



Parish Registers – parish information and registered periods

Selection of parishes

There are several reasons for making the 19th century the central period for DDB's filing work. The information from the various sources is more detailed and standardized than for earlier periods, which simplifies computerization. The 19th century is also an epoch of great importance historically: it was for Sweden the period of transition from a traditional rural society to an industrialized, urbanized nation; a rapid decrease in mortality and a high birth-rate led to a great rise in population, with a consequent dramatic increase in social differentiation.

Initially six *single parishes* were registered by the DDB, representing a variety of economical and social environments in different parts of Sweden. These single parishes are: Trosa, Nedertorneå, Fleninge, Locknevi, Gullholmen, and Svinnegarn.

The experience from these first parishes raised problems working with single parishes. Many of the parishes are fairly small and due to migration it is difficult to follow people over time. Since the main advantage of the church material is the possibility to study the lives of people and families in a longitudinal perspective and from a life course perspective it was decided to file information on whole regions. Today parish records have been computerised for four separate regions, as well.

The Sundsvall region consists of the town of Sundsvall with sixteen surrounding parishes. This was the heart of industrial Sweden during the late 19th century, with an expansive timber industry. The area experienced a population explosion coupled with an unusual degree of social and geographical mobility. The town of Sundsvall was at the centre of all this activity, and increased its population tenfold during the period. In 1865 the region had 36 000 inhabitants.

The Skellefteå region consists of a number of parishes around the town of Skellefteå - a stable area of smallholdings with freehold farmers. Near the coast, though, there were a number of small industries like glassworks and brickworks. In 1865 the region had a population of 12 200 inhabitants.

The Linköping region, in contrast to the others, is an area of old Swedish cultural traditions, only slightly affected by industrialization. The region consists of the town of Linköping and thirty-five surrounding parishes. The population size was 57 800 in 1865.

The Northern Inland region comprises a number of parishes in the northern part of Sweden, Sápmi, which at the start of the period mainly had a Sámi population. This region consists of both the South Sami and the North Sami area, where the Sami population soon became a minority when the area was colonized and the Swedish population increased.

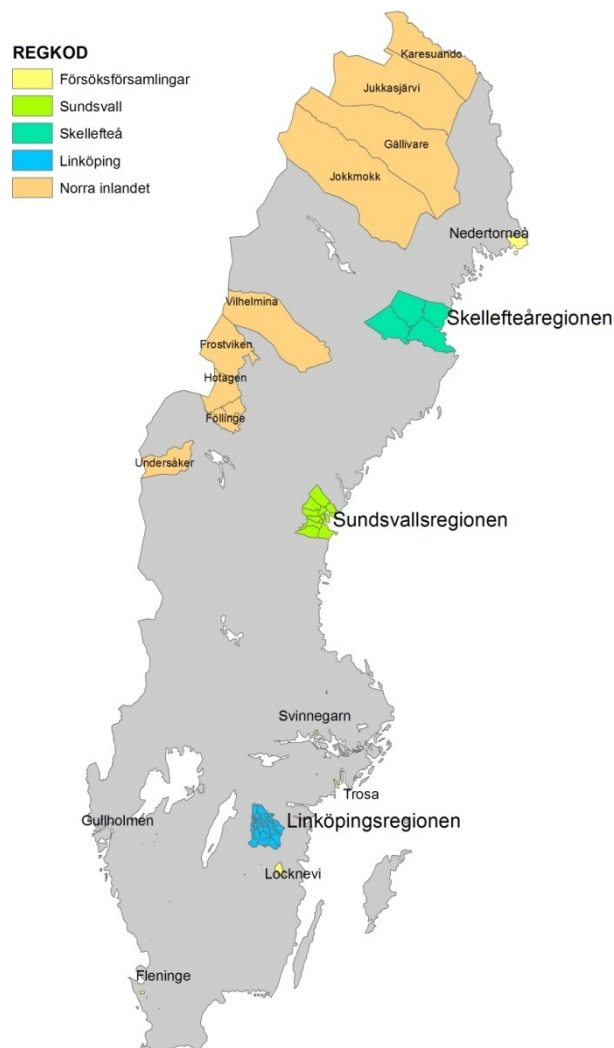


Figure 1. Regions and parishes registered by the demographic Data Base.

