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## New CD with emigrants

Finally, the Emibas project has resulted in a CD with 1.1 million emigrants from Sweden. It is estimated that the CD covers 80 % of all who left Sweden between 1840 and 1930. During the SwedGenTour the CD proved to be very useful. Still you need to know some tricks.

The Emibas project started for more than 20 years ago with the Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö as founder. The indexing has been done by efforts from genealogical societies, unemployment projects and other interested parties. I was a little involved myself in the beginning of the 1990s, and we discussed the data structure of the database. I also helped out a little, when the project was started in Skåne. There, the project was run by the Genealogical Society of Skåne, but it was one woman Birgitta Grunde, who extracted 130,000 emigrants from Skåne.

During the first SwedGenTour in 2002, it was apparent that this database needed to be published on a CD. By cooperation between the Swedish Emigrant Institute and the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies, the CD could be published in August 2005. The last work has been done by Anna-Lena Hultman, who participated in both SwedGenTours.

### 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.

## 1.1 million emigrants

The CD consists of 1.1 million emigrants between 1840 and 1930. Earlier it was assumed that there should be 1.3 million emigrants, but we now estimate the total number would be 1.5 million. There are some areas missing: partly the city of Stockholm, Uppsala and Norrbottens län. For some areas emigrants after 1900 are not indexed. The project is still running with the ambition to fill these gaps.

The information about the emigrants is extracted from the church records. Both migration records and household examination rolls (husförhörslängder) have been used. Not only migration to America has been recorded, but migration to any other country (see table). Even people where a note says “probably in America” or “escaped to Germany” are included. For each emigrant info on name, exact birth date, birth parish, migration date, place and parish, destination and very importantly the source. If a family emigrated together this is also noted.

## How to use the CD

During the SwedGenTour, it was apparent that the CD solved most cases even though provided info was scarce

in some cases. However, for Swedish-Americans there are some obstacles. Firstly, the names are written in Swedish. Your Annie would probably be Anna in Sweden. Ellen could be Elin or Elna. Swanson could be Svensson or Svensdotter. Also if you have more than one given name, any of the names could have been used as first the name. Some names are simply too difficult to translate and have become a completely different name, for instance Åke became Charles and Bengta became Betsy. Secondly, the surname was often changed in the process of emigration. Sometimes, the family name used in America, was never used in Sweden. It could also be transformed: Chellgren could have been Källgren in Sweden. Oburg could have been Åberg or Öberg. For children leaving only with their mothers, sometimes the info on the children’s surnames are unknown and missing on the CD. Thirdly, place names mentioned abroad could be difficult to identify or could be wrong. Many emigrants from Western Sweden are said to have come from Gothenburg (Göteborg), from Eastern Sweden from Stockholm and from Skåne from Malmö, although they never lived in the town but in the countryside. Forthly, birth date could be corrupt.

## Start with the first name

To work around these obstacles, the best way is to search the CD for the information that is most easily translated or transformed to Swedish. A Swedish spelt first name could be good to use. You can then try to add a surname, but if you then don’t find anything suitable, you can try to use birth date or year and emigration year instead. If you know other relatives, it is also good to search for them, if you don’t find any records for your ancestor.

