

Birgitta Landén – Another Brorström Cousin from Sweden

by Burks Oakley II
15 July 2018

Introduction

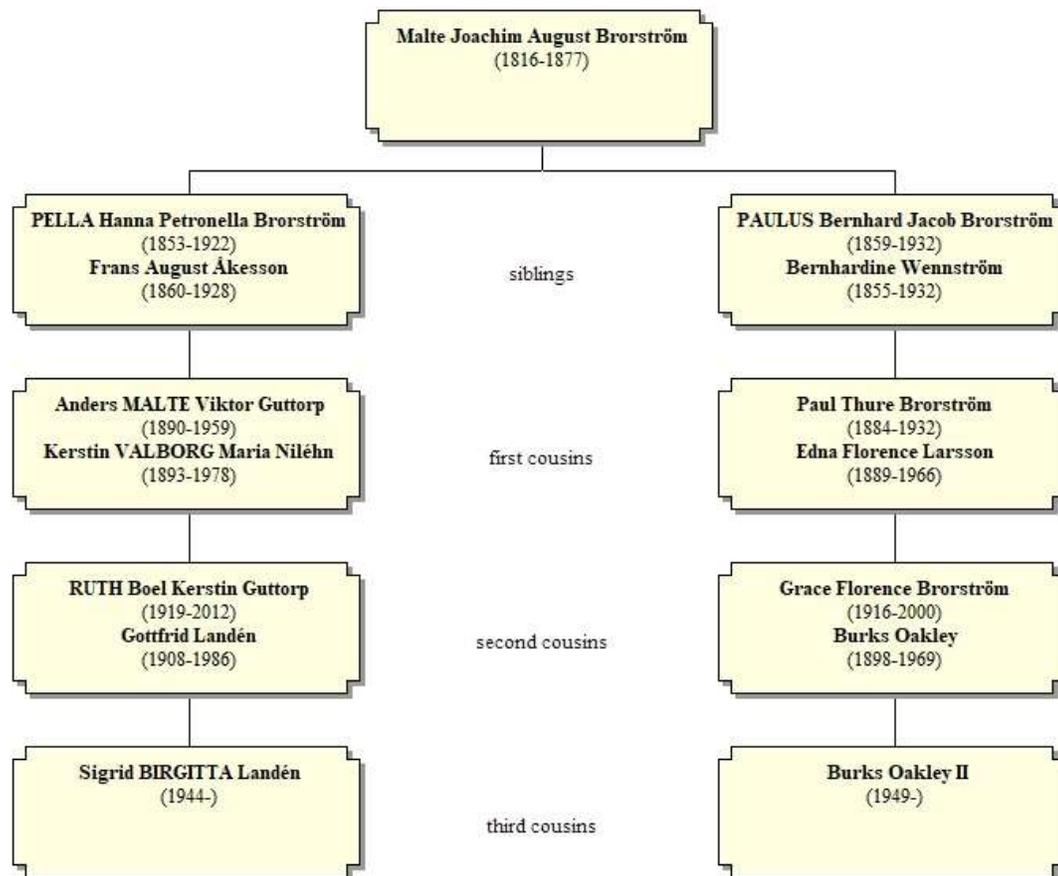
In the summer of 2016, my Swedish-American cousin Susan Brorström Baker and I visited Sweden. In preparation for this visit, I contacted my third-cousin Anna Guttorp, who is a Brorström descendant, to see if we could get together on this visit. It turned out that Anna was going to be on holiday in Skåne (the south of Sweden), near Lund, at the time when Susan and I would be in Sweden, so she suggested that we meet in Lund. Anna mentioned that we had several other cousins who were Brorström descendants living in Lund, and she offered to arrange a day-long outing for all of us. One of these Swedish cousins was Birgitta Swärdh Landén, and this short narrative is about Cousin Birgitta.

Sigrid Birgitta Swärdh Landén

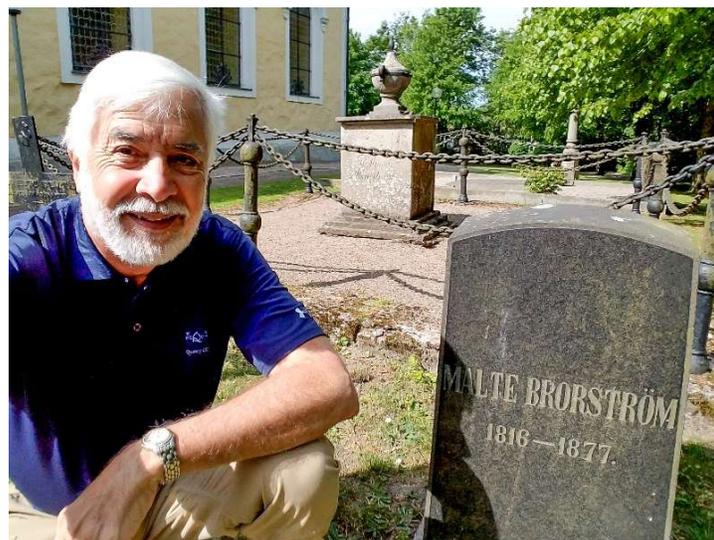
Birgitta is Anna Guttorp's first-cousin, as shown in the following chart:



