

# Amy Oakley's New DNA Match with Jennifer Strayhall

By Burks Oakley II  
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## Introduction

I am interested in genetic genealogy – that is, using DNA to confirm and to extend my family tree. I also am interested in using this approach with close relatives, including my cousins Hal Oakley and Mark Eidem, as well as my daughter Amy Oakley. Several times each month, I look to see if Amy has any new DNA matches on Ancestry.com; however, I'm really only interested in those matches where the software on the website is able to identify an ancestor (or ancestors) that Amy and her DNA match have in common. Actually, I am especially interested in finding new DNA matches on Amy's *maternal* branch of the family tree, since I am virtually 100% certain that I share any new DNA matches on Amy's paternal side of the family tree (and thus these matches wouldn't provide much additional information).

## New DNA Match with Jennifer Strayhall

Several days ago, I filtered Amy's DNA matches to show only those matches with a common ancestor, and then sorted those results by date. In looking at this list, I found that Amy had a recent DNA match with a woman named Jennifer Strayhall (the little blue dot indicates that I had not previously viewed this match):



The screenshot shows the 'Amy Oakley's DNA Matches' interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'List' and 'Map'. Below that, there are filter buttons for 'Unviewed' (selected) and 'Common ancestors'. A search bar and a 'Sort' dropdown are also visible. The main content area shows a match from 'One month ago' with a profile picture of Jennifer Strayhall. The match details are: 'Jennifer Strayh...', '5th - 8th Cousin', '11 cM | < 1% shared DNA', 'Public linked tree' (with 2,189 People), and 'Common ancestor'.

Amy and Jennifer share just 11 cM of DNA, and based solely on the size of this match, they could be as close as fifth-cousins.

I next looked to see their common ancestors:

How are Amy Oakley and Jennifer Strayhall related?

**Common Ancestors** 🌿

According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect Amy Oakley and Jennifer Strayhall. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects them.

**Amy Oakley and Jennifer Strayhall could be half 6th cousin through:**



**Nils Mårtensson**  
5th great-grandfather  
1722–1806  
[View Relationship](#)

Software on the Ancestry.com suggests that Amy and Jennifer could be “half” sixth-cousins; they both are descended from Nils Mårtensson (1722-1806), who was Amy’s fifth-great grandfather. Even though I have researched Nils Mårtensson in the past,<sup>1</sup> I thought it would be interesting to see some of the details of Amy’s DNA match.

I was surprised that the software didn’t also suggest that Amy and Jennifer are both descended from Nils Mårtensson’s wife, Johanna Persdotter (1737-1813), since as far as I know, Nils only had that one wife.

Nils Mårtensson lived his entire life in southern-most Halland County, Sweden.

