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# **Emigration Research** - **Step by Step**

#### Per Clemensson\*

When doing genealogical research in Swedish emigration sources, one finds certain time periods, tied to the provenance of source materials, i.e. before 1800, 1861-1869 and after 1869. Here should also be added sources dealing with specific groups. These sources can be found in the central administration of Sweden, some in regional archives and some on the local level. To begin with, we should consider three locations - the parish, the county (*län*) and the port city.

The study of these sources is somewhat complicated by the fact that similar sources may differ from each other, some complement each other, and yet other sources consist of extracts or copies. Certain sources have been well preserved up to our own time, others less so. There are sources which cover all three time periods, such as parish records, others on the other hand were shortlived and even incomplete.

In this study I propose to mention the location of all these emigrant sources, say something about their contents and the time periods which they cover. They have been grouped according to the original sources, but information will also be given as to extracts, if such are available, and possible copies. When citing a source, I have also sought to note the prevalence of microfilms or microfiche, either in the National Archives (*Riksarkivet*) or SVAR (Swedish Archival Information in Ramsele), where microfilms and microfiche may be borrowed or purchased. Obviously, some of these films may also be found in the Emigrant Institute in Växjö, the Emigrant Register in Karlstad, the District Archives in Göteborg, as well as other institutions. Additionally I have also sought to include the prevalence of personal indexes and registers where such are available.

#### Parish Records

#### Household Examination Rolls and Other Parish Records

Archives: Household examination rolls and other parish records are a part of each parish archives, which before 1895 are deposited in the respective district archives and after 1895 in the local parish office.

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- Copies and Extracts: These are to be found in the Central Bureau of Statistics (SCB) in Stockholm, where extracts have been made every decade from 1860 to 1940 as well as for the years 1935 and 1945.
- Microfilms and Microfiche: Microfilms of the originals up to 1895 and of the extracts up to 1920 may be found at SVAR.
- **Search Methods:** The indexes are listed by parish and by time interval, i.e. every five, seven or ten years and are arranged geographically or topographically according to domicile.
- Contents: Here we find information on every member of the household his or her name, occupation, birth data, movements into or out of the parish, marriage and death data, as well as notations concerning Biblical knowledge and something about the individual's character.
- Time Period: Sporadically for the 18th century; 1800-1900.
- Alphabetical Indexes: An index of personal names may be found for certain city parishes, to a lesser degree for rural parishes. Usually place name indexes are included.

#### Registers of Missing Persons

- Archives: Parish records of missing persons are to be found in the parish archives
   before 1895 in the respective district archives, after 1895 in the local parish offices. After 1968 they have been replaced by indexes of missing persons according to individual dossiers, to be found in each parish.
- Microfilms and Microfiche: Up to 1895 they may be found at SVAR.
- **Search Methods:** The registers are grouped according to parishes and by year, giving both topographical information as well as domicile.
- Contents: Name, domicile, occupation, birth data, movement into the parish, Biblical knowledge, character and movement out of the parish. Sometimes one may find later notations, telling of the fate of these individuals, such as emigration and destination.
- *Time Period:* From 1860 to 1895 these registers are usually found at the end of the household examination roll and between 1895-1990 they are kept separately.

#### Exit Lists

- Archives: Exit lists are to be found in the parish records, which before 1895 can be found in the district archives; after 1895 in the respective parish offices.
- Extracts and Copies: These can be found in SCB in Stockholm with the title "Förteckning å de från församlingen till främmande land utflyttade (emigranter)" (List of those in the parish who have emigrated). This list has in turn been melded with "Summarisk redogörelse för folkmängden" (Summary of the Swedish Population) 1860-1947. From 1875 this list also includes information on immigration into Sweden.
- Microfilms and Microfiche: Up to 1860 microfilms and microfiche of the original documents will be found at SVAR (the records after 1860 are presently being microfilmed). The extracts for 1860-1947 have also been filmed.
- Search Methods: The original lists are arranged by parish and are chronological, based on the date of exit. Sometimes these registers are kept on an annual basis and arranged alphabetically according to the exit holder's name.
- Contents: Name, occupation, birth data, domicile, destination (for emigrants, usually only the name of the country). The SCB extracts contain the emigrant's name, occupation, birth year and "the country to which he plans to go". Seldom do we find more precise information as to the final destination.

Time Period: Sporadically for the 18th century; 1800-1900.