The six single parishes

Nedertorneå, in the county of Norrbotten, lies just where the Torne River flows into the Gulf of Bothnia, on the border between Finland and Sweden. The main source of livelihood was farming and forestry, with fishing as a secondary occupation. Haparanda, which became a town in 1842, was founded to replace Torneå which was ceded to Russia in 1809.

Svinnegarn is in southern Uppland, in a bay of Lake Mälaren called Svinnegarn Bay. Conditions in this flatland area were ideal for farming, which was the primary source of livelihood during the 19th century. Large landed estates were most common, and it was here the so-called cottager system was developed - a regulated system with annually employed, married agricultural workers with their own homes.

Trosa rural parish lies in Södermanland, extending north and west of the town Trosa; it consists of an extensive archipelago and the mainland around Trosa Creek. Most of the land during the 19th century belonged to large estates such as Tureholm, and the farms were scattered around them. A crofter had regular day-labour on the estate. Fishing and shipping were secondary occupations.

Sid 3 (13)

Gullholmen is a densely populated fishing community situated on the islands of Gullholmen and Hermanön west of Orust in central Bohuslän. Fishing and the freight trade were the most important industries in the 19th century.

Locknevi is situated in Tjust in Småland. It lies in a region of forest land, and during the 19th century there were some large estates there, but the land was farmed largely by freeholders. Forestry and ironworks were secondary industries.

Fleninge is in Skåne, north-east of Hälsingborg, in a primarily agricultural region. During the 19th century there were no other significant sources of livelihood, and the land was farmed mainly by freeholders with small or medium-sized farms.

Parish	Time span for catechetical lists	Population		
		1805	1865	1900
Nedertorneå	1819-1899	1093	2115	3056
Svinnegarn	1818-1894	555	523	633
Trosa (1799)	1792-1895	877	933	889
Gullholmen	1837-1922	428	489	796
Locknevi	1821-1899	1538	2498	2237
Fleninge	1819-1890	627	1239	1325

The Sundsvall region

The Sundsvall area is a part of Medelpad, which together with Ångermanland makes up the county of Västernorrland. The rivers Ljungan and Indal flow through Medelpad, and at the mouth of each a large number of sawmills and factories were built. The two decades 1871-1890 were the golden period of Västernorrland's development, with a great increase in the timber business and a population increase during the same period that exceeded the national average - as did the rates of births, marriages and deaths.

Skön, together with Alnö and Timrå parishes, forms the district-court area of Skön which was Sweden's most markedly industrial region with more than 70% of the population employed in industry and a population density in 1900 of over 100 persons per square kilometre. The parishes gradually became "suburbs" of Sundsvall, which by the turn of the century was a

single urban complex with about 30,000 inhabitants, described by the Emigration Commission as "a little America in Sweden". Skön had several sawmills and a glassworks.

Skönsmon was founded in 1883 but did not have its own parish registration until 1905.

Alnö is made up of the island of Alnö and its neighbouring islets and skerries. On its western shore, as on the mainland it faces (Skön), there were large numbers of sawmills with timberyards and wharves. The major industries were the Gustavsberg, Gista, Johannesvik, Eriksdal, Nyvik, Rödestrand and Alvik sawmills.

Sid 4 (13)

Timrå lies at the lower reaches of the Indal river, and includes most of its delta in the Kringel bay. Building was most dense in the industrial area on the shores of the Kringel bay and the Alnö channel. The timber trade had its headquarters in Timrå. The most important industry was Vifsta Shipbuilding, established in 1793 with shipping, shipping office and timber trade, and a steam sawmill added in 1851. Export products were despatched from the Vifsta dock and wharf.

Ljustorp was a sparsely-populated parish with a great deal of forest, and only the valleys had land that could be cultivated.

Lagfors mill was founded in 1742. Three hammers produced a fairly large amount of iron up until the 1860's. Then, production decreased gradually until the mill was closed down in 1877.

Hässjö is in a hilly coastal area. During the 19th century there were steam sawmills and wharves here, and several concerns including the Åvike works.

