



# RESEARCH IN SWEDEN

You need to determine the place of origin of your ancestor.

Swedish records are not centralised therefore before any research can be undertaken, you need to first establish the exact county/province and town or village that your ancestor was born in or that a particular event occurred in.

The golden rule of genealogy is to always work back from the known to the unknown. Therefore the place of origin of your ancestor should be looked for in New Zealand records, or if your family came via Australia or Britain then in those records.

In New Zealand your first place to look for information is the book **Svenskarna I Nya Zeeland by Sten Aminoff**. If your family came to NZ before 1940 you should find their name here giving you a lot of details including their place of birth.

The place of origin of your ancestor should be mentioned on N.Z. birth and death certificates after 1876 and on N.Z. marriage certificates after 1882.

It should appear in naturalisation papers so if your ancestor became naturalised then the full file for this should be applied for. It may also appear in an obituary, on a headstone, in army records, shipping lists, as well of course as family sources. If the family were in Britain then the census there may show the place of origin.

Hamburg and Goteborg were major port of embarkation for Swedish people. The Hamburg Passenger Lists begin in 1850, are chronological by ship and show each passenger's last place of residence.

## Researching in Sweden

Swedish research is very easy to do as long as you have the county or Parish/Town that your ancestor came from. Sweden did not have Government Central registration for births, marriages or deaths until 1991. It was the responsibility of the Lutheran Church of each parish to record all births, marriages, deaths. and move-ment of every person in that parish whether they went to that church or not. Sweden is divided into 21 Counties (*Lan*) and then into Towns (*Forderier*) then into Parishes (*Harad*).

In the countryside it is broken down into Village (*By*) Estate (*Herrgard*), Farm(*gard*) or (*crop*) all within a Ward (*rote*).

## What you will find in the Parish Books

### **Births (Fodel):**

Any person born in the parish whether they went to the church or not is recorded here. The records will give you the name of child, place of residence, parents and also Godparents. Remember to look closely at godparents as brothers and sisters of parents may be found here.

### **Marriages (Vigsel/Gifte):**

All marriages no matter what religion had to be recorded in the church book. Bride and groom, occupation and place of abode.

### **Deaths/Burials (Dod/Begravning):**

Deceased's name, death date, burial date and also where buried and place of abode.

### **Military (Militar):**

Registration for all males.

### **Movement out (Utflytning):**

Moving out of your parish to another

### **Movement in (Inflytning):**

Moving from another parish

## Household Examination records

The most important parish record are the Household examination records. These records were taken by the Clergy every 5 years. The Pastor would visit every household and test each individual on their religious knowledge. He would also note any deaths or movement to another home, so you can find out where they moved to. But like all records some are better than others as not all Pastors kept good records. Although parish records start around 1620 many early records have not survived. Most parishes have them from 1750 onwards. See example over page.

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Use the familysearch.org website It is free and they are uploading all the original records. Another good site to learn from is <http://genealogy.about.com/library/authors/ucolsson1d.htm> This site is recommended for its informative articles.

## Using the Household Examination

When you first start looking at Swedish records, do not be put off as it is not that difficult to find your family.

The Household Examination lists the whole family, giving you their birth dates, parish of birth and occupations. Most important is the movement of the children away from home and where they went to. You can follow them from parish/ward to parish/ward. Once you see them with young children they may have married. You would then look for their marriage before the birth of the first child.

Not all parish Pastors were good at keeping these records. There are a lot more records that you will find in the parish books.

**Please contact us if you need more help.**

## Looking for your family in the Household Examination records

Example of starting your search:

An ancestor was recorded as born on 2/4/1846 at Jamshog. The IGI was checked to confirm this information and then the Church records for Jamshog were consulted. It was found that the parents were not married and that the mother was born in Kyrkhult in 1823. Her birth was then searched for to find who her parents were. Her birth was on 10/9/1823.

The Household Examination Rolls for Jamshog for 1830 were searched to find her family. The easiest way to look for the family was by looking at only the birth column as this is the easiest to read 10/09/1823. When the birth date is found, then look and see if the name also matches. The Household Examination Rolls give the parent's names and when they moved into that area and also what parish they had come from. Brothers and sisters were also listed.

Parish/wards do not always go by name; they also have a number. See No37 on the example over page. When you find a page listing the wards with numbers it is important to print the page out for future reference. The line down the page means that all the family have moved out of that ward or died. The deaths need to be confirmed.

## What you already know

Surname

Christian name

Country

County/Province

Town/Parish

Birth date

Marriage date

Arrival in NZ  
Year

Children born not in NZ

Parents

## NZ Certificates to obtain

Birth .....

Marriage .....

Death .....

Naturalization .....

Military in NZ .....

