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a new Swedish-English Dictionary

Geoffrey Fröberg Morris

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A new interactive Swedish–English dictionary

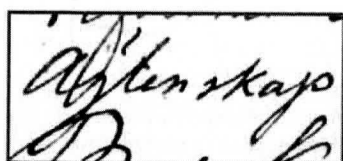
One afternoon you find your family in a household examination record. You look to the side of the page and see a nice-sized comment about one of your ancestors. But what does it say? What do you do?

Having been in this situation many times, we decided to build a solution. We purchased a Swedish, German, French, and English dictionary that was printed in 1814, and extracted all the Swedish and English entries. With that data we created a database called *the Swedish Historical Dictionary Database* or *SHDD* for short. We created a website and offer it for free. Here are some features about the database:

Partial Word Search

We built the database so you can do a full or partial word search. This is really helpful because many times the handwritten word in a record is only partially legible. You can run a partial search from the beginning, the middle, or from the end of a word. Or you can do a combination of letters according to what you see. For example:

1. Ending Search:



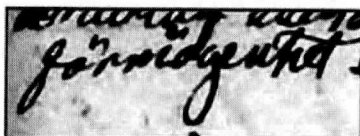
Searched

Language : Swedish ▾
 Begins with :
 Middle :
 Ends with : nskap

Results

SWEDISH Ägtenskap
 ENGLISH Marriage, wedlock, conjugal state, matrimony

2. Combination Search:



Searched

Language : Swedish ▾
 Begins with : för
 Middle : gen
 Ends with :

Results

SWEDISH Förmögenhet
 ENGLISH Faculty, capacity, power, ability, property

Old Spelling

There was no standard spelling in Swedish before 1906. For example, some letters were interchangeable such as *ä* and *e*, or *i* and *j*. Other letters were replaced in 1906 such as *hv*, *fv*, *ffv*, *w*, and sometimes *f* with the letter *v*. To help solve this problem the dictionary was “keyed in” as it was printed in 1814. This allows you to search for words using non-standard spelling.

For example:

3. Old Spelling

Search Field

Search Result



Language : Swedish ▾
 Begins with : förq
 Middle :
 Ends with :

SWEDISH Förqwäfw
 ENGLISH To suffocate, to choke, to smother, compare to Qwäfw

(Note: the verb was written in past tense with *fd* on the end, and used *v* instead of *w*. The modern spelling is *förkväva*)

Using this tool you are more likely to find a word in the old spelling. But “more likely” doesn’t mean always. Even though the database was created from an old dictionary, you will still need to search using variations of the spelling. One trick is to search using only the first and last letter. Another is to try to identify the root word.

Missing Words

Even though the SHDD is a large database, you'll find some words are missing. This is especially true with compound words (2 words that were combined into 1 to create meaning) such as *kungarike* (kung = king, rike = realm) and words that didn't exist in 1814 such as *järnvägsstation* which means railway station (the railroad in Sweden began in 1856.) You'll also find that some words have a different meaning today, or have even disappeared from the language.

Categories

To enhance the SHDD we also assigned categories to some words. The categories act like a word list. For example, there are 132 words in the category marriage. Some categories were created to assist with certain record types, others are just for fun. The majority of the categories have an obvious connection to the word.

See Original Pages

Click on a page number to see the word on a scanned page from the original dictionary.

Use for German and French

You can search using the Swedish or English word and then click on the page number. This opens another window that shows a scanned image from the dictionary. Once on the page you can find the Swedish or English term and then see the German or French.

Conclusion

The *Swedish Historical Dictionary Database* (SHDD) is a unique tool designed to help people with their Swedish genealogy. The combination of historical context (based on the Swedish language of 1814) and the non-standard spelling will be of great benefit for all who search the older Swedish records. Please let us know when you find a mistake, because they're there! We hope to refine categories and add more terms in the future.

Bästa hälsningar!

Geoffrey Fröberg Morris

Co-founder, Swedish Genealogy Guide

SHDD in a Glance

- Available for free at <http://swedishgenealogyguide.com>
- Works great on PC or Mobile device
- As of Sept. 2014 has over 41,000 Swedish words with English Translation
- Words "keyed in" the original spelling (before a standard spelling.)
- Uses W more than V
- 31 categories added to focus your search

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Sources:

1. *Ägtenskap* cropped from, Frykerud-HII-1-1770-1799-Bild-425
2. *Förmögenhet* cropped from, Ed-AI-6-1810-1816-Bild-38-sid-32
3. *Förqväfd* cropped from, Ed-AI-6-1810-1816-Bild-79-sid-73