## An example – Amanda Ekstrom

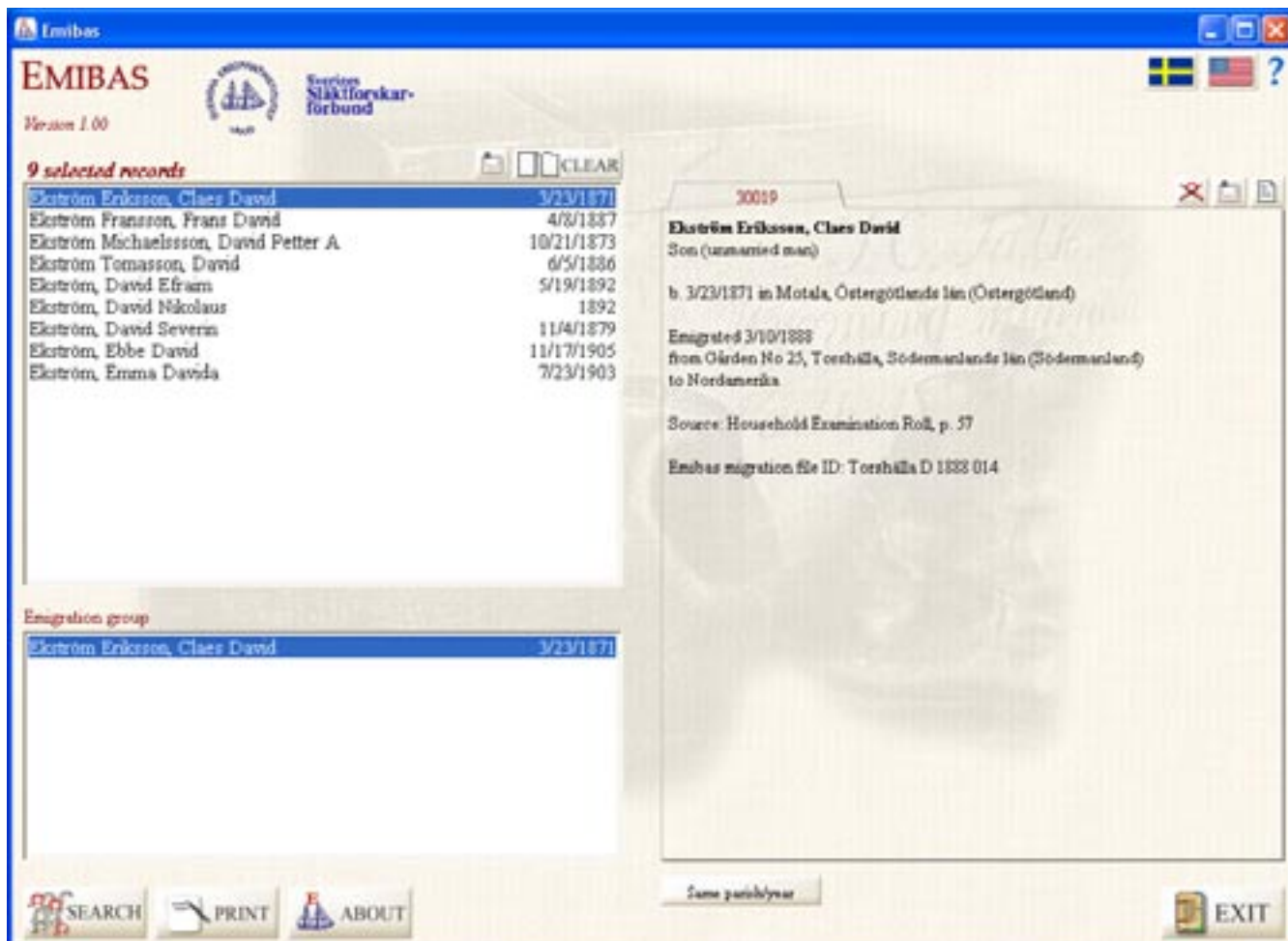
Amanda Ekstrom immigrated to the US in 1888. She traveled with her brother David. She was born 1866/67. She died in Hawaii 1925/26.

Amanda and David are names that were used in Sweden, so they don’t need to be translated. The Swedish spelling of Ekstrom is Ekström. A search for Amanda Ekström results in six hits, but none of them fit with the approximate birth and emigration year.

Next, I search for her brother David and find 9 records. There is one Claes David Ekström Eriksson born 1871 in Motala who emigrated alone in 1888 from Torshälla parish, Södermanlands

The screenshot shows the Emibas search interface. At the top, there is a 'SEARCH' button and a 'CLEAR' button. Below that, there are input fields for 'Last name' and 'First name', each with a search icon and a 'GO!' button. There are also fields for 'Date of birth' and 'Title', with a search icon and a 'GO!' button. Below these are checkboxes for 'Man', 'Woman', 'Unmarried', 'Married', 'Widow/er', and 'Divorced'. There are also fields for 'Place of birth' (Country/place, County, Parish, Province) and 'Place of residence' (County, Parish/place, Province), each with a search icon and a 'GO!' button. There are also fields for 'Date of emigration' and 'Destination (country/place)', with a search icon and a 'GO!' button. At the bottom left, there is a 'Free search' field with a 'GO!' button. At the bottom right, there is an 'Insert character' section with buttons for 'å', 'ä', 'ö', and 'ü'.

The search box on the English version of the Emibas CD. To make it easier for you to write the Swedish characters ÅÄÖ, there are buttons in the lower right corner.



The search result of the Emibas CD. Upper left box shows all the matches of the search. The lower left box shows the family group, if an emigrant left with his or her family. The right side shows the full info about the emigrant. In this case, you can see David Ekström's record: name, birth date and place, emigration date and departure place, and the source. In the index, there are two surnames Ekström and Eriksson. Since surnames of children rarely is written in the source, the two surnames are created from his father's name. In this case, he never used Eriksson as surname.

län. The source is Household Examination Roll p. 57.

### Check Gensline

On Gensline, I look up Torshälla household examination roll AI:24A 1886-90 p 57. I find the family easily. The father is a former Baptist missionary Eric August Ekström. I find Claes David Ekström and the note that he left for North America in 1888, but there is no Amanda.

However, the parents married in 1865, so they could have a child born before the oldest son Eric Filip, who was born in 1868. Therefore I look up the previous roll AI:23A and on page 59, I find the family. This time, there is a daughter Amanda Maria, who is barred from holy communion, born June 6th, 1866 in Motala parish and moved to North

America April 1st, 1886.

### Why Amanda was missing

Looking back in the Emibas CD, the reason we didn't find Amanda at first was that her surname was misread to Engström. As always with indexes, there could be errors. This example shows the need of having as much info as possible. The emigration year in the US and the surname spelling in the Emibas CD were incorrect. However, the info on David was correct.

The family were Baptists. The Swedish Lutheran church didn't approve of that. Amanda was apparently baptized in the Swedish Lutheran church, but she was not allowed to receive holy communion in the Lutheran church. The given names of her siblings are written in parenthesis and then odöpt (not baptized). Sometimes, as

probably in this case, religious motives were one reason for emigration.

