



Information on individuals in industrial estates' archives (*bruksarkiv*)

In The National Archives in Uppsala, approximately 65 archives from industrial estates (*bruk*) in the counties of Uppsala, Södermanland, Örebro, Västmanland, and Dalarna are kept. Mainly, these industrial estates were producing iron. The archives range from very small ones – well under 1 running meter – to quite large ones (nearly 280 running meters). In total, The National Archives in Uppsala keep almost 2 000 running meters of industrial estate archives and some 2 600 maps and drawings belonging to these archives.

In medium sized archives, the records typically date from the mid or late 18th century up until the early 20th century, while in more extensive archives documents as young as 30 or 40 years can be found. In some archives (e.g. Ramnäs bruk, Lövsta bruk, and Österby bruk), there are also documents dating from the 17th century.

Industrial estates' archives are private archives and as such not subject to preservation according to the Archives Act. Thus, there are no regulations stating where the archives which do get preserved are to be kept, meaning that archives of this category can be found not only in The National Archives in Uppsala but also in other archives within The National Archives, municipality archives, and numerous privately managed regional and local archives.

The main content of industrial estates' archives is without comparison accounts, some of which include a considerable amount of information on individuals employed by the industrial estate (blacksmiths, charcoal-burners etc.) or in an economic relation to the estate (farmers, merchants etc.). The most useful resource for genealogists is personal ledgers (*avräkningsböcker*). These ledgers contain an account for each person, consisting of a debit side and a credit side. In the older personal ledgers – roughly up until the 1870's or 1880's – the accounts are often rather detailed. The entries on the debit side of a worker's account typically include victuals, clothing etc. from the estate's own shop, while the entries on the credit side represent the work performed corresponding to different accounts in the general ledger. In some cases, the entries are particularly detailed and provide information on the workers' tasks and duties on what can truly be called a micro level. (It is, for example, possible to learn that a blacksmith in Horndal during the year 1764 spent three days shovelling snow and making a winter road to the blast furnace.) It is not uncommon to encounter lengthy series of personal ledgers, and thus, it is often possible to

follow a person for several years. Interestingly, for example pensioners and workers' widows may also occur in the ledgers. An example of a personal ledger is shown in the appendix. From the late 19th century, parts of the content in personal ledgers may instead be specified in wages-books (*avlöningsböcker*).

In addition to personal ledgers, there are several other types of accounts and registers containing information on the work or consumption of individuals, including registers of day's work (*dagsverksböcker*), charcoal registers (*koljournaler*), smithing registers (*smidesjournaler*), and grain registers (*spannmålsböcker*).

Together, these ledgers and registers contribute considerably to our knowledge of different individuals' circumstances at the industrial estates.

Anders Nordebring, Uppsala
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[illegible][illegible]

1764	130
Sottfried Wieveg	
Credit	
Jun. 2. 4. 1/2	Portenta Blecks
Med	Smidastons or Sil
Dec.	Wurknings Conto. upmest
229	Fate 1/4 Skoth Bleck 511. 4006.22 ✓
4. 1/2	Platars Dito Conto
Smid 21. Skitt. 4. 1/2. 2. 1/2. a 16. 1/2. 515.	381.10 ✓
4. 1/2	Stekjerns Conto
40. Skitt. 2. 1/2. 15. 1/2. 1606	175
Dito 1/2 Skrosmatta	146.30. 475
	1654.30 ✓
4. 1/2	Stoll Conto for
124. Skind. öfwerstoll	157. 434
	6678.30 ✓
Transport 132	
	6678.30

The credit side of the same account, listing the amount of forged iron of different kinds. From the last post, it is also apparent that Wieveg was a skilled smith – öfwerkohl (mod. Sw. överkol) is charcoal intended to be used but not needed.