

Helena CECILIA Maria Wennström Liljedahl – Another Branch of the Wennström Family in Sweden

by Burks Oakley II
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Introduction

My mother was Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000). Her paternal grandmother (*farmor* in Swedish) was Bernhardine Wennström (1855-1932), who immigrated to America with her husband Paulus Brorström in 1882. So while my mother's family name was Brorström, she was just as much Wennström as Brorström.

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, Barbro
Görel	Burks	Peter, Cecilia
Gönnar		
Magnus		
Daniel		
Björn		
Lena, Hans-Fredrik		

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, Flaggskjeppsgatan 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.

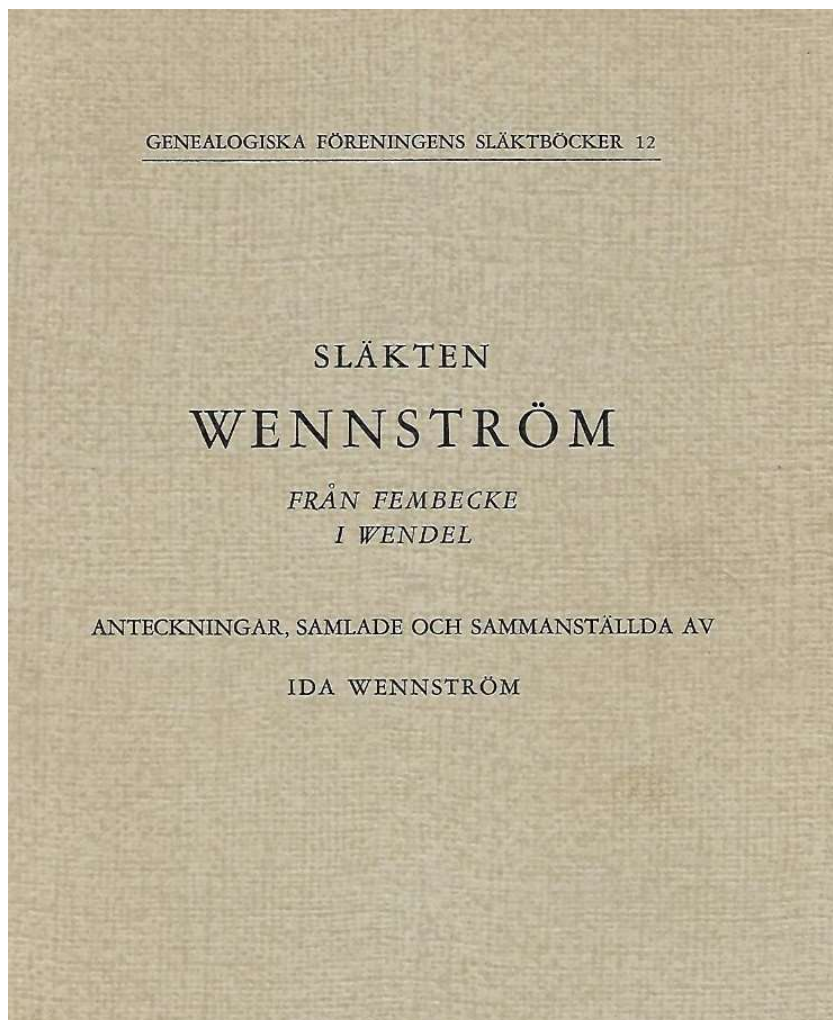
Helena **Cecilia** Maria **Liljedahl** (b. Wennström) born 19610305, Himmelriksgränden 2 lgh 1301, 252 23 Helsingborg. My husband, Lars, met her several times at work and I met her a few times with him. I later discovered that we are related, but I do not think she knows.

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. I am slowly working my way through this list, trying to learn what I can about these relatives. Barbro Wennström Blomberg appears in the right-hand column of the scan on the previous page; I met her when I was in Malmö in May 2018. Barbro mentioned her niece Cecilia Liljedahl (nee Wennström); Cecilia is her brother's daughter and appears in the row below her in the scan. This short narrative is about Cecilia.