### How do I get the CD?

There is one expensive way where you can pay with credit card USD 96. at [www.gensline.com](http://www.gensline.com). There is one complicated way where you can pay to a Swedish bank account SEK 645. (approx. USD 60, if you mention your membership in the DIS Society) at [www.genealogi.se/roots](http://www.genealogi.se/roots).

OLOF CRONBERG



*A countryside small road in the parish Härlöv outside of Växjö in Småland. All trees in the front have fallen, leaving only the trees in the background standing. On the left side of the road, the trees are lying on top of each other. On the right side, the wood has been cleared and are waiting for transportation to a lumber storage place.*

# Småland will never be the same

According to the Emibas CD 180,000 emigrants left Småland between 1840 and 1930. Småland or Smoland as it often is written in the US was the province from which most emigrants left. In the 1800s, the need of food to a large population had forced almost all areas to be cultivated, and still it wasn't enough to feed the population.

## The landscape changed

After the emigration wave, the landscape changed. The larger farms were kept, but the small cottages were abandoned. The small land areas, which with hard efforts had been cultivated, were not used. Instead, pine and fir were planted and Småland became a wood province. Southern Småland became the most productive wood district in Sweden. The old stone walls made up of stones removed from the fields disappeared in the forests.

When you go by car through Småland, the only thing you see are pines and firs. The modern roads are passing through the woods outside of the smaller villages. When I moved to Småland, it took a while, until I got used to the woods.

## Gudrun surprised Småland

Suddenly, everything changed during the night of January 9th. There were warnings that it would be a stormy night, but no one expected what was about to happen. I was out in the city of Växjö that evening, and I heard people telling you can't leave Växjö because there are trees lying down everywhere.

The next morning everything was calm and peaceful. Slowly, the result of the storm named Gudrun was revealed. All major roads were blocked by fallen trees. Lumbermen had to at least try to open up one lane on the roads. All small roads were also blocked. In the countryside, there were no electricity and no phones. There were no cell phones either. Some old people went out to get help, but got lost because they didn't recognize their own neighborhoods which they had lived in for a lifetime.

The next month was spent trying to open up roads, to get electricity to work again, and to get back to usual order. Young people moved in with relatives in town. Some old people managed several weeks without electricity. In many old farms in Småland, the old wood stoves are still left in the kitchens although

electric stoves have been installed.

## Much work left

Approximately a third of all trees in Småland went down that night. The rest of the year, lumbermen have come from the whole of Northern Europe to get the wood out. There are large wood storage places. In Byholma, an old airstrip is used to store the wood. Each day more than 100 lumber trucks are delivering wood to the storage place. More than 28,250,000 cubic feet of wood will be stored there.

Last week, I was taking a walk outside Växjö. There are still many trees lying down. The landscape has changed completely. The dense forests have disappeared, and instead there are more open areas. You can now see lakes far away. Where the trees are cleared up, the old stonewalls hidden by the forest are seen again. I realized that somebody has, more than a hundred years ago, spent a lot of time to put this field in order for cultivation or perhaps to have some cattle. The wind of long ago is blowing over the field once again.

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A recommended web site:

# The Godfrey Memorial Library

The Godfrey Memorial Library is a library situated in Middletown, Connecticut and dedicated to American biography and genealogy. They have a large collection of reference books and indexes.

However, if you are not living close to Middletown, you would have more use of the Godfrey Scholar membership. The library specializes in offering remote access to several useful databases. Examples of databases are vital record indexes, FindUSA, HeritageQuest's census indexes, and so on.

## FindUSA

For me, looking for Americans living

today, FindUSA is a very useful tool. For example, I entered the name of a third cousin Patty. I found five matching entries. Three of them refer to her. I got to know that she is now living in Alabama, and that she studied in Illinois 1988-93. I found her birthdate and indirectly, I got to know the name of her husband, since he has been living at the same address as her at several places. I could follow his trace further. It's a little scary that you can also find court actions, civil actions and properties.

I also tried to look for her grandmother Myrtle. I found her address in 1990, and after following some links, found that she passed away in 1998.

## HeritageQuest Online

Here you can find the censuses between 1790 and 1930. Most censuses are indexed, but for 1930 only five states

are ready. They are indexed on head of household. Once you find the one you are looking for, you at once get access to the actual page where you can find the family.

You can also search the PERSI index for articles in published periodicals. If you find an article of interest you can order a copy.

## Newspapers and vital records

As a member, you also get access to a collection of links to obituaries in newspapers and to vital record indexes. I guess that some of them are free to access even without the Godfrey scholarship, but it is easy to have at hand.

The annual fee for being a member of the Godfrey Memorial Library is \$35.

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www.godfrey.org

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<input type="checkbox"/> African American Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> IA	<input type="checkbox"/> UT
<input type="checkbox"/> Biographies	<input type="checkbox"/> ID	<input type="checkbox"/> VA
<input type="checkbox"/> Books Online	<input type="checkbox"/> IL	<input type="checkbox"/> VT
	<input type="checkbox"/> IN	<input type="checkbox"/> WI

# Grandfather Bergström and the Söderfors Anchor Works

When I began to research my Swedish ancestry last year, a key informant turned out to be myself—at age 13. As a child, I was a natural archivist, saving everything from school yearbooks to the family tree I made in 1979. We lived in a suburb of Washington, DC, then. On holidays we would drive up to Brooklyn, New York, to visit my father’s family. On one of those visits, I made notes about my dad’s relatives at the home of an elderly great-aunt, while the adults drank coffee from demitasse cups and told me how to spell the strange names.

