

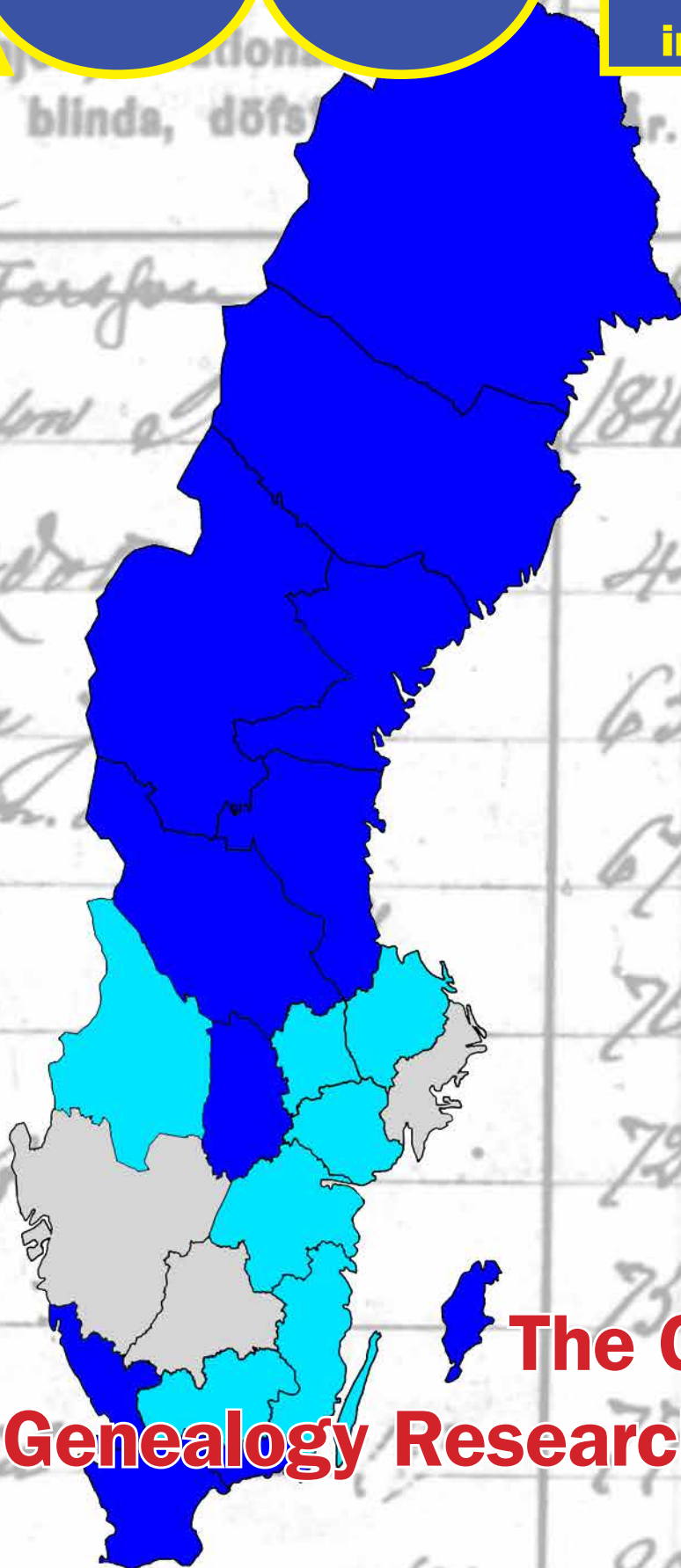
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The GIDx Project Genealogy Research in Sweden

THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS DIS COULD DEVELOP BUT recently the board has faltered in the sense that we do not have an available manager, no one that ensures that all loose ends are gathered. For example, it is time to redo the website. It is four years old, occasionally difficult to navigate, and beginning to look outdated. No problem — there are people making websites for a living, but someone from DIS still needs to present our requirements, lead the work and approve the results. We want to modernize both the database and the user experience of DISBYT. Two members have done wonders on the encoding side but we still need someone to sort out demands and desires. Since this is a recurring problem, we have hired Christer Gustavsson as the Project manager at DIS.

