

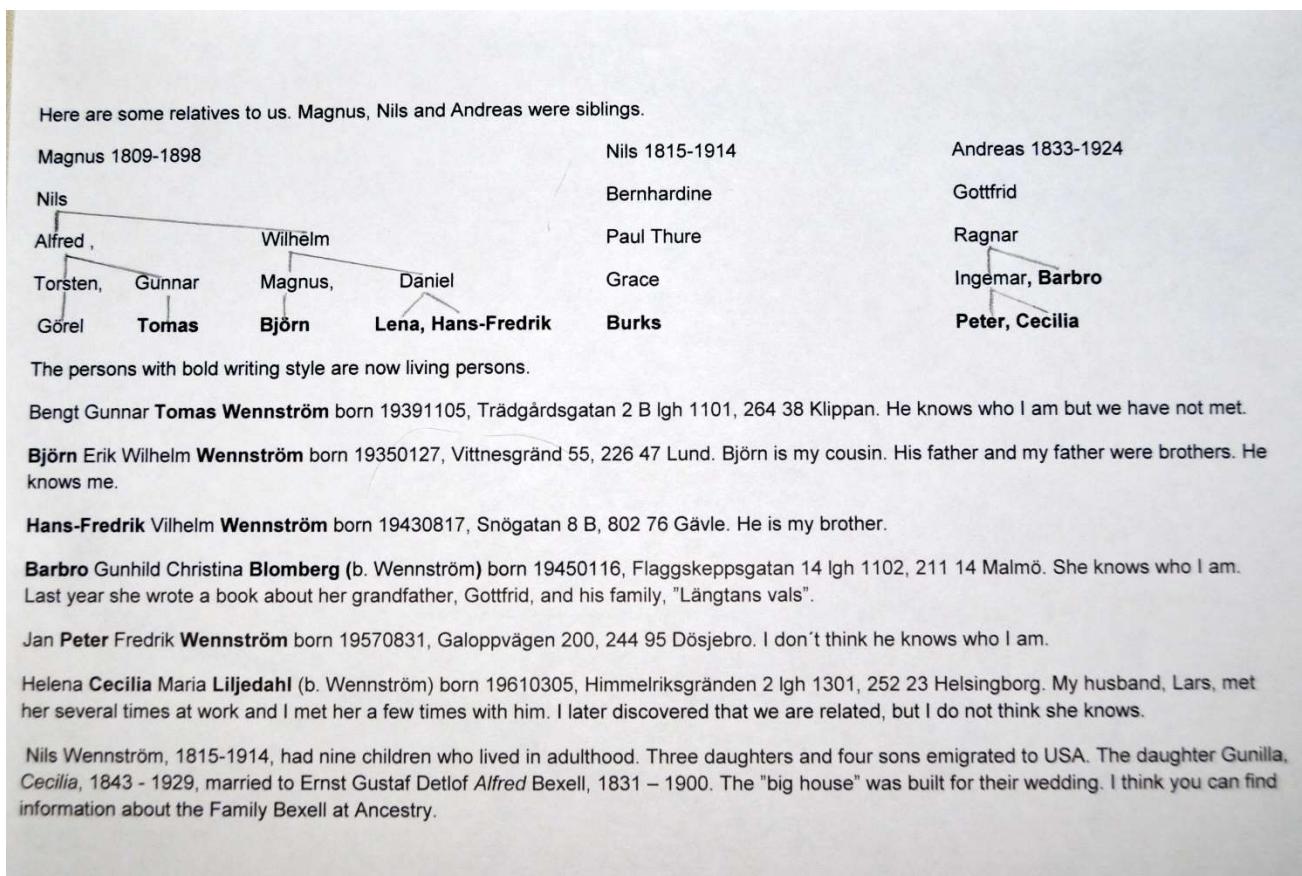
Barbro Blomberg – A Wennström Relative in Sweden

by Burks Oakley II
27 July 2018 [updated 24 May 2020]

Introduction

My mother's paternal grandmother (**farmor** in Swedish) was Bernhardine Wennström (1855-1932). She immigrated to America with her husband Paulus Brorström in 1882.