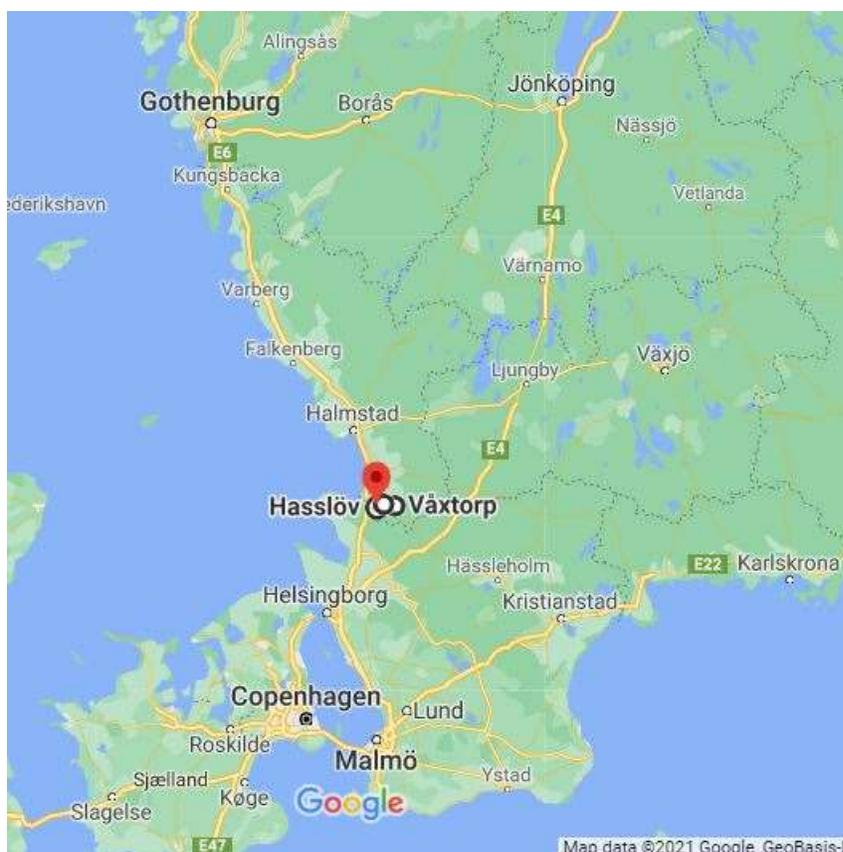


**Nils Mårtensson**  
**BIRTH** 1722 • Våxtorp (N)  
**DEATH** 1806 • Hasslöv (N)  
[+](#) [👤](#)

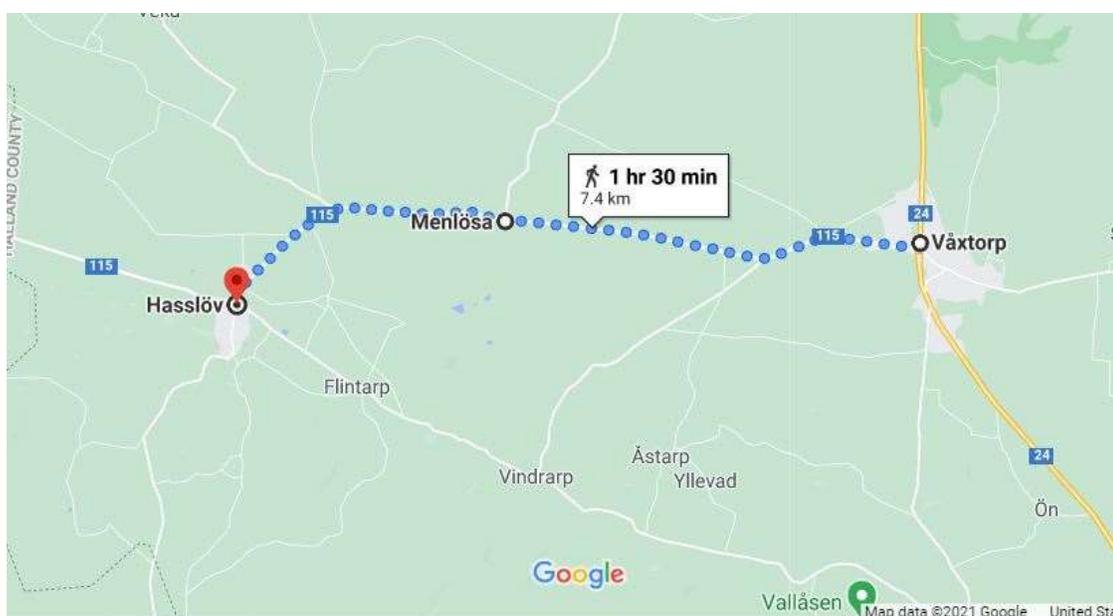
Nils was born in Våxtorp in 1722, and he died in nearby Hasslöv in 1806. Here is a Google Map showing Hasslöv and Våxtorp:

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/NilsMårtensson-PartI.pdf>  
<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/NilsMårtensson-PartII.pdf>  
<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/NilsMårtensson-PartIII.pdf>



Here is another map, showing Hasslöv and Våxtorp in greater detail:



Part-way between Hasslöv and Våxtorp is Menlösa, where Bernadine Wennström lived before she immigrated to America in 1882. Berhardine’s parents, Nils Wennström and Kristina Olsdotter, are buried in the church cemetery in Hasslöv.

Amy and I still have distant cousins on the Wennström side of our family who live in Menlösa and Hasslöv.

I have written about this area previously:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/Hallandsås.pdf>

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/Lugnarohögen.pdf>

Here are some photos that I took when I visited the area in May 2018:



Gravestone of Nils Wennström & his wife Kristina Olsdotter



The church in Hasslöv.

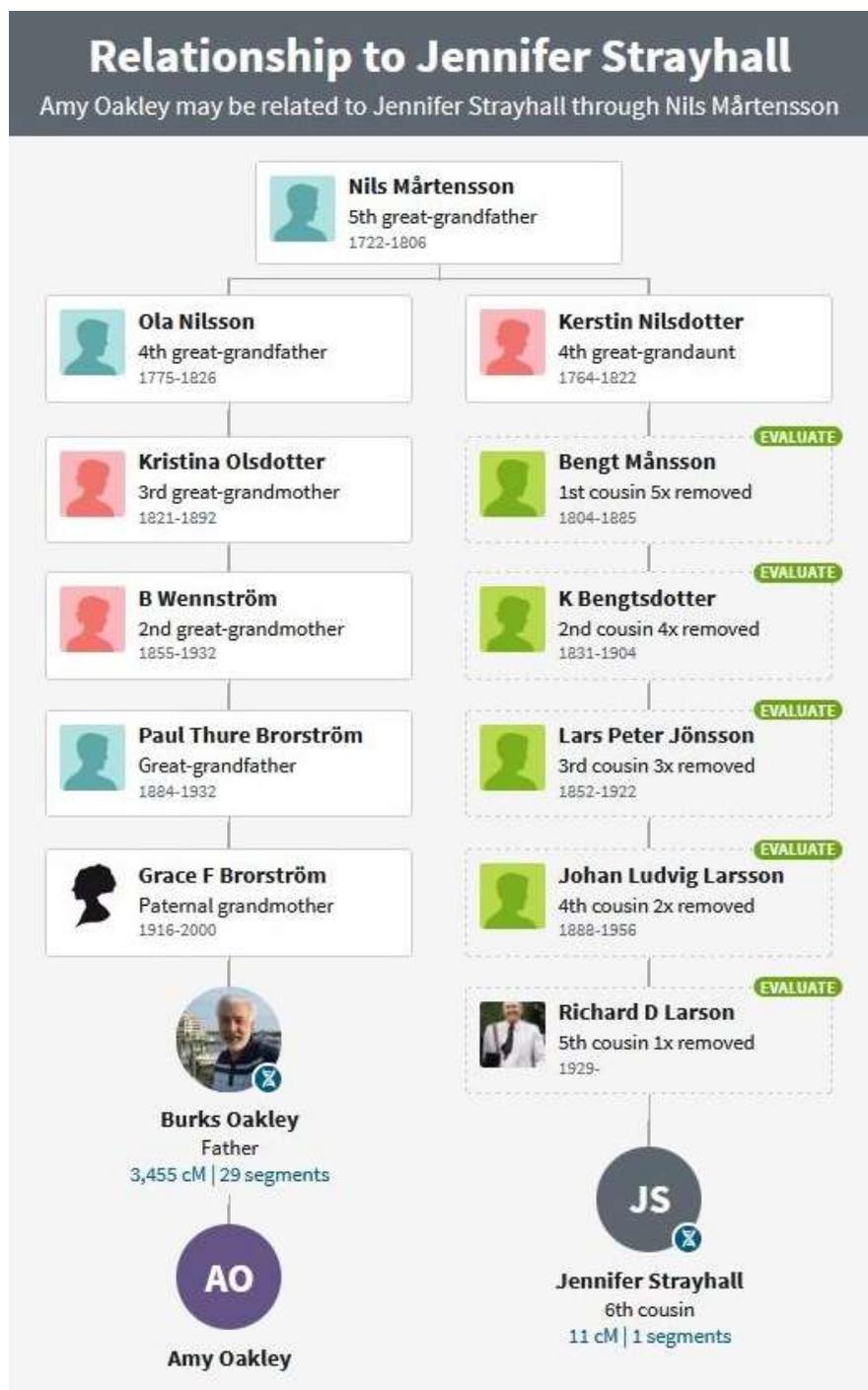


Road signs in Menlösa.