We then get better control of the development of DISGEN and DISBYT, probable development of the Society's unknown star DISPOS (have you used it?), further development of the RGD, the nationwide genealogy database which currently is in a state of very interesting technology development. And a whole lot more.

Since the Society and its products have grown in both scope and ambition, this places substantial demands on those who help. The time and effort required makes it virtually impossible to expect people to undertake the work without getting paid. If we want to get something done, we employ professional staff and voluntary commitment for the rest of us is reduced in part to pay dues.

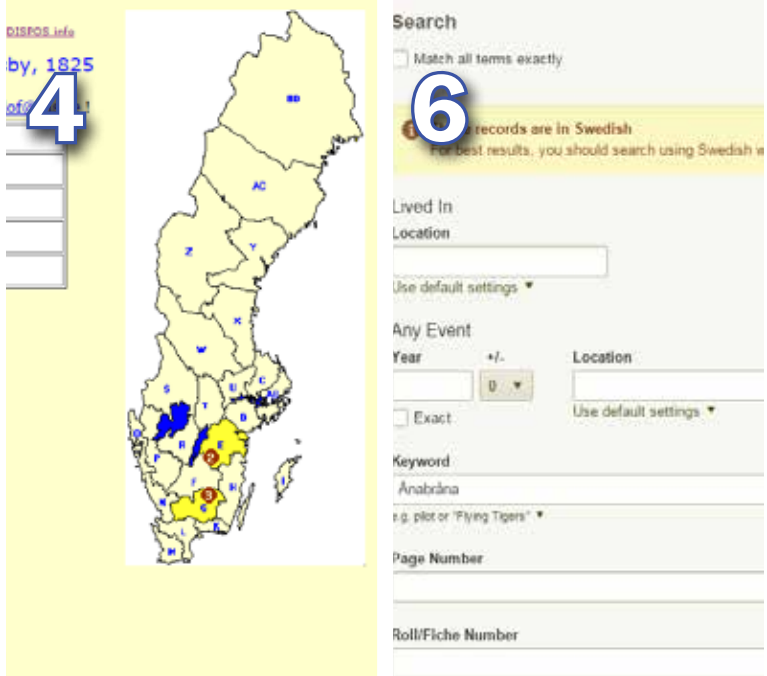


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Annual subscription rates:
\$22, including e-zine Rooted in Sweden
\$35, including Swedish magazine Diskulogen



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Swedish Death Index

IN THE WEB SHOP OF THE FEDERATION OF SWEDISH Genealogical Societies, www.genealogi.se and/or www.rotterbokhandeln.se, it is possible to buy many interesting DVDs that can be very helpful when searching for Swedish relatives, especially those living during the 1900s. There is an American version of the web site and you can pay with Visa or Master card.

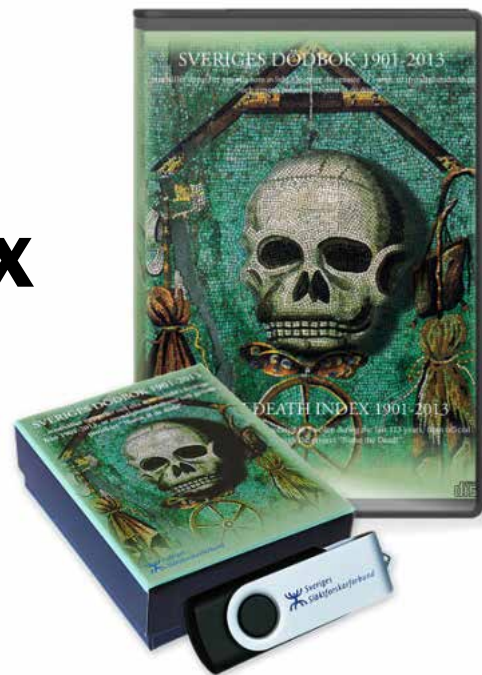
One DVD that is on sale in the web shop is the Swedish Death Index (Sveriges dödbok) 1900–2013. The DVD contains details of almost everyone who died in Sweden 1901–2013. The information has been extracted from official databases and completed through the project “Name the dead!” This version, the sixth edition, has been completed with about one million deceased for the period 1901–1946, which makes that period complete. 381,000 deceased have been added since the previous release for the years 2010–2013. In total the new DVD consists of 9,290,000 entries.

