

# **The Bergmark Family: Using DNA to Support my Larsson Ancestry**

by Burks Oakley II  
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This narrative includes a DNA connection with:

- Robert Bergmark

## ***Introduction***

In the past few years, I have become very interested in my Swedish roots. My mother's four grandparents all immigrated to America from Sweden in the early 1880's, so her ethnicity was 100% Swedish. In turn, this means that I am 50% Swedish, and therefore I can proudly claim that I am a Swedish-American.

I have been using the Ancestry.com website to search for new Swedish relatives. One very tangible benefit of my interest in genetic genealogy is that I have visited Sweden in each of the past four years (2016-2019), and I have greatly enjoyed getting to know my newly-found Swedish cousins.



Sofiero Palace and Garden, Helsingborg, Sweden

My DNA matches on the Ancestry.com website are displayed in order of the size of the match, with the largest matches first. My top thirteen matches (as of June 2019) are:

1. Amy Oakley – my younger daughter
2. Peter Thure Brorström – a first-cousin on the Brorström side of my family (my mother's side of my family)
3. Stuart Eck – a first-cousin on the Brorström side of my family
4. Susan Brorström Baker – a first-cousin on the Brorström side of my family
5. Annmarie Brorström DeMattia – a first-cousin on the Brorström side of my family
6. Jessica Lynn Eck – a first-cousin once-removed on the Brorström side of my family (Stuart's daughter)
7. Robert Baker – a first-cousin once-removed on the Brorström side of my family (Susan's son)
8. Lauren Meier – a first-cousin once-removed on the Brorström side of my family (Annmarie's daughter)
9. Hal Oakley – a first-cousin once-removed on the Oakley side of my family (my father's side of the family)
10. Mark Eidem – a first-cousin once-removed on the Oakley side of my family
11. Jake Oakley – a first-cousin twice-removed on the Oakley side of my family
12. Walter Cederholm – a Swedish-American relative on the Brorström side of my family<sup>1</sup>
13. Robert Bergmark – the focus of this narrative

### ***Connecting to Robert Bergmark***

The thirteenth individual on the list of my DNA matches, Robert Bergmark, was unknown to me when he first appeared on this list.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on DNA matches, I believe that his great-grandfather Gustav Göran Cederholm (1841-1901) was fathered out-of-wedlock by my 2nd-great grandfather Malte Brorstrom (1816-1877). See: <http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/CederholmRelationship.pdf>

When I examined my DNA match with Robert Bergmark, I learned that we share 179 centimorgans of DNA on eight DNA segments:

## Burks Oakley's DNA Matches BETA

All matches ▾

Add a filter ▾

Q Search

3rd Cousin

Robert Bergmark

3rd-4th Cousin

Shared DNA: 179 cM across 8 segments ⓘ

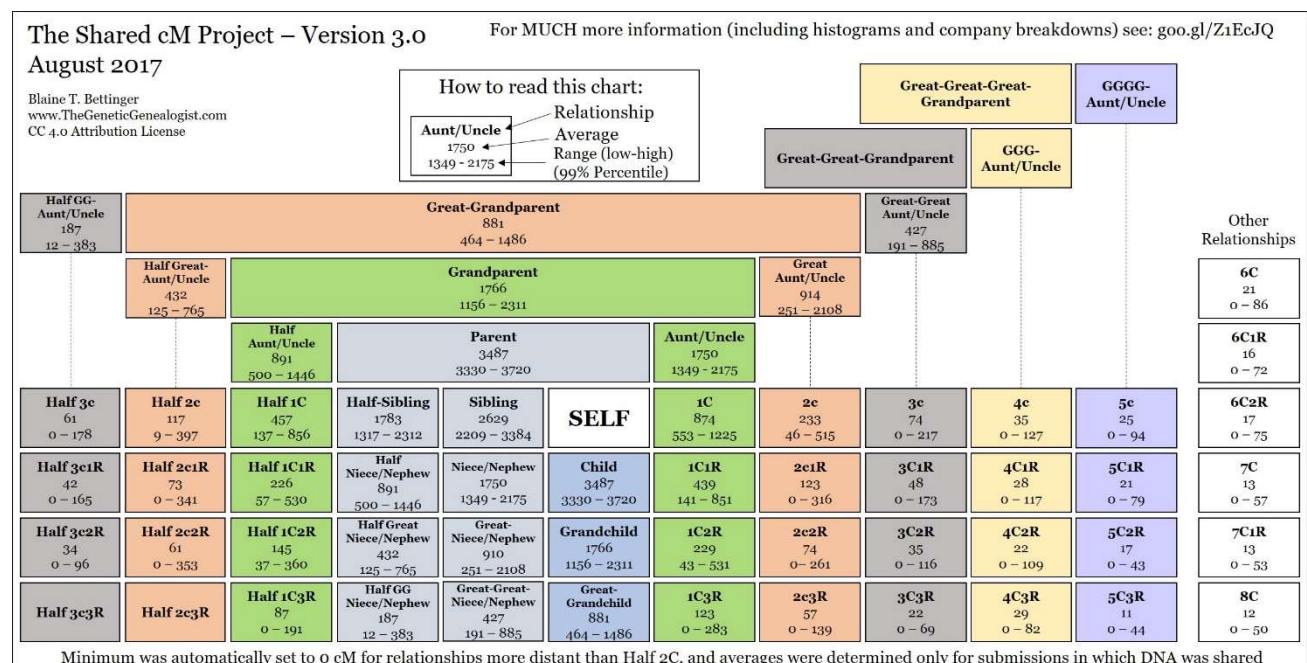
 Unlinked Tree

   Add/edit groups

A centimorgan (abbreviated cM) is a measure of the size of a DNA match. Very roughly, one centimorgan is equivalent to one million base pairs along a DNA segment.

Based on the size of this DNA match, software on the Ancestry.com website predicted that Robert Bergmark and I likely are third-cousins, but this really is just a rough estimate.

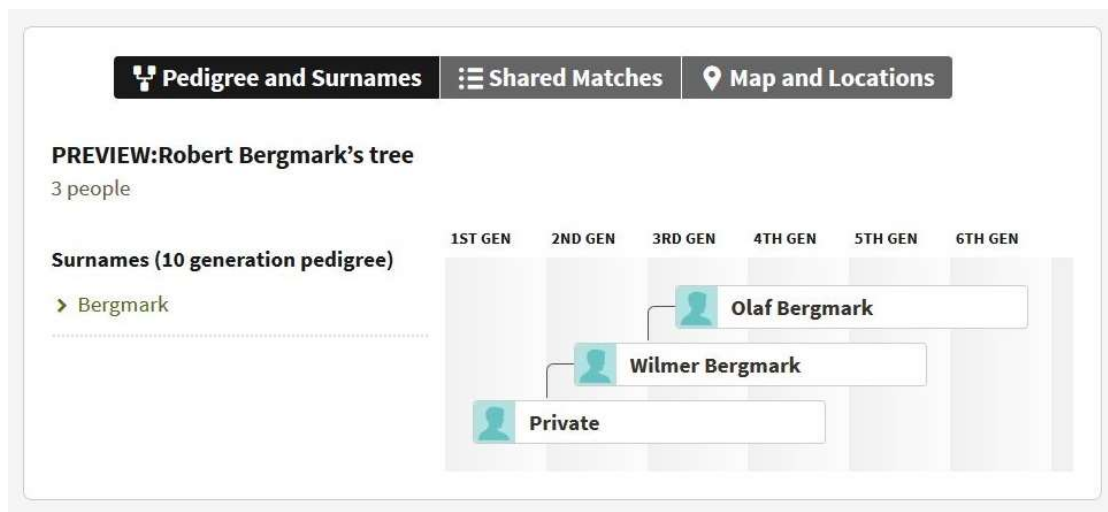
In 2017, the noted genetic genealogist Blaine T. Bettinger published a chart with his research on the size of DNA matches for various genealogical relationships:



The 179 cM match that I have with Robert Bergmark means that it is most likely (50.77% probability) that our relationship is one of the following: half 2C, 2C1R, half 1C2R, or 1C3R, as shown in the following table, which is from the dnapainter.com website:<sup>2</sup>