I have been searching for Wennström relatives in America and in Sweden. I have been helped in this process by my Swedish cousin Lena Kannesten (nee Wennström). On 10 January 2018, she sent me the following scan via e-mail:

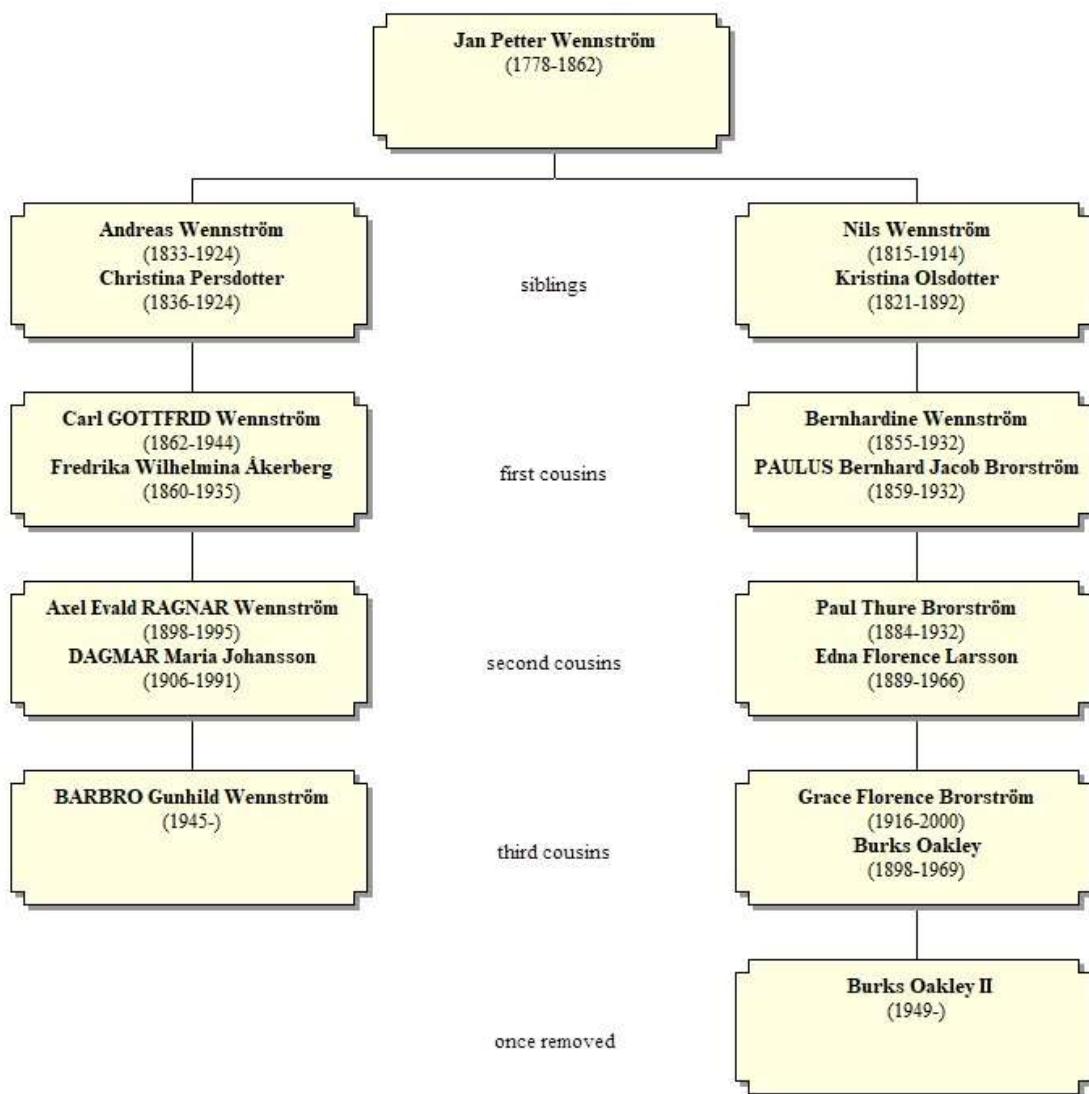


This document shows a number of my Wennström cousins living in Sweden. Hopefully I can get in contact with some them over the coming months, and perhaps even visit them in Sweden.

When I visited Lena in Helsingborg in May 2018, she knew that I was going to be spending a few days in Malmö. She suggested that I visit Barbro Blomberg (nee Wennström). Barbro (shown at the right-side of Lena's document) is descended from Andreas Wennström (1833-1924), who was a younger half-brother of my 2nd-great grandfather Nils Wennström (1815-1914). So I sent Barbro an e-mail note and a few days later, we were having fika in a coffee shop in Malmö.

Barbro Wennström Blomberg

The following chart shows how Barbro and I are related:



Barbro was a third-cousin of my mother, Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000), which means that she is my third-cousin once-removed. Note that Jan Peter Wennström (1778-1862) was first married to Maria Nilsdotter (1776-1819), and after she died in 1819, he married Johanna Persdotter (1801-1888). I am descended from Jan Peter and his first wife, while Barbro is descended from Jan Peter and his second wife.

Barbro appears in the Wennström Family book, which was published in 1965 by Ida Wennström, where she is listed with her full name of **Barbro** Gunhild Christina Wennström:

Tabell 45.

