

Anna Guttorp – One of my Closest Brorström Relatives in Sweden

by Burks Oakley II
27 July 2018

Introduction

My mother was Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000). All four of her grandparents were Swedes who immigrated to America in the 1880's. This means that ethnically she was 100% Swedish, which makes me 50% Swedish.

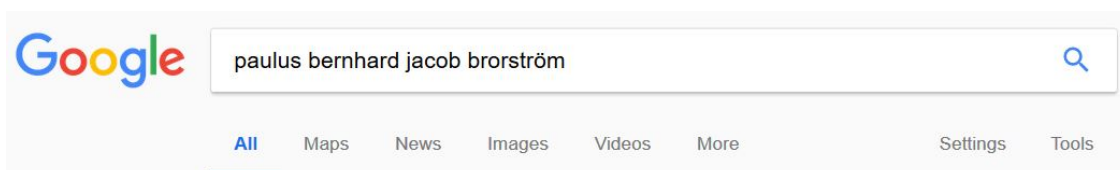
I became quite interested in my Swedish genealogy in 2013, after a distant Swedish cousin named Göran Grotting contacted my daughter Amy Oakley about a DNA match they share on the 23andme.com website.

Over time, I have learned more about my Swedish ancestry, and I have also been fortunate to connect with a number of my distant Swedish cousins, and even visit with them when I have travelled to Sweden. This narrative is about one of these Swedish cousins – a woman named Anna Guttorp.

Anna Guttorp

The Internet is an amazing resource for bringing people together. In October 2013, I did a Google search for my mother's paternal grandfather (her *farfar* in Swedish – literally, her father's father), **Paulus** Bernhard Jacob Brorström (1859-1932). Paulus immigrated to America with his wife Bernhardine Wennström in 1882.

Here is a screenshot showing the result of this Google search:



About 1,040 results (0.57 seconds)

PAULUS Bernhard Jacob Brorström & Bernhardine Wennström



gutturps.se/wc01/wc01_231.htm ▾ Translate this page

1882. PAULUS Bernhard Jacob Brorström · Bernhardine Wennström. b. 19 apr 1859, Borrbby, Kristianstad län. d. 17 apr 1932, Great Neck, Long Island, NY. bur.

The first “hit” from this Google search was for Paulus Brorström and his wife Bernhardine Wennström, and Google found this information on a website called guttorps.se. [The .se country-code domain name is an extension that represents websites located in Sweden.]

When I followed the link, I was amazed to see my great-grandparents!

Also listed on this page was my mother’s father (*morfar* in Swedish), Paul **Thure** Brorström, along with his older brother and five younger sisters. Following the link to my *morfar* led me to the following page:

PAULUS Bernhard Jacob Brorström (1859-1932)	Lars Emil Larsson
Bernhardine Wennström (1865-1932)	Ida Gustafva Larsson
Paul THURE Brorström 	Florence Larsson
 <p>b. 13 okt 1884, Poughkepsie, New York/US d. 13 maj 1932, Pleasantville, New York/US</p> <p>bur. occ. edu. rel.</p>	<p>b. 15 aug 1888, New Haven, Connecticut/US d. 6 jan 1966, Pleasantville, New York/US</p> <p>bur. occ. edu. rel.</p>
Barn	
Paul Thure Jr Brorström Grace Florence Brorström Ruth Ida Brorström	

OMG – My mother, Grace Florence Brorström, is listed on this page. How cool to see my family tree on a genealogy website in Sweden!

I went to the homepage for the guttorps.se website, where I saw:

Släkten Guttorp med närstående

Anna Guttorp

A translation of this would be “The Family Guttorp with Close Relatives”. And it looks like this site is owned/managed by someone named Anna Guttorp. Who is this Anna Guttorp? Why does she have my Brorström-Wennström-Larsson family line on her genealogy website?

