

How is the Cederholm Family Related to the Brorström Family?

by Burks Oakley II
23 January 2019

Introduction

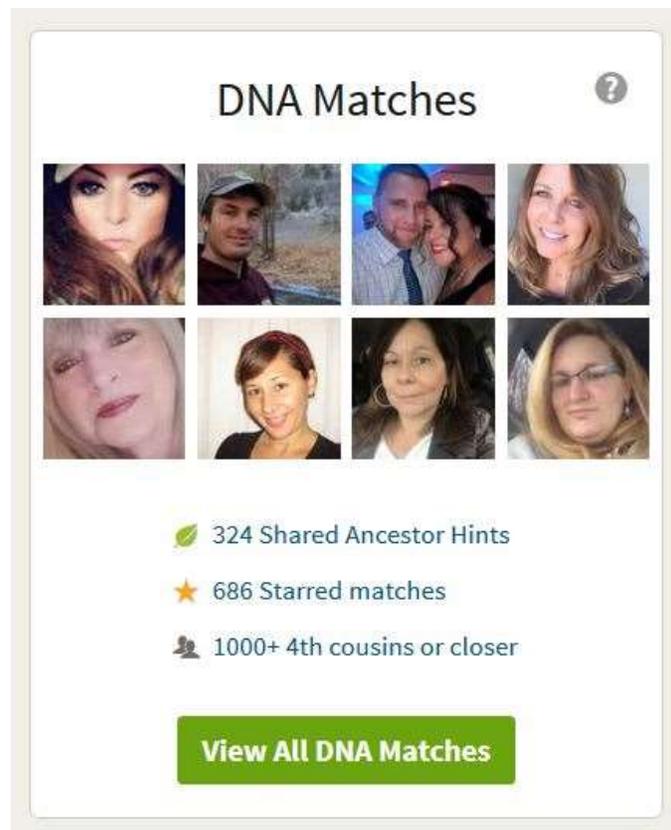
One of my hobbies is genetic genealogy, which for me means using DNA analysis to confirm and to extend my family tree. I have my DNA profile on the Ancestry.com website, and I regularly check this site for new DNA matches. When I find a match, I begin the process of connecting the individual to my family tree. Sometimes this process is simple, and sometimes it is very challenging.

My mother was Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000). All four of her grandparents were Swedes who immigrated to America in the 1880's. I now have found a number of DNA matches that connect me to my Swedish and Swedish-American relatives, and I have enjoyed traveling to meet a number of these people during the past few years.

The present narrative provides details and some speculation about my DNA match with one of these Swedish-American relatives.

My DNA Match with wceder

The Ancestry.com website now has DNA profiles of over ten-million individuals, and this number is growing rapidly. As of January 2019, I have DNA matches with over one-thousand individuals who are estimated to be my fourth-cousins or closer (based on the sizes of my DNA matches with them).



The Ancestry.com website displays my DNA matches in order of size, from the largest to the smallest. My largest matches are with my closest relatives – and the listing of my top matches includes people as close as second-cousins:

1. Amy Oakley (my younger daughter)
2. Stuart Eck (a first-cousin on the Brorström side of my family)
3. Susan Baker (a first-cousin on the Brorström side of my family)
4. Annmarie Brorström (a first-cousin on the Brorström side of my family)
5. Jessica Lynn Eck (Stuart's daughter)
6. Robert Baker (Susan's son)
7. Lauren Meier (Annmarie's daughter)
8. Hal Oakley (a first-cousin once-removed on the Oakley side of my family)
9. Mark Eidem (a first-cousin once-removed on the Oakley side of my family)
10. David Eck (Stuart's son)

Then at the level of a 3rd cousin, I have the following DNA matches:

AncestryDNA Results for Burks Oakley

3RD COUSIN

-  **J.O. (managed by ginnyoak)** 
Possible range: 3rd - 4th cousins 
Confidence: Extremely High   No family tree 
-  **wceder** 
Possible range: 3rd - 4th cousins 
Confidence: Extremely High   5 people 
-  **Robert Bergmark** 
Possible range: 3rd - 4th cousins 
Confidence: Extremely High   No family tree 

I know that **J.O.** is Josh Oakley, a first-cousin twice-removed on the Oakley side of my family. I also know that Robert Bergmark is the grandson of Anna Louisa Larsson, who was the older sister of my great-grandfather Lars Emil Larsson (another one of my mother's Swedish grandparents). This means that Robert is my second-cousin once-removed. But who is the man having the username of **wceder**?