Tynderö forms a promontory in the Gulf of Bothnia, and the parish had neither sizeable properties nor industries. The fishing village of Skeppshamn was here.

Indal lies around the Indal river and the Sulå creek, whose valleys comprise the populated area where the Sulå mill was also built. Forests and mountains occupy the rest of the region.

Sundsvall lies where Selånger Creek flows into Sundsvall Bay, and is an old trading centre which was granted its town charter in 1684. At that time plumbing smiths formed the core of the population. Sundsvall developed into a commercial town, and when the surrounding area expanded around the turn of the 18th/19th century, the population increased. The harbour proved to be of decisive importance, and Sundsvall became the centre of one of Sweden's largest timber production areas. With the growth of the timber industry in the 1850's-1860's it became a real boom town, with a further rapid increase in population. Sundsvall has suffered three extensive fires, in 1721, 1803 and 1888, and the last two caused serious damage to parish records. Among other losses were the ministerial lists from before 1860, so that studies of infant and child mortality, migration etc will be unreliable for the period before that date.



Karlsviks ångsåg på Alnön i Sundsvalls sågdistrikt, 1890-talet. Photo: Sundsvalls museum

Njurunda was industrialized early in the 19th century; a large number of sawmills were built at the mouth of the Ljungan river, among them Svartvik. In 1874 a steam sawmill was set up and later extended, and after a time a pulp factory was also built. In Njurunda district-court area there was also the Galtström mill which was built in the 17th century, extended in the 18th century, and was still quite important in 1880. Both Svartvik and Galtström were chapel parishes with their own parish registration. Njurunda, Svartvik and Galtström all showed a heavy increase in population partly brought about by a great deal of immigration from Finland. Emigration was also the highest in the county.

Selånger consists of part of the Selånger Creek valley, with fairly large farms. There were no industries in the parish, except for a number of brickworks.

Sättna was a sparsely-populated, scattered region. Norafors mill was built here in the 1790's and extended later at the beginning of the 19th century.

Tuna lies in Medelpad, in a forest region with farming and forestry as the main occupation, and it was greatly affected by the development of the timber industry at the end of the 19th century. The major industry of the district was here - Matfors Foundry, started in 1833 as an iron bar foundry by James Dickson & Co. The iron trade decreased from the mid-19th century, and after a time the foundry was closed down. From the 1870's the timber industry acquired considerable importance, but after the founding of Svartvik in Njurunda this industry also suffered a decline. The railway passes through Tuna, with Matfors as station.

Attmar lies in a very hilly area, with buildings in the valleys and around the lakes. The parish has no railway, and only small-scale industries. During the 18th and 19th centuries there were a number of small mills and only one of any size - Sörfors mill, which was built and extended several times during the late 1790's.

Parish	Time span for catechetical lists	Population			
		1750	1800	1850	1900
Sundsvall	1803-1892	1000	1468	2859	14831
Timrå	1803-1895	550	660	1218	5698
Skön	1803-1893	554	769	1132	11744
Alnö	1804-1894	549	704	1004	6817
Njurunda	1816-1891	968	1558	2296	6449
Galtströms bruk	1807-1891	170	175	200	444
Svartvik	1860-1900	-	-	-	1428
Ljustorp	1808-1894	615	929	1638	2451
Hässjö	1814-1900	600	870	1441	3602
Lagfors bruk	1860-1890	-	132	187	144
Lögdö bruk	1819-1892	201	275	317	189
Tynderö	1811-1900	282	516	856	1395
Indal	1814-1900	675	1087	1855	2607
Selånger	1813-1894	653	972	1318	2642
Sättna	1806-1899	493	906	1608	2066
Tuna	1804-1896	719	1094	1712	3577
Attmar	1814-1895	711	1205	2082	3083

Skellefteå region

Skellefteå is mentioned for the first time in a document from 1327, when the parish was made the boundary-point for the area granted to settlers by the government. As the formation of societies in the north has gone hand in hand with the introduction of ecclesiastical organization, it is not unlikely that as early as the 1320's Skellefteå was given the role of the the most northerly parish in the archdiocese.