A quarter of a century later, I became interested in genealogy again. My father’s paternal grandmother was Swedish and a Baptist, two things that made her stand out in an otherwise all Norwegian family. She died when my dad was young. He did know that her last name was Bergström. But we had no documents to show her birthdate or the part of Sweden she came from.

## Grandfather Bergström

Fortunately, my “archive” had come with

us when we moved to California in 1980. I drove from my home in San Francisco to my parents’ house, 120 miles away, and made a beeline for the closet where my box was stored. On a long sheet of paper, in handwriting I barely recognized as my own, I read my great-grandmother’s name, Frida Bergström; the names of her brother, sister, and father; and a place name, Söderfors. There was also another treasure: a picture cut out of a Swedish publication, showing about 30 men outside an industrial building. A man in the front row was circled. He was a serious but kind-looking man with a beard, wearing a dark suit and cap. His hands looked like my father’s. In the margin was a penciled note: “Grandfather Bergström.” (see below)

There was no caption. But on the other side of the page were two more pictures of workers, one cut off halfway and showing only their legs. The captions read: “Stångjärnsräckare vid Söderfors 1874” and “De sista ankarsmederna vid Söderfors år 1874” (ironworkers and the last anchorsmiths at Söderfors). The information corroborated my note on the

family tree, next to Frida’s father’s name: “Man in picture. Anchor factory.”

I didn’t know it yet, but my great-grandmother’s town was Söderfors bruk, one of the great Swedish ironworks. Founded in 1676, the Söderfors anchor forge was the exclusive maker of anchors for the Swedish navy for 200 years. My personal archive had yielded valuable clues. Next, I would rely on both old and new information technologies to learn more about Grandfather Bergström and Söderfors.

## An Online Journey

With the information from my 1979 family tree, I quickly found my great-grandmother on the Ellis Island website ([www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org)). Frida arrived in New York on 2 August 1903.

Next, I located the Bergströms in Söderfors, using the 1890 and 1900 censuses on Arkion (now at SVAR, ed. note). At this stage, I realized that the information on my old family tree was incomplete (it didn’t list all of Frida’s siblings) and partly wrong (a sister’s name was given as Hilda, not Hulda). Nevertheless, the notes helped to confirm that I had found the right family in the census.

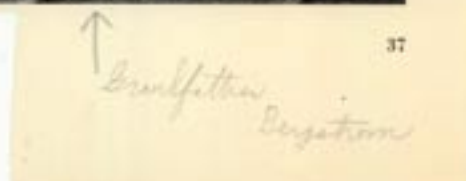
My online journey still left one question: Who was Grandfather Bergström? According to my notes from 1979, the man at the anchor works was Arvid Bergström. But according to the census, Frida’s father was Karl Gustav Bergström. (She did have a brother named Gustav Arvid.) Was there another Arvid in the family? I would have to date the photo and check the church records to find out.

## Discovering Söderfors

Meanwhile, a Google search for “Söderfors” and “anchor” turned up the Vallonbruk i Uppland website



*The workers at Söderfors Anchor Works. See text for more info.*





*The workers at Södra Wällugnen at Söderfors Anchor Works 1874.*

1. Gust. Brodin
2. Per Gustaf Sjöberg
3. Peter Ture Ekström
4. Fredrik Söderbohm
5. P. G. Svanström
6. Otto Lindfors
7. Car Jan Brodin
8. Claes Söderbom - Son of P S
9. C. G. Bergström

*Source: Photo at Tekniska museet, Stockholm, Sweden*

(web.vallonbruken.nu), which has information about the region's many historic ironworks, founded by Walloon smiths who came from Belgium around 1600. A statue of two giant anchors in the Söderfors park ([www.soderfors.se](http://www.soderfors.se)) told me I was in Grandfather Bergström's territory. Today, there is a modern steel plant in Söderfors. Part of the old bruk is preserved as an industrial museum.

The Vallonbruk i Uppland website included a bibliography of local histories. Since I couldn't fly to Sweden to do my research, I did the next best thing. At the San Francisco Public Library, I requested Sven Sjöberg's *Söderfors: En historisk framställning* (1956) through interlibrary loan. Ten days later, the book arrived. I could read very little Swedish, but with a dictionary and my high school German I could understand which chapters to look at first: "Arbetsfolket" (the workers) and "Bruksliv i forna dar" (bruk life in the old days). The book gave a detailed picture of life in Söderfors. There was even a floor plan of a typical worker's house. And there were photos of workers—but no Grandfather Bergström. My journey was not over yet.

I also had a new question. The online census records had told me the name of Frida's mother: Anna Eleonora Lindqvist. In Sjöberg's book, there was a photo of K. A. Lindqvist, a tailor who started the Baptist congregation in Söderfors. According to my father, Frida had been a Baptist. It seemed likely that she and K. A. Lindqvist were related, but how?