I examined the details of my DNA match with **wceder**, and I found that we share 193 cM of DNA across seven segments:

[AncestryDNA Home](#) > Member Matches for Burks Oakley

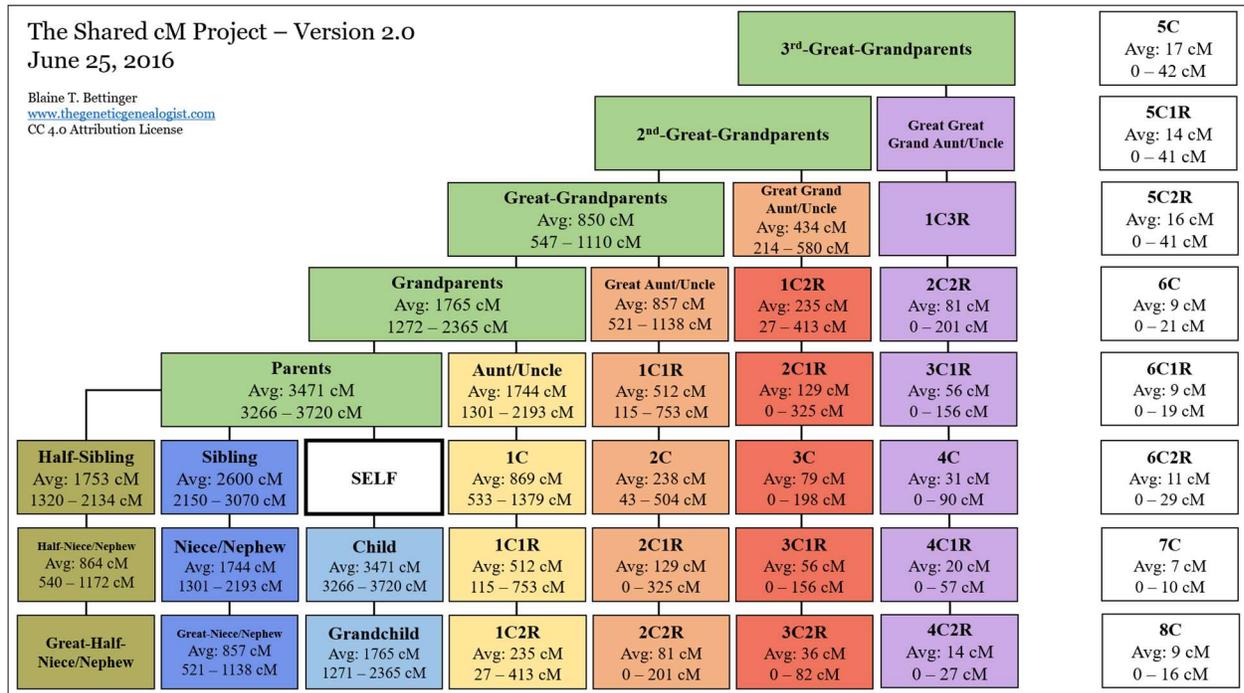
 **wceder**
Member since 2010, last logged in Jul 12, 2018

 **Predicted relationship: 3rd Cousins**
Possible range: 3rd - 4th cousins ([What does this mean?](#))
 Confidence: Extremely High 

Amount of Shared DNA
193 centimorgans shared across 7 DNA segments

Recall that a centiMorgan (abbreviated cM) is approximately one-million base pairs in length. Anything over 7 cM is considered to be a significant match.

