

Great book on how to find your Swedish roots

The possibilities to do Swedish research have never been so great. The Internet has made many sources available at your fingertips at home. Still it is hard to find your Swedish roots if you don't know how to do it.

When the last edition of Carl Eric Johansson's *Cradled in Sweden* appeared in 1995, the access to Internet was very limited. I remember that I then asked some representative of the Church of Latter-day Saints, when the International

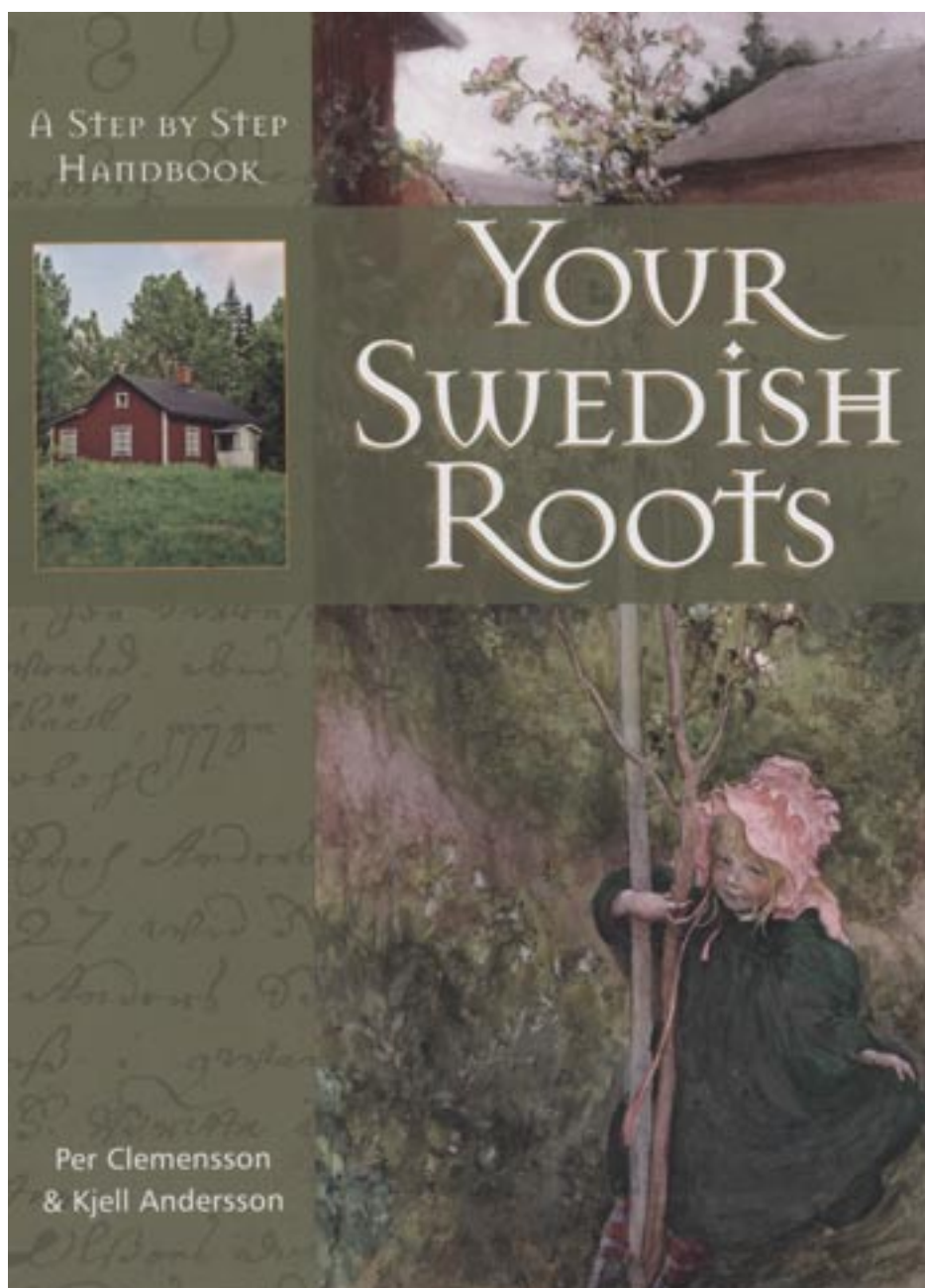
Genealogical Index (IGI) would be available on the Internet. I was told that the IGI probably never would appear on the net, but a few years later FamilySearch was one of the most accessed services.

Last year, a new step-by-step

handbook on how to find your Swedish roots was published. The authors have earlier written a similar book in Swedish, which has been the leading get-started-book in Sweden. The book starts with a tombstone of Adolph Rapp and Anna C Carlson in Portland, Connecticut, and follows the search for the Swedish origin by showing and explaining both US and Swedish records. The ship's manifests on both sides are presented. For each source, an original page with family is shown, the different pieces of information is translated to English and explained. In every situation, the question "Where do we go from here?" is answered.