Alphabetical Indexes: With some exceptions there are alphabetical indexes of all of the original lists. The extracts produced by SCB are arranged by county (*län*), typewritten and microphotographed as follows:

County	ounty Period (		Period		
Stockholm Uppsala	1861-1947 1861-1947	100 01			
Södermanland Östergötland Jönköping Kronoberg Kalmar Malmöhus	1861-1947 1861-1947 1861-1947 1861-1900 1861-1900	Älvsborg Skaraborg Värmland Örebro Jämtland Norrbotten	1861-1900 1861-1900 1861-1900 1861-1947 1861-1947		

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Alphabetical indexes may be found in SCB, at SVAR, the Emigrant Institute in Växjö and at the District Archives in Göteborg. Registers to the SCB extracts have been merged with the alphabetical lists of emigrants1851-1860 and thus cover the time frame 1851-1947 (cf. Passports). The indexes which end 1900 consist of microfilmed index cards and are not to be found at SVAR.

#### **Emigrant Lists**

**Archives:** Emigrant lists are a part of the parish archives, deposited at the various parish offices, except for Stockholm and Göteborg, where they are located at the local tax authorities.

Search Methods: The emigrant lists consist of personal dossiers, arranged according to the individual's personal number (In Sweden every person has his own individual number which follows him from the cradle to to the grave and is called personakt). This document can be found in the parish

from which the emigrant departed.

Contents: Contains information concerning the emigrant, his family and his movements into and out of the parish.

Time Period: 1947-1990.

Alphabetical Indexes: The personal number of each individual (personakt) was established in 1947 and may be found at the local tax authority. Persons born before 1920 can be found at the central tax authority in Stockholm.

### The Journals and Registers of the Various Counties (län)

#### Passport Journals

Archives: The journals covering passports to foreign countries are to be found in the offices of the city magistrates, i.e. for cities which do not sort under a county (län) administration and in the archives of various bailiffs and sheriffs (kronofogde and kronolänsman). These are to be found only sporadically inasmuch as certain authorities had the right to issue passports to "rural persons domiciled far from the seat of the governor". Even customs authorities had the right to furnish passports under certain

conditions. City magistrates, bailiffs and sheriffs were obligated, as early as 1768, to forward lists of issued passports to their respective county administrations. This material has been preserved very unevenly and may today be found in the various district archives. The county administrations in turn were required to submit copies of their passport journals as well as passport lists furnished them by the local authorities to the Royal Administration (*Kungl. Maj:t*) or to the Ministry of Justice. The law governing passports was passed in the 18th century and the necessity to procure passports for foreign travel was abolished in 1860.

Extracts and Copies: These may be found as follows:

1) The National Archives (*Riksarkivet*). In the National Archives passport journals may be found in several places. The most complete series is a part of the archives of the Ministry of Justice with the *signum* E III of and covers the time period 1812-1847 and consists of 96 volumes. After 1847 they are a part of the General Series E III a. Before 1812 it is more difficult to find the material. Passport journals for the time period 1768-1812 may be located in the series mentioned above, or among the correspondence from the authorities to the Royal Administration (*Kungl. Maj:t*).

2) The Royal War Archives (*Krigsarkivet*). In the series called *Flottans pensionskassas arkiv* (The Archives of the Navy Pension Fund) 1735-1851 there are extracts from the passport journals, which serve as verification that the passenger's passport fee had been paid. These come from

the various customs offices in the port cities (from 1764 from the customs offices in both port cities and inland cities). From 1801 to 1851 the county administrations (*länsstyrelserna*) forwarded the passenger fee, assessed each passenger who went abroad.

3) The Central Bureau of Statistics (SCB). In this archives there are to be found extracts from the passport journals called "nominativa förteckningar över utvandrare" (lists of persons who emigrated) 1851-1860.

- Microfilms and Microfiche: At the present time they have not been filmed, but plans are on foot to microphotograph them. At SVAR there is a microfilm of the Verifications for the Navy Pension Fund.
- **Search Methods:** The passport journals are kept in chronological order. At times the names are arranged in alphabetical order according to the first initial of the surname.
- Contents: Date the passport was issued, the name of the person for whom the passport was made out, his or her occupation, domicile and country or city of destination. In the extracts from the passports in the Royal

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War Archives and at SCB, the information is sometimes quite rudimentary.

Time Period: 1768-1860.