Helena Cecilia* Maria Wennström

I have been aided in my research about the Wennström family in Sweden by a book entitled ***Släkten Wennström*** (The Family Wennström), which was written by Ida Wennström and published in 1965. I was given a copy of this book by my cousin Lena Kannesten. Here is a scan of the cover of this book:



Helena Cecilia* Maria Wennström appears in this book at the very end of Table 46 on page 54. She was born on 5 March 1961 in Gothenburg:

Tabell 45.

Axel Evald Ragnar (son av *Carl Gottfrid*, tab. 44), f. 1898 22/7 i Veinge sn. Innehafvare 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, Johannebergs förs.

Tabell 46.

Albert Fredrik Ingemar (son av *Axel Evald Ragnar*, tab. 45), f. 1929 14/6 i Göteborg Kristine församl. Studentexamen vid

Hvitfeldtska läroverket, Göteborg, 1947. Arkitektexamen vid Chalmers Tekniska Högskola, Göteborg, 1956. Har medarbetat hos arkitekt Johannes Olivegren i Göteborg, driver sedan 1958 eget arkitektkontor i Mölndal, från 1961 knuten till Småhusbyrå A.B. i Malmö, stadsarkitekt i Landvetter och Horred k:er. Har varit redaktör för Arkitektguide över Göteborg. (Bågskyttegatan 3 C, Mölndal).

G. 1956 9/6 i S:t Lars kapell, Åsa (anteckn. i Örgryte vigselb.) m. kontoristen *Ingegård Gun-Britt Olsson*, f. 1934 4/1 i Göteborg, Örgryte förs., dotter av förmannen *John Idor Oskar Olsson*, Rosenhill 3, Örgryte, och *Vera Mattea Blomberg*.

Barn:

Jan Peter Fredrik, f. 1957 31/8 i Göteborg, Johannebergs förs.

Helena Cecilia Maria, f. 1961 5/3 i Göteborg, Johannebergs förs.

The ***Släkten Wennström*** book was published in 1965, so Cecilia would have only been 4 years old at that time – she is fortunate to have been born in time to appear in this book!

Table 46 shows that Cecilia's brother is Jan Peter* Wennström, and I have written a short narrative about him previously.¹ Table 46 also shows that Cecilia's father was Albert Fredrik Ingemar* Wennström, born on 14 June 1929.

Using the information in ***Släkten Wennström***, I can trace Cecilia's entire Wennström line going back from Ingemar:

- Ingemar's father was Axel Evald Ragnar* Wennström, born on 22 July 1898.
- Ragnar's father was Carl Gottfrid* Wennström, born on 27 March 1862.

¹ <http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/PeterWennström-WennströmConnection.pdf>

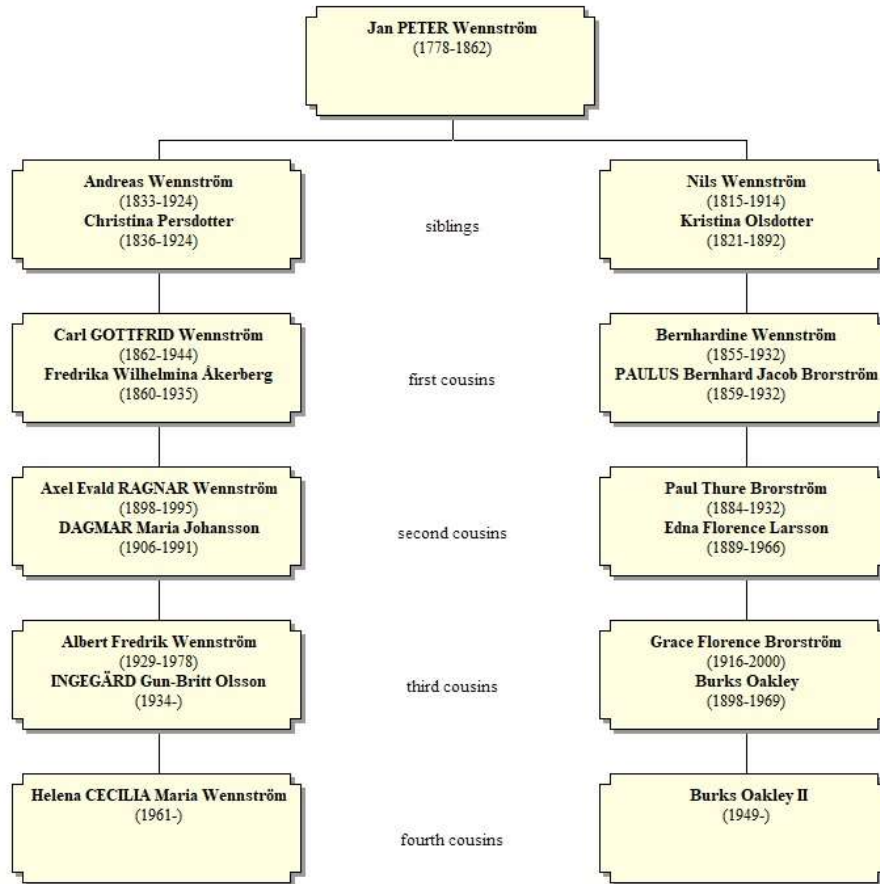
- Gottfrid's father Andreas Wennström, born on 1 April 1833.
- Andreas' father was Jan Peter* Wennström, born on 20 August 1778.