The adjacent Lövånger became a separate parish in the 15th century, and the next break came in 1606 when Burträsk separated from Skellefteå. The 19th century saw further changes, when *Norsjö* and *Jörn* became separate in 1834, and later on Byske. But the parish was still both well-populated and extensive. The town of Skellefteå formed its own parish in 1913, and Bureå in 1918. The parish includes most of the coastal land of the Bure, Skellefteå and Kåge rivers.

The land is fertile, so that farming has been the primary source of livelihood. Around the coast and waterways there were large numbers of sawmills and other small industries, such as mills, glassworks, shipyards, flourmills, stamping-mills and tanneries. The parish also boasted several salmon fisheries.

Data filing for the Skellefteå region varies according to period. From 1721 to 1834 the region includes the present parishes of Norsjö, Jörn, Skellefteå, Bureå and Byske. At the points where Norsjö broke

Sid 7 (13)

away (1811) and Jörn formed a separate parish (1834) filing ceases for them, and after that only Skellefteå rural parish is included in the material. In 1874 Byske parish became separate, but it has continued to be a part of the region, as has Ytterstfors glassworks and sawmill which existed as an "independent parish" in the parochial records between 1838 and 1874.

Parish	Time span for catechetical lists	Population				
		1720	1750	1800	1850	1900
Skellefteå	1720-1900	2494	3642	6210	13851	19754
Byske	1871-1897	-	-	-	-	8814
Ytterstfors	1846-1870	-	-	-	512	

Periods of registration

Sundsvall Region

Linked parishes	Catechetical lists	Birth and Baptismal	Banns and Marriages	Death and Burials	Migration	Remarks
<i>Alnö</i>	1803-1894	1780-1895	1803-1895	1803-1894	1850-1895	
<i>Attmar</i>	1814-1896	1770-1894	1814-1894	1814-1894	1869-1897	Bad book keeping
<i>Galtström</i>	1807-1891*	1780-1894	1803-1891	1807-1891	1862-1891	*Tax registers 1846-1862
<i>Hässjö</i>	1814-1901	1780-1895	1814-1895	1814-1895	1850-1894	
<i>Indal</i>	1814-1900	1780-1894	1814-1894	1814-1895	1861-1894	
<i>Ljustorp</i>	1803-1901	1780-94	1803-1894	1803-1894	1845-1894	
<i>Njurunda</i>	1816-91	1780-1894	1816-1892	1816-1892	1852-1892	
<i>Tynderö</i>	1811-1900	1780-1894	1811-1894	1811-1894	1861.1894	
<i>Lagfors</i>	1860-91	1862-95	1846-1860, 1863-1897	1862-1898	1861-1891	Damaged by fire before 1860
<i>Lögdö</i>	1819-1892	1766-1895	1819-1895	1819-1896	1861-1880*	*Not migration 1872-1877
<i>Selånger</i>	1813-1894	1803-1894	1803-1894	1812-1894	1858-1894	
<i>Skön</i>	1803-1893	1784-1894	1803-1894	1803-1894	1850-1895	Skönsmon separate parish from 1883, but is here included in Skön
<i>Skönsmon</i>	1882-1893	1890-1894	1890-1895	1890-1894	1890-1895	
<i>Sundsvall town</i>	1803-1892	1860-1894	1803-1820*, 1860-1894	1860-1894	1839- 1849**, 1872-1894	* Banns only, **Out migration only
<i>Svartvik</i>	1860-1900*	1860- 1895**	1860- 1895**	1860- 1895**	Saknas	*From SCB every 10th year **From SCB every year
<i>Sättna</i>	1806-1899	1780-1794	1806-1894	1806-1894	1858-1894	
<i>Timrå</i>	1803-1895*	1783-1895	1803-1895	1803-1895	1850-1895	*Tax registers 1852-1865
<i>Tuna</i>	1804-1896	1780-1898	1804-1894	1804-1894	1822-1895	

Skellefteå Region

Linked parishes	Catechetical lists	Birth and Baptismal	Banns and Marriages	Death and Burials	Migration	Remarks
<i>Byske</i>	1871-1897	1875-1894	1875-1894	1875-1894	1875-1894	Separate parish from 1875
<i>Jörn</i>	1831-1901	1849-1895	1869-1895	1855-1895	1855-1894	
<i>Norsjö</i>	1831-1899	1811-1895	1811-1895	1842-1895		
<i>Skellefteå</i>	1720-1900 (1901)	1699-1899	1801-1894	1815-1821, 1831-1901	1831-1894	Many books damaged by fire
<i>Ytterstfors</i>	1846-1870	1838-1869	*	1838-1869	1846-1866	*In Skellefteå?