### Completing the Picture

In Sjöberg's book, the workers' photos were credited "Ur Tekniska museets samlingar" (from the collections of the National Museum of Science and Technology, Stockholm). The museum's website ([www.tekniskamuseet.se](http://www.tekniskamuseet.se)) described a very large photographic collection—one million items. I took a chance and wrote a letter, enclosing a photocopy of both sides of my clipping and asking if the photo was in their collection.

One week later, I got an email, with digital images attached! I had found Grandfather Bergström, "living" at Tekniska Museet. Although the men were not identified individually, the group was identified as "hammarsmeder" (hammersmiths). The date was 1906, making the man in the photo Frida's father—"Grandfather Bergström" to my own grandfather.

Even though I had not asked about the images on the other side of the clipping, the museum sent these too. Detailed captions identified each worker at the "södra vällugnen" (south forge) in 1874 by name. The ninth pair of legs in the "Stångjärnsräckare" photo turned out to belong to C. G. Bergström—Karl Gustav, Frida's father! Even before checking the census to be sure that there was only one C. G. Bergström in Söderfors, I knew who he was. In their expressions and the way they stood, there was a strong resemblance between this man, my grandfather, and my father.

### A Letter from Sweden

After I got the photos, I looked at the church records, confirming names and dates. The name "Arvid" in my 1979 notes was indeed a mix-up with Frida's brother. The church records told me something else: Frida's maternal grandfather was Karl August Lindqvist, the Baptist tailor. Sjöberg's book had held a picture from my family album after all.

As I discovered more Bergströms and Lindqvists, I checked DISBYT to see if anyone else was researching these families. While a few people had posted data that overlapped with mine, our common ancestors were distant, from the early days of Walloon immigration to Sweden. Then, seven months after I began my research, I received a letter from Sweden—from someone named Bergström! My DISBYT inquiry had reached a genealogist who forwarded my message to a Bergström born in Söderfors—my grandfather's cousin, the son of Frida's youngest brother. "Du och jag har samma förfäder, nämligen hammarsmeden Karl Gustav Bergström, och hans hustru Anna Eleonora," said the letter. Thanks to the family tree and picture I saved from my childhood, for me Grandfather Bergström now had a name, a face, and descendants on both sides of the Atlantic.

ERICA OLSEN, CALIFORNIA

# The mystery of ÅÄÖ

The Swedish alphabet has 29 letters. The first 26 are identical with the English and then in the end Å, Ä and Ö. If you are going to do Swedish research, you need to know a little about the Swedish characters. The ring and the dots make a difference.

The Swedish alphabet has 29 letters. The first 26 are identical with the English and then in the end Å, Ä and Ö. If you are going to do Swedish research, you need to know a little about the Swedish characters. The ring and the dots make a difference.

Å, Ä and Ö are three extra vowels used in the Scandinavian countries. (In Denmark and Norway Ä is written Æ and Ö is written Ø, but they are the same vowels.) Each of these vowels has its own pronunciation and should be treated as separate characters.

## Forget "Umlaut"

The Swedish characters are not umlauts. Umlaut is a German word meaning resound or modified sound. In German, the umlauts are used to show the plural form of a noun, for example ein Fuß, zwei Füße. In fact, due to German influences, some of the umlauts also exist in English as well as in Swedish: one foot, two feet – en fot, två fötter. In German, the umlaut characters are treated as variants of the usual characters. In dictionaries, A and Ä are mixed. In

the Scandinavian countries ÅÄÖ are characters of their own.

## Name spelling

Try to get ÅÄÖ right from the beginning. To see the normal spelling of names, you may search the DISBYT database to see if the name is there. At the Federation's web site, there is a list of normal spellings of names. There is also an article by Nils William Olsson: Some notes on Swedish names.

## Place name spelling

You can search for place names at the Swedish National Atlas web site. You will not find small farms there. You may also search at the Lantmäteriet – the National Surveyor's Office where also smaller places appear. At both places you will only get the municipality the place belongs to and not the parish. The connection between place names and parishes are available on two CDs: Rosenberg with the spelling at the end of the 1800s and Svenska ortnamn (Swedish place names) with the modern spelling.

Both are in Swedish.

## Sorting order

It is important to remember that ÅÄÖ are sorted last in the alphabet. This means that you will find names starting with ÅÄÖ in the end of an index. It is also important not to forget that for example Håkansson will be at the end of H, after Hansson, Henriksson, Holgersson. (To make it complicated, the alphabet in Denmark and Norway ends with Æ, Ø, Å, thus Å is the last character.)

## How to write with a non-Swedish keyboard

There are several ways of writing Swedish characters on foreign computers. One is to choose Swedish keyboard settings and learn where ÅÄÖ are positioned. One is to find the keyboard on the screen and click on the characters. You can also use the Alt-key to write Swedish characters. On a Windows computer, it is important to remember that the Num-lock should be on, and that you should use the

### Windows 1

Num lock on and use numeric keypad

å Alt+0229  
ä Alt+0228  
ö Alt+0246  
Å Alt+0197  
Ä Alt+0196  
Ö Alt+0214

æ Alt+0230  
ø Alt+0248  
Æ Alt+0198  
Ø Alt+0216

### Windows 2

Num lock on and use numeric keypad

å Alt+134  
ä Alt+132  
ö Alt+148  
Å Alt+143  
Ä Alt+142  
Ö Alt+153

æ Alt+145  
ø Alt+155  
Æ Alt+146  
Ø Alt+157

### Macintosh

å Alt-a  
ä Alt-u a  
ö Alt-u o  
Å Alt-Shift-a  
Ä Alt-u Shift-a  
Ö Alt-u Shift-O

æ Alt-'  
ø Alt-o  
Æ Alt-Shift-'  
Ø Alt-Shift-o



numerical keyboard. (See tables)

## Other characters

Sometimes, you can see characters as ü, é, à or ë. They don't belong to the Swedish alphabet. Ü is treated as y and sorted together with y. The rest could be treated the same way as if they had no accent.

