



Figure Out Place Names for Swedish Genealogy

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As you follow your ancestors and their families in the Swedish records, you will see many place names. You will find place names in:

- The “moved from” column in a household exam or moving-in record. The column heading might be: Flyttat från, Inflyttad, Ankom, or Hvarifrån (moved in, arrived, or where from.)
- The “moved to” column in a household exam or moving-out record. The column heading might be: Flyttat till, Utflyttad, Avgått, or Hvarthän (moved to, moved, or where hence.)
- A birth record, indicating where the parents lived at the time of the birth
- A marriage record, indicating where the groom and bride were residing before the marriage
- A death record, showing where the person lived at the time of death

Sometimes it’s difficult to know where the place is because:

- The place name is not written clearly
- The place name has been abbreviated
- The place is an unfamiliar house, farm or village in the same parish
- The place is an unfamiliar house, farm or village in another parish
- It’s a little place which doesn’t appear on the household record place index
- The place is far away from the parish you have been working in
- The spelling of the place has evolved
- The word is not a place, it refers to a page, volume, or section of a book

Figure Out the Place Name

When you see a place name (or what looks like a place name) written in a record, you should ask yourself a few questions to figure it out. Here are some questions to help:

Question	Example
1. Is it the name of a parish?	Viksjö, Lungsund, Björlanda, or Odensvi

11. Are there numbers?	<p>The numbers might be a:</p> <p>Year (without the century) (18) 67</p> <p>Household number or rote number 5, 52, 110, 214</p> <p>Page number 1 – up to thousands</p> <p>Volume number (another book or volume) II, VII, 2, 5, 9</p> <p>Page and volume combination 2-104, 147-4, 5-450</p>
12. Is there a person's name?	<p>Could be referring to another household in the same parish, or pastorat. For example: to C. J. Friberg (1843 Öja), Carl Kling (1833 Vårsås)</p>

Pastorat

A pastorat is made up of 1 or more parishes. If the pastorat has 2 or more parishes, one will be the mother parish and the others will be annex parishes. The number of parishes and designation of the mother parish can change in a pastorat through the years. You can find the names of parishes in the same pastorat in:

- a. Arkiv Digital: top of the info box (old viewer) or in the Arkivinfo (new viewer.)
- b. Sveriges Församlingar genom tiderna (see article Sweden Gazetteers in the Family Search Wiki at: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Sweden:_Gazetteers)

Parishes and Cities

- c. Larger towns, and cities often had a Stadsförsamling (city parish), and a Landsförsamling (rural around the city parish.)
- d. The largest cities had multiple or many parishes in the city. They also had territorial parishes (with a physical boundary) and non-territorial parishes (no physical boundary in the city.)

Tools to Figure Out Place Names

Name	Type	Value
Place indexes in Household Exams	Household Exams	Check the place index of the household records for the parish (mother and annex) and neighboring parishes.
Parish Pages in the FamilySearch Wiki	FamilySearch Wiki (free)	<p>Place names from about the 1840's have been transcribed from household exam place indexes to the parish pages in the FamilySearch wiki.</p> <p>Available at: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Sweden</p>

Name	Type	Value
Svenska Ortnam	Database on CD	<p>This is a database of about 400,000 place names in Sweden from 1999. It shows the name of the parish, or municipality that the place belonged to in 1999.</p> <p>Purchase CD at: http://webbutik.riksarkivet.se/se/produkter/cd-dvd/ https://www.arkivdigital.se/produkter/vidareforsaljning http://rotterbokhandeln.se/category.html/skivor</p>
Geografiskt-Statistiskt Handlexikon Öfver Sverige (Rosenberg)	Database on CD, SVAR (or free scanned copy)	<p>This is a database of about 65,000 place names from about 1883. It shows what parish, district, and county the place was associated to in the 1883.</p> <p>A free scanned copy of the book is available at: http://runeberg.org/rosenberg/</p> <p>Purchase CD at: http://webbutik.riksarkivet.se/se/produkter/cd-dvd/ http://rotterbokhandeln.se/category.html/skivor</p>
Ortnamnsregistret	Database online (free)	<p>Database created by the Swedish government to preserve a record of place names (among others things.)</p> <p>Available at: http://www2.sofi.se/SOFIU/topo1951/_cdweb/</p>
Parish Locator Tool	Online map showing parish locations (free)	http://www.slaktdata.org/map.php
County and Parish Maps	Online maps (free)	<p>Get familiar with the names of parishes nearby. http://memmingsforskarna.se/sockenkartor.html</p>