In 2016, the noted genetic genealogist Blaine Bettinger published the results of a study looking at the amount of shared DNA between individuals with known genealogical relationships. The results are summarized in the following chart:



Looking at my DNA match with *wceder*, we could be as close as third-cousins (3C), which is what Ancestry.com estimated. Third-cousins share a 2nd-great grandparent.

I next looked at the family tree that *wceder* has on the Ancestry.com website:



His limited family tree on Ancestry.com shows that he is descended from a line of Cederholm males, so my guess is that his last name is Cederholm and his first initial is “W”. His Cederholm ancestors include his paternal grandfather, Emil Oscar Cederholm (1870-1954), and his great-grandfather, Gustave Göran Cederholm (1841-1901). This is no help in learning how we are related – except that Emil Oscar was born in Helsingborg, Sweden, and his son Gustave David Cederholm was born in New York City in 1908 – so the family must have immigrated from Sweden to America.

This branch of the Cederholm family appears in several other family trees on the Ancestry.com website, so I was able to find more complete information about Mr. Cederholm’s ancestors, including the names of the wives of the Cederholm men. But there wasn’t anything in this information that would connect me to this family in Sweden. Here is a more complete family tree:



One of the Cederholm family trees on Ancestry.com is owned by a woman having the username of **akcederholm**. I sent her a message using the message system on Ancestry.com, and she informed me that **wceder** is Walter Cederholm, and he is her father’s older brother. While she was very helpful, she had no idea about how we might be related.

Shared DNA Matches with Walter Cederholm (wceder)

One of the features on the Ancestry.com website is called Shared Matches. When I view my DNA match with a certain individual, the software on the site will generate a list of all other people who share this same segment of DNA – meaning that we all are descended from the same person.

The following screenshot shows my Shared DNA Matches with Walter Cederholm (*wceder*):

The screenshot shows the 'Shared matches with wceder' page on AncestryDNA. At the top, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley'. The main heading is 'Shared matches with wceder'. Below this, matches are categorized by relationship type: PARENT/CHILD, 1ST COUSIN, and 3RD COUSIN. Each match entry includes a star icon, a profile picture, the name, a possible range of relationships, a confidence level (Extremely High), and a 'View Match' button. Some matches also show the number of other people who share the same DNA segment.

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley

Shared matches with wceder

PARENT/CHILD

- Amy Oakley**
Possible range: Parent, Child - immediate family member
Confidence: Extremely High
 1,901 people
[View Match](#)

1ST COUSIN

- Stuart Eck**
Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins
Confidence: Extremely High
 9 people
[View Match](#)
- Susan Baker**
Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins
Confidence: Extremely High
 No family tree
[View Match](#)
- Annmarie Brorström**
Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins
Confidence: Extremely High
 277 people
[View Match](#)

3RD COUSIN

- Kendall Perks**
Possible range: 3rd - 4th cousins
Confidence: Extremely High
 624 people
[View Match](#)

We share this match with my daughter Amy, my Brorström first-cousins Stuart Eck, Susan Baker, and Annmarie Brorström, and Kendall Perks. Kendall is a daughter of one of my second-cousins on the Brorström-Wennström side of my family (meaning that she is my second-cousin once-removed). This latter match is significant, since it eliminates the possibility that my DNA match with Walter Cederholm comes from the Larsson side of my family – it means that there has to be a Brorström or Wennström family connection.

I also found that Walter Cederholm (**wceder**) and I share our DNA match with several other people:

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley

Shared matches with wceder

3RD COUSIN

★  [Stanley Church](#) 
Possible range: 3rd - 4th cousins 
Confidence: Extremely High 

 No family tree
[View Match](#)

4TH COUSIN

★  [Rochelle Abraham](#) 
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: High 

 No family tree
[View Match](#)

★  [Deborah Schule](#) 
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: High 

 No family tree
[View Match](#)

