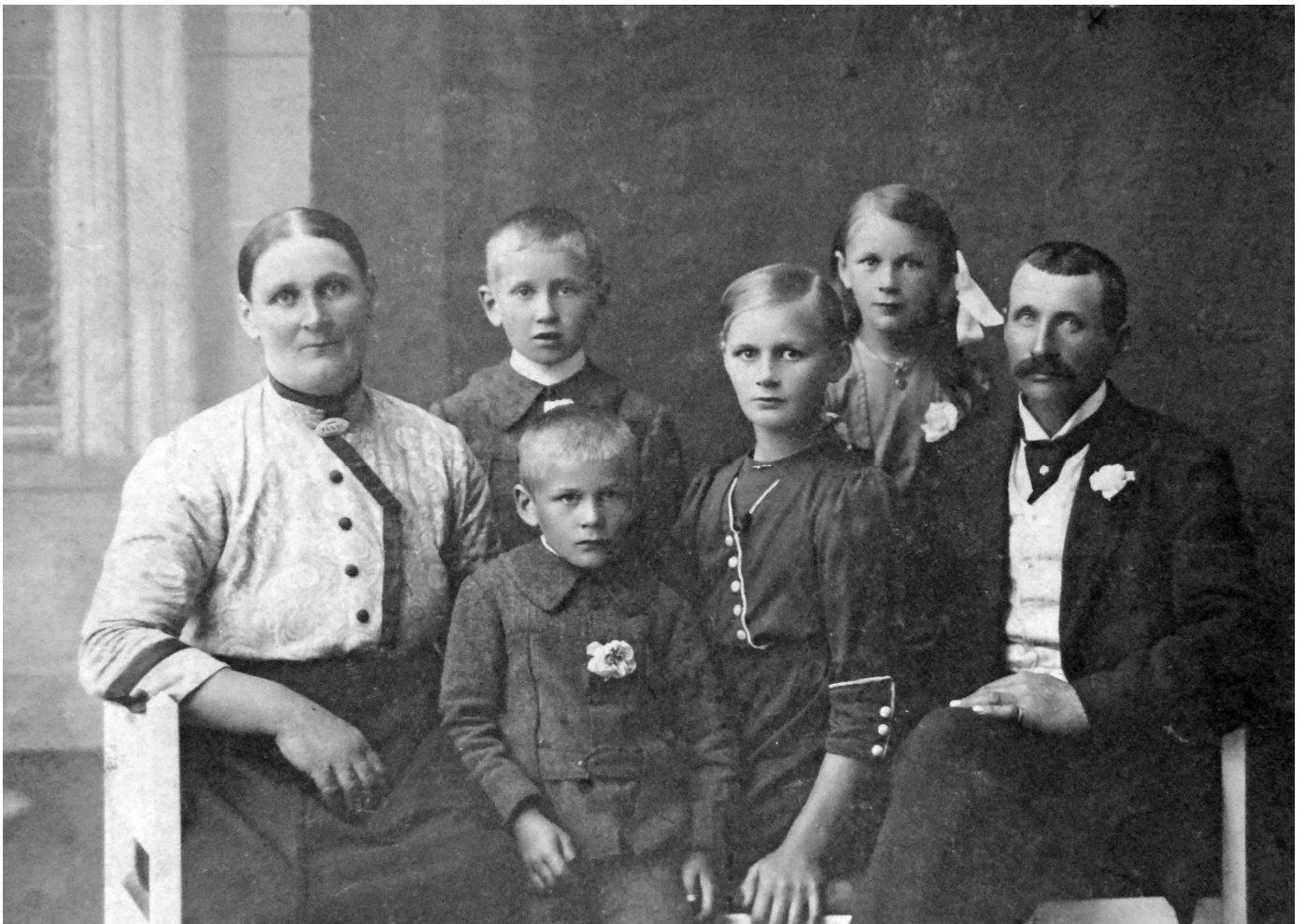


## Revisiting a Branch of Our Wennström Family

By Burks Oakley II  
20 June 2024

I have a Windows 11 notebook computer, and every day, I get an email with a link to my OneDrive Memories – the email has the subject line “Your memories from this day”, and it has a link to all the digital photos that were new on my computer on that date in the past. It is great fun to see all the old photos from years gone by. This seems to be something that Microsoft has built-in to the operating system – it certainly isn’t something I signed-up for.