The DVD is bilingual, which makes it easy to switch between Swedish and English, and the installation guide and user manual are also available in English.

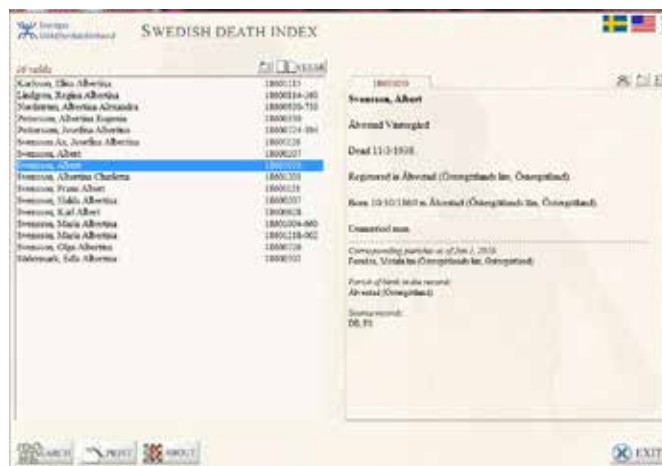
Information included on the DVD is first and last name, gender, street and postal address, date and place of birth, date and place of death, and marital status. Also maiden names are noted for most women deceased before 1970.

The database is available on both DVD and USB stick. The DVD and USB stick only work in Windows. If you use a Mac, it works well with an emulator.

The database at Ancestry.com with a similar name, *Sweden, Births from the Swedish Death Index, 1901-2006*, is an extract of an older version of the Swedish Death Index, and lacks information like date and place of death. That earlier version of the index covered about 70% of those who died before 1947. 🐭

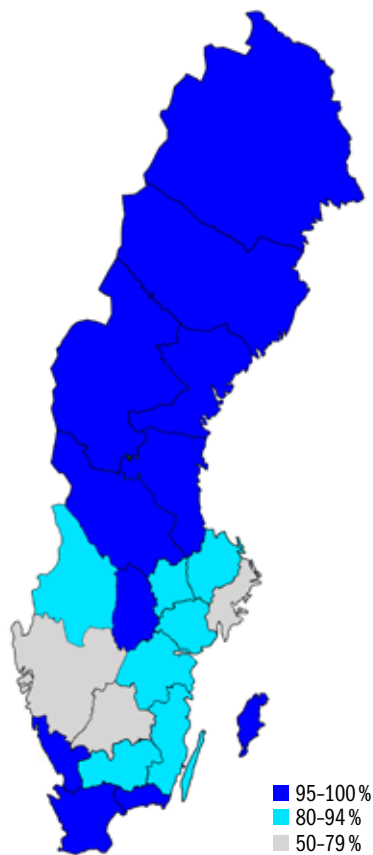


Choose Swedish or English in the top right corner. Then press Search in the bottom left corner. If you are unsure about the spelling of the name, use the wildcard “%” as a substitute for one or more characters.



10 million place names The GIDx Project

by Olof Cronberg



2,266 of 2,633 parishes has been indexed by the GIDx project. That means 86 % of the Swedish parishes are searchable, down to the homestead, in Dispos and Ancestry.

WE DID NOT REALLY KNOW WHAT WE WERE GETTING ourselves into when we started the project GIDx to index homesteads in the household examination rolls for Sweden. Through collaboration between DIS as a non-profit association and Geline as a commercial operator, we would create a homestead index that would benefit both of DIS in the form of DISPOS and Geline. A project team worked out a framework for how the data would be recorded. A webpage was created where everyone could adopt a parish to index. An organization was set up to examine that the work was of sufficient quality.

