

old soldier names among the Swedish surnames today.

Yes, many reasons can be found for remembering the soldier/farmer's roll in Swedish society.

THE SWEDISH ARMED FORCES that initiated this concept in the 1680's decided to operate under the name: "**Defense Organization**". The term refers to a system that provided for a military post - on a **farm**, earning a salary, and at the same time **receiving "defense"**. They received a **housing allowance** where the occupants could live on the land and earn wages. Through obtaining "divided up" property where they could **live** and make a **profit** for themselves, as well as make other gains. An important innovation also was that the ordinary peasant soldiers no longer should experience **coercion** through **conscription** of the peasant population. Instead, they were **recruited** - as "**free-willing**" and, have what people called a "**permanent job**". As a benefit they got a **smaller cash** allowance compensation, on one hand, but **gained** certain **fixed wages - paid in kind**, as fringe benefits. Surely, the most important thing of all - was that they now could reside on a farm, with a cottage to live in, and, have land to cultivate.

The soldier/farmer, who accepted these regulations, would be in **military readiness** on a farm, and, they had escaped the hated act of **conscription**. In this very large organizational project, which was ongoing in most of Sweden's countryside, divided the soldier/farmers into a so called "**rotar**". Every "**rote**" would **provide land** for a farm and build a cottage on it for the soldier and his family. It was also their duty to select a soldier who could **respond to military commands under orders**. In this manner, these soldier/farmers satisfied the need for an Infantry, and, set up a new regiment.

This organized defense system using the soldier/farmer continued from the **1680's to the late 1890's**. More than likely many of our own ancestors were a part of this practical solution for Sweden's armed protection, and, to help increase Sweden's population in some areas.

The first word of Swedish I learned from my Grandfather Quist (a former Swedish soldier) was: "DUMBOM" (fool), but, he did teach me this military marching cadence: "Vänster - höger, vänster - höger - Ett - Två, Ett - Två." (Left, right, left, right; one - two, one - two.)

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