Jan Peter* Wennström was my 3rd-great-grandfather. Recall from other narratives about the Wennström family that Jan Peter* had two wives; he had six children with his first wife, and seven children with his second wife. The following diagram is from Lena Kannesten's family tree on Ancestry.com:



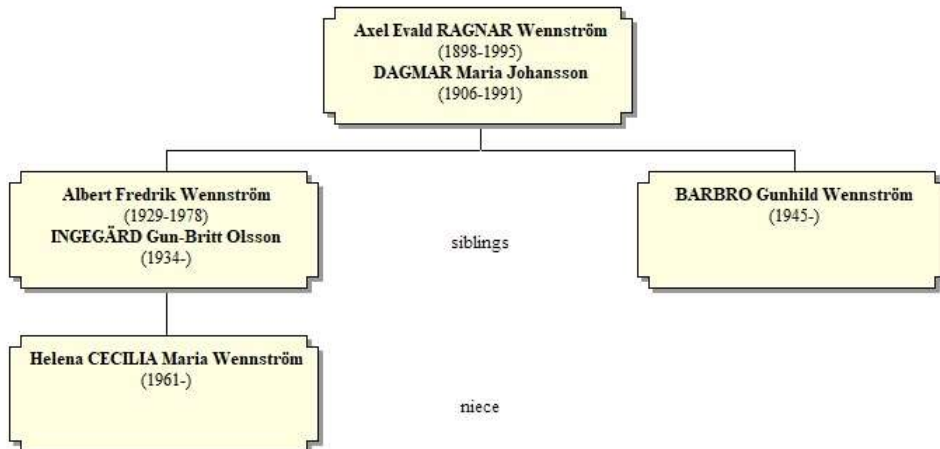
I am descended from Nils Wennström (born 1815), while Cecilia Liljedahl (nee Wennström) is descended from his younger half-brother Andreas Wennström (born 1833).

Here is a chart showing how Cecilia Wennström and I are related.