The church in Våxtorp.

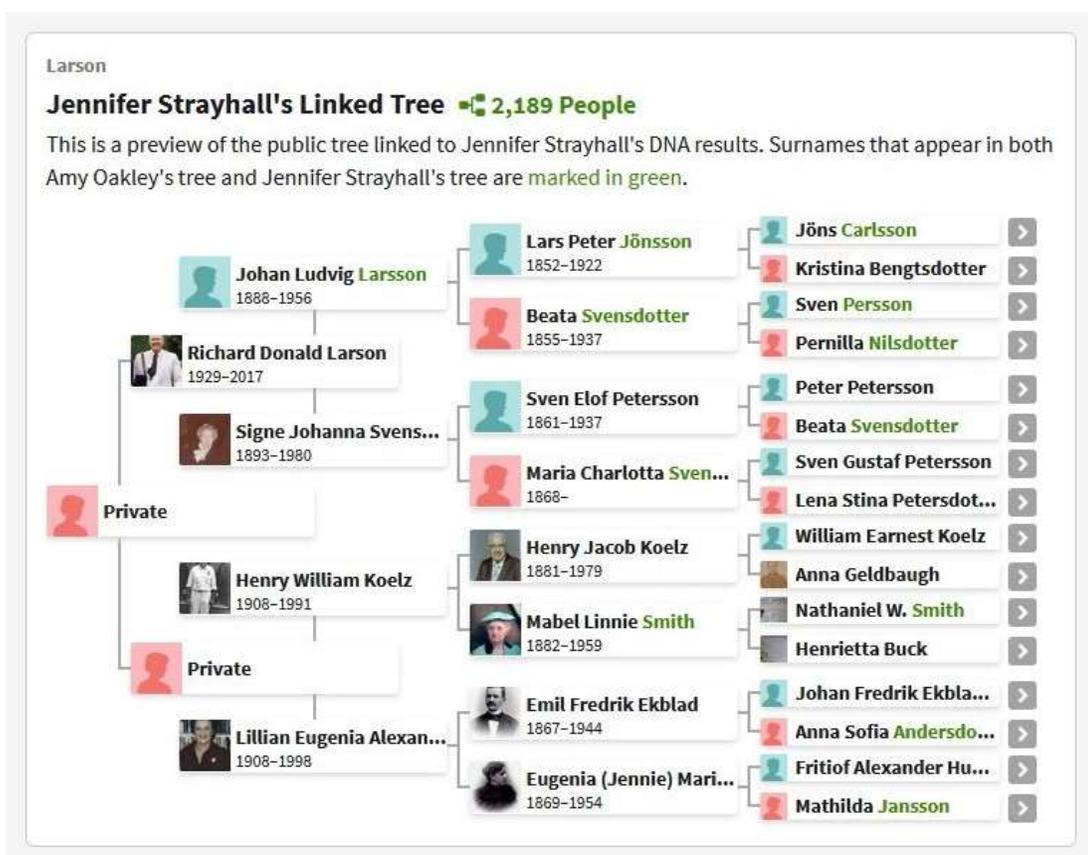
But I digress .... Let me now return to the new DNA match. I went on to look at how Amy and Jennifer are related. Here is their relationship chart that was automatically created by software on the Ancestry.com website:



Amy is descended from Nils Mårtensson through his son Ola Nilsson (1775-1826), while Jennifer is descended from Nils Mårtensson through his daughter Kerstin Nilsson (1764-1822).

Several points about this chart. All of the people shown in white boxes with solid borders are in Amy's family tree – this includes Ola Nilsson and Kerstin Nilsson. The people shown in gray boxes with dotted borders are NOT in Amy's tree (but they appear in other family trees on the Ancestry.com website). Note that these boxes have an "Evaluate" button, so that the viewer can check the validity of the connections with the previous and subsequent generations. In addition, the chart shows that Jennifer's father is Richard D. Larson, so Jennifer's maiden name was most likely Larson, and Strayhall must be her married name.

I then went on to look at Jennifer's pedigree on the Ancestry.com website:



Jennifer has a very complete pedigree, and it is full of direct ancestors with very Swedish-sounding names. All of the surnames that appear in green in this pedigree are also found in Amy's family tree. Here is a complete listing of the surnames they have in common:

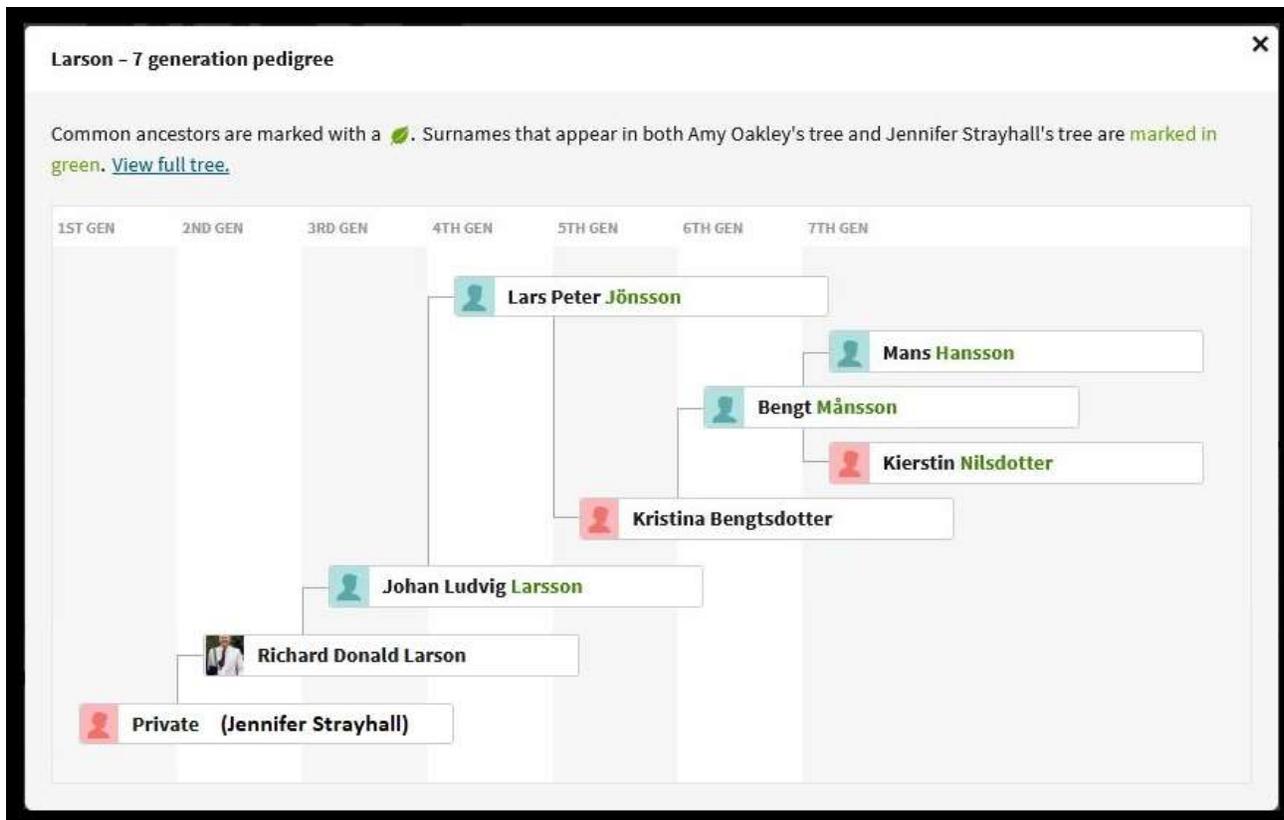
**Surnames**  
 Shared Surnames Jennifer Strayhall's Tree Only

This is a preview of the surnames that appear in both Amy Oakley's tree and Jennifer Strayhall's tree.

Andersdotter (8 people)	Carlsson (2 people)	Gudmundsdotter (3 people)	Hansson (4 people)
Håkansson (2 people)	Jansson (2 people)	Johansson (2 people)	Jonsson (5 people)
Jönsdotter (8 people)	Jönsson (4 people)	Larsdotter (2 people)	Larsson (11 people)
Månsson (4 people)	Nilsson (8 people)	Nilsson (8 people)	Olofsdotter (4 people)
Olsson (6 people)	Persdotter (11 people)	Persson (10 people)	Smith (16 people)
Svendsdotter (8 people)	Tripp (7 people)		

Oh my! Almost all of these shared surnames appear to be Swedish.

I examined more details of Jennifer's pedigree. Here is her line back to Kerstin Nilsdotter (although this name is Kierstin Nilsdotter in Jennifer's tree):



And here is the entry for Kierstin Nilsdotter (1764-1822) in Jennifer's tree:

This tree has Kierstin's parents as Nils Martensson (1722-1806) and Johanna Persdotter (1737-1813). So why didn't the software pick-up on Jennifer being descended from Johanna Persdotter?

By comparison, here is the entry for Kerstin Nilsdotter (1764-1822) in the family tree linked to Amy's DNA profile:

Burks Oakley II ▾ Tree Search



## Nils Mårtensson

BIRTH 1722 • Våxtorp (N)  
DEATH 1806 • Hasslöv (N)