- Alphabetical registers: These are to be found in the Royal War Archives and the National Archives. Indexed lists may be found in the respective institutions as well as at the Emigrant Institute in Växjö and the District Archives in Göteborg. The indexes for the persons who emigrated 1851-1860 have been merged with the Summary of the Swedish Population Schedules 1860-1947 (cf. Exit Lists).
- Literature: Aminoff, Sten, Svenskarna i Nya Zeeland: den svenska utvandringen till Nya Zeeland fram till 1940. (Växjö 1988).

  Grage, Elsa-Britta, "PM angående förteckningar över till utrikes orter förpassade personer" (Rikarkivets ämbetsarkiv, inkommande skrivelser 15/6 1962; Byrå I, Nr. 579) (Correspondence in the National Archives).

  Lövgren, Anna-Britta," Material om resande" in Skånsk släktforskning (Lund 1987).

  Nordström, Elsa, "Journaler över utrikes resenärer 1735-1851 i krigsarkivet" in Meddelanden från Kungl. Krigsarkivet, Vol. VI, 1973, pp. 83-91.

  Olsson, Nils William, Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York 1820-1850 (Stockholm and Chicago 1967).

  Olsson, Nils William, Swedish Passenger Arrivals in U.S. Ports 1820-1850 (except New York) (Stockholm and St.Paul, MN 1979).
- Note: Passport applications with photographs are deposited for 1940-1971 in the National Archives (*Riksarkivet*). Applications and photos for the time after 1972 are kept by the Swedish State Police. Borrowing material from these applications must be done within the confines of the Act of Privacy.

#### Lists of Tax Delinquent Persons

- **Archives:** These lists can be found in the archives of the bailiffs, sheriffs and offices of the locals courts as well as the county administrations in the various district archives.
- Extracts and Copies: May be located among the duplicates in the National Archives of the summary of national tax reports (landsboksverifikationer).
- **Search Methods:** These lists are arranged regionally and chronologically by years.
- **Contents:** The name of the tax delinquent person, his domicile, the sum he owed, and the reason for writing off the debt, for example if the person in question emigrated.

Time Period: 18th and 19th centuries.

## Lists of Emigrants Kept by the Various Police Headquarters (List of Emigrants, Passenger Lists, and Ship Lists)

- Archives: Lists of emigrants are a part of the police headquarters' archives in certain port cities, which are on deposit in the various district and city archives, such as Göteborg, Malmö, Stockholm, Helsingborg and Norrköping. The lists were prepared by the emigrant agents and delivered to the appropriate police headquarters.
- Microfilms and Microfiche: Parts of the material in the National Archives (Riksarkivet) have been microfilmed (up to 1920).
- Search Methods: The lists are made up according to the name of the vessel and are arranged chronologically based upon the departure date of the ship.

  In the lists themselves the emigrant is entered by the number of his travel contract.
- Contents: This includes the contract number = number of the steamship ticket; the emigrant's name, occupation, family unit, domicile, which might mean either his birth place or the place from which he emigrated, his county (län), parish, his age or year of birth, sex, and place or country to which he or she was destined. Additionally, we also find the name of the emigrant agent, the name of the vessel, date of departure from Sweden and the place of destination in England. There exist also lists of emigrants who went by train from Göteborg to Kristiania (Oslo) in Norway.

#### Time Period:

Göteborg 1869-1951 Malmö 1874-1929 Stockholm 1869-1944 Helsingborg 1907-1964 Norrköping 1859-1919

Alphabetical Indexes: There exist yearly alphabetical lists for all of these lists. They are to be found in the Emigrant Institute in Växjö; the Emigrant Register in Karlstad; the District Archives in Göteborg and in the United States at the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center in Rock Island,IL; The Family History Center in Salt Lake City,UT and the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis,MN. The registers have been typewritten and are microfilmed for the years up to and including 1895.From 1896 they have been indexed on file cards, which have been

microfilmed on 16 mm. film. At the Emigrant Register in Karlstad a major task is is being carried out to computerize the entire run of annual indexes so as to create one single alphabetical list.

Note: At the Emigrant Institute in Växjö, at the District Archives in Göteborg and elsewhere there are a number of alphabetical lists of Swedes who are to be found on foreign passenger manifests. A sampling of these shows the following:

Kristiania (Oslo) 1867-1902; Trondhjem 1867-1900; Bergen 1874-1924; Copenhagen 1868-1933; Hamburg 1850-1891. There also exist microfilms of passenger arrivals in New York 1820-1869 with an index for 1851-1869; Boston 1850-1868 and Ouebec 1865-1871.