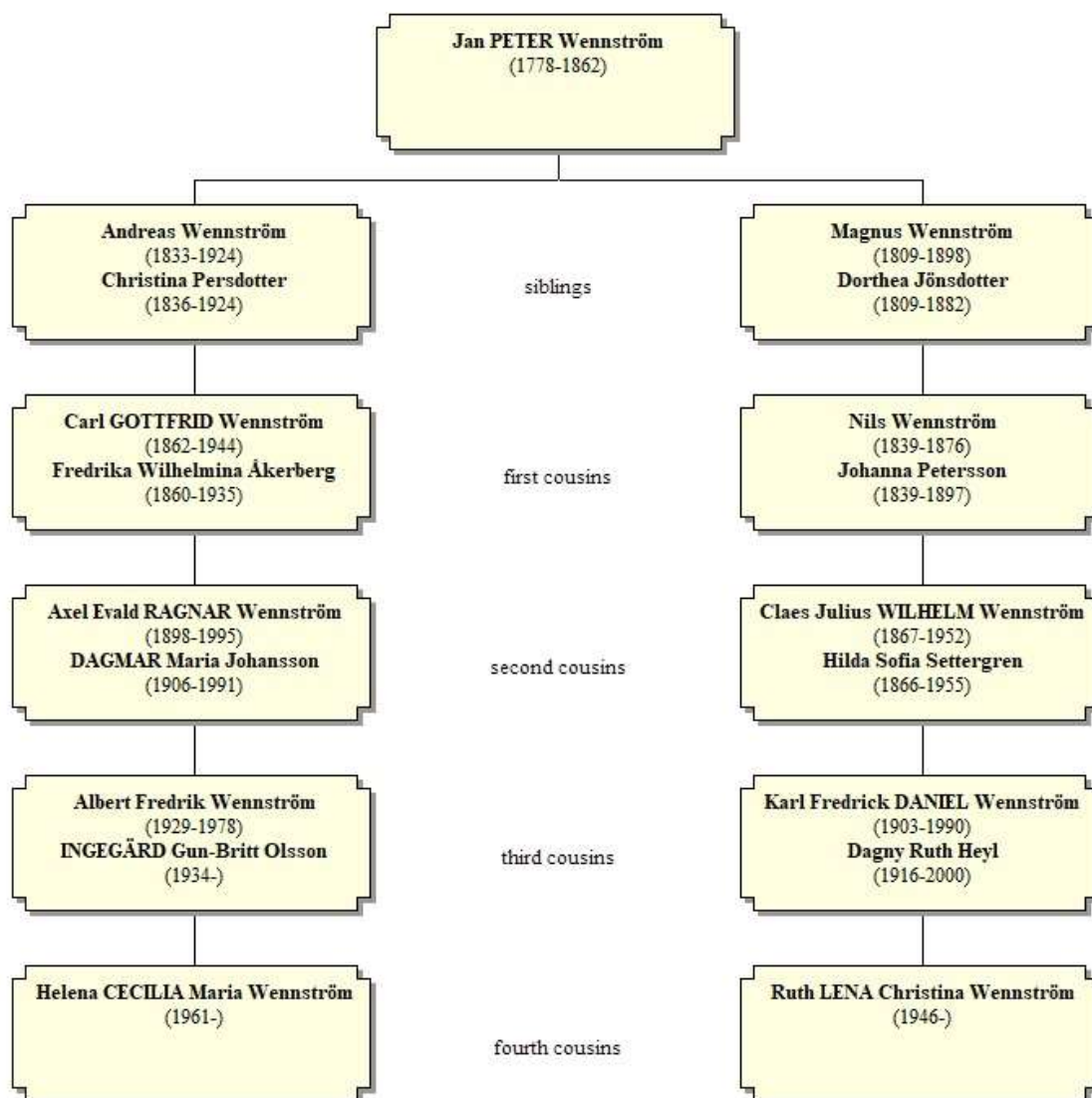


Cecilia and I are fourth-cousins.

Earlier, I mentioned that Cecilia is a nephew of Barbro Blomberg (nee Wennström) – here is a chart showing this relationship:

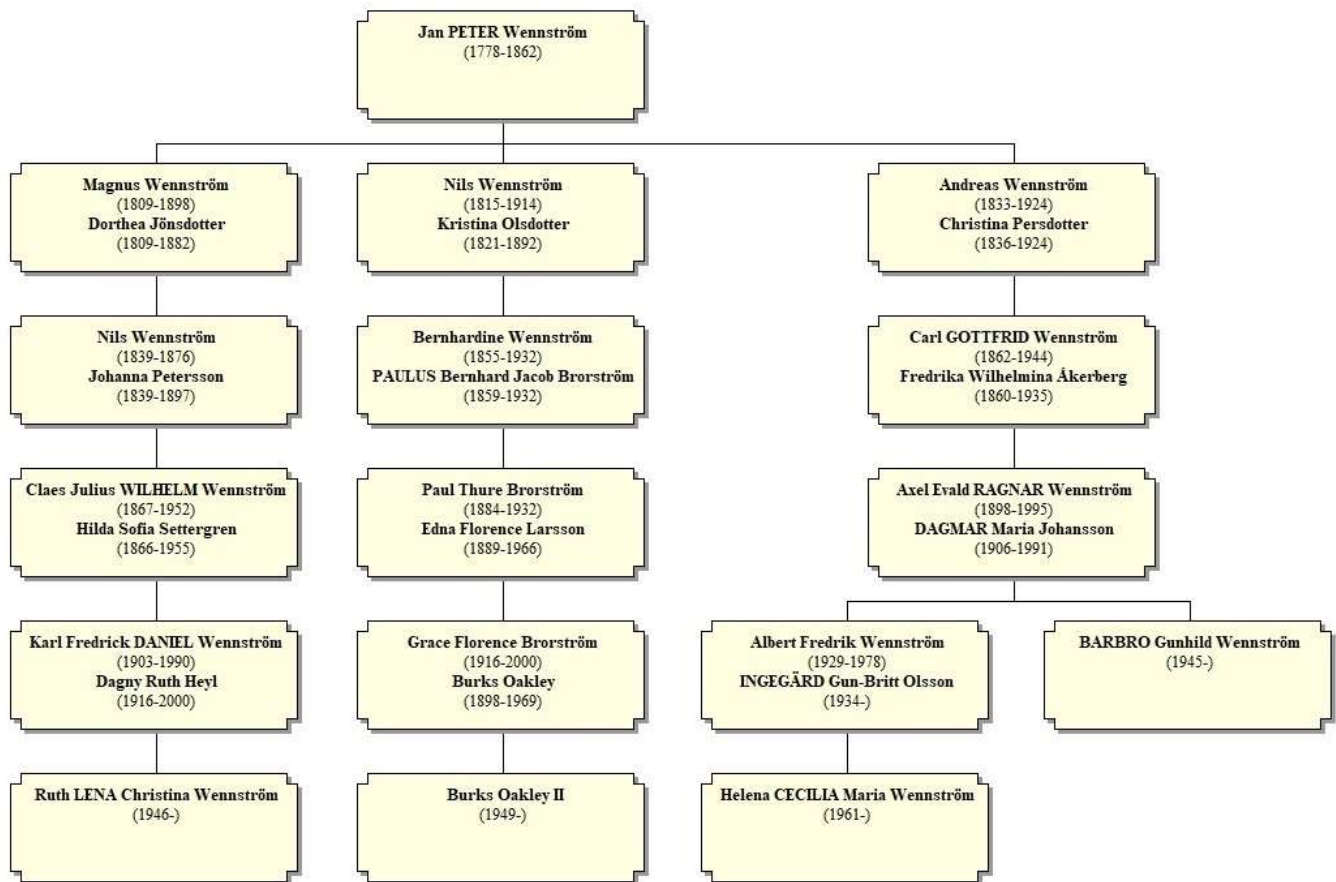


I also mentioned that Lena Kannesten is a Wennström, and the following chart shows how she and Cecilia are related (they are fourth-cousins):



Lena is descended from Jan Peter* through his son Magnus, while Peter is descended from Jan Peter* through his son Andreas.

