

Christine Caouette – A New Wennström Relative

By Burks Oakley II
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This narrative includes DNA connections with:

- Christine Caouette Stein
- Nicole Marie Hickey Shaffer

Introduction

In the past few years, I have become very interested in my Swedish roots. My mother was Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000), and all four of her grandparents 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 regularly check Ancestry.com for new DNA matches on the Swedish side of my family. I have been aided in this effort by having access to the DNA matches of my Brorström first-cousins: Peter, Annmarie, Susan, and Stuart. Their father, Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001) was my mother's older brother. So in addition to checking my DNA matches, I also check theirs.

Finding a New DNA Match with Christine Stein

I recently looked at Annmarie's DNA matches and filtered them for "Common Ancestors". This process turns up just those individuals who (1) have DNA matches with Annmarie and (2) family trees that show an ancestor in common with Annmarie. New matches are marked with a blue dot, so I do a lot of looking for blue dots – it always is a good day when I see a blue dot!

Here is what turned up the other day:

Annmarie Brorström's DNA Matches BETA

All matches ▾

Common ancestors ▾

Search

4th Cousin



Christine Stein

4th-6th Cousin

Shared DNA: 48 cM across 5 segments i

330 People

Common ancestor

This screenshot shows that Annmarie has a new DNA match with a woman named Christine Stein, and it shows that they have a common ancestor. Annmarie and Christine share 48 cM of DNA across five segments.¹

I next looked to see who their common ancestors were, and I was somewhat surprised by the result:

How are Annmarie Brorström and Christine Stein related?

Common Ancestors 🌿

According to Ancestry member trees, these are common ancestors Annmarie Brorström and Christine Stein share. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects them.

**Maria Nilsson**
3rd great-grandmother
[View Relationship](#)

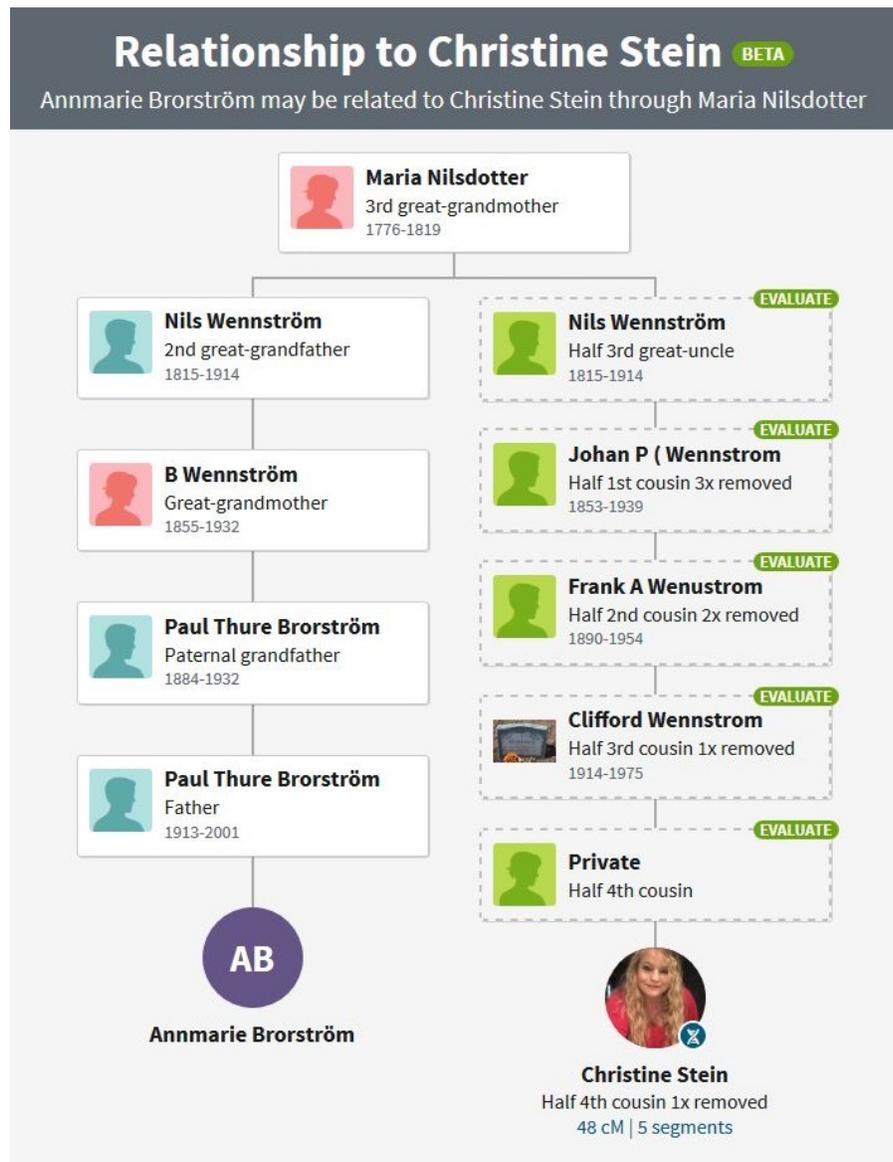
**Sissa Jönsdotter**
3rd great-grandmother
[View Relationship](#)