The answer, of course, was found on the guttorps.se website. I first looked up Anna in the index, then followed her ancestors back to

drum roll, please

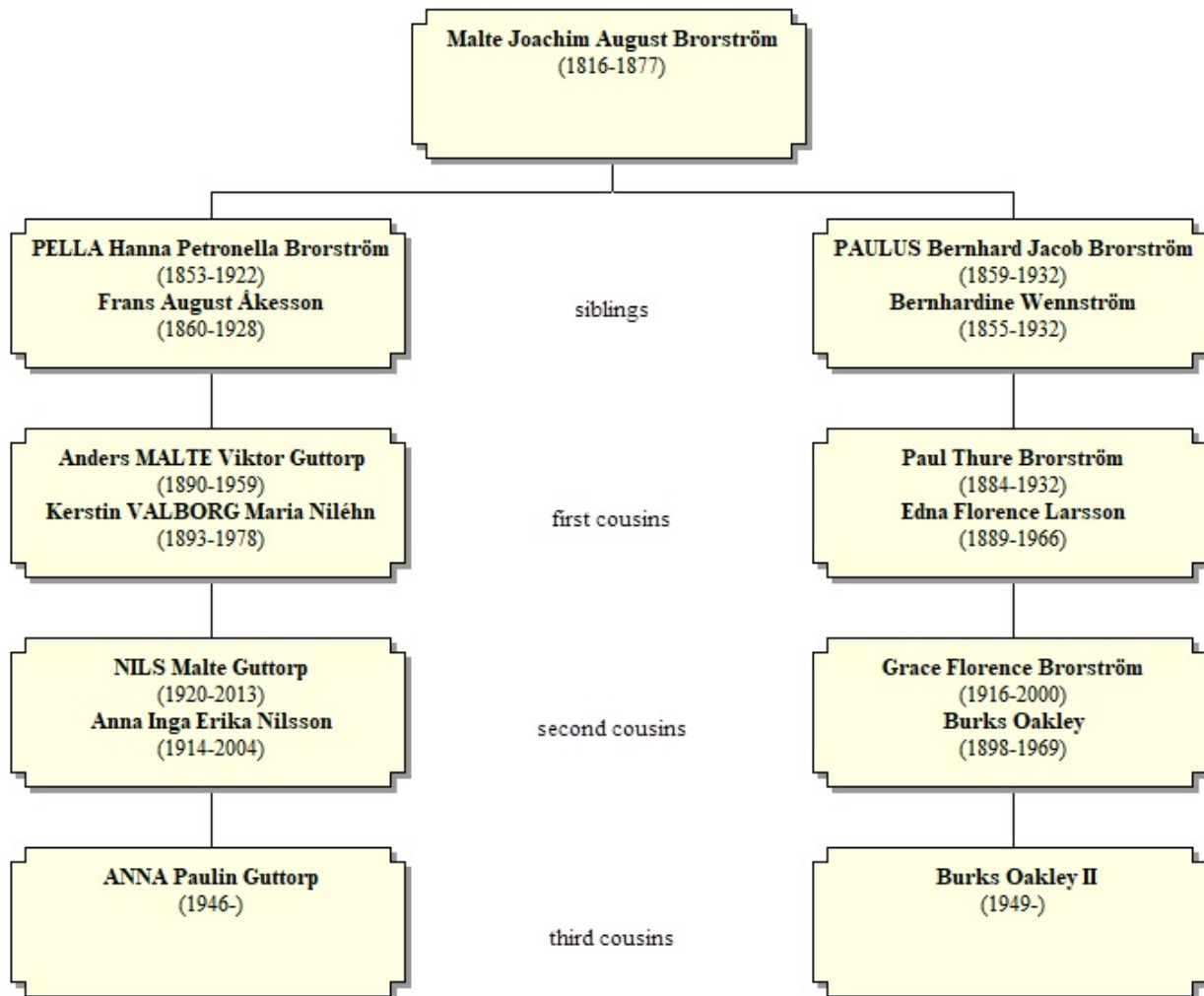
Anna's *farfar* (paternal grandfather) was Anders **Malte** Viktor Guttorp (1890-1959), and his mother was a Brorström – her name was **Pella** Hanna Petronella Gustava Brorström (1853-1922).



Pella Hanna Petronella Gustava Brorström (1853-1922)

And Pella's father was **Malte** Joachim August Brorström (1816-1877) – and he was my 2nd-great grandfather. That means that Anna Guttorp is my Brorström cousin!

It turns out that Anna and I are third-cousins, as shown in the following chart:



Amazing that a Google search for my mother's *farfar* turned up a third-cousin in Sweden!