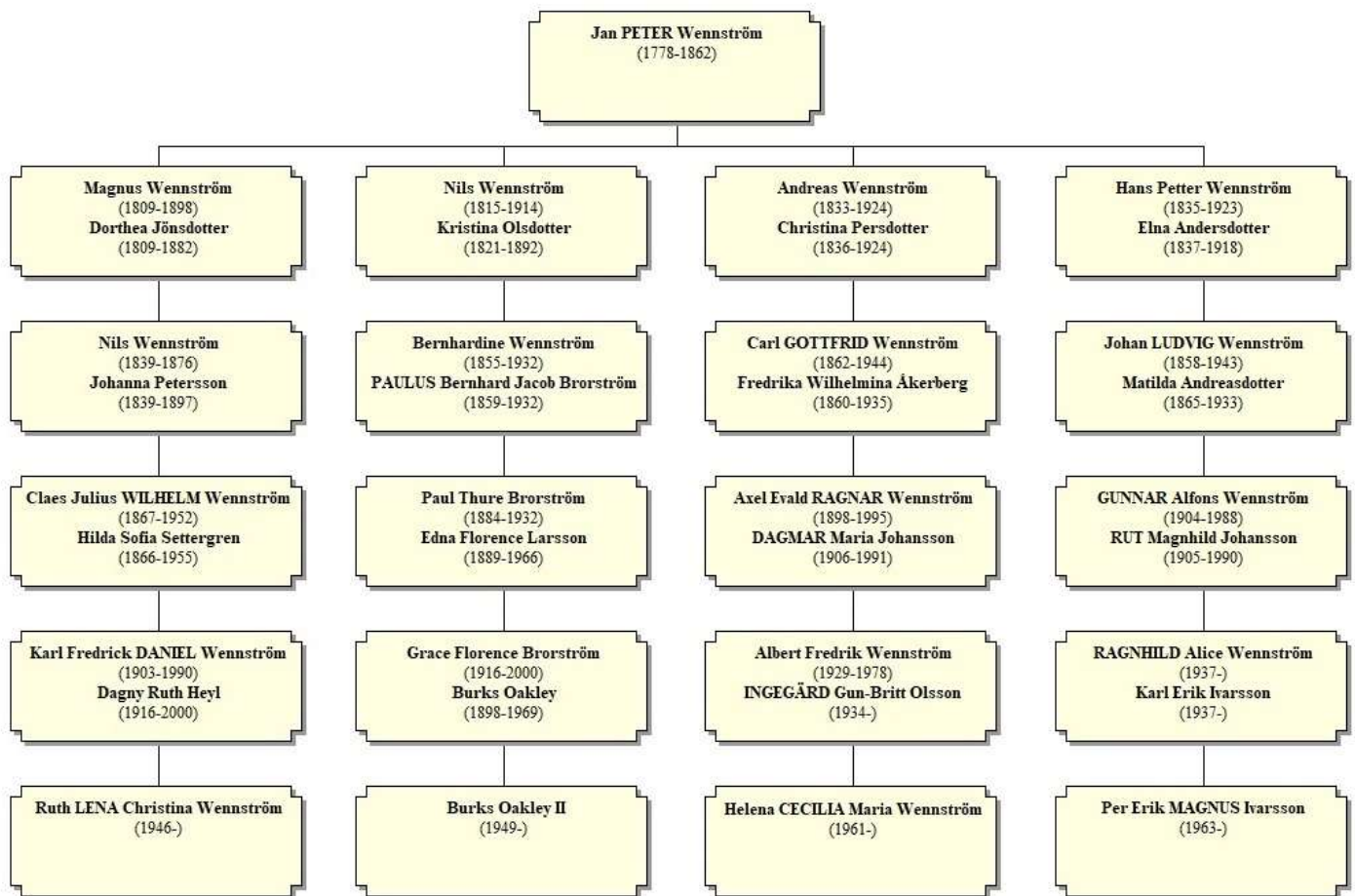
I can put all this together to show the three separate family lines going back to Jan Peter* Wennström:



Lena is descended from Magnus, Burks is descended from Nils, and Cecilia and Barbro are descended from Andreas. Of course, this is exactly what Lena had in the scan that she sent me in January 2018. And all of the Wennströms in this chart appear in the *Släkten Wennström* book from 1965.

But wait! There is at least one additional line going back to Jan Peter* Wennström. Magnus Ivarsson is descended from Hans Petter Wennström (1835-1923), who was another son of Jan Peter* Wennström and his second wife, Johanna Persdotter (1801-1888). I have written about Magnus Ivarsson previously.²

Adding in Magnus' line back to Jan Peter* Wennström gives the following chart:



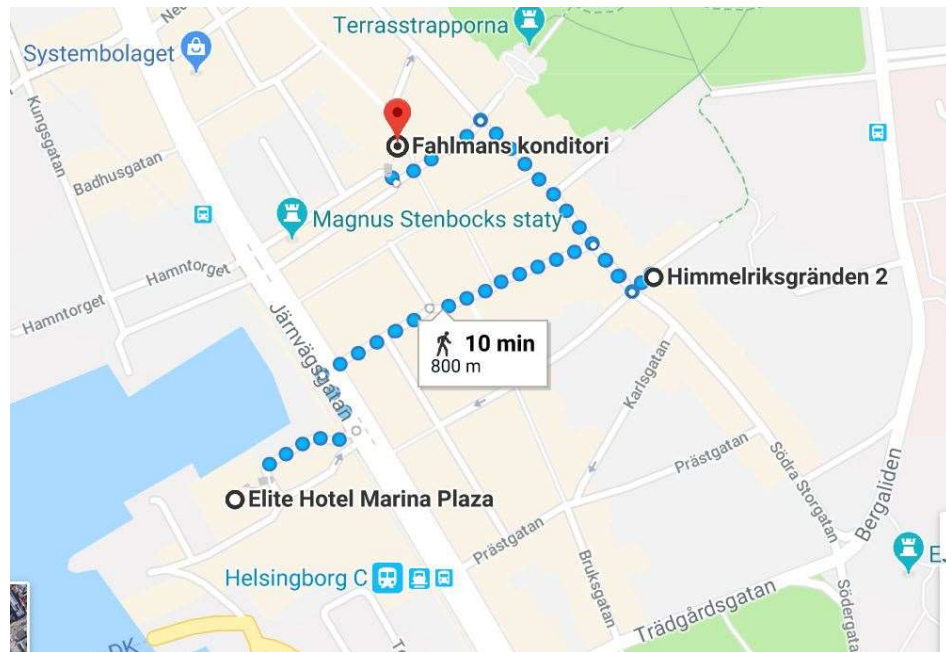
Amazing to have living descendants of four different lines going back to my third-great grandfather!

