRJESSON AND OLOF CRONBERG

# The future of Rooted in Sweden

It is easy to write about goals and ambitions, but to reach there, we need your help. Please tell us what you want to know & please contribute with your story.

We have had the idea of writing ROOTED IN SWEDEN for long time, but not until now the newsletter has appeared. The ambition is that the newsletter should appear four times a year. In order to limit the postage cost, we will publish the newsletter as a PDF file, which you can download and print yourself.

## PDF file newsletter

There are some advantages with the PDF format. You may do a good looking newsletter, which is readable and easy-to-print in most computers. The program Acrobat reader is today already installed in your computer. The number of pages may vary due to available content.

My guess is that the newsletter will be between four and twelve pages.

We will send an email to notify that a new newsletter is available. We will only send a link in the email in order to avoid large attached files in the email. Probably, we will have to send the email in two different ways to avoid your spam filters.



## What to expect

The newsletter will include info that you want to know. Most articles will be in the crossroad of computers, genealogy and Sweden.

Of course, the newsletter will include news about genealogy in Sweden, with a focus on computer genealogy, for

example web sites and new CDs. We will also try to publish step-by-step articles on some basic genealogy. We will try to reveal some mysteries as the dots and the ring in ÅÄÖ. We will also try to present some sources of interest for the more advanced genealogist.

## Please write

In this issue, I have written most pages to get the newsletter started, but I need your help to get the newsletter to be as interesting as possible.

Please tell me what you want to know about Swedish genealogy. Do you have a story to tell or want to contribute in another way please let me know. I would also very much like, if somebody could be a co-editor and write about what's going on in USA, since I don't have time to keep my eyes open everywhere. Also reports from other countries would of course be welcome.

**Email to editor@dis.se**

OLOF CRONBERG

## DIS Society Computer Genealogy Society of Sweden

The DIS SOCIETY was founded in 1980 to "to investigate methods and develop computer tools to support genealogy research, and in general stimulate Swedish genealogy". DIS is an abbreviation of *Datorhjälp i släktforskningen*, which means *Computer Aid in Genealogy*. The abbreviation DIS is used in the Scandinavian countries, where there are sister societies. The DIS SOCIETY is a non-profit organization. There are seven regional DIS Societies working actively throughout Sweden and arranging meetings about several topics in Computer Genealogy. We also have a force of sixty *faddrar*, which are members that are experts giving support and help in the use of different genealogical softwares.

Since 1980, the DIS SOCIETY has developed a genealogical software called DISGEN, which is the leading software in Sweden. The current version is 8.1. Currently, the software is only available in Swedish, but print-outs can be made in several languages including English. The software is easy-to-use and has a good support for source registration, producing print-outs and family books. It also has a unique possibility to link your data to a Swedish map.

Since 1989, the DISBYT database has been used to find connections and exchange data between genealogists. In 1998, the database appeared on the Internet, making it even easier to find relatives. With more than 5000 participants and soon 10 million records, the DISBYT database covers a quarter of the total population who lived in Sweden before 1915.

The DIS SOCIETY publish a quarterly magazine called DISKULOGEN in Swedish. From 2005, we will extend our efforts to also publish a newsletter in English called ROOTED IN SWEDEN, which will be published as a pdf newsletter.

At present (Summer 2005), the DIS SOCIETY has more than 22,000 members. More than 600 are overseas members.