OLOF CRONBERG

## Links

### Names

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

### Swedish names

[www.genealogi.se/namnnorm.htm](http://www.genealogi.se/namnnorm.htm)

### Places names

[www.sna.se/e\\_index.html](http://www.sna.se/e_index.html)

[www2.lantmateriet.se/ksos\\_eng/](http://www2.lantmateriet.se/ksos_eng/)

### Parish names

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

[www.genealogi.se/blekinge/english/landskap.htm](http://www.genealogi.se/blekinge/english/landskap.htm)



*Farm in Ör parish outside of Växjö. This is a rather typical view of Småland countryside, and those who emigrated to USA left places as this farm.*

## PuL and the Mixing generation

### (from page 14)

download film and music. Last month, there was the first lawsuit in Sweden about copyright intrusion. All these examples could be signs of the mixing generation, mixing and re-packeting data from different sources.

The problem in all these cases is that the legislation can't keep up with the development of the Internet. The copyright laws haven't foreseen what's to come. Only the future will show what will be allowed or not.

The DIS Society will also try to keep up with the mixing generation. Therefore, we have started a joint venture with the society Släktdata. Half a million birth records from their database are included in the DISBYT database. If you find a record from Släktdata you may follow the link and find the original birth index record. Hopefully, we will be able to add other databases in the future.

OLOF CRONBERG

## SHORT NOTES

### Danish Church records on line

The Danish National Archives are about to digitalize the old microfilms. The result is published on the Internet and free of charge. The church records older than 1892 will be included. The project is said to be ready during 2006, but you can already see if your parishes are ready. Also, the population censuses will be available. At present, the censuses between 1787 and 1860 are published. Those of you, who is used to the Genline resource, will find the quality a little poorer.

[www.arkivalieronline.dk](http://www.arkivalieronline.dk)

### Norwegian Church records on line

At the Norwegian Digital Archives, there are a lot of indexes to censuses and church records. They have now started to digitalize more modern church records from the beginning of the 1900s.

[www.digitalarkivet.no](http://www.digitalarkivet.no)

### News about DISBYT

The DISBYT database has passed 10 million records. Due to cooperation with the Släktdata Society, we have included 500,000 birth records from their indexes. Approximately 25 % of all born in Sweden between 1750 and 1900 are in DISBYT. Adapting to new Swedish regulation, we have decided to have a 100 year limit (instead of 90 years), when the time of death isn't known.

[www.dis.se/english/](http://www.dis.se/english/)

### Articles wanted

As always, there is a need for articles to rooted in Sweden. Please write down your story. One or two pages would be fine. I am also happy, if you can include a picture or two. Send article to [editor@dis.se](mailto:editor@dis.se)



*The SwedGenTour group in Salt Lake City. From left: Olof Cronberg, Anna-Lena Hultman, Ingrid Månsson Lagergren, Kurt Modig, Ted Rosvall, Charlotte Börjesson, Åza Olofsson, Magnus Johansson, Kathy Meade, Tommy Dahlberg and Mariia Mähler.*

# The SwedGenTour comes to SLC

Anne Young reports from the SwedGenTour visit to Salt Lake City followed by a short report from the visits to Seattle and Vancouver.

My father's parents were born in Sweden, and came to the United States in the late 1880's. Even though I was quite young when they died, I remember them both with great affection. Upon their arrival in America, they went to Rockford, Illinois, where they had aunts and uncles living. Eventually, my grandfather bought farm in Henry Co., Ohio, where the soil was good and the price of land was low. He moved his family there in January of 1909, much to the chagrin of my grandmother, who had to leave all of her Swedish friends in Rockford and go to a strange place where no one spoke Swedish. I spent every summer of my youth on that farm, helping with the chores, and taking care of the animals. In the evenings, by father's brother and sister, who lived on the farm, would tell stories about the old days in Rockford, and about the relatives in Sweden.

## Swedish church records

When I became interested in genealogy, about eight years ago, my first goal was to find out about my ancestors in Sweden. I knew almost nothing when I started,

but thanks to the LDS microfilms of the old Swedish church records, I was able to trace my lines back into the 1700's. There were still some unanswered questions, and I hadn't managed to find out any personal stories or tidbits of information that make these long dead ancestors more real and interesting. But I thought that I was lucky to have found so many dates and places for these long gone Swedish ancestors. I stopped doing the research because I thought there was nothing more that I could do.