Relationship probabilities (based on stats from <a href="#">The DNA Geek</a> )	
<b>50.77%</b>	<i>Half 2C 2C1R Half 1C2R 1C3R</i>
<b>36.11%</b>	<i>Half GG-Aunt / Uncle 2C Half 1C1R 1C2R Half GG-Niece / Nephew</i>
<b>9.69%</b>	<i>3C Half 2C1R 2C2R Half 1C3R</i>
<b>2.10%</b>	<i>Great-Great-Aunt / Uncle † Great-Great-Niece / Nephew † Half Great-Aunt / Uncle Half 1C 1C1R Half Great-Niece / Nephew</i>
<b>1.33%</b>	<i>2C3R † 3C1R † Half 3C † Half 2C2R</i>
† this relationship has a positive probability for 179cM in thednageek's table of probabilities, but falls outside the bounds of the recorded cM range (99th percentile)	

Although Robert doesn't have a family tree linked to his DNA profile, he does have a family tree on the Ancestry.com website. Unfortunately, this tree just shows his father, Wilmer Bergmark, and his paternal grandfather, Olaf Bergmark.



<sup>2</sup> <https://dnapainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4>





Data for Wilmer Bergmark indicated that he was born in 1890 in New York and that he died in 1963. Unfortunately, this tree has no dates or locations for Olaf Bergmark. Because Robert Bergmark is living, there is no information about him. However, since his father was born in 1890, Robert is likely to be quite elderly.

Ancestry.com has a feature called “Shared Matches”, where it shows other individuals in its database who also have DNA matches with a particular individual. I have a number of “Shared Matches” with Robert Bergmark:

## Shared matches with Robert Bergmark

**PARENT/CHILD**




**Amy Oakley**

1,902 people

View Match

Possible range: Parent, Child - immediate family member ?  
Confidence: Extremely High



**1ST COUSIN**

**Stuart Eck** 

9 people

View Match




Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins ?  
Confidence: Extremely High

**Susan Baker**

No family tree

View Match

Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins ?  
Confidence: Extremely High




**Annmarie Brorström** 

277 people

View Match

Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins ?  
Confidence: Extremely High

**2ND COUSIN**

**jessicalynn\_eck** 

No family tree


View Match

Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins ?  
Confidence: Extremely High

Since my first-cousins on the Brorström side of my family share this DNA match with Robert, he must be related to me on my mother’s side of the family. My mother’s four grandparents immigrated to American from Sweden in the 1880’s, so it is possible that Robert and I have a common ancestor who lived in Sweden.

I searched for Olaf Bergmark and for Wilmer Bergmark in other family trees on the Ancestry.com website. I found Olof Bergmark (Olof, not Olaf) in the Hodges Family Tree, which is managed by a woman having the username **peggyg827**:

Hodges Family Tree
peggy827



**Olof Bergmark**  
 BIRTH JUL 1856 • Sweden  
 DEATH Unknown

LifeStory
**Facts**
Gallery

**Facts**
Show

Name and gender

1856  
(AGE)

**Birth**  
 Jul 1856 • Sweden  
 8 Sources

1880  
24

**Arrival**  
 1880  
 1 Source

1887  
31

**Birth of Son Oscar Almer Bergmark (1887–1968)**  
 Nov 25 1887 • New York

1890  
33

**Birth of Son Olaf Wilmer Bergmark (1890–1964)**  
 Mar 1890 • New York

1894  
37

**Birth of Son Axel Bergmark (1894–)**  
 1894 • New York

1897  
40

**Birth of Son Gustaf Bergmark (1897–)**  
 1897 • New York

1910  
54

**Residence**  
 1910 • MT Pleasant, Westchester, New York  
 1 Source

1930  
74

**Residence**  
 1930 • Pleasantville, Westchester, New York  
 1 Source

**Sources**

Ancestry Sources


1900 United States Federal Census


1910 United States Federal Census


1920 United States Federal Census


1930 United States Federal Census


Emigranten Populär, 1783-1951


New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957


New York, State Census, 1915


U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)

**Family**

Parents


**Unknown Father**


**Unknown Mother**

Spouse &amp; Children


**Anna Larson**  
 1860–


**Oscar Almer Bergmark**  
 1887–1968


**Olaf Wilmer Bergmark**  
 1890–1964


**Axel Bergmark**  
 1894–


**Gustaf Bergmark**  
 1897–

This Olof Bergmark was born in 1856 in Sweden, immigrated to America 1880, and OMG – he lived in the town of Mt. Pleasant, New York. My mother's parents lived in the town of Mt. Pleasant – so this looks very promising.