A great start

The project got off to a flying start. After a short trial period, DIS members were invited to join. In June 2008 about 17,000 members got an e-mail about the project of which 300 quickly adopted parishes. Within a short time 300 people had adopted parishes.

The many place names

It soon became quite clear that the place names in the household examination rolls have different characteristics in different

parts of Sweden. In most parts of the country, villages and farms were named in the classic manner e.g. Bullerby Mellängård. In Skåne, parishes frequently contained only a few villages and the farms in each village were numbered. In Blekinge there were farm number series for the whole parish. In Dalarna the farms were also numbered, but the number series was changed for each household examination roll. Small towns had their block divisions. In the big cities the household examination rolls sometimes had their own systems.

From the very beginning we planned to have literal registration, true to the original source, but we realized that it would be too complicated. Instead, we assumed the modern place names often used in the late 1800s. We had also planned to register the type of locality, e.g., village, farm, cottage, hut, but often it was not documented, so it could not be done accurately.

Validation

The aim was also to double check all information. When you had registered your first volume, it would be examined by a GIDx agent, before receiving clearance to continue on the next parish. After you had registered a parish, you would then review



a parish that someone else had indexed. It was basically a sensible idea, but problems arose due to the lack of suitable parishes for the researcher. During the latter part of the project the audit was simplified, so that GIDx agents just did a quick review.

Volunteers

During the six years, 350 genealogists helped with the indexation. Most indexed a few parishes that they were particularly interested in. About twenty people indexed many parishes. A dozen people were in different periods involved as GIDx agents, who helped to review the first volumes as new genealogists indexed them.

Indexed parishes

At the end of 2009 nearly 5 million entries had been registered. Almost 50% parishes were completed then.

Now 2,266 parishes, or 86% of all parishes, have been indexed. The parishes that are very large or whose household examination rolls are difficult to read have been difficult to index.

Most common place names

Although the material is not complete, it nevertheless provides an intriguing insight

into various homestead names and their occurrence and localization in Sweden. Overall, there are more than 400,000 different locations named. These have more than 200,000 different names. Predictably, Prästgården and Soldattorp exist in more than 1,000 parishes. The most common names are typical croft names like Hagen, Lugnet, Fridhem, Backen and Nytorp, all of which occur in more than 500 parishes each.

GIDx in Ancestry and Dispos

The result of the indexation is available at Ancestry. When you are searching in Swedish church records you can just enter the homestead name in the Keywords field. See separate article!

The GIDx indexing is also incorporated into DISPOS. Once you have retrieved a parish, you can search for a homestead in the parish. You then get a list of pages in the household examination rolls. The linking is exact for Ancestry and that is also often the case for ArkivDigital. The linking to Svar may fail by one or two pages.

A big thank you to everyone involved in this interesting, six year long, project! 🙏