A week or so ago, one of the photos from my OneDrive Memories was of an old Swedish family:



Believe it or not, the filename of this photo was “In the back Bror 1904-1975 and Edith 1902-1993. In front Anna-Stina 1867-1949, Henry 1906-1975, Agda 1900-1988, August 1871-1958”.

I have absolutely no idea where this photo came from. I wasn’t able to find it stored on my computer. I didn’t even know if these folks were my Swedish relatives. But I thought that the name “Agda” was pretty unique, so I searched the Swedish genealogy folder on my computer for this name.

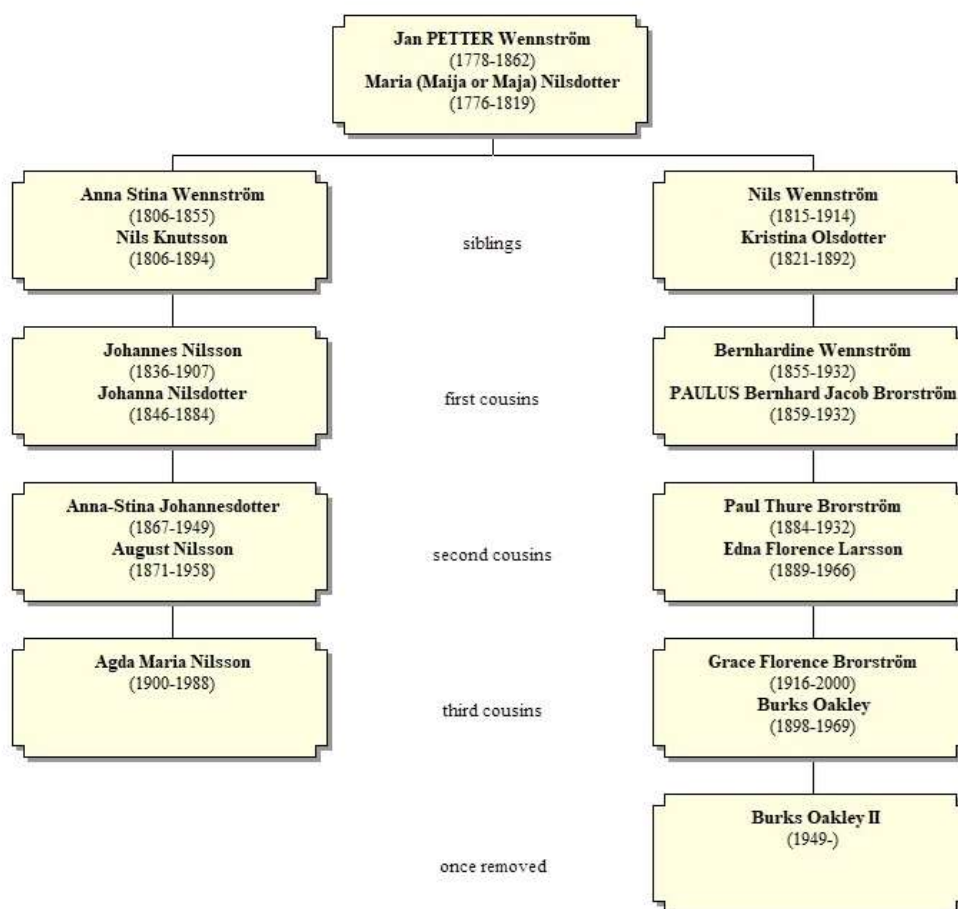
This search turned up a single file – a PDF named “Genealogy Report - Petter Venstrom 1778.pdf”, and it had the following for Agda:

August Nilsson and Anna-Stina Johannesdotter had the following children:

6. i. **AGDA** MARIA<sup>5</sup> NILSSON was born on 28 Jun 1900 in Hallahuset, Olstra Karup, Sweden. She died on 16 May 1988. She married GUNNAR HARRY BUSCH. He was born on 02 Oct 1900. He died on 04 Feb 1988.
7. ii. EDITH ELLY SOFIA NILSSON was born on 22 Jul 1902 in Barkakra, Sweden. She died on 29 May 1993.
8. iii. BROR EVALD VALFRID NILSSON was born on 25 Nov 1904 in Gunnared, Ostra Karup, Sweden. He died on 20 Feb 1975. He married (1) GURLI VALBORG MANSSON. She was born on 19 Apr 1905. She died on 20 Nov 1944. He married (2) ELLEN CHARLOTTA ANDERSSON. She was born on 21 Mar 1912. She died on 18 Jun 1971.
9. iv. JOHAN HENRY VALDEMAR NILSSON was born on 05 Nov 1906 in Dunahuset, Sweden. He died on 10 Aug 1973. He married MARTA VALBORG LARSSON. She was born on 24 Dec 1907. She died on 21 Aug 1993.

Agda was the daughter of August Nilsson and Anna-Stina Johannesdotter. She was born in 1900 in Hallahuset, Östra Karup, Sweden. Her siblings were Edith, Bror, and Johan Henry. And these are the exact names of the children in the photo from my OneDrive Memories. So it looks like these folks are descendants of Petter Wennström (1778-1862), who was my third-great grandfather.

Since I didn't recognize these names, I looked at the PDF with the descendants of Petter Wennström, and I worked backwards from Agda to Petter Wennström. Here is a chart showing how Agda and I are related:



Agda was a third-cousin of my mother, Grace F. Brorström (1916-2000). This means that Agda was my third-cousin, once-removed.

I actually didn't have this branch of the Wennström family in my family tree, so this was a good find.

But I still have no idea where the original photo of Agda and her family came from.

I searched my email (Gmail), and I learned that the PDF with the descendants of Petter Wennström was sent to me in the spring of 2019 by Barbara Helms:

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#### Update from Cousin Burks Oakley about our Wennström connection

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Barbara Helms

Tue, Mar 19, 2019 at 8:48 AM

To: Burks Oakley <burkso2@gmail.com>

Good morning,

I have put the information I received from you into Family Treemaker and created a descendant report. I have attached it for you, and it gives you everything I have on my grandfather's line. Please look it over and see if you can add any dates, places or names to it. Thanks for contacting me!

Barb

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 Genealogy Report - Petter Venstrom 1778.pdf  
311K

Barbara is descended from Petter Wennström, and several of my Swedish-American cousins have DNA matches with her. See:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/BarbaraHelms-WennströmRelative.pdf>

In looking into Anna-Stina Johannesdotter (Agda's mother), I learned that she was married twice. Here is the full entry for Anna-Stina from the PDF file:

4. **ANNA-STINA<sup>4</sup> JOHANNESDOTTER** (Johannes<sup>3</sup> Nilsson, Anna<sup>2</sup> Wennstrom, Petter<sup>1</sup> Venstrom) was born on 16 Jun 1867 in Hishult, Sweden. She died on 30 Jul 1949 in Ostra Karup, Sweden. She married (1) **AUGUST SVENSSON** on 04 Apr 1886 in Ulriksfelt, Sweden, son of Sven Olsson and Petronella Svensdotter. He was born on 17 Jun 1863 in Hallahuset, Ostra Karup, Sweden. He died in USA. She married (2) **AUGUST NILSSON** on 27 Jun 1900 in Barkakra, Sweden. He was born on 15 Apr 1871 in Ostra Karup, Sweden. He died on 27 Aug 1958.

August Svensson and Anna-Stina Johannesdotter had the following children:

5.
  - i. **NELS PETER SWANSON (NILS PETTER<sup>5</sup> SVENSSON** was born on 26 Jun 1886 in Ulriksfelt, Sweden. He died on 19 Nov 1967 in Evanston, IL. He married **CHRISTINE (KJERSTI OLSDATTER) BONESMO** on 18 May 1912 in Evanston, IL. She was born on 27 Oct 1881 in Storen, Norway. She died on 23 Feb 1952 in Evanston, IL.
  - ii. **ALMA JOSEFINA SVENSSON** was born on 20 Jun 1888 in Ostra Karup, Sweden. She died in Mar 1970 in California, USA.
  - iii. **AXEL JOHAN SIGFRID SVENSSON** was born on 06 May 1890 in Sweden. He died on 31 Mar 1909 in Sweden.