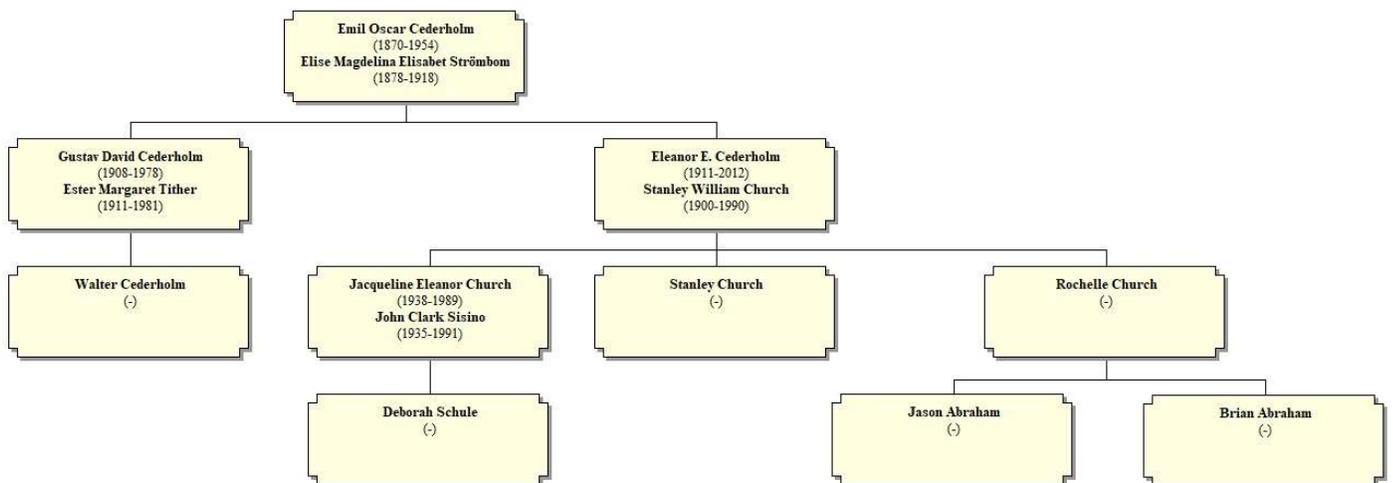
★  [Brian Abraham](#) 
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: Good 

 No family tree
[View Match](#)

★  [Jason Abraham](#) 
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: Good 

 No family tree
[View Match](#)

I searched for more about the Cederholm family on the Ancestry.com website (and did some searches on Google and Facebook), and I found that all of the people shown in the screenshot on the previous page are descended from the Cederholm couple who were born in Sweden and immigrated to America.



The immigrant couple had a son Gustav David Cederholm (1908-1978) and a daughter Eleanor E. Cederholm (1911-2012). Gustav David Cederholm is Walter Cederholm's father.

So Stanley Church and Rochelle Church (married name Abraham) are Walter's first cousins, while Deborah Schule, Jason Abraham, and Brian Abraham are Walter's first-cousins once-removed.

Up to this point, the DNA evidence shows that many members of the Cederholm family are related to me and many of my Brorström-Wennström cousins. The size of my DNA match with Walter suggests that he and I could be third-cousins.

One New Piece of the Puzzle

In September 2018, my Swedish cousin Birgit Tesch and her daughter Lisen Tesch submitted their DNA to the Ancestry.com website. They gave me permission to view their test results, and OMG – I found that they also are related to Walter Cederholm (**wceder**).

Here is Birgit's match with Walter:

← AncestryDNA Home > [Member Matches for Birgit Tesch](#)

  **wceder**
Member since 2010, last logged in Jul 12, 2018

 **Predicted relationship: 3rd Cousins**
Possible range: 3rd - 4th cousins ([What does this mean?](#))

 Confidence: Extremely High 

Amount of Shared DNA

126 centimorgans shared across 5 DNA segments

Birgit and Walter share 126 cM on 5 DNA segments and could be as close as third-cousins.

This is a very significant finding, since it eliminates the Wennström side of my family, and means that my DNA match with the Cederholm family must be through my Brorström ancestors in Sweden.