Some Information about Cecilia Wennström

I was able to put everything together about Cecilia just from the ***Släkten Wennström*** book. But it isn't enough just to know how we are related. I really need to know something about her as a person. Well, the scan that Lena sent me on 10 January 2018 listed her full name as Helena Cecilia Maria Liljedahl, and provided her address in Helsingborg. I found her on the Swedish information website ratsit.se, and her entry in ratsit.se has the same address, as well as the correct age for her date of birth published in the ***Släkten Wennström*** book.

It turns out that Cecilia lives very close to the central city in Helsingborg. In May 2018, I visited Lena and her husband Lars in Helsingborg. I stayed at the Elite

Hotel Marina Plaza, and we all walked to Fahlman's bakery one afternoon for fika. Gosh, we were just a short walk away from where Cecilia lives!



A quick search on Facebook turned up Cecilia's Facebook page – gosh, she must be a master gardener. She lists her former employment as “Former Founder and Project Manager at Swedish Society of Public Parks and Gardens”³ and “Former Expert Consultant at Hybridparks”.⁴ She has a photo of a formal garden on her Facebook page:



³ <http://www.swedishgardens.se/>

⁴ <http://www.hybridparks.eu/en/?s=sweden>

Here is a photo of Cousin Cecilia from her Facebook account:



In order to see if I could find out anything else about Cousin Cecilia, I Googled her using the search terms “Cecilia Liljedahl Helsingborg” (no quotes). And the first hit was to her own website at: <http://cecilialiljedahl.com/>

Cecilia Liljedahl – Creative Event & Project Manager

cecilialiljedahl.com/ ▼

”I am working with creative ideas and and project development to promote social and green values in urban spaces. For more than twenty years I have been ...

Oh my!

When I went to this site, I saw the following:



"I am working with creative ideas and and project development to promote social and green values in urban spaces. For more than twenty years I have been involved in public parks and gardens all over Sweden and in Europe. It is my pleasure and mission to enhance the green culture heritage and combine art, modern trends, communication and social context to create livable cities and environment."