Notes for Axel Johan Sigfrid Svensson:

He emigrated to the U.S. August 14, 1906 with his maternal grandfather Johannes Nilsson and brother Nils Peter Svensson.

August Nilsson and Anna-Stina Johannesdotter had the following children:

6.
  - i. **AGDA MARIA<sup>5</sup> NILSSON** was born on 28 Jun 1900 in Hallahuset, Ostra Karup, Sweden. She died on 16 May 1988. She married **GUNNAR HARRY BUSCH**. He was born on 02 Oct 1900. He died on 04 Feb 1988.
7.
  - ii. **EDITH ELLY SOFIA NILSSON** was born on 22 Jul 1902 in Barkakra, Sweden. She died on 29 May 1993.
8.
  - iii. **BROR EVALD VALFRID NILSSON** was born on 25 Nov 1904 in Gunnared, Ostra Karup, Sweden. He died on 20 Feb 1975. He married (1) **GURLI VALBORG MANSSON**. She was born on 19 Apr 1905. She died on 20 Nov 1944. He married (2) **ELLEN CHARLOTTA ANDERSSON**. She was born on 21 Mar 1912. She died on 18 Jun 1971.
9.
  - iv. **JOHAN HENRY VALDEMAR NILSSON** was born on 05 Nov 1906 in Dunahuset, Sweden. He died on 10 Aug 1973. He married **MARTA VALBORG LARSSON**. She was born on 24 Dec 1907. She died on 21 Aug 1993.

Several things stand out to me. First, both of her husbands were named August – August Svensson and August Nilsson. At least she didn't need to worry about calling her second husband by the wrong name. I note that the four children in

the family photo are her children from her SECOND marriage, which was to August Nilsson.

Anna-Stina's first husband, August Svensson, died in the USA. So did he leave his family? Were they divorced? Did he just walk out on their marriage? From the text above, it seems that all three children from Anna-Stina's first marriage immigrated to America.

The PDF about Petter Wennstrom included:

Anna-Stina Johannesdotter was born on 16 Jun 1867 in Hishult, Sweden. She died on 30 Jul 1949 in Östra Karup, Sweden.

Johannes Nilsson was born on 17 Aug 1836 in Tåssjö, Sweden.

Of course, these locations are very familiar to me. Here is a Google Map showing these villages, which are located in the far southern part of Halland County and the far northern part of Skåne County:



Tåssjö is at the bottom of this map. This is where Petter Wennström lived as an adult, where he worked on the large Rössjöholms estate that presently is owned by the Danish noble family Rosenörn-Lehn. Petter Wennström's son Nils Wennström (my second-great grandfather) was born in Tåssjö in 1815, and he lived much of his adult life in Hasslöv (he is buried in the church cemetery in Hasslöv). And, as noted above, Johannes Nilsson was born on 17 Aug 1836 in Tåssjö.

Here is a photo of me with the Rössjöholms Slott (Rössjöholms Castle) in the background (taken 13 May 2019):



Anna-Stina Johannesdotter was born in Hishult – which is in the upper-right of the map, and she died in Östra Karup, which is in the upper-left of the map.

I have driven through these villages several times on my trips to Sweden, and this general area is certainly what I consider to be my Wennström roots in Sweden.