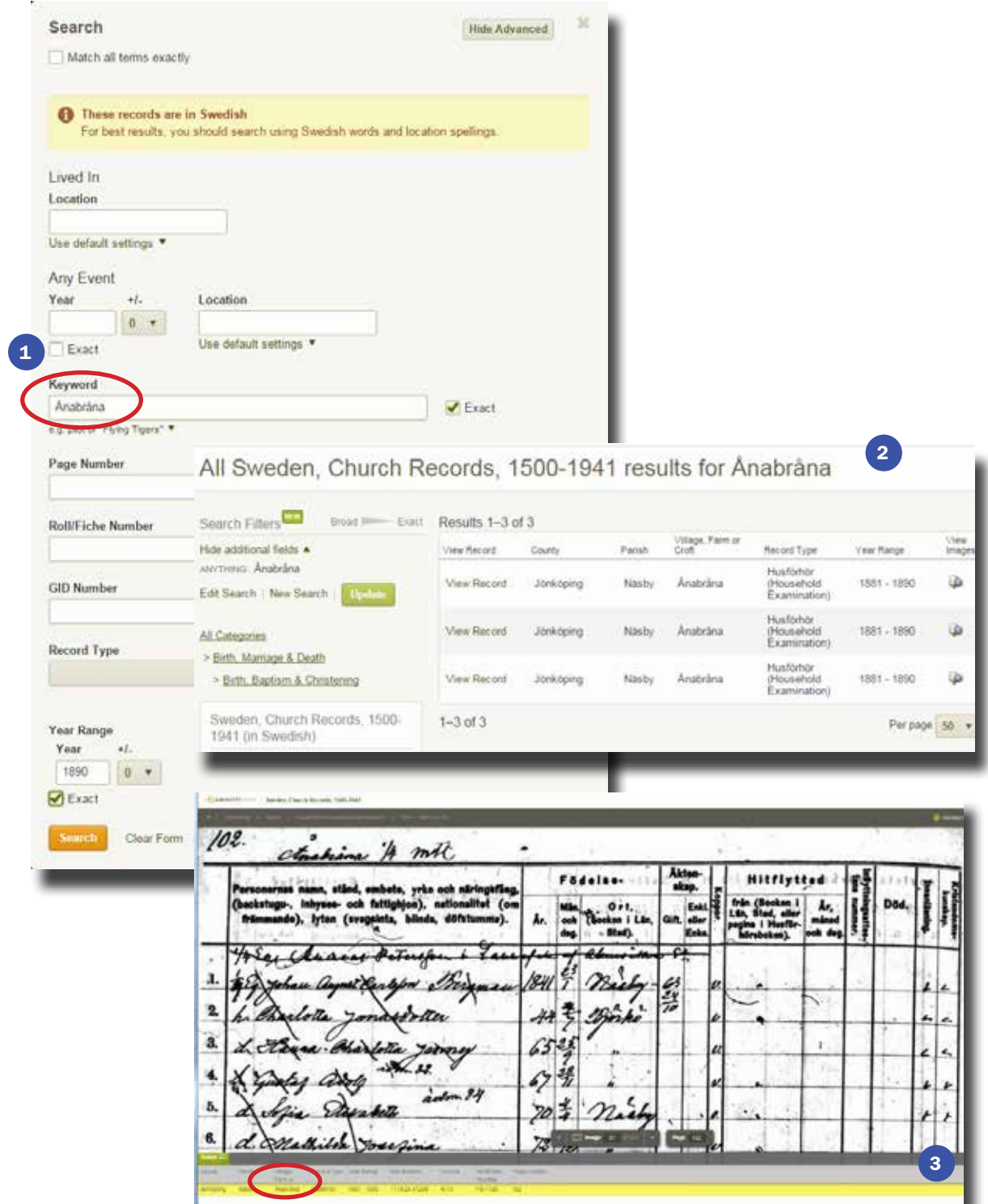
DISPOS

In DISPOS you can search for all ten million homesteads that are registered in the GIDx project, and see the household examination rolls at Ancestry, ArkivDigital or Svar.

Go to DIS website and choose DISPOS. In the left field, specify a homestead name and a date. In this example I search for Asby which is only found in three indexed parishes. On the map you can see roughly where these places are [1]. DISPOS can thus be useful to discover where places are located. The spelling is normalized to the contemporary spelling, so sometimes you may have to search with different spellings.

You can now select the parish to see Asby in Dädesjö Parish. You will see the household examination rolls from the previous year and to some extent also in subsequent years. Then click the icons for Ancestry, ArkivDigital or Svar to read the original pages [2]. 🙏

OLOF CRONBERG



ANCESTRY

All names of villages, farms, crofts and cottages available in the household examination rolls for 85 % of Sweden's parishes are registered in GIDx project. The homesteads are searchable in the Swedish church records, www.ancestry.com> Search> Swedish Church Records, 1500-1941.

Search by typing the name of the cottage, farm or village in the keyword field [1]. You can also narrow the search by en-

tering the name of the township in the field of residence and it is also possible to limit the results by filling in a year. In this case, we have searched the farm Ånabråna, by filling out the farm name in the keyword field and limiting the search to 1890. (Since there is only one Ånabråna there is no need to enter the parish.)

The farm Ånabråna is mentioned on three pages of this household examination

roll, hence the three rows in the results, and clicking on the icon on the far right will take you directly to one of the pages [2].