In looking at Birgit's DNA match with Walter, I learned that the two of them share this match with most all of the people mentioned thus far in this narrative, as shown in the following screenshot:

Shared matches with wceder

PARENT/CHILD

★  [Lisen Tesch](#) 
Possible range: Parent, Child - immediate family member 
Confidence: Extremely High 
 No family tree
[View Match](#)

4TH COUSIN

★  [Rochelle Abraham](#)
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: Extremely High 
 No family tree
[View Match](#)

★  [Stanley Church](#)
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: Very High 
 No family tree
[View Match](#)

★  [Susan Baker](#)
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: Very High 
 No family tree
[View Match](#)

★  [Brian Abraham](#)
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: High 
 No family tree
[View Match](#)

★  [Kendall Perks](#)
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: High 
 624 people
[View Match](#)

★  [Burks Oakley](#)
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: Good 
 1,901 people
[View Match](#)

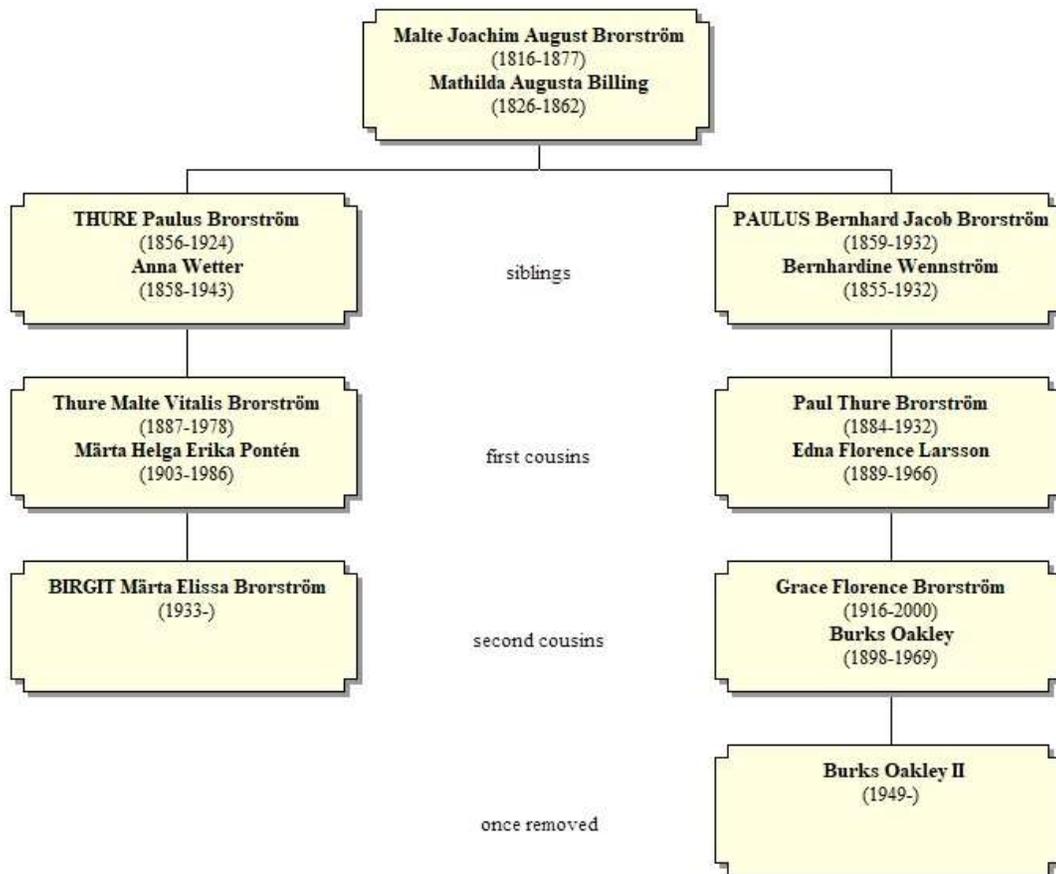
★  [Annmarie Brorström](#)
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: Good 
 277 people
[View Match](#)

★  [Deborah Schule](#)
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: Good 
 No family tree
[View Match](#)

★  [Amy Oakley](#)
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: Good 
 1,901 people
[View Match](#)

So now we really are onto something! The Cederholm family and the Brorström family are related somehow. And our common ancestor has to go back far enough into the past to include the Swedish AND the American branches of the

Brorström family. Here is a chart showing how those two branches of this family are related:



Birgit and I are both descended from Malte Joachim August Brorström (1816-1877) and his second wife Mathilda Augusta Billing (1826-1862). They were my 2nd-great grandparents.