I should note that **Malte** Joachim August Brorström (1816-1877) was married twice. His first wife was Boel Bengtsdotter (1818-1853), and after she died in 1853, he married Mathilda Augusta Billing (1826-1862). Anna is descended from Malte and his first wife, while I am descended from Malte and his second wife.

From the homepage of the guttorps.se website, I learned that Anna lives in Norrtälje, which is a small town (population 17,000) located near the Baltic Sea some 70 km northeast of Stockholm. And this homepage also included Anna's e-mail address. On 17 October 2013, I sent her an e-mail note with information about how we are related. She immediately responded, and said she had a number of family photos I might like to see.

Well, in a few more days, we were Facebook friends:



Anna even added my family to the guttorps.se website! And, as she mentioned, she sent me some family photos:



Pella and her husband Frans August Åkesson with their grandchildren Ruth and Nils (their two younger granddaughters Gunnel and Ingrid never met their *farmor*).



Five Brorström siblings – children of Malte Brorström (1816-1877). From L to R: Alfred (1860-1919), Beata (1845-1909), Thure (1856-1924), Pella (1853-1922), and Paulus (1859-1932). Pella and Paulus never saw each other after he left Sweden in 1882, but they wrote a lot of letters to each other. The two oldest children (both daughters) were from Malte's first marriage, while the three youngest children (all sons) were from Malte's second marriage. [A third daughter from Malte's first marriage, died at age 5.]
(Photo from the mid-1860's.)



Paulus (leaning on the large rock) with his family at the dedication of the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Oak tree on Palm Sunday 1919 at Great Neck, Long Island, New York. My mother, Grace Brorström, is sitting on the ground in the front left of this photo. The oak sapling is to Paulus' right, behind the stone.

When I visited Sweden in the summer of 2016 with my Swedish-American cousin Susan Brorström Baker, we met Anna and a number of other Brorström descendants in Lund. We toured the area of Lund where Malte Guttorp (Anna's *farfar*) lived.

When I visited Sweden in May 2017, I took a bus to Norrtälje and spent a day with Anna and her husband Jakob Jakobsson. What great people!

Anna's Family

As I just mentioned, Anna is married to Lars **Jakob** Jakobsson – here is a photo of the two of them in the living room of their home in Norrtälje:



Anna and Jakob have two children, a son Erik **Arvid** Jakobsson (born 1974) and a daughter **Valborg** Karin Jakobsson Guttorp (born 1978).

Arvid and his wife have a son Holger (born 2012), and Valborg and her partner have a son Johan (born 1999). When I visited Anna and Jakob in Norrtälje, I met Valborg, who works as a librarian at a local public school.



Selfie with Valborg in the library where she works

Anna is an Author and Editor

Anna has published a number of books, ranging from novels to historic fiction to photoessays. Here are some relevant images:

Kolla! Ny meny



Gerillakaptener Peter Långström
Sanningen och myterna om hans liv och död
JAKOB JAKOBSSON, ANNA GUTTORP, JOAKIM NÄSSIL

Gerillakaptener Peter Långström : sanningen och myterna om hans liv och död
av Jakob Jakobsson, Anna Guttorp, Joakim Nässil
HÄFTAD, Svenska, 2015

134 KR

LÄGG I KUNDEVAGN SPARA I ÖNSKELISTA

Beställ idag för leverans **tisdag (17/7)**

Peter Långström var kaptener och gerillakämpen i Karl XII:s armé. Under stora nordiska kriget ledde han i åtta långa år sitt frikompani i blixtnabba gerillaraider mot fienden: överföll ryska posteringar, tog fångar, kapade fartyg, lade beslag på proviant, uniformer, hästar och boskap. Oroade och störde ryssarna. En gång var han nära att ta tsar Peter till fånga. Åtminstone enligt en av alla de historier som finns om honom. Peter Långström stupade 1718. Han fälldes av en silverkula avlossad av en norsk bondpojke. Men på sätt och vis lever han än: i minnen och myter och skrönor. Efter sin död har han till och med blivit en skönlitterär figur i flera olika romaner en av dem skriven av en amerikansk science fiction-författare!