Axel Evald Ragnar (son av Carl Gottfrid, tab. 44), f. 1898 22/7 i Veinge sn. Innehaft egendomen Torna, Värö sn, 1921—26, därefter försäljningschef i maskinfirma i Göteborg samt innehavare av Firma R. Wennström, Import och Export, etabl. 1926 (Rosensköldsgatan 3, G ö t e b o r g).

G. 1928 8/9 i Göteborg S:t Pauli förs. (Gamlestads kyrkobokföringsdistrikt) m. *Dagmar Maria Johansson*, f. 1906 19/8 i Göteborg Carl Johans förs., dotter av trävarugrossisten David Albert Johansson och *Gunhild Amalia Maria Palm* (se Elgenstierna, Svenska släktkalendern 1914, sid. 620). Vistats i Spanien under två år för studier. Anställd på Spanska konsulatet, Göteborg, från 1925, under tio år; på Chiles Generalkonsulat under sammanlagt elva år; tjänstgjort sju år på Venezuelas Generalkonsulat, därav två år som tillförordnad generalkonsul. Tidvis vikarierat på Perus, Uruguays och Cubas konsulat, tillsammans något mer än ett år. Tillförordnad generalkonsul för Chile från den 1 mars 1960 till den 10 mars 1961, ordinarie konsul för Chile samt chef för det Chilenska Generalkonsulatet i Sverige från den 10 mars 1961. Sedan den 2 juni 1936 ordinarie Translator Publicus i spanska språket (vilket innebär att vara tolk vid Rätten, förhör m.m., samt att bestyrka juridiska handlingar, översätta till eller från spanska).

Barn:

Albert Fredrik Ingemar, f. 1929, arkitekt. Se tab. 46.

Barbro Gunhild Christina, f. 1945 16/1 i Göteborg, Johannebergs förs.

She was born on 16 January 1945. Her father was Axel Evald **Ragnar** Wennström (1898-1995), and her paternal grandfather (**farfar** in Swedish) was Carl **Gottfrid** Wennström (1862-1944).