Birgitta's *morfar* (maternal grandfather) was Malte Guttorp (1890-1959), and his mother was Pella Brorström. And that leads to how Birgitta and I are related as third-cousins:



Birgitta and I are both descended from Malte Brorström (1816-1877).



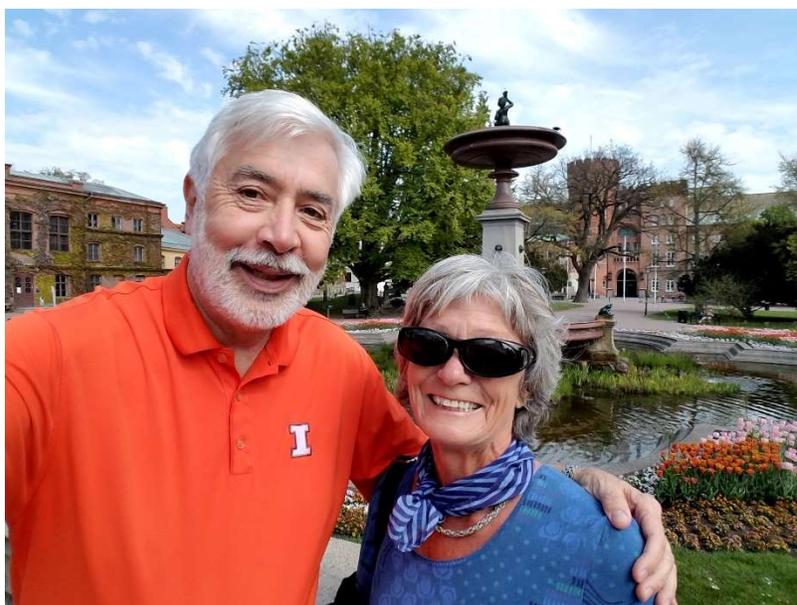
Selfie taken by Malte Brorström's grave in Borrby, Sweden. May 2018

My Swedish-American cousin Susan and I met Birgitta and her husband Christer Swärdh when we visited our relatives in Lund, Sweden, in early July 2016.



Birgitta and Christer at her maternal grandparents' grave in Lund. July 2016.

When I returned to Sweden in May 2017, I spent a wonderful day with Birgitta and Christer, touring Lund.



Selfie taken with Birgitta at Lund University. May 2017.

Birgitta's Family

Birgitta was born Sigrid Birgitta Landén. With her first husband, **Puck** Hjalmar Rydahl, she had two daughters – **Hanna** Charlotta Rydahl (born 1970) and **Elin** Ulrika Rydahl (born 1974). Hanna and her husband have a daughter and live in London, England, while Elin and her husband have two children and live in Lund.

Birgitta's husband is Lars **Christer** Swärdh, so Birgitta has taken the name Birgitta Swärdh Landén. Birgitta and Christer have a beautiful home in Lund, about a mile east of the central city.



Birgitta and Christer in front of their home in Lund, July 2016.

Birgitta is an Accomplished Artist

When Susan and I visited Birgitta in her home in Lund in July 2016, we saw the studio where she paints. She gave us several books and calendars containing her artwork, as well as some notecards. She has a website at:

<http://www.birgittalanden.se/>



Birgitta and one of her large acrylic paintings, entitled "Wild Life".