According to this family tree, Olof Bergmark had a son named Olaf Wilmer Bergmark (1890-1964), and this has to be the Wilmer Bergmark (1890-1963) who was Robert Bergmark's father.

At this point, I have the Swedish immigrant Olof Bergmark living in the town of Mt. Pleasant, New York, in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. But what is the connection with my mother's family?

The previous screenshot with the information about Olof Bergmark shows that his wife was Anna Larson, who was born in Sweden in 1860. Further examination showed that Anna's mother was also named Anna.

I next looked at the 1910 US Census:

1910 United States Federal Census		
Name	Olof Bergmark	
Age in 1910	53	
Birth Year	abt 1857	
Birthplace	Sweden	
Home in 1910	MT Pleasant, Westchester, New York	
Street	Edgewood Ave	
Race	White	
Gender	Male	
Immigration Year	1880	
Relation to Head of House	Head	
Marital Status	Married	
Spouse's Name	Anna Bergmark	
Father's Birthplace	Sweden	
Mother's Birthplace	Sweden	
Native Tongue	English	
Occupation	Boss Carpenter	
Employer, Employee or Other	Wage Earner	
Home Owned or Rented	Own	
Home Free or Mortgaged	Mortgaged	
Farm or House	House	
Attended School	No	
Able to read	Yes	
Able to Write	Yes	
Years Married	23	
Number of Children Born	4	
Number of Children Living	4	
Household Members		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
	Olof Bergmark	53
	Anna Bergmark	50
	Oscar Bergmark	22
	Wilmer Bergmark	20
	Axel Bergmark	16
	Gustaf Bergmark	13
	Anna H Larson	73

In 1910, Olof and his family were living in the town of Mt. Pleasant. Anna's mother, who shows up as Anna H. Larson, was living with them. She is listed as "mother-in-law", with Olof as the head of the household.

The only way for this to make sense is .....

Drum roll, please .....

Anna Larson Bergmark has to be a sister of Lars Emil Larsson, my great-grandfather.

Lars Emil Larsson's mother was Anna Helena Andersdotter. Her married name would have been Anna Helena Larsson. And Larsson was Americanized to Larson. And she is listed in the 1910 US Census as Anna H. Larson.



This means that Anna Larsson Bergmark's son, Olaf Wilmer Bergmark (1890-1964), was a first-cousin of my grandmother, Edna Florence Larsson. Moving on to the next generation, Robert Bergmark would be a second-cousin of my mother, Grace Florence Brorström.

This means that Robert is my second-cousin once-removed (2C1R). According to Blaine Bettinger, 2C1R average 129 cM of shared DNA, with a range from 0 to 325 cM. So my match with Robert Bergmark, 179 cM, is well within the range for our 2C1R relationship. And the 2C1R relationship was one of the relationships that had the highest probability in the probability chart from dnapainter.com.

At this point, I reviewed my notes on my computer about my great-grandfather Lars Emil Larsson (1864-1945), which is something I should have done earlier. My Swedish cousin, Göran Grotting, is descended from one of Lars Emil Larsson's ancestors, and in 2013, he sent me some information that he had found about Lars Emil; Göran wrote:

Lars Emil Larsson had four sisters.

Anna Louisa (Lovisa) Larsson married Olaf Bergmark. She emigrated from Sweden with Lars Emil, probably in 1882.