## Check List

Hamburg Passenger Lists

UK Census

UK Alien Arrival

UK Naturalization

Archives

## Household Examination Jamshog 1840-1845

Village / Parish; Name; Birth date; Place of Birth; Death date; Moved to village 38; Year moved to village 1843

Namn	Födelse	Kom Från	Flyttar till	Inll. Ålder	Anmärkingar					
					18	1841	18	18	18	
1901	1819	1819	1819	1819						
1902	1820	1820	1820	1820						
1903	1821	1821	1821	1821						
1904	1822	1822	1822	1822						
1905	1823	1823	1823	1823						
1906	1824	1824	1824	1824						
1907	1825	1825	1825	1825						
1908	1826	1826	1826	1826						
1909	1827	1827	1827	1827						
1910	1828	1828	1828	1828						
1911	1829	1829	1829	1829						
1912	1830	1830	1830	1830						
1913	1831	1831	1831	1831						
1914	1832	1832	1832	1832						
1915	1833	1833	1833	1833						
1916	1834	1834	1834	1834						
1917	1835	1835	1835	1835						
1918	1836	1836	1836	1836						
1919	1837	1837	1837	1837						
1920	1838	1838	1838	1838						
1921	1839	1839	1839	1839						
1922	1840	1840	1840	1840						
1923	1841	1841	1841	1841						
1924	1842	1842	1842	1842						
1925	1843	1843	1843	1843						
1926	1844	1844	1844	1844						
1927	1845	1845	1845	1845						
1928	1846	1846	1846	1846						
1929	1847	1847	1847	1847						
1930	1848	1848	1848	1848						
1931	1849	1849	1849	1849						
1932	1850	1850	1850	1850						
1933	1851	1851	1851	1851						
1934	1852	1852	1852	1852						
1935	1853	1853	1853	1853						
1936	1854	1854	1854	1854						
1937	1855	1855	1855	1855						
1938	1856	1856	1856	1856						
1939	1857	1857	1857	1857						
1940	1858	1858	1858	1858						
1941	1859	1859	1859	1859						
1942	1860	1860	1860	1860						
1943	1861	1861	1861	1861						
1944	1862	1862	1862	1862						
1945	1863	1863	1863	1863						
1946	1864	1864	1864	1864						
1947	1865	1865	1865	1865						
1948	1866	1866	1866	1866						
1949	1867	1867	1867	1867						
1950	1868	1868	1868	1868						
1951	1869	1869	1869	1869						
1952	1870	1870	1870	1870						
1953	1871	1871	1871	1871						
1954	1872	1872	1872	1872						
1955	1873	1873	1873	1873						
1956	1874	1874	1874	1874						
1957	1875	1875	1875	1875						
1958	1876	1876	1876	1876						
1959	1877	1877	1877	1877						
1960	1878	1878	1878	1878						
1961	1879	1879	1879	1879						
1962	1880	1880	1880	1880						
1963	1881	1881	1881	1881						
1964	1882	1882	1882	1882						
1965	1883	1883	1883	1883						
1966	1884	1884	1884	1884						
1967	1885	1885	1885	1885						
1968	1886	1886	1886	1886						
1969	1887	1887	1887	1887						
1970	1888	1888	1888	1888						
1971	1889	1889	1889	1889						
1972	1890	1890	1890	1890						
1973	1891	1891	1891	1891						
1974	1892	1892	1892	1892						
1975	1893	1893	1893	1893						
1976	1894	1894	1894	1894						
1977	1895	1895	1895	1895						
1978	1896	1896	1896	1896						
1979	1897	1897	1897	1897						
1980	1898	1898	1898	1898						
1981	1899	1899	1899	1899						
1982	1900	1900	1900	1900						

## European Interest Contact

Send research queries to the Contact on the **European Interest Contact** page at [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz)

A group meets on the 1st Friday of most months at the Family Research Centre at 159 Queens Rd, Panmure from 4pm– 10pm. Continental advice is usually available, however please first check with the Contact to be quite sure.

## Websites

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org): Best free site to use for Church records

[familySearch.org](http://familySearch.org): click tab Search - Wiki (Articles on all aspects of Swedish research)

<https://riksarkivet.se/startpage> Swedish National Archives for Church records and much more

[www.arkivdigital.net/](http://www.arkivdigital.net/) Pay to view very expensive but very good

Free and in English for 3 counties: Demographical Database for Southern Sweden

[http://www.ddss.nu/\(S\(2miyd5ul1rcwqn45lsoc1145\)\)/english/default.aspx](http://www.ddss.nu/(S(2miyd5ul1rcwqn45lsoc1145))/english/default.aspx)

## Recommended Reading

Genealogical Guidebook & Atlas of Sweden (Finn Thomsen) 1998.  
Your Swedish Roots (Clemensson and Andersson)