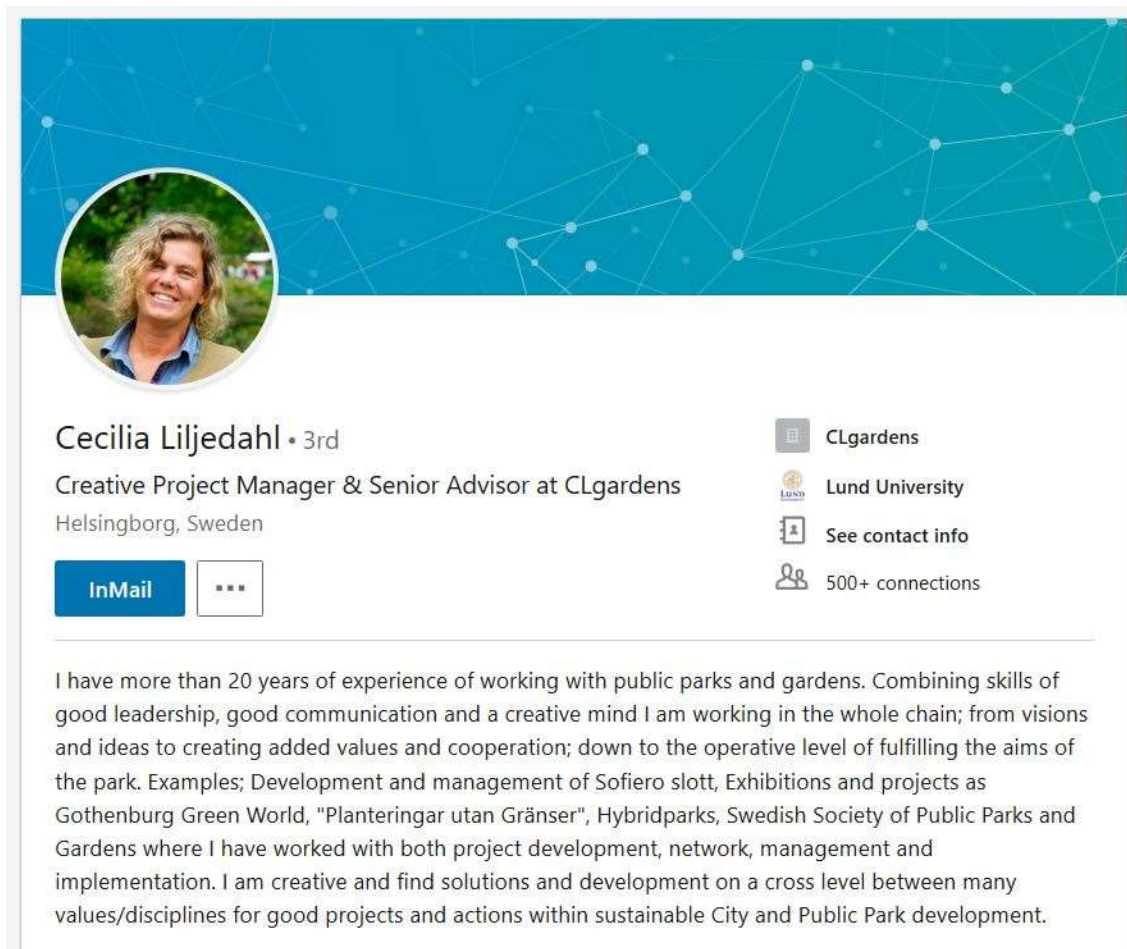
What a neat woman!! As an aside, I was surprised to see that her website is ONLY in English – nothing at all in Swedish.

Her website has a link to her account on Instagram:



The screenshot shows the Instagram profile of Cecilia Liljedahl. At the top left is the Instagram logo and the word "Instagram". To the right is a search bar with the text "Sök" and a "Logga in" button. The profile picture is a circular image of Cecilia Liljedahl smiling. To the right of the profile picture is the username "ialiljedahl" and a blue "Följ" button. Below the username are statistics: "896 inlägg", "515 följare", and "1 146 följer". The bio reads: "Cecilia Liljedahl Gardens, nature, art, fashion, interior decoration, design, colours and shapes, wonders of life, creative Green projects and other good moments."

Her website also has a link to her account on LinkedIn:



The screenshot shows the LinkedIn profile of Cecilia Liljedahl. The background is a teal color with a white network diagram. The profile picture is a circular image of Cecilia Liljedahl smiling. Below the profile picture is the name "Cecilia Liljedahl" followed by "• 3rd". To the right of the name are icons for "CLgardens", "Lund University", "See contact info", and "500+ connections". Below the name is the title "Creative Project Manager & Senior Advisor at CLgardens" and the location "Helsingborg, Sweden". There is a blue "InMail" button and a three-dot menu button. The bio text reads: "I have more than 20 years of experience of working with public parks and gardens. Combining skills of good leadership, good communication and a creative mind I am working in the whole chain; from visions and ideas to creating added values and cooperation; down to the operative level of fulfilling the aims of the park. Examples; Development and management of Sofiero slott, Exhibitions and projects as Gothenburg Green World, "Planteringar utan Gränser", Hybridparks, Swedish Society of Public Parks and Gardens where I have worked with both project development, network, management and implementation. I am creative and find solutions and development on a cross level between many values/disciplines for good projects and actions within sustainable City and Public Park development."

Barbro sent me Cecilia's e-mail address and we have been in contact. We now are Facebook friends. I really am looking forward to meeting Cousin Cecilia and her family the next time I visit Sweden. Maybe we can have a big Wennström party in Helsingborg!