When you look at the page in the image viewer you can see the name of the cottage / farm / village in the index at the bottom of the Viewer [3].

ANN-LOUISE PAULSSON
OLOF CRONBERG

Genealogy Research in Sweden a summary

by Anna Linder

DIFFERENT REGIONS OF SWEDEN CAN BE DIVIDED IN VARIOUS ways, but when it comes to genealogy we usually talk about city/village (ort), parish (socken/församling) and county (län). Sweden today is divided into 21 län.

Finding locations

The easiest way to find the location of your city is to search the internet, for example, in Wikipedia. Another resource to find information about the city is to search in DISPOS, an easy entrance into digital genealogical sources, on the DIS website. Here you can find information on the area by using maps and links, but also information about the sources and, in some cases, help finding the approximate page number for the desired information in the church book. More information on place names can be found in the Place Names Index (Ortnamnsregistret), from the Institute for Language and Folklore. Here, both the towns and farms are registered, with geographical coordinates and notation of dialectal pronunciation.

You can also get a good start and great genealogical contacts by searching DISBYT. DISBYT is made up of excerpts from DIS members' genealogy. DISBYT contains more than 31 million entries.

Lantmäteriet

Lantmäteriet, the Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority has made many historical maps available for free online. Here you can search for parishes or villages and find maps showing where the farms, and sometimes every building, were located. It is not possible to download

the maps. If you want your own copy you have to pay for it.

The National Archives Database

The National Archives Database, NAD, <http://sok.riksarkivet.se/nad>, lists all archives that exist in Sweden. Type in your parish and tick the box in front of *Digitized material only* to see which digitized archives are available.

Church books

Many Swedish parishes started keeping church records during the 1600s, but there are a few older church archives. In Västmanland and Dalarna they began keeping household examination rolls already in the 1620s. The priest was obligated to keep birth records (födelsebok) starting 1686.

The church books are kept at the Regional State Archives, which nowadays are a part of the National archives. They are located in Uppsala, Vadstena, Visby, Lund, Göteborg, Härnösand and Östersund. The city archives in Stockholm keeps the records of Stockholm County, and the archives in Karlstad preserves the records of the county of Värmland. The church books for parishes in Malmö are at Malmö City Archives. The church books are available for research at the archive, but many of the main books of interest for the genealogist are available online (see below). The Swedish State Church was responsible for the registration of the entire Swedish population until 1 July 1991. From 1 July 1991 the responsibility was moved to the Swedish Tax Agency (Skatteverket), which is the primary record keeper for events after 1991.

Which materials are available on the internet are regulated by the privacy laws. Information from the last 70 years is generally not available online or off-line.

Some of the most common designations in Swedish church archives are:

AI: Husförhörlängder

(Household Examination Rolls or Clerical surveys)

B: Flyttninglängder (Books over people moving in and out of the parish)

C: Födelse- och doplängder (Birth and christening)

E: Lysnings- och vigselängder (Banns and weddings)

F: Död- och begravningslängder (Death and funeral)

Household Examination rolls generally covers 5–10 years. Parish Books replaced the Household Examination rolls in the late 1800s.