### Family

Parents

 **Mårten Knutsson**  
-1757

 **Kerstin Pålsdotter**  
1693-1763

### Spouse & Children

 **Johanna Persdotter**  
1737-1813

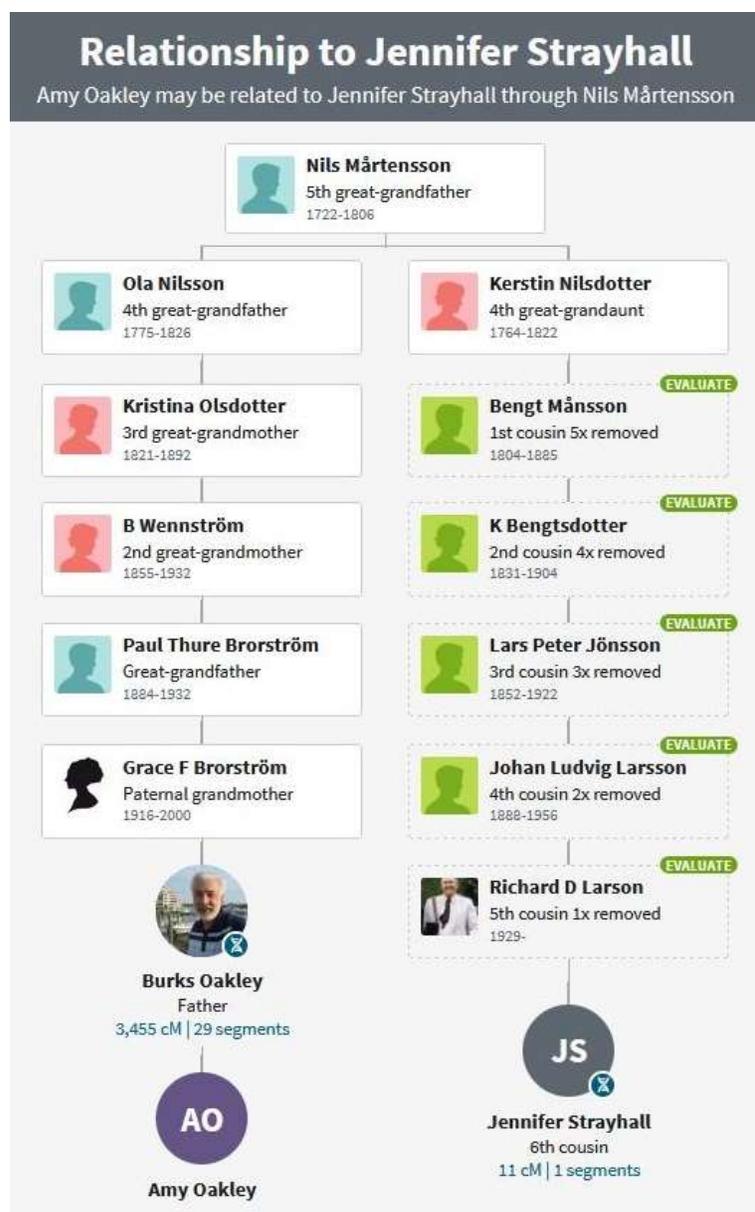
 **Kerstin Nilsdotter**  
1764-1822

 **Måns Nilsson**  
1767-1835

 **Ola Nilsson**  
1775-1826

I have no idea why the software on Ancestry.com thinks that Kerstin Nilsdotter (1764-1822) is a different person than Kierstin Nilsdotter (1764-1822). But I personally am convinced that this is just one person, and Amy and Jennifer are both descended from this woman's parents, Nils Mårtensson and Johanna Persdotter.

Here again is the chart showing how Amy and Jennifer are related:



In Amy's line, her second-great grandmother, Berhardine Wennström (1855-1932), immigrated to American in 1882. I wondered who the immigrant was in Jennifer's line. I looked at all of her ancestors, and I found that Jennifer's paternal grandfather, Johan Ludvig Larsson (1888-1956), was the immigrant:

**Larson** ▾ **Tree Search** Steve Larson

**Johan Ludvig Larsson**  
**BIRTH** 20 JUL 1888 • Laholm, Sweden  
**DEATH** 1956 • Moline, Rock Island, Illinois, USA

**Facts**

- Name**  
Johan Ludvig Larsson  
24 Sources
- Name (Alternate)**  
John Larson
- 1888 (AGE)** **Birth**  
20 Jul 1888 • Laholm, Sweden  
11 Sources
- 1888** **Birth (Alternate)**  
1888 • Sweden  
1 Source
- 1888** **Birth (Alternate)**  
20 Jun 1888 • Våxtorp, Halland, Sweden
- 1907** **Arrival**  
1907  
1 Source
- 1916** **Marriage**  
1916 • Rock Island, Illinois, USA  
 **Signe Johanna Svensson**  
(1893-1980)  
2 Sources

**Family**

**Parents**

- Lars Peter Jönsson**  
1852-1922
- Beata Svensdotter**  
1855-1937

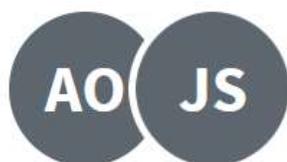
**Spouse & Children**

- Signe Johanna Svensson**  
1893-1980
- Roy L Larson**  
1917-1947
- Elsa Marie Larson**  
1919-2001
- Richard Donald Larson**  
1929-2017

It is interesting to see that he was born in Laholm (and perhaps more specifically in Våxtorp), and he immigrated to America in 1907 when he was 19 years old. He settled in Rock Island, Illinois, as did so many other Swedes.<sup>2</sup> It appears that he changed his name to John Larson.

I also looked at the DNA matches that are shared by Amy and Jennifer:

<sup>2</sup> <http://genealogytrails.com/ill/rockisland/swedes.html>



# Amy Oakley and Jennifer Strayhall

5th – 8th Cousin

< 1% shared DNA: 11 cM across 1 segments

Trees Ethnicity Shared Matches

Filter by:

Unviewed

Common ancestors

Search | Sort

## Close Family

	<b>PTB Larson</b> 1st – 2nd Cousin 562 cM   8% shared DNA Father's side	Public linked tree 141 People Common ancestor
	<b>Susan Baker</b> 1st – 2nd Cousin 467 cM   7% shared DNA Father's side	Public linked tree 421 People Common ancestor
	<b>Anmarie Brors...</b> 1st – 2nd Cousin 447 cM   6% shared DNA Father's side	Public linked tree 421 People Common ancestor
	<b>Robert Baker</b> 2nd – 3rd Cousin 275 cM   4% shared DNA Father's side	No Trees
	<b>jessicalynn_eck</b> 2nd – 3rd Cousin 221 cM   3% shared DNA Father's side	Unlinked Tree

Amy and Jennifer both have DNA matches with our Swedish-American Brorström cousins – Peter (PTB) Larson (born Brorström), Susan Baker (born Brorström), and Anmarie Brorström, as well as with Robert Baker (Susan's son) and Jessica Lynn Eck. Jessica is the daughter of Stuart Eck, who is a half-brother of Peter, Susan, and Anmarie.