Kolla! Ny meny



JAKOB JAKOBSSON ANNA GUTTORP
K JOHAN HENRIK FRISENHEIM
KAROLINEN SOM ALDRIG GAV UPP
En biografi från Sveriges stormaktstid
Bertels Forlag

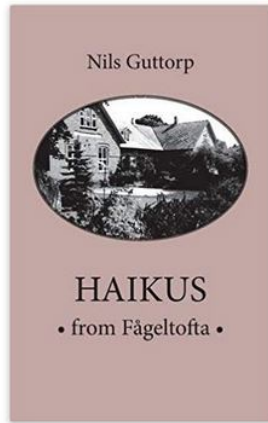
Johan Henrik Frisenheim : Karolinen som aldrig gav upp
av Jakob Jakobsson, Anna Guttorp
★★★★☆ (1) | [Läs recensioner](#)
DANSKT BAND, Svenska, 2013

200 KR

LÄGG I KUNDEVAGN SPARA I ÖNSKELISTA

Fri frakt för privatpersoner!
Skickas inom 1-3 vardagar

Han upplevde Sveriges förvandling från stormakt till ett litet fattigt land. I unga år skaffade han sig en stor förmögenhet. Sedan kom olyckorna. Hans fru och tre små barn dog. Stora nordiska kriget utbröt och han tvingades fly från sin hembygd i Ingermanland. Kriget tog 20 år av hans liv - från 1700 till 1720. Han skötte försörjningen av den finska armén. Han tog sig utan att tveka igenom ryssarnas linjer vid det omringade Viborg. Han var med på det blodiga slagfältet vid Storkyro. Han upplevde den finska arméns mardrömslika reträtt runt Bottenviken in i Sverige. Han tog hand om de överlevande från Armfeldts armé när de kom krypande på fjällsluttningarna efter snöstormen. Han lånade ut sin förmögenhet till Karl XII - och var till slut lika utfattig som det svenska riket. Men han kämpade vidare ett par decennier till: blev landshövding och



See all 2 images

Haikus from Fageltofta Paperback – Import, 6 Jul 2015

by [Peter Guttorp](#) (Author), [Nils Guttorp](#) (Author), [Anna Guttorp](#) (Editor)

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Haikus from Fageltofta contains about 500 haiku poems. They were written by the musician and painter Nils Guttorp, who lived in the old school in the tiny village of Fageltofta in the southernmost part of Sweden for more than 30 years. The poems contain experiences, standpoints, and reflexions collected during a long life, and concerning widely varying topics: art and music, sports, weather, and metaphysics, the simplest and the most difficult. Taken together, the collection of poems constitute an autobiography of sorts. The author is strictly adhering to the very demanding haiku format. Every poem has three lines. The first line has five

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Zapisi Iz Ukletog Grada

★★★★★ | [Be the first to write a review](#)

By: [Acke Bosnjanin](#), [Anna Guttorp](#) (Editor)

Paperback

Published: 31st October 2016

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Ships: 15 business days

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\$43.35

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KULTUR 15 feb 2016

Ny historisk bok om Roslagen



Biblioteket gör fotobok med gamla Roslagsbilder och efterlyser bilder som skildrar vardagsliv.

Biblioteket är på jakt efter gamla bilder. Målet är en bok med privata fotografier som berättar om livet i Roslagen.

Förra året startade biblioteket bokförlag. Först ut var "Norrtälje nu och då" med texter av kulturprofilen Lennart Jansson och historiska bilder.

Nu är det dags för nästa projekt, där biblioteket efterlyser gamla fotografier från hela Roslagen.

– Vi vill komma i kontakt med privatpersoner som har bilder fram till 1979, säger bibliotekschefen Per Ahlin.

Satsningen är ett samarbete mellan biblioteket och föreningen Bibliotekens vänner.

I den redaktion som bildats ingår Per Ahlin, vänföreningens Jakob Jakobsson och Anna Guttorp, Kerstin Sandberg, Hans Landberg samt Micke Grann, som driver Facebookgruppen Minns ditt Norrtälje.

Intresset för gamla bilder är stort, märker han.

I have no idea where she and Jakob get the energy to do all this writing...