## Genline

When I met Kathy Meade, the Genline representative, last June at the NGS conference, I decided to try a subscription to Genline. I found so many things that I hadn't been able to find (or was too lazy to look for) in the LDS microfilms, that I decided to rekindle my interest in Swedish research. In mid August, Kathy told me that the SwedGenTour was coming to Salt Lake City. I hadn't planned to attend another genealogy conference so soon, but I thought this might be the chance of a lifetime to get some of my questions

answered. So, long story short, I went to Salt Lake City.

## SwedGenTour

There were 10 people in the Swedish group, representing 3 different genealogy groups in Sweden—SVAR-- the Swedish National Archives, the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies, and DIS, the Computer Genealogy Society of Sweden. Kathy Meade, the American representative for Genline was there as well.

## Workshop at FHL

The workshop was an all day presentation divided into three parts. In the first session, Ted Rosvall and Olof Cronberg demonstrated the new CD Rom's available for Swedish ancestor hunting. The most impressive was Emibas, a new index of everyone who emigrated from a Swedish port. You can search for your ancestor and when you find him, it will tell you the year of his emigration, his last residence, his parish and date of birth and the other members of his emigration group, and the page

number on the household rolls where he is listed! There are also CD's for the 1890 and 1900 Swedish census, and the index for anyone who died in Sweden 1947-2003. They have an index of convicts, and another for sailors.

### Computer Lab

The afternoon sessions were held in the computer lab in the Family History Library. There were demonstrations of Gensline, the many databases at SVAR, and best of all, Disbyt, a database at the Computer Genealogy Society of Sweden. You can join the DIS Society for a small fee, and submit your family tree. Then they will match your ancestors with everyone in their database. I was amazed to find 10 cousins in Sweden. I have been corresponding with one of them, and he has helped me find still more relatives. He has answered a ton of questions about little things that I had always wondered about, and he has even helped me with translations. The DIS Society also has a lot of great things on their website.

On the second day, all of the Swedes were in a special room at the FHL with their computers. There was also a bank of the library's computers reserved for Swedish research. With so many friendly and knowledgeable people to help, it would have been hard to walk away without learning something. I was thrilled to find my grandfather on the ship leaving Norway, not Sweden. Apparently he left without his papers because he didn't want to do his military service, and so he couldn't leave from a Swedish port. I had looked for him for years, but I had never thought to look in Norway. I also found out why my grandfather chose the name Young when he came to the New World.

### FGS conference

At the FGS conference, the SwedGenTour group had a large booth in the exhibit hall, and they were available every day of the conference. Although I attended some of the lectures at the conference, I confess that I had more fun hanging out at the Swedish exhibit.

*Top: The workshop at the FHL in SLC.  
Middle: Marianne Judi have found a perfect match in DISBYT. She is related to Charlotte Börjesson.  
Bottom: Charlotte is demonstrating DISBYT.*



More photos at [www.dis.se/swedgentour/](http://www.dis.se/swedgentour/)



I'm glad that I decided to go to Salt Lake; it really was the chance of a lifetime for me. Next summer is going to be *my* SwedGenTour. I'm planning my first trip to Sweden.

ANNE YOUNG, FLORIDA

## Seattle

After spending a week in Salt Lake City visiting the Family History Library and the Federation of Genealogical Societies' conference, we continued to Seattle. In Seattle, we were having workshops at the Nordic Heritage Museum. At the museum, Erica Nordfors was our hostess. Her father, uncle and cousin told us the story about the Nordfors emigration. We were served Swedish meatballs and lingonberry jam. As in Salt Lake City, we had workshops with lectures and searching in the indexes.

During the stay in Seattle, we also visited the Swedish-Finns Historical Society, the Seattle Public Library, the Pacific Alaska Region of the National Archives and Seattle Genealogical Society. The Swedish Finns Historical Society was promoting cultural and historical activities concerning the Swedish-Finns heritage. The Swedish Finns are from the Western part of Finland. They are Swedish-speaking. Many of the emigrants from that part of Finland ended up in the Northwest part of USA. The society had an archive and an active home page on the Internet. They have a database called Talko, which is similar to DISBYT.

The Seattle Public Library is a modern building with walls of glass. At the top of building is the genealogy and biography department. We were guided by Darlene Hamilton. As opposed to Swedish libraries, the genealogy department seems to be important department of the library. Although, they have a large collection of historical newspaper from early 1900s and on, the info from the 1800s is very limited. On the other hand, they had a large amount of online resources, which impressed me. I guess that libraries in the future will work more with online resources than with books.

The National Archives and Records Administration has a regional archive

*Top: The SVAR and Genline exhibition at the FGS Conference. Middle: Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle. Bottom: Workshop at the museum.*



in Seattle covering the Pacific Alaska region. They have records about forestry, land and water use, Native Americans and domestic conditions during the wars. They also had immigration and citizenship records. We also saw some records of convicts. It didn't take a long time for us to find a convict of Swedish descent. The Federal censuses have been popular resources, but since the censuses nowadays are available at the Internet, the numbers of visitors are decreasing.