#### Lists of Seamen

Archives: Various documents dealing with mustering crews for merchant vessels, rosters of sailors, registrations of seamen and report books on sailors are to be found in the archives of the various hiring halls (sjömanshus) and now deposited in the various district archives as well as some city archives. Hiring halls were organized in Swedish port cities in the middle of the 18th century. After 1 July 1969, the muster rolls for seamen may be found in the Seamen's Registry in Norrköping.

Microfilms and Microfiche: Some registers of seamen have been microfilmed and there are plans to film the entire material.

Search Methods: Mustering in and mustering out registers are often bound together and are arranged chronologically according to the vessel's date of return to its home port. The seamen registers are often arranged by years and alphabetically according to the vessel's name. The enrollment books are kept on a chronological basis, beginning with the first entry. The report books, which contain information concerning sailors belonging to other hiring halls, are also arranged chronologically.

Contents: The vessel's tonnage, the shipowner's name and domicile, the names and ages of the crew, their birthplace, domicile, married status, rank or rating, pay, mustering in or out with dates, places and reasons. The information differs from one hiring hall to the next, from one time to another, and from source to source. Often we gather information concerning seamen who have jumped ship in foreign ports, which can be interpreted as being tantamount to emigration.

- Time Period: Circa 1750 and onward. Seamen's lists have been preserved from various times. The enrollment books of sailors begin 1841.
  - Alphabetical Indexes: There are some lists dealing with vessels, shipowners and captains. A registration of sailors who mustered out outside of Europe has been started at the Göteborg hiring hall.
- Literature: Melchior, Lars, "En sjömansrulla berättar" in Arkiv i väst I. Från adelsbrev till automobil (Göteborg 1986).

Olsson, Nils William, "Swedish Seamen Who Deserted in U.S.Ports 1841-1858" in Swedish American Genealogist, Vol. III, No 4, Dec., 1983, pp. 141-157.

Olsson, Nils William, "Gävle Seamen Who Deserted in U.S.Ports 1871-1891" in Swedish American Genealogist, Vol. X, No. 2, June, 1990, pp. 73-82.

Persson, Kjell-Ove, "Sjömanshusarkiv" in Skånsk släktforskning (Lund 1987).

#### Nationality Lists

- Archives: Nationality lists can be found in the foreign archives of the National Archives (Riksarkivet), in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or in the respective Swedish embassies and consulates abroad.
- Search Methods: The lists are arranged chronologically according to the date of the entry and the locality.
- **Contents:** The date of the entry, name, occupation, birth data and birth place, where domiciled or address, exit date from Sweden, date of naturalization as well as notes on family conditions and the possession of affidavits to prove one's identity.

Time Period: 1890s - 1977.

Literature: Bratt, Martin, "Nationalitetsmatrikeln - en förbisedd forskningskälla" in Göteborgs-Emigranten 2 (Göteborg 1990), pp. 91-95, earlier published in Släkthistoriskt forum (1990).

#### Private Archives

The Larsson Brothers' Emigrant Archives

Archives: The collection is deposited at the District Archives in Göteborg.

Microfilm and Microfiche: Parts of the archives have been microfilmed and are available at the Emigrant Institute in Växjö.

**Search Methods:** The correspondence is arranged chronologically according to the beginning initial of the correspondent's surname.

**Contents:** Letters to and from emigrants or presumptive emigrants with information concerning travel routes, destinations, reasons for emigrating, family conditions, ticket stubs, accounts, etc. for the Malmö and Göteborg offices.

Time Period: 1876-1913.

#### The Archives of the Swedish American Line

Archives: The archives is deposited at the District Archives in Göteborg.

**Search Methods:** The passenger lists are printed and are arranged chronologically by the date of departure from the respective ports.

Contents: Contains only First and Second Class passengers.

Time Period: 1915-1975.

