



Record Analysis: Using Swedish Church Records

Parts 1, 2, 3

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Reading and analyzing Swedish church records requires a basic knowledge of key words, familiarity with the handwriting, and some understanding of the record context.

Key Words

You do not need to be fluent in the Swedish language to be effective with the Swedish church records, but you will need to know some key words. A good list of key words is on the Swedish Genealogical Word List in the FamilySearch Wiki at https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Swedish_Genealogical_Word_List.

Handwriting

Broad coverage of the Swedish church records began after the church law of 1686. You will find the handwriting between the 1600s and up to about 1800 to be in old German script. After 1800, the Latin cursive form of handwriting became more popular. You can find good lessons and tutorials to learn how to read the old German script at https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Nordic_Classes_from_the_Family_History_Library and <https://script.byu.edu/>.

Record Context

As you analyze the evidence on a Swedish church record, it helps to understand some record context. Knowing where, why, and how it was created helps you to correctly interpret what you see. There are many good sources in English to understand record context. A good place to find contextual knowledge of Swedish church records is on the FamilySearch Wiki at https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Sweden_Church_Records.

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this 3-part series is to show you how to read and analyze five main record types:

- Birth and Christening (part 1)
- Engagement and Marriage (part 1)
- Death and Burial (part 2)
- Moving -In and -Out (part 2)
- Household Examination (part 3)

There will be multiple examples for each record type from various times and places. I will use ArkivDigital to show the record examples. You can follow along or look at the examples using the information under each heading.

Birth and Christening (part 1)

1. 1688, Gamla Uppsala (C) C:1 (1681-1696) Image 12 / Page 16 (AID: v124493.b12.s16, NAD: SE/ULA/10318), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v124493.b12.s16>
2. 1753, Grevbäck (R) C:2 (1753-1840) Image 90 / Page 159 (AID: v9363.b90.s159, NAD: SE/GLA/13157), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v9363.b90.s159>
3. 1881, Jämjö (K) Cl:9 (1876-1894) Image 70 / Page 73 (AID: v95912.b70.s73, NAD: SE/LLA/13195), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v95912.b70.s73>

Engagement and Marriage (part 1)

4. 1677, Fläckebo (U) C:1 (1650-1713) Image 17 / Page 11 (AID: v72110.b17.s11, NAD: SE/ULA/10260), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v72110.b17.s11>
5. 1760, Hackvad (T) C:2 (1757-1821) Image 145 / Page 142 (AID: v53196.b145.s142, NAD: SE/ULA/10357), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v53196.b145.s142>
6. 1864, Förlanda (N) Cl:3 (1861-1894) Image 150 / Page 12 (AID: v92288a.b150.s12, NAD: SE/LLA/13103), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v92288a.b150.s12>

Death and Burial (part 2)

7. 1692, Floda (W) C:1 (1672-1695) Image 163 (AID: v129921.b163, NAD: SE/ULA/12375), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v129921.b163>
8. 1788, Mossebo (P) C:2 (1768-1826) Image 115 / Page 111 (AID: v15002.b115.s111, NAD: SE/GLA/13377), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v15002.b115.s111>
9. 1860, Övergran (AB, C) C:7 (1853-1862) Image 40 / Page 83 (AID: v127765.b40.s83, NAD: SE/ULA/11834), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v127765.b40.s83>

Moving -In and -Out (part 2)

10. 1689, Fogdö (D, U) C:1 (1681-1750) Image 194 / Page 341 (AID: v55092.b194.s341, NAD: SE/ULA/10261), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v55092.b194.s341>
11. 1764, Östergarn (I) Cl:3 (1764-1801) Image 840 / Page 159 (AID: v61990.b840.s159, NAD: SE/ViLA/23093), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v61990.b840.s159>
12. 1876, Årstad (N) B:3 (1871-1894) Image 27 (AID: v93997.b27, NAD: SE/LLA/13493), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v93997.b27>

Household Examination (part 3)

13. 1664, Arboga landsförsamling (U) Ala:1 (1664-1718) Image 19 / Page 10 (AID: v71692.b19.s10, NAD: SE/ULA/10020), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v71692.b19.s10>
14. 1750, Edsberg (T) Al:1 (1746-1765) Image 18 / Page 11 (AID: v50986.b18.s11, NAD: SE/ULA/10187), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v50986.b18.s11>
15. 1871, Bosjökloster (M) Al:10 (1867-1874) Image 186 / Page 180 (AID: v108662.b186.s180, NAD: SE/LLA/13041), <http://www.arkivdigital.se/aid/show/v108662.b186.s180>