Single Parishes

Linked parishes	Catechetical lists	Birth and Baptismal	Banns and Marriages	Death and Burials	Migration	Remarks
<i>Fleninge</i>	1819-1890	1819-1890*	1819-1890	1819-1890	1820-1890	*Complementary information
<i>Gullholmen</i>	1794-1799, 1837-1922	1800-1900	1802-1900	1800-1900	1838-1900	
<i>Locknevi</i>	1821-1899	1821-1899*	1821-1899	1821-1899	1821-1899	*Complementary information
<i>Nedertorneå</i>	1818-1896	1818-1896*	1783-1895	1814-1895	1820-1895	*Complementary information.
<i>Svinnegarn</i>	1817-1895*	1817-1894*	1803-1894	1803-1894	1841-1894	*Complementary information.
<i>Trosa</i>	1799-1895*	1799-1895*	1817-1894	1817-1895	1861-1895	*Complementary information.

Linköping region

Linked parishes	Catechetical lists	Birth and Baptismal	Banns and Marriages	Death and Burials	Migration	Remarks
<i>Björsäter</i>	1792-1896	1633-1894	1792-1894	1603-1895	1821-1895	
<i>Grebo</i>	1795-1896	1661-1894	1795-1894	1661-1895	1816-1895	
<i>Kaga</i>	1808-1899*	1694-1894	1808-1894	1694-1894	1813-1894	* Lacunas
<i>Kärna</i>	1807-1894	1695-1894	1807-1894	1695-1894	1812-1894	* Lacunas
<i>Landeryd</i>	1789-1895	1635-1894	1789-1894	1635-1895	1811-1895	
<i>Rappestad</i>	1797-1895	1656-1899	1797-1889	1677-1889	1831-1904	
<i>Rystad</i>	1788-1895	1629-1895	1788-1895	1629-1895	1832-1895	
<i>Slaka</i>	1788-1896	1633-1894	1788-1894	1635-1894*	1801-1894*	* Lacunas
<i>Vikingstad</i>	1737-1897*	1633-1895	1737-1895	1633-1895	1738-1901*	Lacunas
<i>Vårdsberg</i>	1788-1899	1656-1894	1788-1894	1656-1894	1805-1894	* Lacunas
<i>Värna</i>	1802-1895	1657-1894*	1802-1894	1661-1895*	1802-1895	* Lacunas
Unlinked parishes						
<i>Askeby</i>	1796-1895	1700-1895	1796-1894	1700-1895	1815-1894	
<i>Björkeberg</i>		1635-1894		1747-1894	1747-1895	
<i>Flistad</i>		1694-1895		1809-1895	1831-1895	
<i>Gammalkil</i>	1756-1895*	1634-1894	1756-1894	1634-1894	1813-1894	*Lacunas
<i>Kättilstad</i>						
<i>Ledberg</i>	1747-1890	1635-1894	1747-1894	1635-1895	1747-1895*	* Lacunas
<i>Lillkyrka</i>		1667-1895			1744-1750, 1806-1894	
<i>Linköpings domkyrkoförsamling</i>	1774-1895	1664-1899	1774-1894	1664-1895	1788-1894	
<i>Ljung</i>	1791-1894	1694-1894	1791-1894	1694-1895	1801-1895	
<i>Nykil</i>	1789-1900	1634-1899	1789-1894	1645-1814	1803-1894	*Lacunas 1791-1795
<i>Sjögestad</i>	1797-1895	1656-1889	1797-1889	1679-1889*	1831-1898	Lacunas
<i>Skeda</i>	1747-1896*	1693- 1894**	1754-1894	1640-1895	1754- 1894***	*Lacuna 1768-1787 ** Lacuna 1718-1754 ***Lacuna 1772-1806
<i>Stjärnorp</i>	1811-1894	1760-1895	1811-1895	1815-1895	1815-1895	