The book also contains a lot of information on Swedish history with emphasis on the migration, the geographical division into län (district), härad (legal districts) and församlingar (parishes), the naming tradition (changing "son-names" for each generation), the mystery of ÅÄÖ, the different ways of spelling and old hand writing. There is also a section on the provinces and their main tourist spots. However, if you intend to visit Sweden, I recommend that you consult a guidebook as well.

The possibility of reading the Swedish church books on line at Genline (www.genline.com) is shortly explained. I feel that this part could have been more deeply described, since modern genealogists will to a larger extent start and perform the research over the Internet. On the other hand, such information have a tendency to get outdated fast when a new version is presented. Anyway, I miss a better presentation of what sources are available at Genline. Above all, it would have been very useful if the use of the Statistics Sweden's extract of the vital records 1860-95 was explained, which is rather tricky. Those records are available at the Family



History centers as well as at Genline. To gap this problem, I have written a short introduction (see p. 6-7).

I also think that the use of the American Censuses on line is essential to get to know the complete family, the year of emigration and an approximate birth year. This information is useful to establish that you have found the same family on both sides of the Ocean. When I get research queries, it is not uncommon that I start with checking the US Censuses in order to know what to look for.

I would have appreciated if there had been every now and then boxes with information on how to find the information on the Internet.

Also, the Internet links in the end of the book could have been explained more carefully. What resources can you find on the web site Swedish roots? Where can you post queries? What can you find at FamilySearch and at Ancestry or by using a common search engine as Google? What are the advantages and the disadvantages? Of course, you may say that the book deals only with primary sources, but today the Internet is a giant mixture of some primary and many secondary sources. But the beginner will meet the Internet sources early, and must learn how to avoid pitfalls.

The DISBYT database, which could be very useful, is only mentioned in the Internet link section. If you know which parish your ancestor is born in, you may find genealogists doing research in the same family. You may also search DISBYT to see if a surname exists in Sweden and how common a surname is. More than 20 % of all born in Sweden between 1750 and 1900 are in the DISBYT database. Of the families mentioned in the book, I find the Lagerin family in the database. It would be possible to contact a genealogist doing research in the same family.

Although these limitations, this is a great handbook on doing Swedish research. Reading this book would save a lot of time for many Swedish-Americans. Even if you have been doing research for a while, I think that you will find new pieces of information.

You can buy the book at the Genline bookstore at www.genline.com.

OLOF CRONBERG

SHORT NOTES

New CDs

There are new CDs appearing every year in an ever increasing speed. It is not easy to follow. In Sweden, the activity is spread to almost all local and regional societies as well as to the Swedish Federation of Genealogical Societies. In some cases the Federation even have helped the Archives to produce useful CDs. One example is the 1890 census CD mentioned below.

Swedish census 1890

It is not a true census, but from our viewpoint it contains the same information. The CD contains the Statistics Sweden's (SCB's) extract of the household records by the end of 1890. It has been computerized by SVAR (Swedish Archives Information). It holds the complete population, but children are usually only mentioned by first name. It is compensated by excellent search opportunities. English version.

Price: SEK 495,-

From: <http://www.genealogi.se/roots/>

Swedish census 1980

The Federation has earlier published the Swedish census 1970, which was the first year that a complete computerized index of the population was collected. The index include name, address, birth date and birth place. It doesn't contain family relations, but since you easily can see who lived under the same roof, you will get an idea of the family.

Price: SEK 495,-

From: <http://www.genealogi.se/roots/>

Swedish Death Index 1947-2003

The Federation has made a cultural rescue action, by asking for extracts from old computer indexes, which today almost were not possible to read due to old computer tapes or that the reading machines don't exist any longer.

By combining several different indexes, the Federation has been able to produce a CD with all deceased in Sweden between 1947 and 2003. The data from 1947-50 are not complete. After 1950, the index is complete in the sense that all deaths are included. From the beginning, the records before 1970 was lacking an important

information - the name of the deceased. By a huge effort from local societies all over Sweden and in spite of problems with local authorities, the index has been completed with most names.

Price: SEK 495,-

From: <http://www.genealogi.se/roots/>

Digitalization of records

Almost ten years ago, a private company, Genline, started to digitalize old church records by converting the microfilms to digital form and publish the result on the Internet.

Since then, the digitalization process has exploded. The archives have started to convert often used records to digital images. In south Sweden, a small company Digiarkiv simply shot all records with a digital camera, and sell the result on CDs.

All these methods make old records easy accessible from all over the world.

Old census before 1820 at SVAR

SVAR is in process of converting microfilm of taxation records - *mantalslängder* - between 1620 and 1820 to digital images. This process should be ready for the whole country during this year. These taxation records are important when there is no household examination rolls - *husförhörslängder*. Price: SEK 995,- annual subscription
From: <http://www.svar.ra.se/>

New Genline Family Finder

To browse Genline's church records, you need to have a browser called Genline Family Finder. The first version was running as an add-on feature to your browser. The new browser Genline Family Finder 2 (GFF2) is a stand alone software.

I have tested the GFF2, and there are several improvements. Firstly, you use the computer screen better, so the images are larger. You can have two pages active in the same time, so you can more easy move between church records and household examination rolls. You can also use bookmarks on important pages.
From: <http://www.genline.com>