This is very strange. It says that they both are descended from Maria Nilsson and Sissa Jönsdotter. Both these women, of course, are in our family tree, and we are indeed descended from them. Maria Nilsson was Nils Wennström's mother, and Sissa Jönsdotter was Kristina Olsdotter's mother. Nils Wennström

¹ Recall that a centiMorgan (abbreviated cM) is a measure of the size of a DNA match; roughly speaking, one centiMorgan is one-million base pairs in length. Any match above 7 cM is considered significant in genetic genealogy.

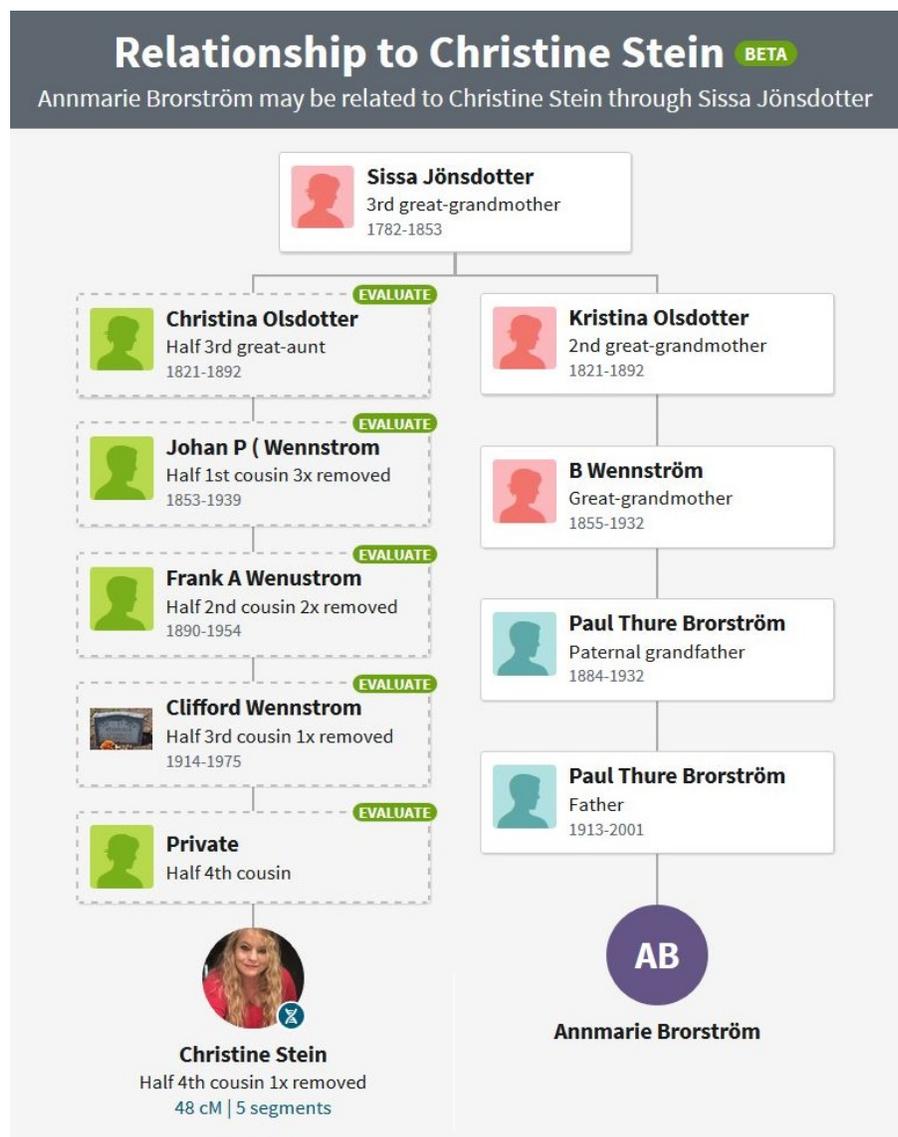
and Kristina Olsdotter were husband and wife, and they were the parents of my great-grandmother, Bernhardine Wennström, who immigrated to America in 1882. I really can't devise a family tree where Maria Nilsson and Sissa Jönsdotter are the closest common ancestors for Annmarie and Christine.