When I met with Barbro, I learned that she had a long career in as a writer, editor, and journalist. The Swedish Wikipedia site¹ has the following information about her (translated by Google Translator):

¹ https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbro_Bloemberg

"Barbro Blomberg was married to virologist professor Jonas Blomberg (born 1944) in 1968-1998, and brought him two daughters, the photographer Viktoria Blomberg (born 1970) and actor Anna Blomberg (born 1972)."

Her ex-husband Jonas Blomberg is a professor emeritus at Uppsala University. During the time they were married, they spent a year in Frederick, Maryland, when Dr. Blomberg worked at NIH and George Washington University.²

Barbro's older daughter **Agnes Viktoria** Maria Blomberg was born in 1970. She lives in Malmö and has two children. Viktoria is a professional photographer.

Barbro's younger daughter **Anna** Kristina Cecilia Blomberg was born in 1972. She lives in Stockholm and has also has two children. Anna is an actress and comedian. Her Wikipedia page³ includes the following:

Anna Kristina Cecilia Blomberg (born 20 May 1972 in Gothenburg) is a Swedish actress and comedian. She has appeared in many TV series, among them *Häxan Surtant*, *Kvarteret Skatan* (her breakthrough role), and *Superhjältejul*. In addition, she performs on the stage and radio. In 2009 she participated in SVT's julkalender (Christmas Calendar).

Anna has her own YouTube channel⁴ – well worth watching, even if you don't speak Swedish!



² Dr. Blomberg passed away on 5 February 2019. His obituary is at:
<https://retrovirology.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12977-019-0469-y>

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Bломберг

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP27Y2LBBSknrVlTnEPOrwg>

Barbro recently wrote a novel entitled ***Längtans Vals*** (Langtan's Waltz):



A review on the web⁵ (translated from Swedish by Google Translate) includes:

Throughout her life, Barbro Blomberg has worked with the written word. Since the early 1970s, she has been active journalist in Sweden and abroad, including working with daily press, magazines, freelance and editor.

Her latest novel Längtan's waltz appeared last spring and is about strong women in rural Sweden and men who went to America to settle in Brooklyn.

For the research for her second book – Längtan's Waltz - she left the mother's family branch and instead, she worked a climb through her father's family tree. "My grandfather's brother was Louis. At the end of the 19th century, he went to New York where he worked composing music, wrote operettas, and film scores. But it never became his effort. He disappeared sometime in the late 1920's. I wanted to know what really happened to him."

⁵ <http://egenutgivare.nu/2017/08/barbro-blomberg-har-skrivit-langtans-vals-en-dokumentar-roman/>

"I was over in New York to see if I could find something more there and when I walked around in Brooklyn where everyone lived, I felt strangely at home," she says. "I also discovered what strong women have been in our family. The men who went to America did not send home a single penny, but Alma and Elfrieda stayed here, worked hard, and could later help their parents in the autumn of their lives. I have come to know myself by knowing where I am from."

Summary

I'm really fortunate that I was able to meet my cousin Barbro Blomberg (nee Wennström) when I was in Malmö in May 2018. What an interesting woman!! I am sure that I have only touched the surface in learning about her accomplishments, and I am looking forward to seeing her again when I am next in Sweden, and meeting her daughters Viktoria and Anna, as well.

Finally, in case you are wondering, Barbro is a female given name in Scandinavia, with the same origin as Barbara.

Photos



Selfie with Barbro in downtown Malmö. 18 May 2018.



Having fika with Barbro at a coffee shop in Malmö – and discussing our Wennström family ancestors. 18 May 2018.



Photo that accompanied the online review of Barbro's recent novel.
The Turning Torso building in Malmö is over her right shoulder.



Another photo that accompanied the review of Barbro's recent novel.



Anna Blomberg – Barbro's younger daughter.
(Photo from Wikipedia.)



Barbro and Viktoria at the Modern Museum in Malmö. 17 May 2019.



Burks and Barbro in Malmö. 17 May 2019.



Viktorija and Barbro in Malmö. 17 May 2019.



Burks and Viktorija in Malmö. 17 May 2019.