

In 1781, Swedish farmers were deported from their island Dagö off the coast of Estonia to a place at the lower part of the river Dniepr in Ukraine. About 1200 people, men, women and children walked 200 km during very difficult hardships and only 500 arrived the following year. Next year there were only 150 people left in the village, which was called Gammalsvenskby. In 1787 about 100 Polish-German colonists arrived at the area and some 20 of them settled here. In 1792 five male Swedish prisoners of war were added to the village. In 1804/05 more German colonists arrived at the area and founded three German villages; Klosterdorf (Catholic), Mühlhausendorf and Schlangendorf (both Lutheran). Almost 150 years later, the Swedish villagers had the opportunity to come to Sweden and almost 900 people arrived after a nine-day ferry trip to Trelleborg on August 1, 1929. Some 250 then returned to the Soviet-Union in 1929-31.

The book "Svenskbyläkter" is a genealogy of families from Gammalsvenskby in Ukraine. Based on the families that survived the relentless relocation from Dagö in 1781, the author Jörgen Hedman has followed these Swedish village families back to the time of the Swedish conquest of Dagö in 1563. Many of the families listed below are listed in the book from the mid-16th century and until 1929 or 1942.

The Swedish village families presented in the book are: Albers (two families), Annas, Barbas, Busch, Buskas, Dickhaut, Europaeus, Grassman, Hansas, Herman, Hernberg (Hörnberg), Hinas, Hoas (two families), Kitas, Knutas, Koppers, Kotz (Kotsta), Krakovsky (Krakovsky), Larsas, Malmas, Martis (Mathis), Maskewitz, Melis, Mutas, Norberg, Portje, Ryabov, Röicks, Schilling, Sergis, Sigalet (two families), Surov, Takne, Tinis, Ulrich, Utas (two families) and Westerberg.