When I looked at the family trees that Ancestry.com had constructed to show how Annmarie and Christine are related, I saw that both Annmarie and Christine are descended from Nils Wennström. Somehow the software on the Ancestry.com website, which is still being beta tested, was unable to tell that Nils Wennström is their common ancestor.



Christine Stein is descended from Nils Wennström's son Johan Peter "John" Wennstrom, while Annmarie is descended from his daughter Bernhardine Wennström.

I also looked at the paths back to Sissa Jönsdotter:

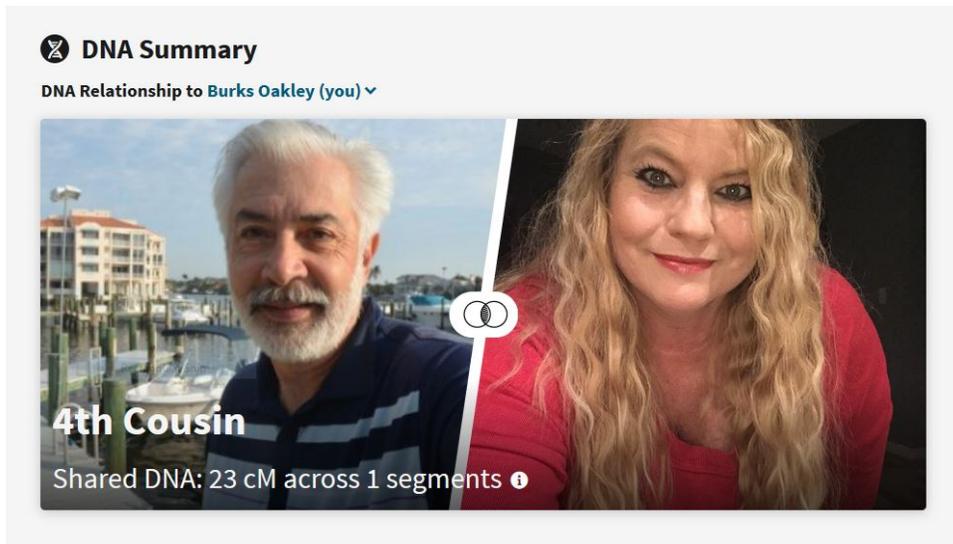


The lines going back to Sissa Jönsdotter show both Christine and Annmarie being descended from Kristina/Christina Olsdotter, who was the wife of Nils Wennström.

So while these diagrams are technically correct, they don't show the most recent common ancestors. This undoubtedly is due to a bug in the software on the Ancestry.com website. But Ancestry.com does state that this new software is still being beta tested.