#### Conclusion

In analyzing the various Swedish emigration sources I have not included some peripheral sources such as estate inventories (bouppteckningar), correspondence collections, diaries, emigration archives, which often are of regional or local interest. For information on such sources, as well as the American source material, I refer the reader to Lars-Göran Johansson's excellent essay, "På jakt efter utvandrade släktingar" in Släkt och hävd (1982-1983), pp. 13-26, which in many ways complements and fills out the picture of my presentation. Additionally I wish to point out the rich source material of this type which is to be found in the Emigrant Institute in Växjö, the Emigrant Register in Karlstad, The National Society Sverigekontakt in Göteborg (which archives is deposited in the District Archives in Göteborg), in museums throughout Sweden, district archives and local archives as well as archives belonging to the many folk movements in Sweden. There are also a number of emigration research projects in the country. These local and regional groups are at work registering and developing the sources which I have outlined above.

Editor's note: I am grateful to Per Clemensson for allowing me to translate and adapt his excellent article for use in this issue of *Swedish American Genealogist*. It was published originally in *Göteborgs-Emigranten 2* (1990), pp.68-90.

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One of the letters received by the Larsson Brothers:

"Alsborg, Vetlanda Parish (Jön.), 18 April 1889

Dear Mr. August Larsson:

Since I have read in the newspaper Svenska Posten that one can travel to America via Malmö without the need of an exit permit from one's parish, I am taking the liberty asking you if I might be able to travel via Malmö over to America without the exit permit. I wish to tell you my circumstances. I am married, but my wife is such a horrible shrew, that is impossible to live with her any longer. I intend to go to America in order to get away from her, but this is impossible because I cannot get the necessary exit permit from the parish...."

Source: The Larsson Brothers' Emigrant Archives, The District Archives in Göteborg.

#### Utflyttningslängd för Gustavi Domkyrkoförsamling 18



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Exit List (utflyttningslängd) from Gustavi Cathedral Parish in Göteborg, dated 1 Oct. 1888, which states that the following persons left for America:

Augusta Kullberg, wife, born 1851

Ernst Fridolf, child, born 1877

Agnes Sofia, child, born 1879

Erik, child, born 1882

Source: Göteborg Gustavi Domkyrkoförsamlings Utflyttningslängd för 1888 (BIIa:2), District Archives in Göteborg (Göteborgs landsarkiv).



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List of Passengers who departed from Göteborg for Hull, England 5 Oct. 1888 aboard the vessel Romeo.

Wiktor Gustafson with wife Brita Lisa from Stockholm to Arnot, PA (Arnold, PA ?).

Augusta Kullberg with sons Ernst and Erik and daughter Agnes from Göteborg to New York.

Johanna Peterson with son Fritz from Örgryte (Göt.) to New York.

Sofia Bengtson from Kristinehamn to New York.

Sofia Sundell from America to New York.

August Person from Vessige (Hall.) to New York.

Josefina Larson from Göteborg to Boston.

Frideborg Johanson from Lönneberga (Kalm.) to Chicago.

Sven Joh. Svanteson from Broby (Skar.) to Winthrop, MN.

Carl A. Elfving from Hallingeberg (Kalm.) to Ridgway, PA.

Amanda Carlson from Västrum (Kalm.) to McKeesport, PA.

Carl Janson from Hallingeberg to New York.

Emil Svartz from Järsnäs Parish (Jön.) to New York.

Joh. Valfrid Anderson from Hånger (Jön.) to Chesterton, IN. Source: List of Emigrants from Göteborgs Poliskammare 1888 (EIX:37), District Archives in Göteborg.

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Passport Journal for 1856. The following persons, marked with an (x) were going to America: "Klingberg, Carl Johan, master carpenter from Christine Parish in Göteborg, 44 years old, accompanied by his wife, one son and two daughters - to Boston.

Johansson, Johan, farmer, with a passport from New York, dated 15 April 1856 - to New York.

Pettersdotter, Maria Helena from Västra Ryd Parish (Ög.) - to New York."

Source: Passport Journal for 1856 for Göteborg and Bohuslän (BVa:22), District Archives in Göteborg.

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Cancellation of tax indebtedness (avkortningslängd) for Kållered Parish (Göt.) 1886. The names of those in America are marked with an (x),

The widow of Johan Andersson Apel, sailor, residing in the village of Liveröd. Tax is cancelled, since there is no money at home, and the sons are in America.

Anders Andersson, laborer from the village of Strekered, tax is cancelled since there is no money at home, and he has gone to America.

Maria Johansdotter, maid servant from Tollered, tax is forgiven, since there is no money at home, and she has gone to America.

Source: Avkortningslängd 1886 från Göteborgs kronofogde (FIb:43), District Archives in Göteborg.