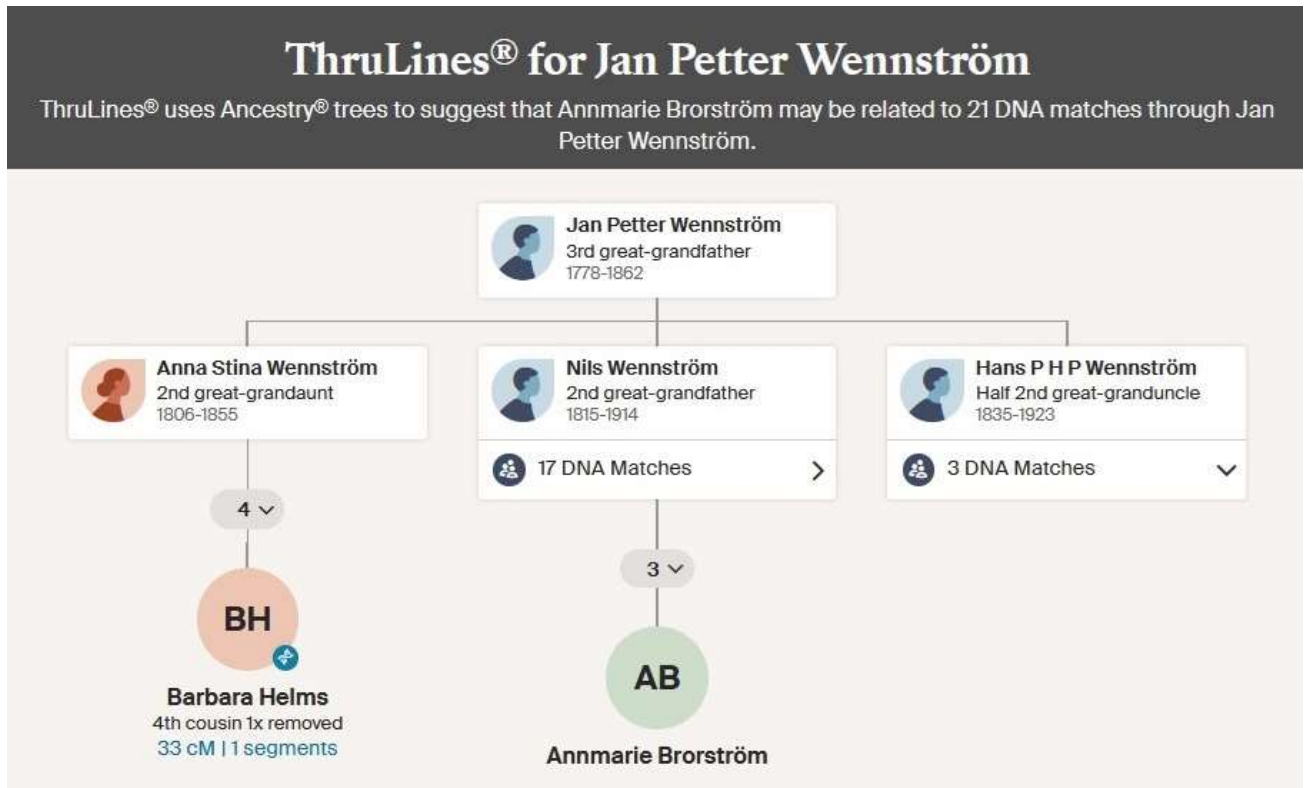
For completeness, I looked at my ThruLines® chart for Petter Wennström. Recall that software on the Ancestry.com website automatically creates these charts for all the ancestors in a person’s family tree; the charts show all a person’s DNA matches with descendants of each ancestor, going back to a person’s 128 fifth-great grandparents.

Here is my ThruLines® chart for Petter Wennström:



This chart shows that I have 19 DNA matches with individuals who are descended from Petter Wennström. Going back to the original photo, Agda Nilsson and her mother Anna-Stina Johannesdotter were descended from Petter Wennstrom through his daughter Anna Stina Wennstrom (1806-1855). And note that I don’t have any DNA matches that connect back to Petter Wennström through his daughter Anna Stina – just his sons Magnus, Nils, and Hans Petter.

I went on to look at the ThruLines® charts for my Swedish-American cousins who have their DNA on Ancestry.com. Here is Annmarie Brorström's ThruLines® chart for Petter Wennström:



Bingo! Annmarie has a 33 cM DNA match with Barbara Helms, and Barbara's ancestral line connects back to Petter Wennström through his daughter Anna Stina Wennström.

Here is the same ThruLines® chart, but with the lines to Barbara and to Annmarie "open":

## ThruLines® for Jan Petter Wennström

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that Annmarie Brorström may be related to 21 DNA matches through Jan Petter Wennström.