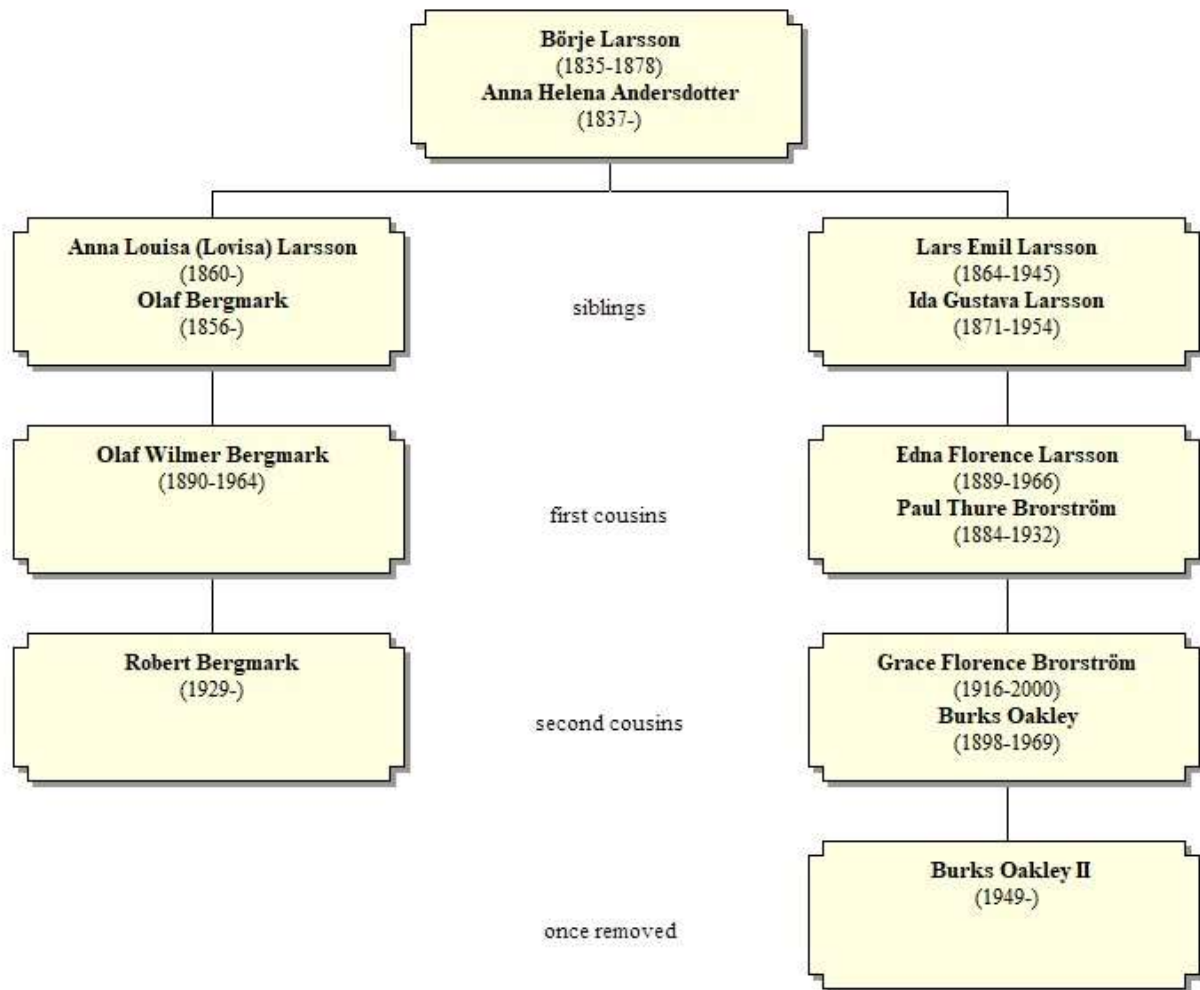
Hanna Evelina Larsson married \_\_\_\_\_ Svenson. I don't have a date for her emigration yet.

Tekla Elise Larsson married Natanael (Nathaniel) Erikson. Tekla Elise emigrated together with their two boys (Nils Gunnar and Erik Algot) on 12 April 1897. Her husband Natanael Eriksson (a carpenter) had emigrated two years earlier, 4 March 1895.

Helga Bernhardina Larsson married Hans Aretander. Helga Bernhardina emigrated alone, 8 March 1895.