Third-cousins share 2nd-great grandparents. The DNA match that I have with Walter (193 cM) is most likely too large for a more distant relationship. For example, the largest DNA match for fourth-cousins found in the Bettinger study was 90 cM. So this is puzzling. Somehow I have to connect my Brorström line and Birgit's Brorström line to Walter's Cederholm line, within the constraint of Walter being my third-cousin.

I asked my Swedish cousin Lise-Lotte Kolmberger if she could find out anything about the Cederholm family in Sweden. She wrote back:

Gustav Göran Cederholm was born (8 February 1841) out of marriage by Boel Olsdotter. But the same year she moved in with Pål Jeppsson, which indicates that he was the father, even if he was not listed in the birth book. They had two more children. Pål Jeppsson was arrested and convicted for murder with a death penalty! He died in his 30's.

So now we have another piece of the puzzle! Gustav Göran Cederholm was born out of wedlock in 1841. What if Malte Brorström was his father? That certainly would connect the two Brorström lines with the Cederholm line in the right generation.

It appears that Gustav Göran Cederholm took the family name of Cederholm as an adult. Some of the family trees on Ancestry.com list him as having the last name of Pålsson-Cederholm:

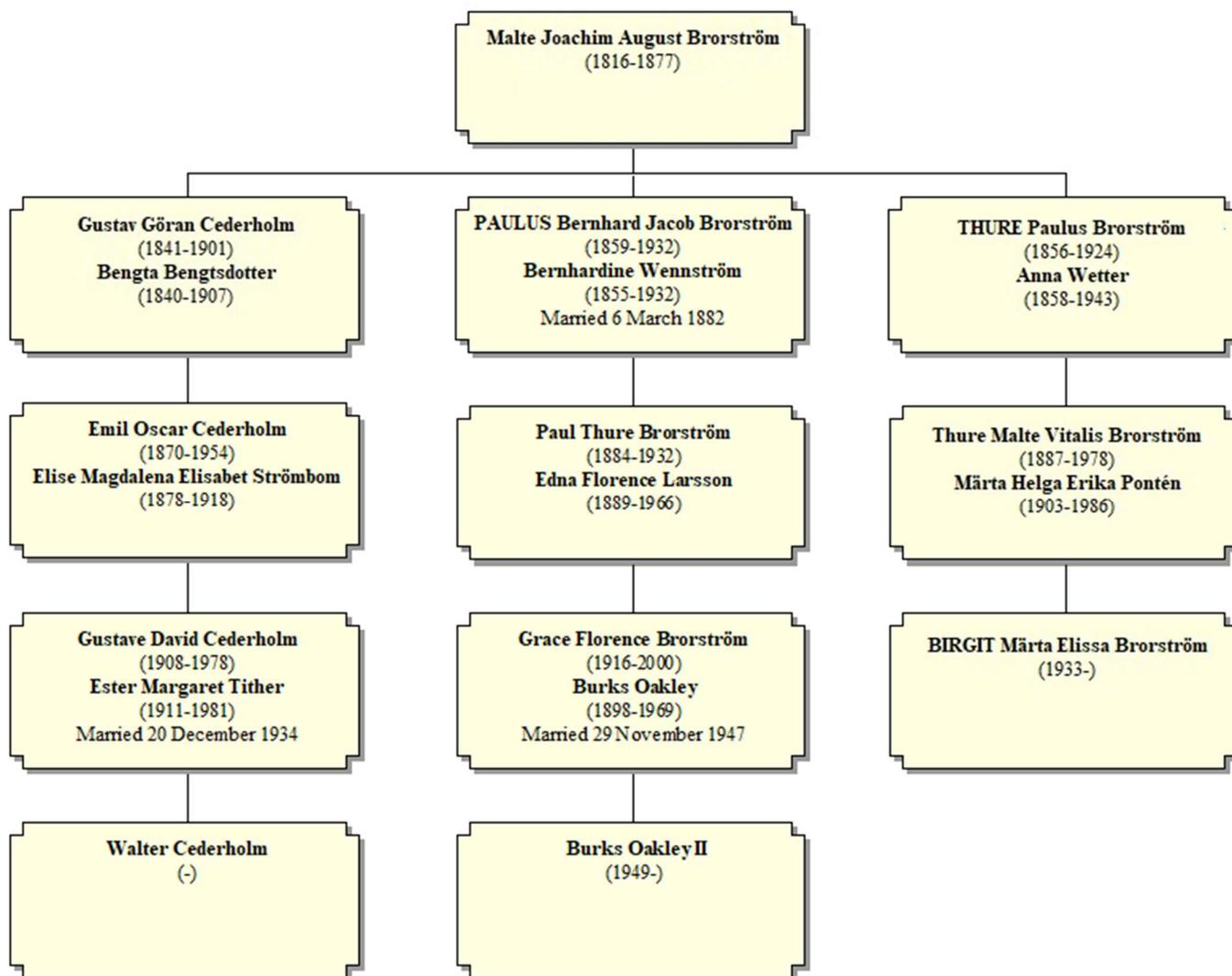


Malte Brorström was born in 1816. He had three children with his first wife, Boel Bengstdotter (1818-1853). Their first child, Hedvig Beata* Brorström, was born on 30 August 1845. After Boel died in 1853, Malte remarried Mathilda Augusta Billing (1826-1862), and they had four more children (including my great-grandfather).