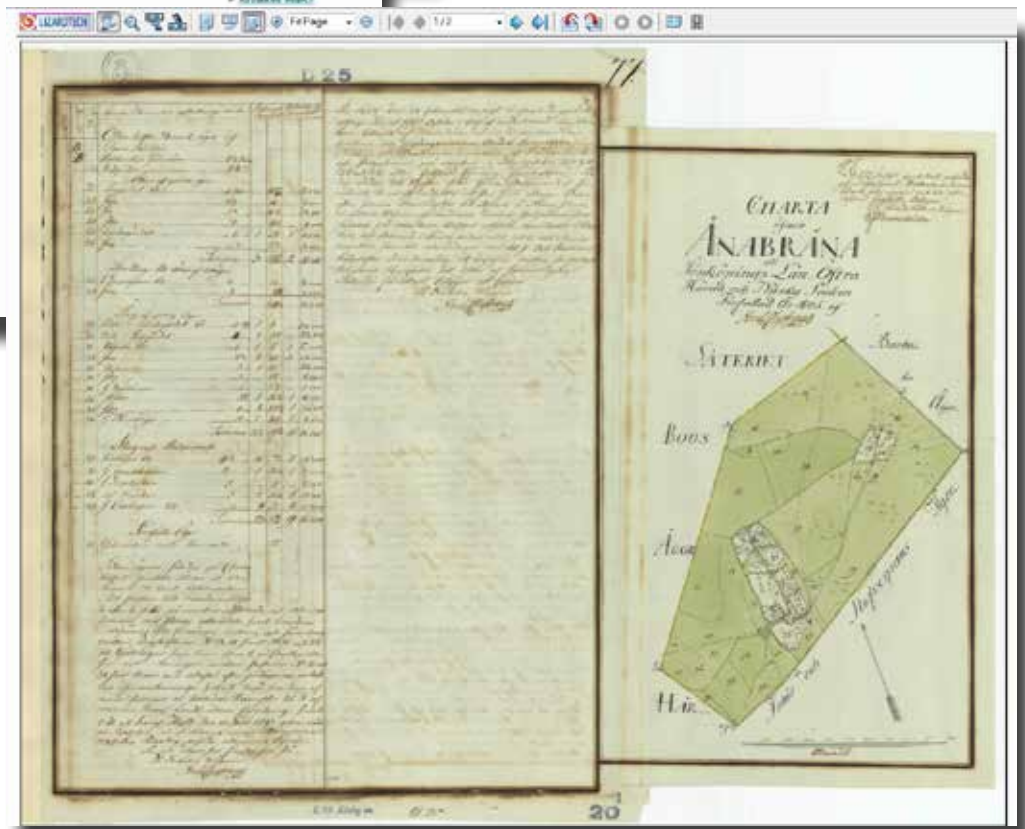
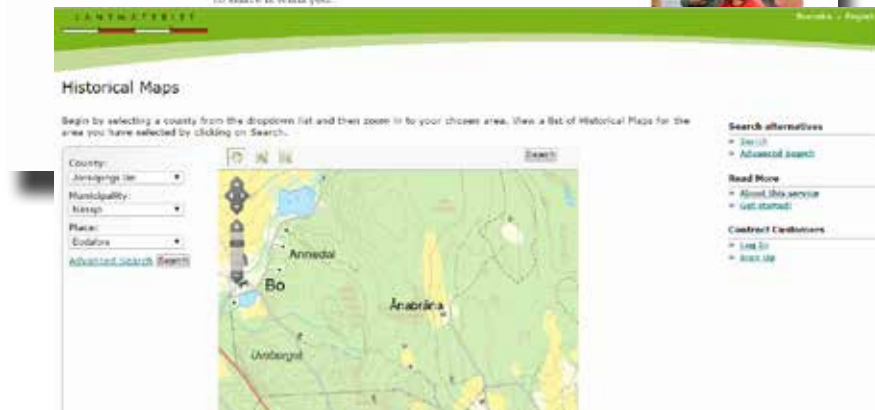
The Swedish church records can be studied, for a fee, at Svar, Ancestry and ArkivDigital. Visit the companies' websites to see if they offer the material you are interested in.

ArkivDigital has photographed all original church records, in color, which improves readability. Svar and Ancestry has digitized the black and white photos the Mormons took during the 1940s. If you buy the World Deluxe subscription at Ancestry, you can follow your relatives from America back to Sweden. Ancestry has indexed the Swedish birth records for 1860–1941, which is very useful, not only to find children, but when trying to locate people who lived in an unknown location in Sweden. Svar has indexed and transcribed



It is easy searching historical maps at the website of Lantmateriet – www.lantmateriet.se/en/Maps-and-geographic-information/Historical-Maps.

Fill in County, Municipality and Place and/or zoom in the map to the place of interest. When you click on a link the map will open in a DjVu reader.



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 31 million records, which covers about 70 % of Sweden's historical population, i.e. the time period 1750–1900. You will also get access to DISPOS, a tool to make it easier to find indexes to sources.

