

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. (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), 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

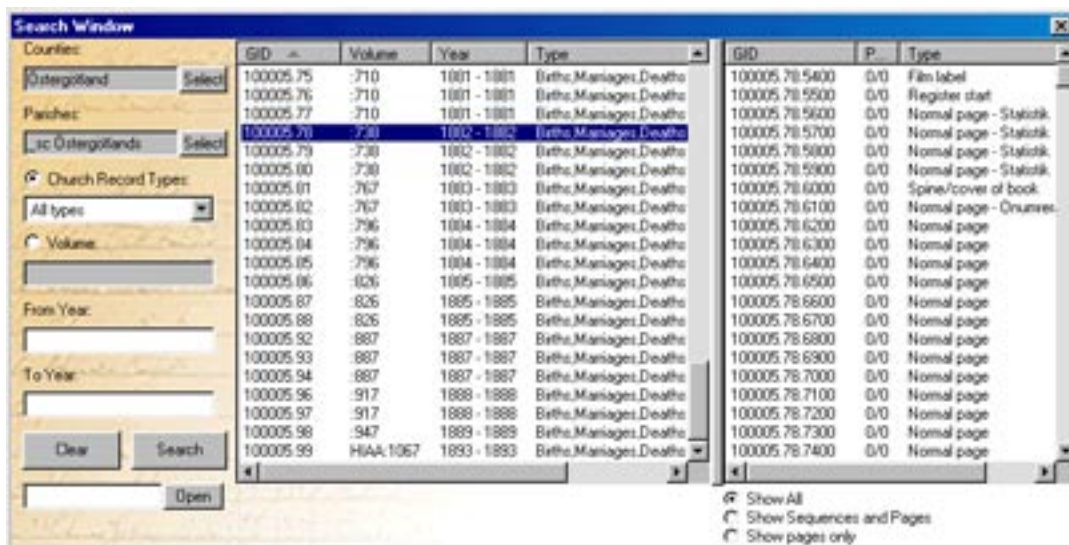


Fig 1. The Genline Family Finder 2 should look like this when you have selected Östergötlands län and the SCB records. The center table shows the available volumes. The right table shows the pages of the selected volume. The "statistik" pages shows the order of parishes in the volume.

Parish Name	Area	Population	...
Aska härad
Motala landsförsamling
Motala stadsförsamling
...

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 6th 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 19th 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

Name	Sex	Age	Parents	Address
Harald	M	3	Royen, Ole, styrman Håkansson, Johanna Kristina, hu	Qvar 11:62
...

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