Gustav Göran Cederholm was born on 8 February 1841, meaning he was conceived in May 1840. Malte was born 13 August 1816, so he would have been 23 years old at the time. He was unmarried and living in Skåne. Could he be the father of Gustaf Göran? It certainly is possible.

Clearly more DNA testing is needed, but right now, I don't see any other way to connect the Cederholm family with the Brorström family and still account for the large DNA match that I have with Walter Cederholm.

Here is a chart showing the family relationships that I have hypothesized in this narrative:



This chart shows that Walter and I are third-cousins; our DNA match of 193 cM is just slightly smaller than the largest amount of DNA shared between third-cousins (198 cM) in the 2016 Bettinger study. This chart also shows that Walter and Birgit are second-cousins once-removed (2C1R), and their DNA match (126 cM) is right on the average for 2C1R found in the Bettinger study (129 cm).

Summary

In this narrative, I have provided details of the DNA match that I have with Walter Cederholm. We share this match with a number of his Cederholm

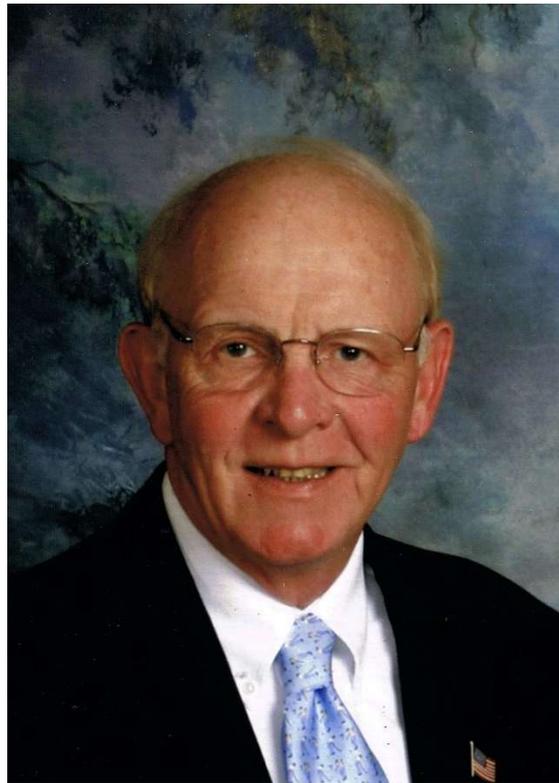
relatives and my Brorström relatives. Most importantly, we share this match with my Swedish cousin Birgit Brorström (married name Tesch). The large size of the DNA match that I have with Walter means that we are unlikely to be anything more distant than third-cousins. Gustav Göran Cederholm was born out of wedlock in 1841, and I hypothesize that his father was Malte Joachim August Brorström.