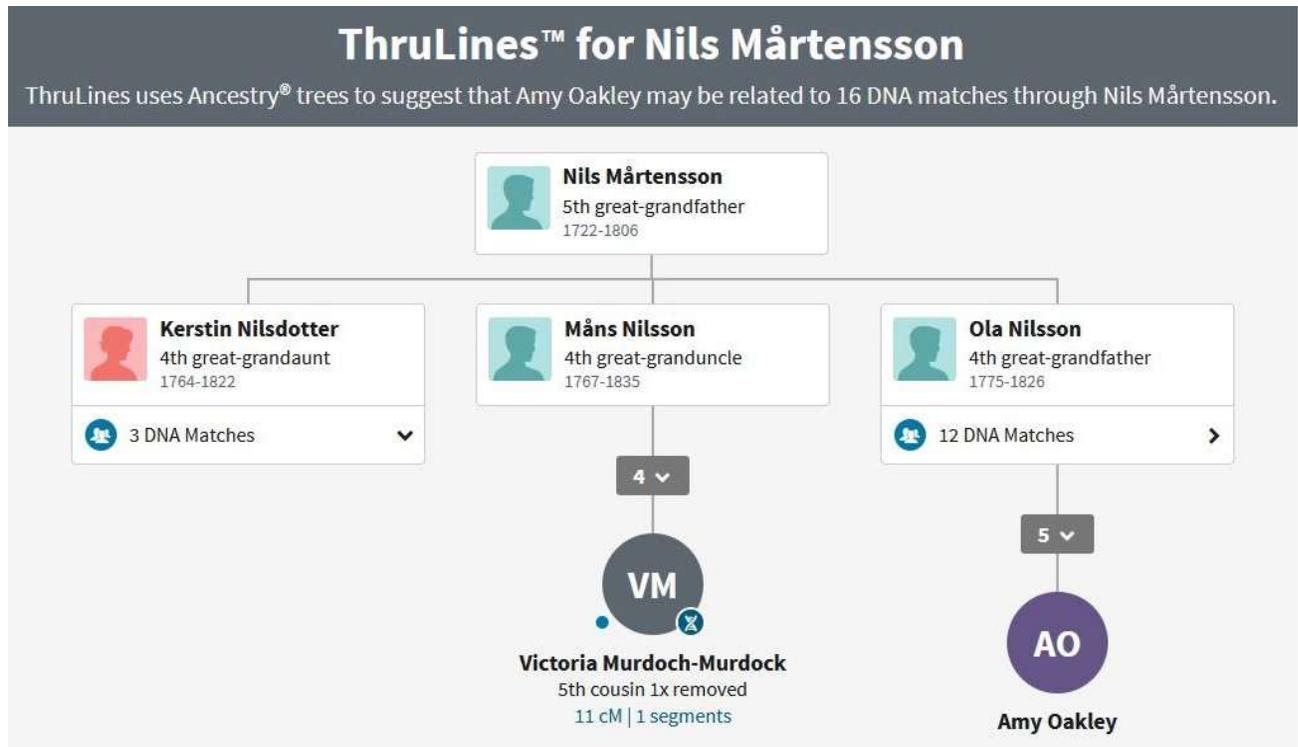
So why isn't Stuart on this list? If his daughter has a DNA match with Jennifer, then he has to as well. I looked at Stuart's DNA matches, and sure enough, he has a DNA match with Jennifer:

The screenshot shows a DNA match card for Jennifer Strayhall (JS) with Stuart Eck. The card features a profile picture of Stuart Eck, a man in a suit and tie, smiling. To the right of the photo is a circular icon with the letters 'JS'. Below the photo, the text reads "5th-8th Cousin" and "Shared DNA: 19 cM across 1 segments". At the top of the card, it says "DNA Relationship to Stuart Eck". On the left side of the card, there is a profile icon for Jennifer Strayhall (JS) and her name "Jennifer Strayhall" with a "Message" button below it. At the bottom left, it shows "Joined 10 Dec 2020" and "Last signed in This month".

I have no idea why he didn't show up on the list of Shared Matches, since he most certainly has a DNA match with Amy (381 cM across 15 segments).

## Amy's ThruLines™

ThruLines™ are charts that show all of a person's DNA matches with the descendants of a certain ancestor. These charts are automatically constructed by software on the Ancestry.com website. Here is Amy's ThruLines™ for Nils Mårtensson:



