

Birth and Christening Records for Swedish Genealogy

Are you looking for the birth information of an ancestor in Sweden? The kingdom of Sweden has some of the most comprehensive records for genealogy in the world. Beginning in 1686 every birth and christening was to be recorded by the local parish regardless of religious affiliation. By law all infants were to be christened within 8 days after birth. An emergency christening could be performed if they thought the child might die before getting to the church.

How do you find a birth / christening date?

1. To find a birth and christening in Swedish church records, you have to know what parish the parents lived in at the time of the birth.
2. Choose an online provider to access the Swedish church records. The following providers have birth and christening records online:

Arkiv Digital: <http://www.arkivdigital.net/>

Subscription, Free Access in a FamilySearch Center, images in color, easy navigation

Riksarkivet SVAR: <http://sok.riksarkivet.se/>

Subscription, images in greyscale from microfilm, easy navigation.

FamilySearch: <https://familysearch.org/>

LDS Account access, images in greyscale from microfilm, Less easy navigation

Ancestry.com

Subscription, images in grayscale from microfilm, Less easy navigation.

3. After you find the online collection for a parish, choose the record type called Födde or Födelse och dopbok (Birth Record.)
4. Browse to the table of contents and find the page number for the births. Navigate to the desired page.
5. Get used to the format and look for key words (see key words list)
6. If you know the date, look for the year, month, and date.
7. If you don't know the date, search each entry looking for the names of the child, or the parents.

Get Used to Format

There was no standard format of how the record was kept until 1894. Sometimes the father's name is given and the mother's was left out. You may find the record shows a christening date but no birth date.

Birth and christenings were generally kept in the same book as the marriages, and burials. Most of the time there is a specific section of a book. Other times the priest kept an ongoing record of all services (births, marriage, deaths) in a chronological order.

What will you find in Swedish birth / christening records?

Should include

- a. Date of birth (depending on how the record was kept)
- b. Date of christening (depending on how the record was kept)
- c. The first and last name of the father
- d. The first and last name of the mother (depending on how the record was kept)
- e. The parents place of residence at the time of the birth
- f. The first and last names and residence of the godparents (who may or may not be related to the child)

If you do not find the birth entry:

Check the birth records of the other parishes in the same pastorat.

Check the parish accounts book. Usually the father paid a fee at the time of the christening. The fee might be recorded in the donations/income record.

May Include

1. Entry number
2. The name of the woman who held the infant over the baptismal font.
3. Date of the mothers re-introduction into society (usually about 6 weeks after the birth)
4. The mothers age (beginning about 1750)
5. A running total number of males and females born in a given year.

Key Words

Here are some common words that are seen in Swedish birth and christening records. The birth entry will also include the marital status of the parents, place names, and maybe occupations of the men. If the word is not on this list, try to find it in the Swedish Historical Dictionary Database, SHDD at: <http://swedishgenealogyguide.com/dictionaries/swedish-historical-dictionary-database-shdd>

absolution	receiving forgiveness of sins		heta, heter	to be called
af	of, from		Hustru, Hu.	Wife, spouse (abbrev. Hu.)
anteckningar	note, annotation		i	in, at, to, upon
barn (barnet)	child, infant (the child)		kalla, kallat	to call, to name, was called
christnades	(was) baptized, christened		kyrkotagning	churching (received to the parish)
dag	day		kön (man-, qvin-)	sex, gender (male, female)
den	that, the		med	with
dess	possessive of den, det		moder, moderen	mother, (the) mother
dito	ditto		månad	month
Dom., Dominica (<i>latin</i>)	Sunday (the Lord's day)		namn, namnet	name, (the) name
dop, döpelse, döpt, döptas, döpte, döptes	various uses of the word "dop" = baptism		nöd-döpt	baptism in case of necessity, or emergency
dopbok	baptismal book (record)		och, ock	and
dopnamn	christian name		oäkta barn	Illegitimate child, bastard child
dop-vittnen	witness to christening		piga, pigan, pig.	maid, maidservant (abbrev. Pig.)
ett, en	one		stånd	state, class, rank
fader, far, faderen	father, sire, (the) father		susceptrix (<i>latin</i>)	person who held the infant over the baptismal font
fadder, faddrar, faddrarne	Various uses of the word "fadder" = godparent		testes (<i>latin</i>)	witness
födas, född, födde, föddes, födelse, födt	Various uses of the word "födelse" = birth		uti	see i
församling	parish, congregation		vittne, vittnen	witness, (the) witness
föräldrar, föräldrarne	parents		år, år	year

Additional Information

Swedish Archive Letter: C

Date order was recorded as: day, month, year.

Sometimes the christening date was recorded according to the religious "feast day" such as Ascensionis Domini (in latin) or Kristi himmelfärdsdag (Swedish) which converted to May 9 in 1771. If you need to convert a feast day see:

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Moveable_Feast_Day_Calendar_for:_Sweden

Learn More about Birth and Christening Records for Swedish Genealogy at:

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Sweden:_Birth_and_Christening_Records