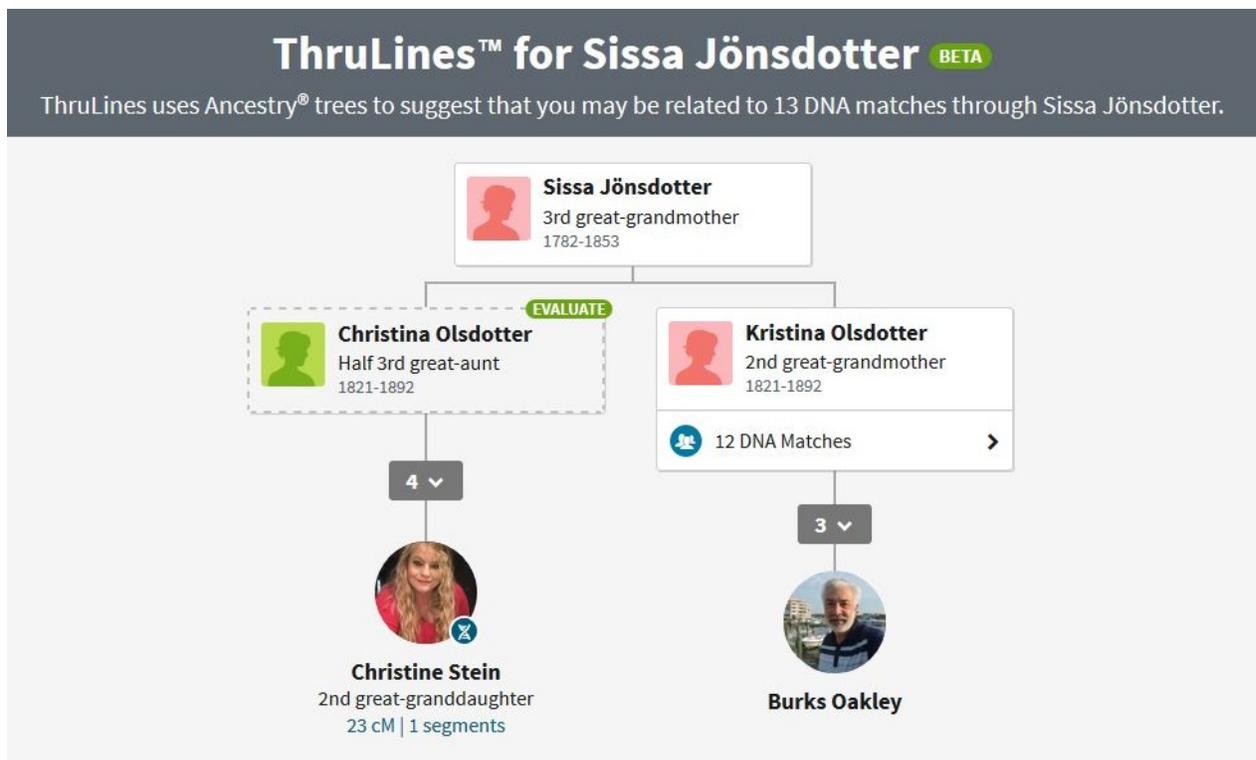
The bottom line is that I now know how Annmarie and Christine are related. And by extension, how Annmarie's siblings and I are also related to Christine.

I next looked to see if I had a DNA match with Christine – and I do have a match:



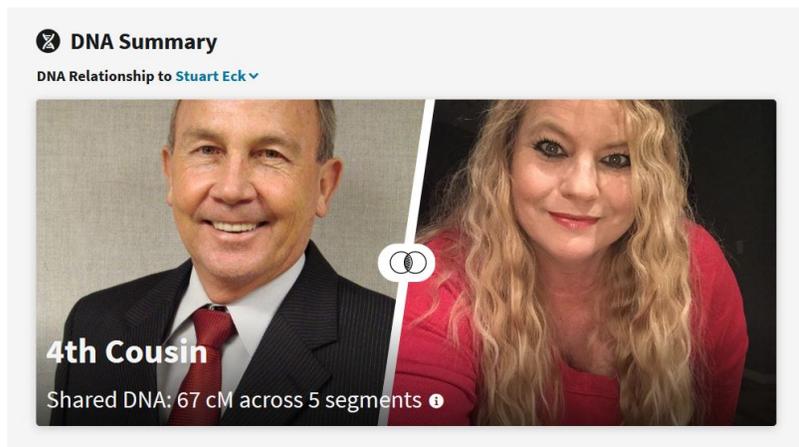
My DNA match with Christine is just 23 cM on a single segment – much smaller than Annmarie’s match with Christine (48 cM on five segments).