## Vancouver

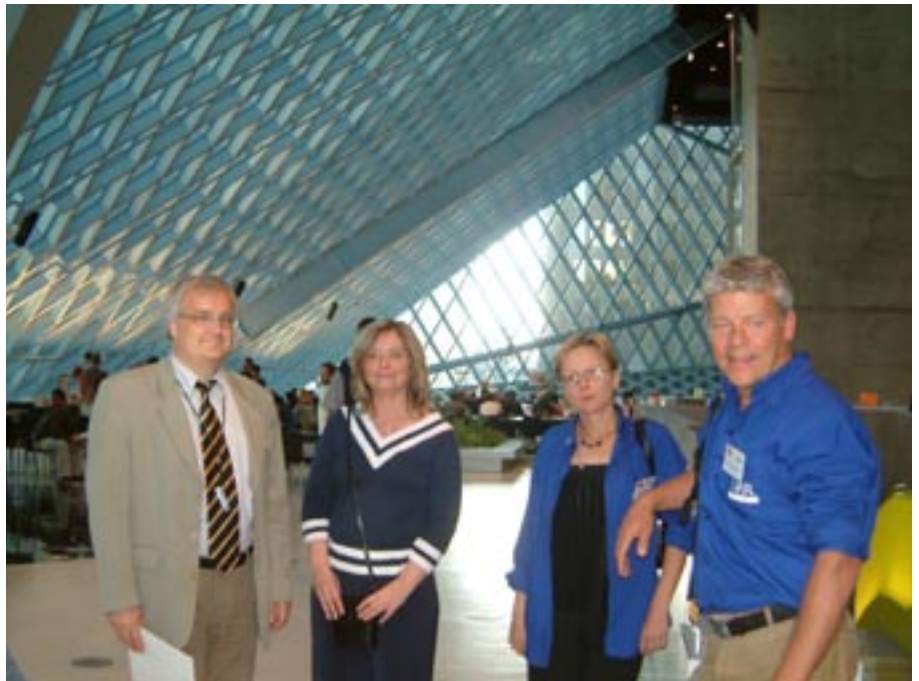
We then drove up to Burnaby, outside Vancouver, where we had our last two days of workshops at the Scandinavian Community Center hosted by Lilian Svendsen. I was amazed that the landscape in the surroundings of Vancouver was much like the landscape of Northern Sweden. The immigrants to Canada seem to have come from Northern Sweden as well. This migration was later than the migration to the USA. Many arrived in the early 1900s. In Canada, the censuses are not available on the Internet as in the USA. They have had long discussions about destroying the 1911 census, but finally decided to make it public.

We hope that we were able to help most visitors to the workshops at least a little. My feeling was that we this time had even better resources than last time. Most cases were possible to solve. To identify an immigrant in USA or Canada with the emigrant records of Sweden, the Emibas CD in combination with Genline proved to be very useful. The only difficult cases were the cases where the information was limited to a common name and insecure years or dates. If you know the names and dates of your immigrants and perhaps the name of some siblings, the chance to find your Swedish ancestry is very good.

So far we haven't planned a new trip, but hopefully we will go on new tours in the future.

OLOF CRONBERG

*Top: Seattle Public Library. From left: Ted Rosvall, Åza Olofsson, Mariia Mähler and Tommy Dahlberg. Middle: Anna-Lena Hultman is visiting Syrene Forsman at the Swedish Finns Historical Society. Bottom: Workshop in Burnaby, Vancouver*



[More photos at www.dis.se/swedgentour/](http://www.dis.se/swedgentour/)

# PuL and the mixing generation

When I prepared this article, I was only going to write about the mixing generation, but this last week there was an article in my local newspaper "Genealogists' information exchange on the Internet is criminal"!

The reason for this headline was that the Datainspektionen –Computer Integrity Authority had examined the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies' web forum Anbytarforum, and found that the area discussing "Crime and punishment" and "Ethnical groups" as Jewish research, Lapp research and so forth was illegal.

## Personal Information Act

In Sweden, we have a law called Personuppgiftslagen (PuL) – Personal Information Act, which is in accordance with European Union rules. This law should only consider living people, and so we haven't been worried about discussing deceased ancestors. Also harmless info could be published. However, the definitions of harmless haven't been applicable for genealogical research. Thus we haven't known what is allowed or not. The Datainspektionen has now said

that "In case info can be related directly or indirectly to any now living person, PuL has to be considered". Since all genealogical research could be related to now living people in one way or another, suddenly all research should need consent from all relatives.

Of course, it is impossible to retrieve consent for each little piece of info. And to process that info, you would need a database that would be illegal. However, I agree that discussing crime and punishment could be offending for descendants.

## 100 years limit to DISBYT

To avoid banns from the Datainspektionen, the DIS Society will have to limit the access to modern data in the DISBYT database. We will increase the year limits from 90 years to 100 years for adding people to the DISBYT database,

where there are no death dates.

## The mixing revolution

A few weeks ago, I read an article about the third Internet revolution. The first should be getting the network together and the second should be inventing the web. The third Internet revolution started with search engines such as AltaVista, Lycos and now Google, which search the web pages and present the info in a new way. On the medical field, the Medline database is doing the same, and in conjunction with more papers published online, you can access the full paper.

At present, some of the giant search engines also are publishing and indexing books, which before have been published as printed books. There are discussions about the copyright. At the same time, many youngsters are using Napster, KaZaa, LimeWire or Pirate bay to

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# 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 publishes a quarterly magazine called DISKULÖGEN 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 (December 2005), the DIS SOCIETY has more than 23,000 members. More than 600 are overseas members.

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