Barbara's ancestral line is totally consistent with the PDF document. Barbara's maternal grandfather was Nils Petter Svensson (1886-1967). He immigrated to America in 1906, where his name was Americanized to Nels Peter Swanson. Note that Nils Petter (Nels Peter) was one of the children from Anna-Stina Johannesdotter's first marriage. He was a half-sibling to the children shown in the B&W photo on the first page of this narrative.

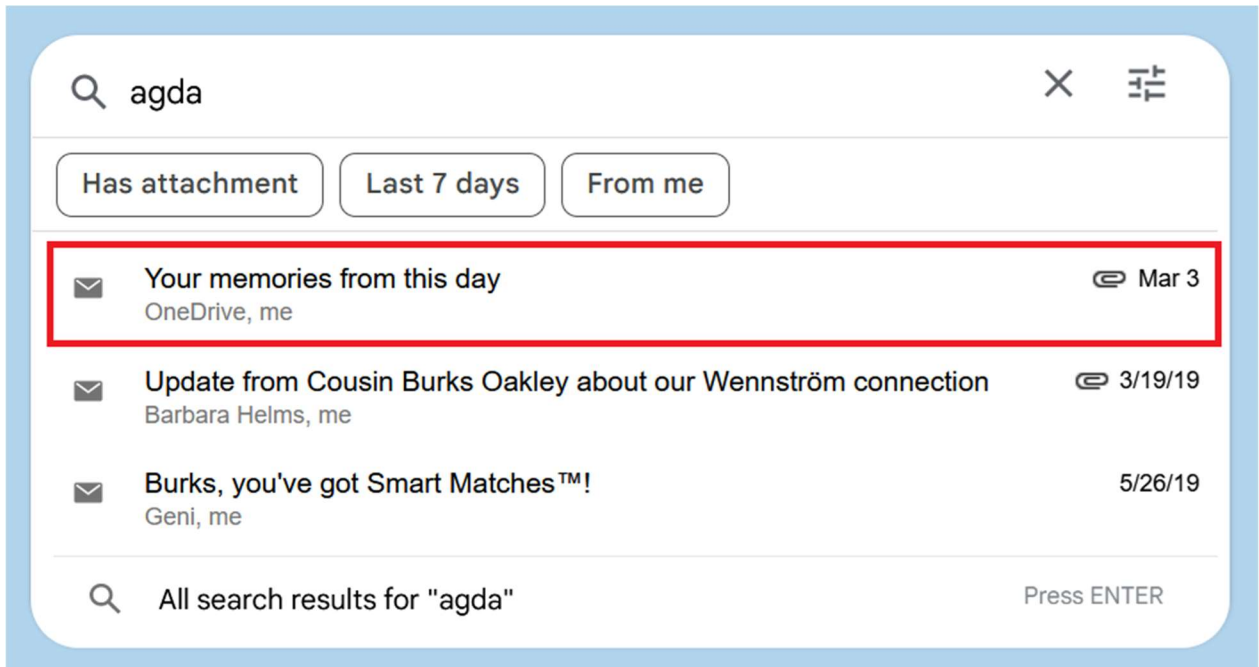
Annmarie's brother Peter and her sisters Beth and Susan also have DNA matches with Barbara Helms. Annmarie's half-brother Stuart does not have a DNA with Barbara (and neither do I). Once again, this points out the random way in which autosomal DNA is inherited.

As I mentioned earlier in this document, I wrote about Annmarie's DNA match with Barbara Helms in the spring of 2019:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/BarbaraHelms-WennströmRelative.pdf>

And once again returning to the B&W photo that started all this, Barbara is descended from Anna-Stina Johannesdotter (the mother at the left of the photo) – but from a son from her first marriage.

And just when I thought that I was finished writing, I did one last search of my email for “Agda”, to see if I could figure out where the B&W photo of Anna-Stina's family came from. Here is the result of the search:



Oh my! This search turned up another “Your memories from this day” message from OneDrive Memories. This one was dated March 3 (2024). And here is the photo:



This photo had the filename “Östra Karup Henry Edith Bror Agda”. So these are the four children of Anna-Stina Johannesdotter as adults in Östra Karup. How stylish they all looked!

And where did this photo come from? I’m really at a loss to account for it!