Sid 11 (13)

<i>Sankt Lars</i>	1789-1900	1633-1894	1789-1894	1633-1894	1801-1895*	* Lacunas
<i>Svinstad</i>	1807-1894*	1688-1894	1768-1894	1703-1894	1768-1894**	* Lacunas ** Also 1768-1769
<i>Tjärstad</i>		1639-1894		1791-1895	1825-1895	
<i>Törnevalla</i>	1793-1900	1633-1894	1793-1894	1633-1894	1793-1894*	Lacunas
<i>Ulrika</i>						
<i>Vist</i>	1792-1899	1640-1894	1792-1894	1640-1895	1809-1894	
<i>Vreta kloster</i>	1751-1896	1633-1894	1751-1894	1633-1895	1751-1894*	* Lacunas
<i>Vårdnäs</i>	1812-1823	1696-1894		1822-1895	1781-1895	
<i>Åtvid</i>	1790-1896	1638-1894	1790-1894	1695-1894*	1811-1894*	* Also 1791
<i>Örtomta</i>	1712-1895*	1633-1894	1712-1894*	1633-1895	1741-1895*	* Lacunas
<i>Östra Harg</i>	1763-1788, 1821-1835, 1858-1860, 1871-1899	1635-1894		1760-1894	1763-1764, 1817, 1833-1894	
<i>Östra Skrukeby</i>		1630-1894		1848-1895	1789-1895	

Norra inlandsregionen

Linked parish	Catechetical lists	Birth and Baptismal	Banns and Marriages	Death and Burials	Migration	Remarks
<i>Frostvikens lappförsamling</i>	1856-1900	1842-1900	1842-1900	1842-1901	1861-1890 in 1892-1900 in 1863-1899 ut	
<i>Föllinge</i>	1693-1898	1737-1899	1736-1898	1737-1899	1862-1898	
<i>Föllinge lappförsamling</i>	1746-1798 1804-1866	1746-1853	1746-1849	1746-1852	-	
<i>Gällivare</i>	1758-1905	1759-1903	1742-1903	1744-1903	1865-1894	
<i>Hede lappförsamling</i>	1826-1898	1851-1894	1851-1894	1851-1894	1880-1894 in 1880-1891 ut	
<i>Hotagen</i>	1801-1895	1846-1894	1847-1895	1846-1895	1855-1894	
<i>Hotagens lappförs.</i>	1867-1898	1855-1898	1858-1898	1855-1898	1855-1894	
<i>Jokkmokk</i>	1758-1780 1782-1897	1701-1895	1701-1895	1701-1895	1868-1895	
<i>Jukkasjärvi</i>	1763-1900	1719-1901	1720-1751 1792-1900	1719-1742 1792-1901	1861-1895	
<i>Karesuando</i>	1816-1895	1813-1923	1814-1897	1813-1897	1855-1895	
<i>Kvikkjokk</i>	1781-1878 1880-1897	1784-1897	1784-1894	1784-1897	1829-1837, 1862-1894	
<i>Undersåker</i>	1784-1894	1689-1895	1688-1895	1688-1894	1860-1894	
<i>Undersåkers lappförsamling</i>	1821-1867	1757-1781 1783-1895	1784-1846 1878-1895	1780-1895	1880-1895 in 1879-1895 ut	
<i>Vilhelmina</i>	1780-1895	1786-1895	1814-1895	1790-1895	1829-1894	

Parishes registered by external collaborators

Datastugan Kaxås

Unlinked parishes	Catechetical lists	Birth and Baptismal	Banns and Marriages	Death and Burials	Migration	Remarks
Offerdal		1760-1898				

Kulturarkivet Nordanstig

Unlinked parishes	Catechetical lists	Birth and Baptismal	Banns and Marriages	Death and Burials	Migration	Remarks
Bergsjö		1688-1921		1895-1924		
Gnarp		1677-1913		1688-1867		
Harmånger		1688-1894		1851-1924		
Hassela		1688-1894		1852-1889		
Ilsbo		1735-1894		1847-1862		
Jättendal		1688-1860		1837-1878		