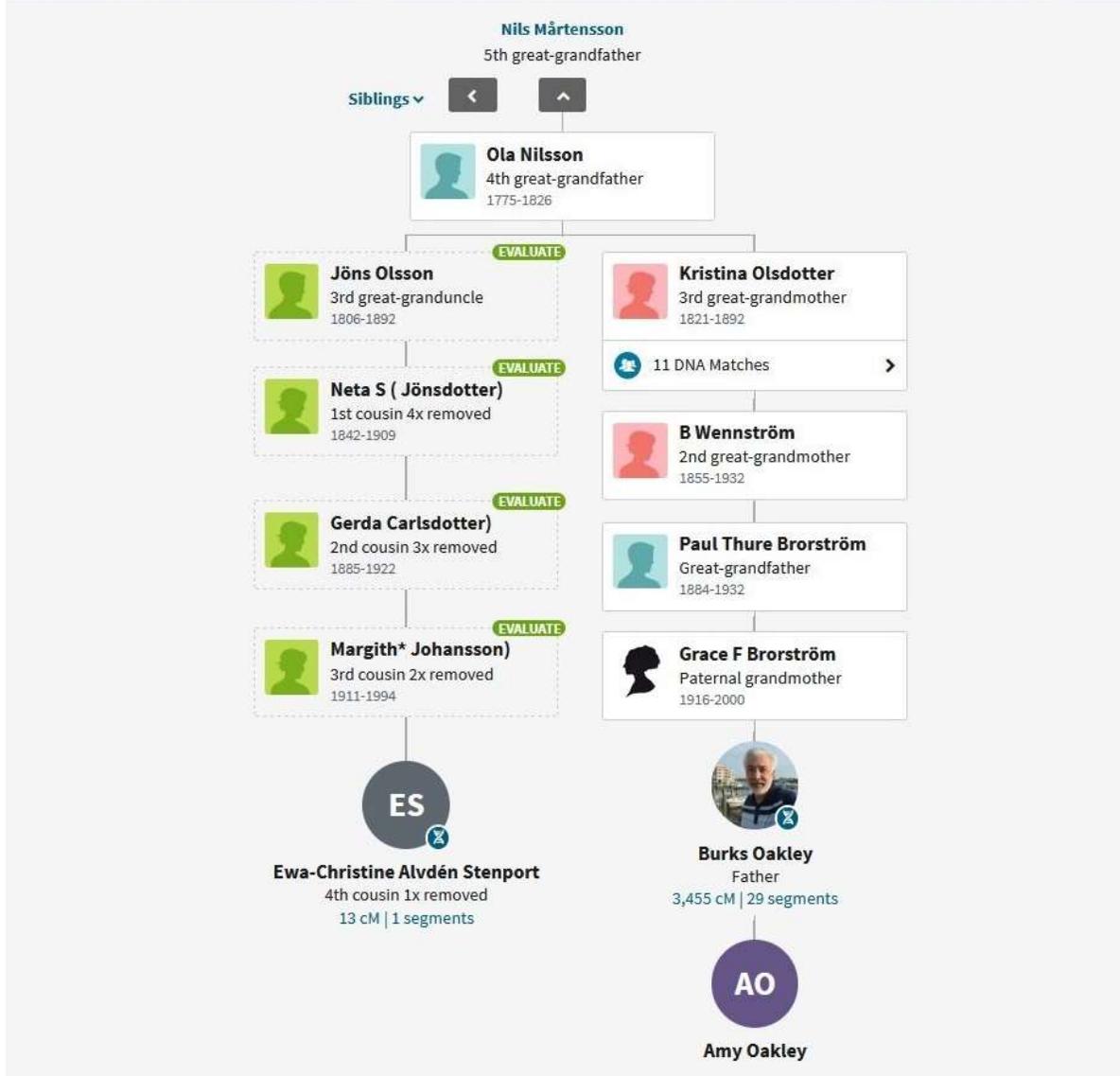
Amy has sixteen DNA matches with descendants of Nils Mårtensson – three matches through his daughter Kerstin Nilsdotter, a single match through his son Måns Nilsson, and twelve matches through his son Ola Nilsson. Amy's ThruLines™ chart for Nils Mårtensson's wife, Johanna Persdotter, looks identical to this one, except it is missing the line through Kerstin Nilsdotter to Jennifer Strayhall. [I note that my ThruLines™ for Johanna Persdotter has the same "bug" as Amy's – it is missing the line to Jennifer Strayhall.]

Overall, the collection of these DNA matches provides strong support for the genealogical record.

As shown in the ThruLines™ chart above, Amy is descended from Nils Mårtensson through his son Ola Nilsson. I next opened that line:

# ThruLines™ for Nils Mårtensson

ThruLines uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that Amy Oakley may be related to 16 DNA matches through Nils Mårtensson.



Amy has a total of twelve DNA matches with descendants of Ola Nilsson, and all but one goes through Kristina Olsdotter (1821-1892), who was the mother of Bernhardine Wennström (our immigrant ancestor). The DNA match that doesn't go through Kristina Olsdotter is with a Swedish woman named Ewa-Christine Alvdén Stenport. I met Ewa-Christine when I was visiting in Billdal (just south of Göteborg) in May 2018. How cool to see that Amy has a DNA match with her!



Burks & Ewa-Christine in Billdal

In looking at the details of Amy's DNA match with Ewa-Christine, the software on Ancestry.com correctly found that they both are descended from Ola Nilsson and his wife Sissa Jönsdotter (1782-1853):

How are Amy Oakley and Ewa-Christine Alvdén Stenport related?

**Common Ancestors**

According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect Amy Oakley and Ewa-Christine Alvdén Stenport. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects them.

**Amy Oakley and Ewa-Christine Alvdén Stenport could be 4th cousin 1x removed through:**



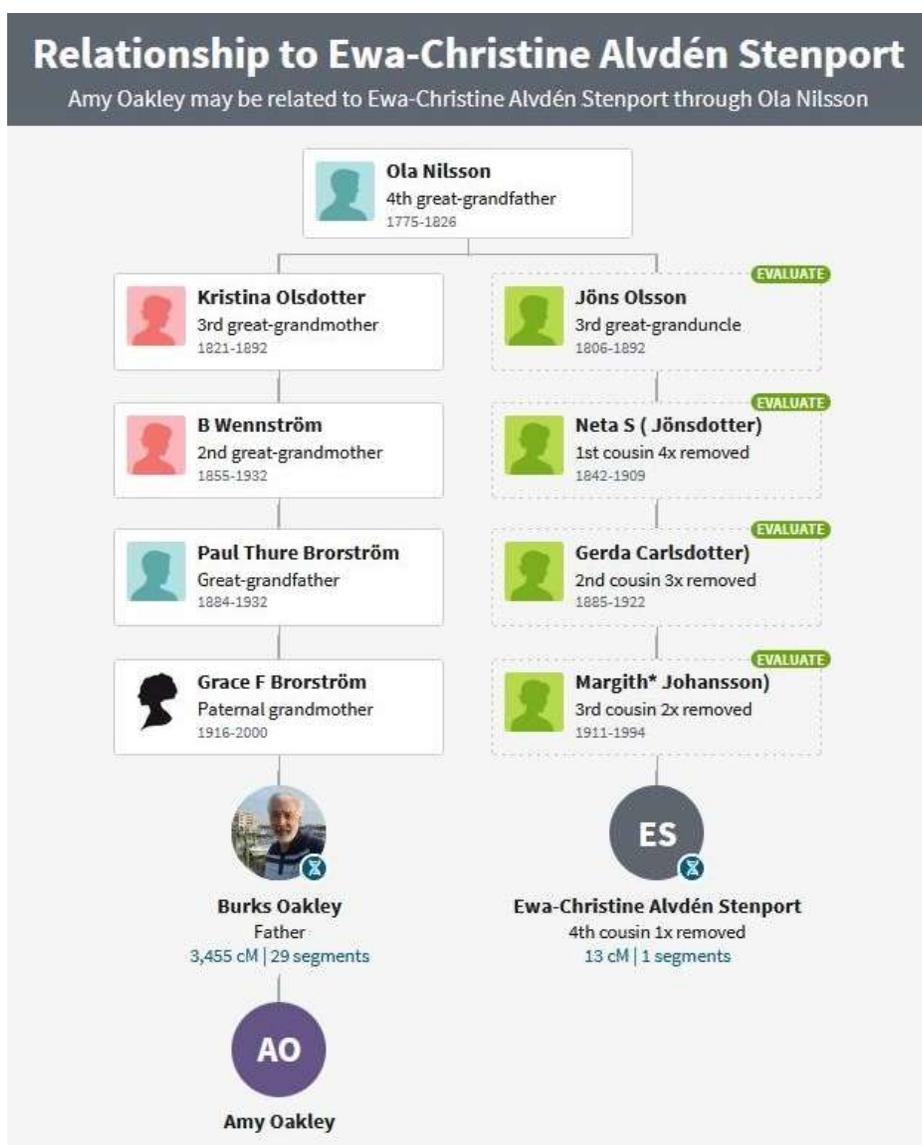
**Ola Nilsson**  
4th great-grandfather  
1775-1826  
[View Relationship](#)