We already have more than 25,000 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>

➔ Censuses for 1880, 1890, 1900 and 1910 on their website. Work has now started on the 1930s.

21st Century

If you are looking for information about living relatives the first natural step is to search the internet. Often you can find a blog or a Facebook account. On websites like *birthday.se* you can find information about name, address and date of birth of everyone over 16 living at the same address. In the telephone directory, *www.eniro.se*, you will find the name, address and phone number, and here you may also find those relatives younger than 16 years.

Many local newspapers are also available online. In the family pages (familjesidan) you can read about births, marriages, deaths and jubilees.

Information about graves can be found on several different websites, but The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies (Sveriges Släktforskarförbund) tombstone inventory (Gravstensinventering) often also include pictures of the tombstone. The Federation's CD Buried in Sweden (Begravda i Sverige) contains information from most of Sweden's cemeteries, but lacks photographs.

Transcribed information

If you have a hard time finding your relatives, a search in DISBYT might help you narrow it down. But remember to check the information against the original sources.

Many of the local Swedish genealogical societies have made transcriptions and indexes that they sell on CD:s. One society, Föreningen Släktdata at *www.slaktdata.org*,

is striving to make many written or indexed church books freely available for genealogy.

At Umeå University's Research Archive, *www.foark.umu.se*, you can search for free in Census 1890 for Västerbotten, Norrbotten, Jämtland, Västernorrland and Värmland.

The Demographic Database Southern Sweden, *www.ddss.nu*, is dedicated to providing all church records of births, marriages and deaths for Skåne, Blekinge and Halland, 1650–1900, freely searchable on the internet. They are far from that goal, they have material from different time periods from 195 parishes in the area.

The Roteman archives (Rotemansarkivet) is a civil register of the city of Stockholm from 1878 to 1926. All accommodation, with addresses, moving within Stockholm or outside of Stockholm, emigration, births and deaths were recorded.

The Federation

The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies, *www.genealogi.se*, has produced a number of CDs /DVDs to facilitate genealogy. Mainly relating to the information from the 1900s when privacy laws prohibit original church books being uploaded to the internet.

- Swedish Census (Sveriges Befolkning) in 1890, 1900, 1970, 1980. Contains details of everyone who lived in Sweden during the year. Svar has released the Swedish Census 1990.
- Swedish Death Index (Sveriges dödbok) 1901–2013. Contains details of most people who died in Sweden during the period.
- Buried in Sweden (Begravda i Sverige). If you pay and become a Roots Friends (Rötters Vänner) on the Federation web-

site you also get access to the databases for Citizenship documents and Nationality rolls for people that had left Sweden but wanted to maintain their Swedish citizenship even if they lived abroad.

If you have questions about DISGEN, DISBYT or DISPOS write a question on DIS Forum, while general questions about genealogy should be asked at the Federation's Anbytarforum, since it is easier to get answers where most users are. 🌱

Links:

DIS: www.dis.se

Disbyt

Dispos

The Institute for Language and Folklore

(Institutet för språk och folkminnen): www.sprakochfolkminnen.se > Språk > Namn > Ortnamnsregistret

Lantmäteriet

www.lantmateriet.se/en/Maps-and-geographic-information/Historical-Maps

Obituaries and memory albums:

www.familjesidan.se and www.fonus.se

Find graves: www.finngraven.se, www.gravar.se, hittagraven.se, svenskagravar.se, www.findagrave.com and www.billiongraves.com

The tombstone inventory:

www.genealogi.se/gravproj/Gravsoklist.php

SVAR: <http://sok.riksarkivet.se/svar-digitala-forskarsalen>

Ancestry: www.ancestry.com

ArkivDigital: www.arkivdigital.net

Family Search: www.familysearch.org

Roteman Archives:

<http://www2.ssa.stockholm.se/Rotemannen2012/Search.aspx>

1890 Census in Umeå University Research archive:

www.foark.umu.se > Folkräkningen 1890

Demographical database southern Sweden:

www.ddss.nu

Släktdata Society: www.slaktdata.org

The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies: www.genealogi.se