

From Sweden

Anders Larsson	m.	Margareta Johansdotter
Birth: About 1585, Mora, Kopparberg		Born: About 1585, Sweden
Married: Mora, Kopparberg		Married: Mora, Kopparberg
Died: Mora, Kopparberg		Died: Sweden
Children		Lars Andersson, 1612-1676 (age 64)

The general age at marriage in Sweden was around 25 so I have put the birth of Anders Larsson at about 1585. Couples were betrothed at a very young age, usually with the betrothal being arranged by the parents. If the couple did not object to the union immediately upon coming of age, they have given tacit consent to the union. As the couple was usually still under the influence of their parents, this consent was sometimes forced. A marriage guardian attended the betrothal and marriage. If a priest married a couple without the marriage guardian being there, the priest was often fined.

There were situations where the betrothal could be cancelled – if either of the couple had a relationship outside the betrothal, it was seen as infidelity. Other grounds were theft, abandonment of fiancé, if consummation had not occurred, or if one potential spouse refused to go through with the marriage ceremony. The church was against consummation before the church ceremony because of the chance of the betrothal being broken, so they discouraged couples from having sex before marriage. They even discouraged the couple from seeing each other before the marriage. If the couple did have sex, fines could be imposed. If a couple lived together for 7 years, then they were considered married. If the couple had sex after the betrothal ceremony, the betrothal could not be broken.

Many marriages took place on Sunday. When the couple arrived at the church door, they were reminded of the promises made at the betrothal and then the groom proceeded to place a ring on the bride's finger. After 1604, all betrothal ceremonies had to be performed in the parish church by a priest. These laws regarding betrothals were in place until the 1730's.

Women in Scandinavia retained their maiden name after marriage.



Swedish Wedding

Early Travel Documents

A statute from the beginning of the 15th century ruled that everyone migrating within Sweden needed a certificate issued by the parish priest or minister stating whether the holder of the certificate was married or unmarried. The purpose for this was avoiding bigamy. It is not clear to which extent these early certificates were issued before the Parish Registration Act introduced in 1686. During the 18th and 19th centuries, these moving certificates served as documents of legitimacy. A parish had, according to a regulation from 1788, the right to deny the elderly or people with little capacity for work to settle

in the parish. A group of people often rambling on the roads was the artisan journeymen (*gesäll*).

In the middle of the 16th century, it became compulsory for journeymen to do a two-year journey (*gesällvandring*) around the country or abroad to obtain good training with different masters. According to the 1669 Order of the Guilds, these artisan journeys became optional, however, in reality they continued as before. The journeymen needed a special travelling certificate entitled *vandringspass* (rambler certificate), which later was succeeded by the *gesällbok* (journeyman card). According to a regulation from 1844, the *gesällbok* had to contain information such as profession, name, age, place of birth and previous periods of employment.

In 1606 and 1638, it was decreed that all travellers to and from Sweden must have a travel certificate or what we today mean by passports. So, the compulsion for travel certificates comprised both domestic as well as foreign travels.



Travel Document 1758

War

The Russo-Swedish War of 1590 to 1595 ended with Estonia being ceded to Sweden. In 1599, Sigismund III Vasa was deposed as king of Sweden and Charles IX was appointed king of Sweden. The wars put Sweden in considerable debt.

Sweden was involved in four conflicts before the Thirty Years War. From 1618 to 1648 the Thirty Years War took place. Sweden was involved with this war as well, and at the end of the war they had acquired Pomerania and Silesia. From 1643 to 1645 the Torstensson War took place between Sweden and Denmark-Norway, with Sweden gaining many territories. Sweden gained domination of the Baltic, unrestricted access to the North Sea, and was no longer encircled by Denmark-Norway. The Treaty of Brömsebro was followed by the Treaty of Roskilde of 1658, which forced Denmark-Norway to further concessions.

