

Discover Your Swedish Roots in Living Color Using ArkivDigital

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Introduction

ArkivDigital (<http://www.arkivdigital.net>) provides online access to Swedish historical records. As on December 2015, the online archive included nearly 58 million newly colored photographed images or about 116 pages of historical records. 600,000 new images are added monthly.

The presentation will focus on showing how to search for key records used in Swedish genealogical research such as church books, estate inventories, military records, passenger ship manifests and to demonstrate new name searchable indexes within ArkivDigital. This handout includes descriptions of key records used by family historians along with links to sources providing more detail.

Records Types

Swedish Church Books

In ArkivDigital, you will find the church books for all of Sweden and Åland in Finland from the earliest times (often in the 1600's) to the first half of the twentieth century (around 1940). This will vary by parish based upon the privacy laws within Sweden. The church books include birth, marriage, death, moving in/out and household/congregation records. The household/congregation books which were updated annually include information about everyone living in the household such as name, birth date, birth place, name of residence in parish and movements within and outside of Sweden. If one is lucky one can trace a person from birth to death or birth to emigration. More information about Swedish Church Books: <http://arkivdigital.net/swedish-genealogy/swedish-church-books>.

Foreign Swedish Church Books

In ArkivDigital, you will find the church books for Swedish parishes in Berlin, Copenhagen, London, Paris and Oslo. There is also a membership list for a Swedish parish in Buenos Aires. You can find these records, by selecting advanced options in the search window, selecting county and then selecting *utlandsförsamlingar*.

Swedish American Church Records

Many Swedish immigrants joined Swedish-American churches, primarily Lutheran but also other denominations such as Baptist, Swedish Covenant Church and Methodist. These churches kept very detailed records including the name of the parish in Sweden where the person was born. In ArkivDigital, you will find many Swedish-American church books for Kansas and a couple for Missouri and Oklahoma. You can find these records, by selecting advanced options in the search window, selecting county and then selecting the desired state such as Kansas, Missouri or Oklahoma.

Estate Inventories (Bouppteckningar)

The estate inventory (*Bouppteckning*) provides information about the deceased person and the names of the heirs followed by an inventory of the deceased's assets and debts. These documents can solve genealogical mysteries as well provide a deeper understanding of one's ancestor's life. In ArkivDigital, you will find estate inventories from the earliest times (1700's) to 1900 and currently we are photographing records up to 1940. For more information on how to search estate inventories, go to:

<http://arkivdigital.net/swedish-genealogy/swedish-estate-inventories>.

Passenger Ship Manifests

In ArkivDigital you will find passenger ship manifests for emigrants leaving from Swedish ports: Göteborg (1869-1935), Helsingborg (1902-1950), Malmö (1874-1939), Stockholm (1869-1940). Within these records you will find the name of the ship, departure date, name and age of the emigrant and often the emigrant's birth place or last place of residence in Sweden as well as final destination.

You can find these records in the police archives in ArkivDigital. To search for these records on ArkivDigital online, click on advanced search in the search window and select archive type and then police archives. For more information about the passenger ship manifests, go to: <http://www.arkivdigital.net/swedish-genealogy/passanger-ship-manifests>.

Military Records

The general muster rolls (*generalmönsterrullorna*) are the primary records one uses to research Swedish soldiers who served in the military between the 1680's and 1880's. The muster rolls were kept by the respective regiments between every three to five years. In these rolls, you will find information about all soldiers and officers, regiment by regiment, company by company.

The general muster rolls for both the allotted (*indelta*) and enlisted (*värvade*) Swedish regiments are available in ArkivDigital's online library. You can find these records by:

- Access ArkivDigital online
- Select advanced options
- Select archive type, military

An alternative search method is to enter “*generalmönsterrullor*” in the search box and click search. For more information on how to search in the general muster rolls, go to: <http://blog.arkivdigital.net/general-muster-rolls/>
<http://blog.arkivdigital.net/research-soldiers-in-the-general-muster-rolls-example-jan-fras/>

Other military records besides the general muster rolls include pension records, records for commissioned and non-commissioned officers. You can find pension records in the following archives:

- Up to 1863, *Krigskollegium Krigsmanshuskontoret*
- Years 1864-1880, *Arméförvaltningen, Civila departementet, kassaavdelningen, pensions- och fondförvaltningskontoret.*
- Years 1881-1904, *Arméförvaltningen, Civila departementet, civilbyrån.*

For more information on pension records, go to:

<http://blog.arkivdigital.net/soldier-pension-documents-pensioner-olof-ceder/>
<http://blog.arkivdigital.net/more-military-pension-documents-in-arkivdigital/>

You can find records for commissioned and non-commissioned officers in the Army Pension Archive (*arméns pensionskassas överstyrelses arkiv*) and the “Meritförteckningar” archive. For more information on these records, go to: <http://blog.arkivdigital.net/armys-pension-funds-list-of-qualifications-armens-pensionskassas-meritband/>

Tax Records

Tax records can be a good replacement in cases where the church books have been destroyed or do not exist. While they don’t have as much detail as the household records, they were created yearly and one can follow a family by farm name. For more information on how to search in the tax registers, go to: <http://blog.arkivdigital.net/tax-registers-mantalslangder/>

In addition, you will find the population registers for all of Sweden except Stockholm City in ArkivDigital. For more information, go to: <http://www.arkivdigital.net/swedish-genealogy/population-register-1941>

Other Records

ArkivDigital has many other records including prison records, pass journals (passports for travel within Sweden), seaman house records, World War II documents, name registers, orphanage, hospital and school records plus much more.

New Searchable Registers

Swedish Household Examination Records (1880-1920)

This is a name searchable register of the household examination records between 1880 and 1920 for all of Sweden. The index record displays the following information about the person: name, birth date, birth place, sometimes marriage date and moving information. Members of the household are displayed along with a direct link to the original record. A link to the birth book for the person is also included.

1950 Census (1950 Sverige Befolkning)

This is a name searchable register that includes everyone who was registered living in Sweden at the end of 1950. Information shown in the record includes the person's name, birth date, birth place, parish and address of residence in 1950, marital status, names of other persons living in the household. Often, there is a link to the church book that includes the birth record.

Research Tools

ArkivDigital

On our website, <http://www.arkivdigital.net>, you will find tutorials on various record sets found in ArkivDigital as well as church book record examples with transcriptions, translations in English. There are examples of birth, marriage and death records for both the 1700's and 1800's as well as examples of a household record and moving in and out records with the column headings translated. Link to the Swedish genealogy tutorials: <http://www.arkivdigital.net/swedish-genealogy>

ArkivDigital Blog

ArkivDigital produces an English blog and usually publishes two posts each week. If you like us on Facebook, you will receive automatically in your newsfeed updates to the blog. <http://blog.arkivdigital.net/>

Swedish Genealogy Guide (<http://swedishgenealogyguide.com/>)

On this site you will find two Swedish English dictionaries: 1788 and 1814. There are several learning guides as well as some videos showing how to interpret birth records from both the 1800's and 1900's.

Slaktdata.org (<http://www.slaktdata.org/>)

Slaktdata is a free online site where you will find transcription registers for many Swedish church birth, marriage and death records. While you will find transcriptions for many parishes throughout Sweden, many of the records are for parishes in the provinces of Bohuslän, Dalsland and Västergötland. For more information about Slaktdata.org, go to: <http://arkivdigital.net/swedish-genealogy/arkivdigital-online-and-slaktdata>

Demographical Database of Sweden (<http://www.ddss.nu/>)

The Demographical Database for Southern Sweden (DDSS) consists of three separate databases containing transcriptions extracted from the original Swedish parish church records of births and baptisms, weddings, deaths and burials for about 400 parishes from Southern Sweden. The free site is both in Swedish and English.

Many of these registers in DDSS have been cross-referenced in ArkivDigital online. If you see the entry "Register i DDSS" in the info box for a highlighted book that indicates there is a register in DDSS for the highlighted records. For more information, go to: <http://blog.arkivdigital.net/arkivdigital-and-demographical-database-for-southern-sweden-ddss/>