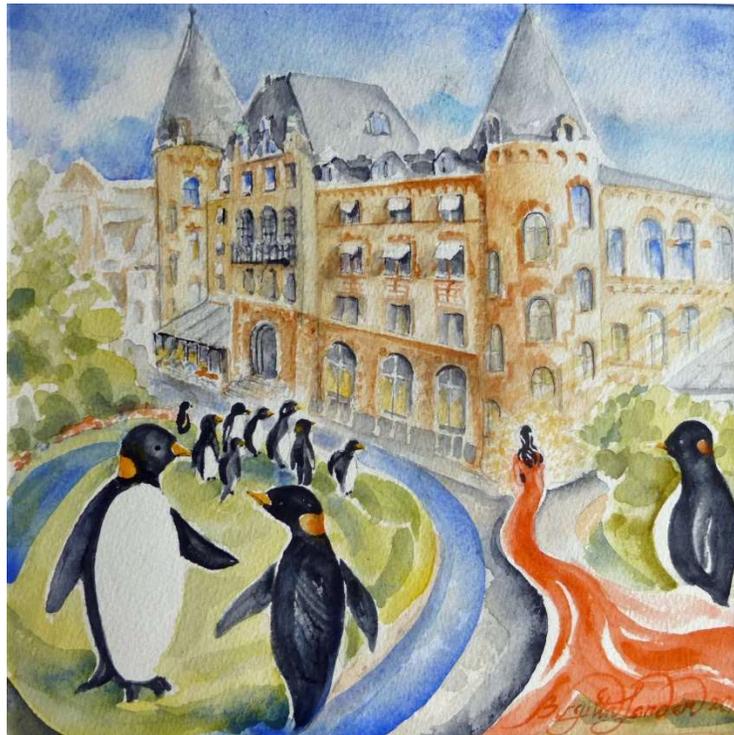


One of Birgitta's paintings.

I especially like her whimsical paintings of Lund:



High Spirits St. Annegatan Lund.



Welcome to the Grand Hotel – Formal Clothes for a Gala Night.

Birgitta and Ronald McDonald House

Birgitta volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House in Lund. Families from all over Sweden, Norway, and Iceland stay there when their children need specialized care at Lund University Hospital. The house is located just a short walk from the Children and Youth Hospital.

Birgitta has given numerous paintings to Ronald McDonald House to brighten up the living spaces. In fact, her artwork really is a wonderful addition that helps to make the Ronald McDonald House in Lund very special. Each of the apartment doors has a painting, and the family in that apartment take on the name of the animal – such as the panda family:



The door to the Panda apartment.

One of my favorite works that Birgitta has given to Ronald McDonald House is a large mural entitled “Magical Lund” – here is a photo that I took of Birgitta by this mural in May 2017:

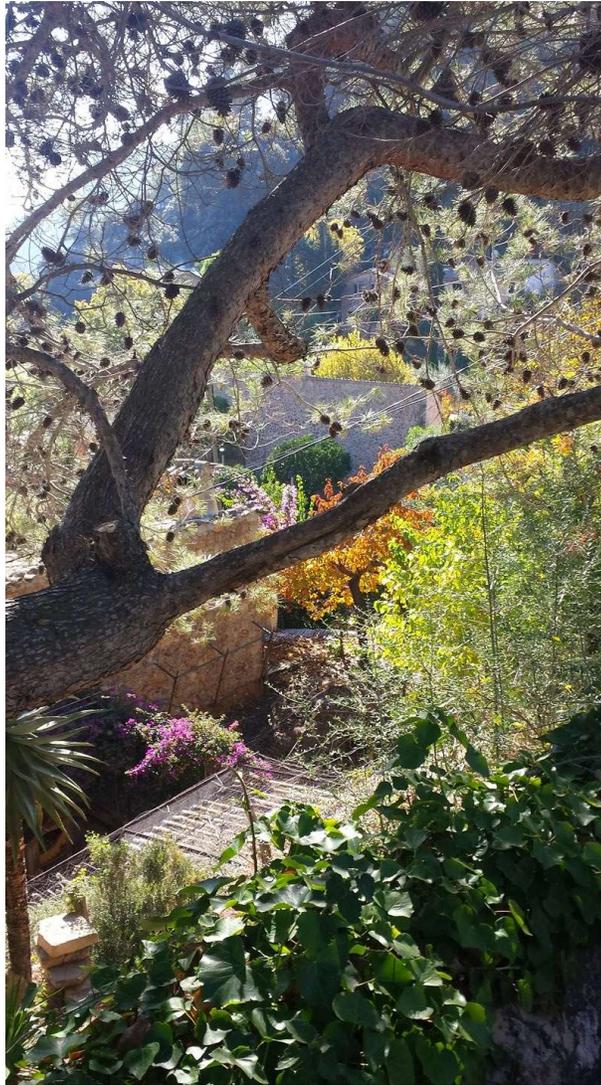


Birgitta and her mural "Magical Lund". May 2017.

Birgitta and Christer have a Second House in Majorca

This short narrative about my third-cousin Birgitta wouldn't be complete without mentioning that she and her husband have a second house in Majorca – a Spanish island in the Mediterranean. I'm sure that Birgitta's Swedish relatives are "green with envy" when they see her posting photos on Facebook from Majorca in the middle of winter. Here are a few examples of photos posted to her Facebook page:





Summary

I am very fortunate to have been able to meet so many of my Brorström relatives living in Sweden. I really have enjoyed getting to know Cousin Birgitta and her husband Christer. What wonderful people! I hope to be able to see them again when I next visit Sweden.