**Sissa Jönsdotter**  
4th great-grandmother  
1782-1853  
[View Relationship](#)

This couple were Amy's fourth-great grandparents.

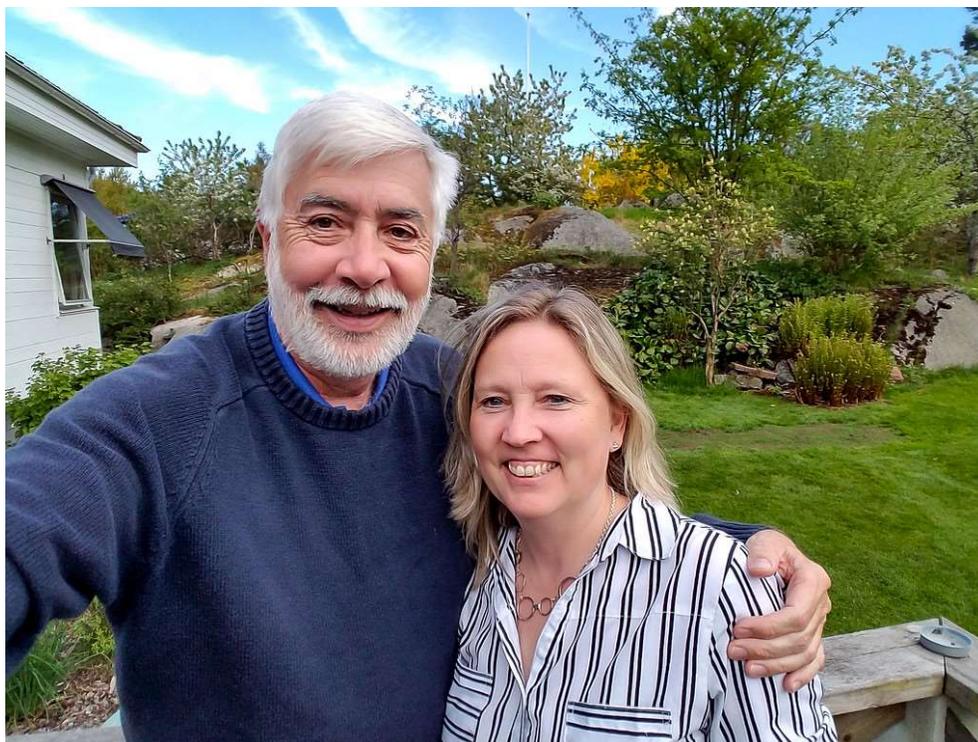
Here is a chart showing exactly how Amy and Ewa-Christine are related:



Amy and Ewa-Christine are fourth-cousins once-removed.

I should add that I met Ewa-Christine through her daughter Lise-Lotte Kolmberger, who lives in Billdal. Lise-Lotte works at the Volvo Museum in Göteborg and is an expert genealogist. I have written about how we are related previously:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/KolmbergerWennströmConnection.pdf>



Burks & Lise-Lotte in her backyard in Billdal, Sweden.

I also have become acquainted with another one of Ewa-Christine's daughters, Veronika Alvdén Bona, who lives in Alingsås (northeast of Goteborg). Alingsås promotes itself as the "Capital of Fika".

<https://www.vastsverige.com/en/alingsas/>



Veronika and her husband Henrik (photo from Facebook)

## *Summary*

In this rambling narrative, I began with my daughter Amy's new DNA match with a woman named Jennifer Strayhall (née Larson). Amy and Jennifer are both descended from Nils Mårtensson (1722-1806) and his wife Johanna Persdotter (1737-1813). For some unknown reason, the software on the Ancestry.com website doesn't see the connection through Johanna Persdotter.

Nils Mårtensson and Johanna Persdotter lived in southern Halland County, in the villages of Våxtorp and Hasslöv. I have visited this area several times, and in fact, we still have distant cousins who live in the area (which is a beautiful part of Sweden).

Amy has DNA matches with sixteen descendants of Nils Mårtensson and fifteen descendants of Johanna Persdotter, giving strong support to the genealogical record.

Finally, Amy's ThruLines™ chart for Nils Mårtensson has a branch connecting to Ewa-Christine Alvdén Stenport, and I met her and other members of her family on one of my visits to Sweden.