

# Barbro Blomberg – A Wennström Relative in Sweden

by Burks Oakley II  
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## 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:

Here are some relatives to us. Magnus, Nils and Andreas were siblings.

Magnus 1809-1898	Nils 1815-1914	Andreas 1833-1924
Nils	Bernhardine	Gottfrid
Alfred ,	Paul Thure	Ragnar
Torsten,	Grace	Ingemar, <b>Barbro</b>
Görel	<b>Burks</b>	<b>Peter, Cecilia</b>
Gunnar		
Magnus,		
Daniel		
<b>Björn</b>		
<b>Lena, Hans-Fredrik</b>		

The persons with bold writing style are now living persons.

Bengt Gunnar **Tomas Wennström** born 19391105, Trädgårdsgatan 2 B lgh 1101, 264 38 Klippan. He knows who I am but we have not met.

**Björn Erik Wilhelm Wennström** born 19350127, Vittnesgränd 55, 226 47 Lund. Björn is my cousin. His father and my father were brothers. He knows me.

**Hans-Fredrik Vilhelm Wennström** born 19430817, Snögatan 8 B, 802 76 Gävle. He is my brother.

**Barbro** Gunhild Christina **Blomberg** (b. Wennström) born 19450116, Flaggskeppsgatan 14 lgh 1102, 211 14 Malmö. She knows who I am. Last year she wrote a book about her grandfather, Gottfrid, and his family, "Långtans vals".

Jan **Peter Fredrik Wennström** born 19570831, Galoppvägen 200, 244 95 Dösjöebro. I don't think he knows who I am.

Helena **Cecilia Maria Liljedahl** (b. Wennström) born 19610305, Himmelriksgränden 2 lgh 1301, 252 23 Helsingborg. My husband, Lars, met her several times at work and I met her a few times with him. I later discovered that we are related, but I do not think she knows.

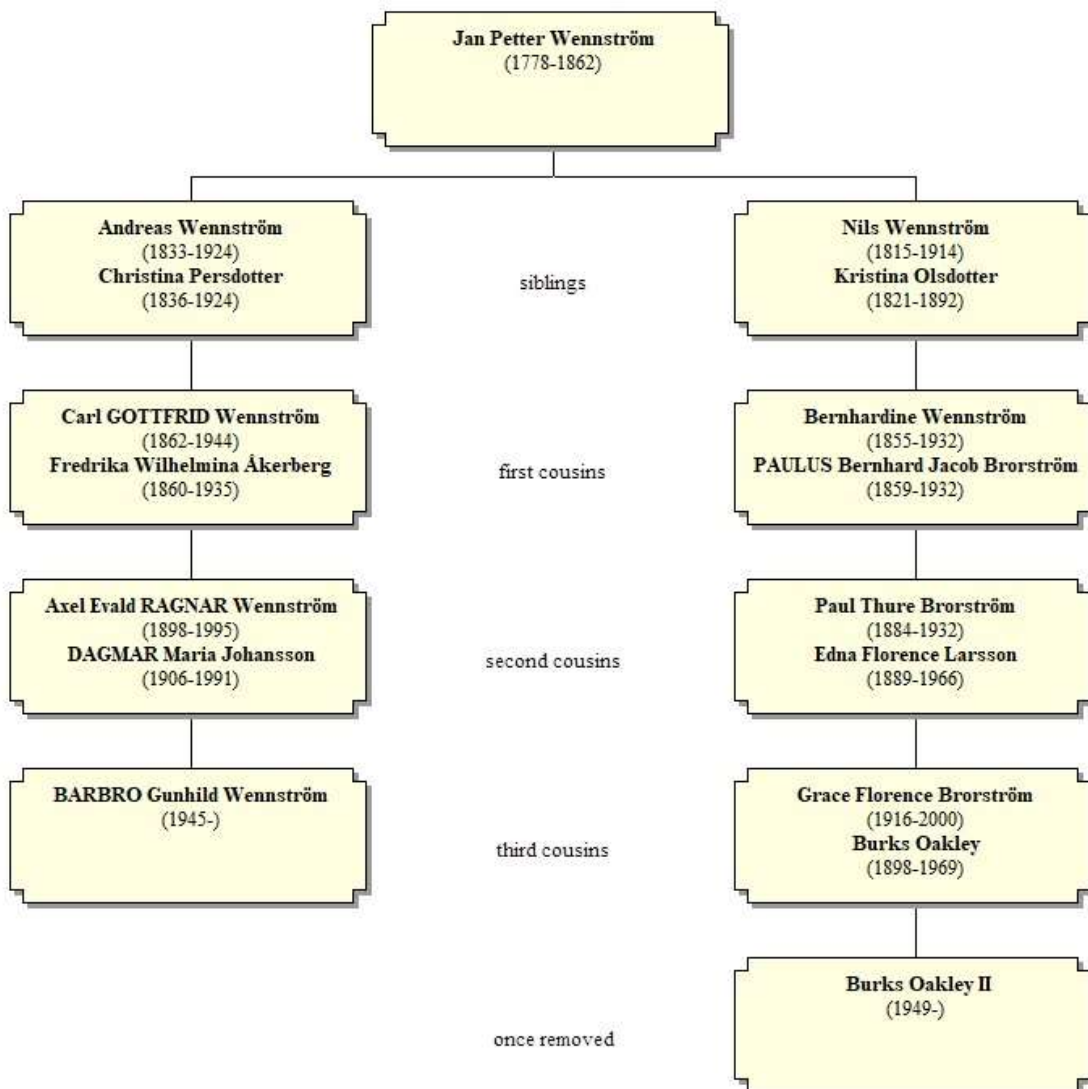
Nils Wennström, 1815-1914, had nine children who lived in adulthood. Three daughters and four sons emigrated to USA. The daughter Gunilla, *Cecilia*, 1843 - 1929, married to Ernst Gustaf Detlof *Alfred* Bexell, 1831 - 1900. The "big house" was built for their wedding. I think you can find information about the Family Bexell at Ancestry.

This document shows a number of my Wennström cousins living in Sweden. Hopefully I can get in contact with some of 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 2<sup>nd</sup>-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, Göteborg).

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, Johannobergs 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 site<sup>1</sup> has the following information about her (translated by Google Translator):

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<sup>1</sup> [https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbro\\_Blomberg](https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbro_Blomberg)

“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.<sup>2</sup>

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 page<sup>3</sup> 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 channel<sup>4</sup> – well worth watching, even if you don’t speak Swedish!



Anna Blomberg med i Nyhetsmorgon TV4

230 views • 3 months ago

Nyhetsmorgon i TV4 från 2016-07-02: Annie Lööf, nej imitationsproffset Anna Blomberg är dagens gäst. Jesper Börjesson tyckte det var en ära att bli imiterad - men alla är inte nöjda, Anna Anka blev förbannad!

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

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna\\_Blomberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Blomberg)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP27Y2LBBSknrVITnEPOrww>

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



A review on the web<sup>5</sup> (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 19<sup>th</sup> 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."

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<sup>5</sup> <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 Elfrida 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.



Viktoria and Barbro in Malmö. 17 May 2019.



Burks and Viktoria in Malmö. 17 May 2019.