Oh my! It was on my computer all the time – hiding in plain sight. Anna Louisa Larsson married Olaf Bergmark! Now I know that I found the “right” Olaf/Olof Bergmark in the 1910 US Census. And my DNA match with Robert Bergmark is real proof of this family tree. Amazing!

Here is a chart showing how Robert Bergmark and I are related:



## ***Conclusion***

Once again, I can say “The DNA doesn’t lie”. It is amazing that Ancestry.com can compare my DNA profile with the more than ten million other individuals in its database, and identify my DNA matches with Robert Bergmark (179 cM across eight DNA segments), predict that we are possibly third cousins, and find that other relatives on my mother’s side of the family also share this match (including Stuart, Annmarie, Susan, Jessica, and Amy).

My DNA match with Robert Bergmark provides strong support for the genealogical record provided by my cousin Göran Grotting, as well as the relationship shown in the Hodges Family Tree on the Ancestry.com website.

My earlier DNA match with Göran Grotting showed that I was descended from Lars Emil Larsson, and now this new match with Robert Bergmark is yet another piece of evidence supporting my Larsson ancestry in Sweden.

## ***Appendix A: Lars Emil Larsson and Fjärås, Sweden***

In the summer of 2016, Göran Grottlings took Susan Brorström Baker and me to visit the small town of Fjärås on the west coast of Sweden. We saw the house that Lars Emil Larsson was born in, as well as the house that he lived in before immigrating to America. So now I can put two more people there – Anna Larsson Bergmark and her mother, Anna Helena Andersdotter Larsson.



Burks in front of the house in Fjärås that Lars Emil Larsson lived in.  
July 2016.





The church in Fjärås. July 2016.



Lars Emil Larsson's gravestone in Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla, NY.  
July 2018.



## Appendix B: 1910 US Census

Here is a copy of the original 1910 US Census entry for Olof Bergmark. He was living on Edgewood Avenue in the town of Mt. Pleasant, New York (about 1 mile from the house in which my mother grew up). Olof was listed as the head of the household, along with his wife Anna, and sons Oscar, Wilmer, Axel, and Gustaf. It also lists Anna H. Larson, age 73, as his mother-in-law. And it does show that Anna H. Larson had five children, and all were living.

1910 United States Federal Census for Olof Bergmark												
New York > Westchester > Mt Pleasant > District 0050												
Street	House No	Visited No	Family No	Name	Relation	Sex	Race	Age	Marital St	Years Mar	Children	Children l
Edgewood Ave	5061			Bergmark Olof	Head	M	N	53	M	23	4	4
				Anna	Wife	F	N	50	M	23	4	4
				Oscar	Son	M	N	22	S	0	0	0
				Wilmer	Son	M	N	20	S	0	0	0
				Axel	Son	M	N	16	S	0	0	0
				Gustaf	Son	M	N	13	S	0	0	0
				Larson Anna H	Mother-in-law	F	N	73	W	0	5	5

### ***Appendix C: Mt. Pleasant vs. Pleasantville***

I have always wondered what the difference is between Mt. Pleasant and Pleasantville. So I decided to look it up. It turns out that Mount Pleasant is a town in Westchester County, New York. The hamlets of Valhalla, Hawthorne, Pocantico Hills and Thornwood, and the villages of Pleasantville, Sleepy Hollow, and a small portion of Briarcliff Manor lie within the town. This means that Pleasantville is a village in the town of Mount Pleasant.

In New York State, a village is an incorporated area that differs from a city in that a village is within the jurisdiction of one or more towns, whereas a city is independent of a town. Villages thus have less autonomy than cities.

A village is usually, but not always, within a single town. A village may be coterminous with, and have a consolidated government with, a town. A village is a clearly defined municipality that provides the services closest to the residents, such as garbage collection, street and highway maintenance, street lighting and building codes. Some villages provide their own police and other optional services. Those municipal services not provided by the village are provided by the town or towns containing the village. As of the 2000 census, there are 553 villages in New York.

There is no limit to the population of a village in New York; Hempstead, the largest village in the state, has 55,000 residents, making it more populous than some of the state's cities. However, villages in the state may not exceed five square miles in area. Present law requires a minimum of 500 residents to incorporate as a village.