



# 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 (*Utflyttning*):**

Moving out of your parish to another

### **Movement in (*Inflyttning*):**

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. Ålter	Anmärkingar				
					18	1841	18	18	18
1901 J. Peter Thomsen	1779 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1902 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1903 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1904 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1905 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1906 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1907 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1908 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1909 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1910 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1911 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1912 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1913 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1914 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1915 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1916 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1917 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1918 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1919 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					
1920 J. Johan Thomsen	1801 04 04 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	1843 08 14 Helsingfors	18					

## 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)