DIANE L. RICHARD LOOKS AT A GREAT ONLINE RESOURCE FOR SWEDISH GENEALOGY

Arkiv Digital: A Mini Review

BACK IN AUGUST, Arkiv Digital, *www.arkivdigital.net*, made itself available for free for a weekend in celebration of Sweden's Genealogy Days. I took advantage of that opportunity and can now share with you what I learned about this great resource.

Arkiv Digital has 23.6 million images from the archives in Sweden and Åland that it makes available to researchers for a subscription fee (ranging from 1 month for about $20 US to 1 year for about $180 US). There is a "demo" that you can try for free.

To use the website, or to try the "demo" version before purchasing a subscription, follow these easy steps:
1. Install ADOnLine2 v.1.3 *www.arkivdigital.se/produkter /adonline/installation* and follow the installation process step by step. Most of the guidance is in Swedish to install this software. Just imagine the steps are in English and you'll provide the same responses you typically would to install any new software program. Note that you do have to have Java, *www.java.com*, installed on your computer.
2. Once you have installed the program, there will be a new icon on your desktop called ADOnLine2. Double click this icon to start the program.
3. Login with "demo" as your username and password (and click OK), if you do want to "try" the website before purchasing a subscription. For the demo access, the software will work normally, though only for Älvsbacka Parish (Värmland County). For any other parish, you will need to register and subscribe.
4. Register at *www.arkivdigital.net/ users/register* and then enter your e-mail (username) and password.
5. Now that the program is up and running and you have signed in, at

the left, you'll see a list of the archive holders. Choose "your" parish in the list or type the name directly into the search field above. Click on the chosen parish name in the list when it appears. (Note: Genline — another great Swedish website provides a nice summary of the counties and parishes in

The Arkiv Digital homepage.

each county at *www.genline.com/ databasen/walk3.php*) At the right, you'll see a list of all available volumes in that particular parish. If you have a subscription, you can then double-click a volume to open up the images.

Assuming you have a subscription, after you double-click a volume and are looking at its images, you can browse the volume by pressing the buttons -5, -1, +1, +5 or the direct choice between -1 and +1. To zoom in or out, press zoom in and zoom ut. When you have zoomed into the picture, you can move the image by holding down the left mouse button and move the mouse. The image then follows with the mouse. These image control options should be somewhat familiar if you have used digital viewers at other websites — the only difference being the use of Swedish terms.

The website has a nice English-language interface (and the site is obviously mostly in Swedish) and the actual

ADOnline2 software is exclusively in Swedish. Though, given the simplicity of the software, even I, who doesn't speak a lick of Swedish, was able to navigate around enough to view various records! This is because "symbols" are used for all of the most common actions and these are the same symbols used by the software you use every day!

Do remember though, that that error messages will also be in Swedish (and no helpful symbols are used). When this happens, I suggest that you simultaneously have a window open to the Google Translate page for Swedish, *http://translate. google.com/?hl=en&tab=wT #sv|en|*; this way you can quickly translate any messages that "pop up"!

Google translate is also helpful in that for each parish, there is an overview given, in Swedish. I checked out Gällivare and learned that it was originally part of the parish of Luleå, Jokkmokk, along with other details about its history.

To get a sense of the image quality, you can do the demo, as described above or check out the "examples" page, *www.arkivdigital .net/products/adonline/examples*. Know that all the images are newly photographed versions of the original documents and are of a very high quality.

If Swedish ancestors are in your family tree, consider subscribing to Arkiv Digital to gain access to the church books for the parish where they lived. The included records go up to about 1894 and even a non-Swedish speaker like myself was able to fairly easily navigate the ADOnline2 software and explore the available parish records.

IG