The Family Name Guttorp


The astute reader will by now be puzzled – where did the family name Guttorp come from? Note that Pella Brorström's husband was Frans August Åkesson, but his son's surname was Guttorp:

FRANS AUGUST Åkesson
(1860-1928)

PELLA Hanna Petronella Gustafva Brorström
(1853-1922)

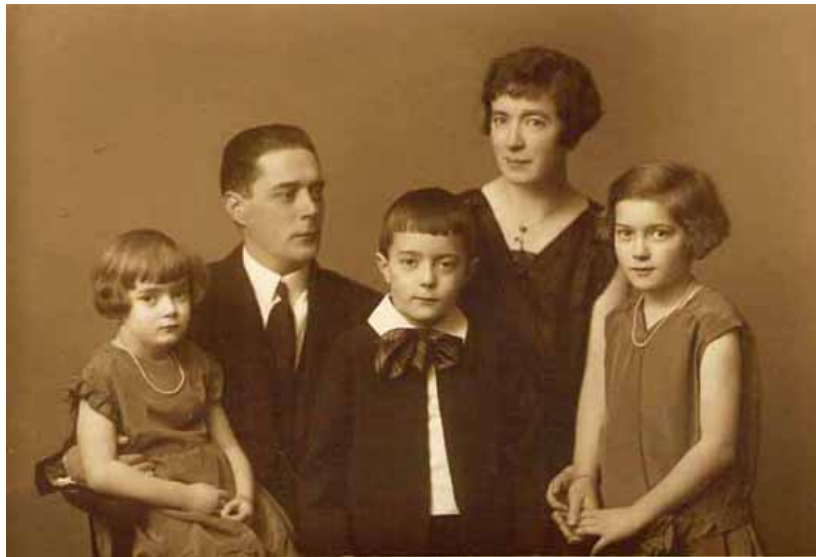
m. 22 a

Anders MALTE Viktor Guttorp 



b. 1 jan 1890, Gudmundtorp, Malmöhus län
d. 7 dec 1959, Lund, Malmöhus län
bur.
occ. Folkskollärare
edu. Folkskollärare Fil. Kand.
rel.

The home page of the guttorps.se website has:



The picture shows Malte and Valborg Åkesson with their three oldest children: Ruth, Nils and Gunnel. The picture was taken in the mid-1920's. Ten years later, the family changed their name to Gutturp after the place they came from - Gudmundtorp. (There was a teacher in the village where they lived then called Åkesson.)

[As an aside, note that the letter Å in Swedish is pronounced like the letter O in English, so Åkesson is pronounced somewhat like Oak-e-son.]

Anna told me that there was another family named Åkesson living in Gudmundtorp in the mid-1930's, and Malte Åkesson was upset that their postal mail was often sent to the other Åkesson family. So he changed the family name! And since they lived in Gudmondtorp, he picked the name of Gutturp. Just like that!

Summary

This brief narrative has been about my third-cousin Anna Gutturp, who lives with her husband Jakob Jakobsson in Norrtälje, Sweden. Anna and I are both descended from our 2nd-great grandfather, Malte Joachim August Brorström (1816-1877).

Anna is quite a genealogist, and I first connected with her because of her genealogy website gutturps.se.

But beyond being a genealogist, Anna is an incredibly interesting person – after all, she is a Brorström descendant. It has been a lot of fun to see all of the family photos and letters that she has. What a great resource for our Brorström family genealogy!

Appendix – Photos



Anna and Jakob with their daughter Valborg in the school library in Norrtälje where Valborg works. May 2017.



Valborg, Burks, and Jakob at the school library in Norrtälje. May 2017.



Jakob Jakobsson enjoying lunch at a restaurant outside of Norrtälje.
May 2017.



The living room in Anna's house in Norrtälje. May 2017.



Anna, Susan, and other Brorström-related cousins and spouses outside the Grand Hotel in Lund. July 2016.



Anna discussing Brorström family genealogy with Susan Brorström Baker at a restaurant in Lund. July 2016.



Anna, Susan, and others enjoying lunch at a restaurant in Lund. July 2016.



Enjoying fika at a restaurant outside of Lund. July 2016.



The names of Paulus Brorström and his wife Berhardine Wennström on a plaque at Ellis Island, New York.



The three youngest daughters of Paulus & Bernhardine Brorström – Lillian, Grace, and Pauline.