Addendum

In her e-mail note to me, Annie Cederholm (***akcederholm*** on Ancestry.com) wrote:

I just read an article on a language site that explains that throughout history to even today the Swedes may find a preference to change their surname, and some of the most popular inspirations are nature and physical surroundings. This is where Cederholm comes from; it translates to “island or land of cedar trees”.

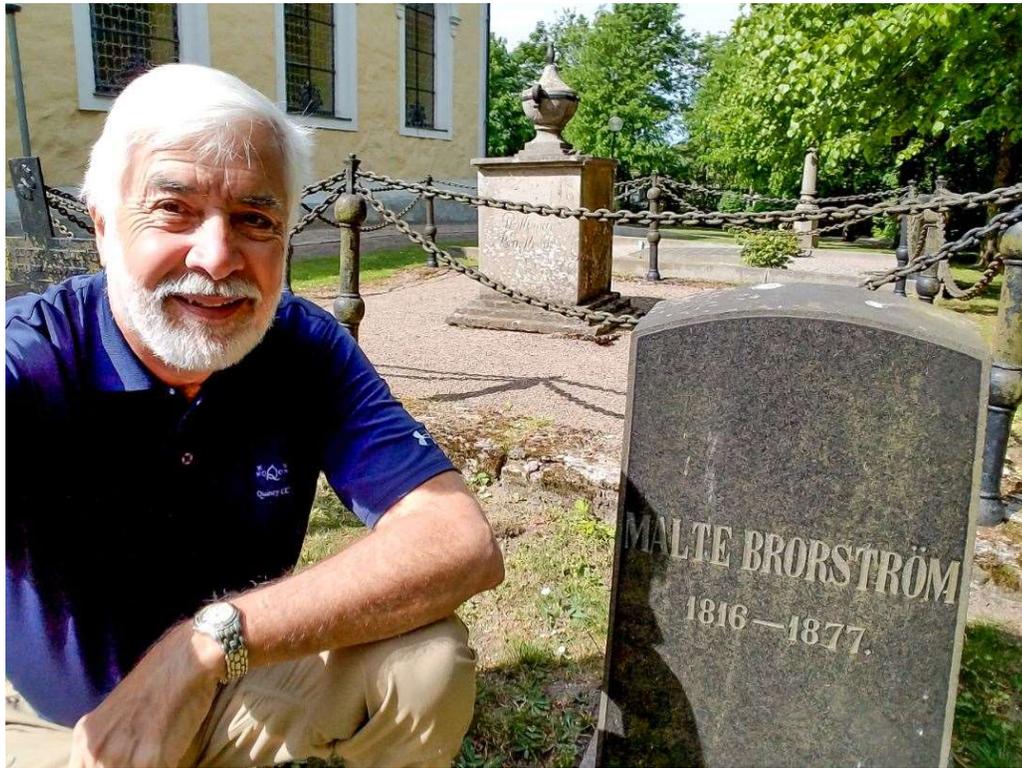
Photos



Walter T. Cederholm (from Facebook)



Burks & Birgit at her summer home on the island of Utö
in the Baltic southeast of Stockholm, May 2018



Selfie taken next to Malte Brorström's gravestone in Borrby, Sweden.
May 2018



The Brorström family plot next to the church in Borrby, Sweden.
May 2018.



Selfie taken in the churchyard in Borrby, Sweden.
Malte Brorström's grave is on the other side of this church.
May 2018.