The ThruLines™ software makes the same mistake for my relationship with Christine. Here is the ThruLines™ for Sissa Jönsdotter:

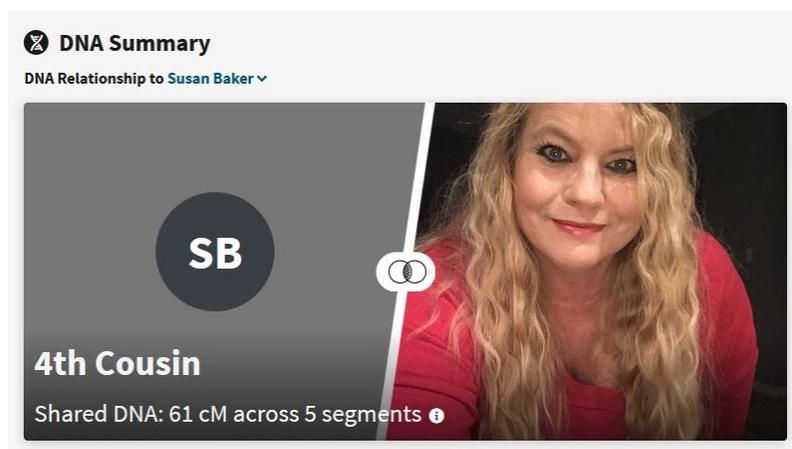


It shows both of us descended from Christina/Kristina Olsdotter.

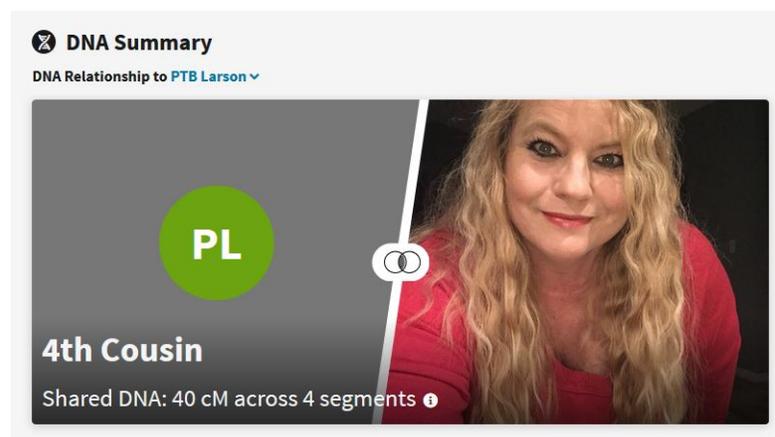
I should add that my Brorström first-cousins all have DNA matches with Christine. Here is Stuart's match:



Stuart and Christine share 67 cM on 5 segments. Next is Susan's match:



Susan and Christine share 61 cM across 5 segments. Finally, Peter's match:



Peter and Christine share 40 cM across 4 segments.

The tools on the Ancestry.com website allow users to see “Shared Matches” – that is, the set of people who have DNA matches with two different individuals. Here are the “Shared Matches” for Stuart and Christine:



Stuart Eck and Christine Stein

Predicted relationship: 4th–6th Cousin
Shared DNA: 67 cM across 5 segments

Trees Ethnicity Shared Matches

All matches ▾

✓ Common ancestors ▾

Close Family

	PTB Larson	Close Family–1st Cousin	143 People
		Shared DNA: 1,958 cM across 57 segments ⓘ	Common ancestor
	Annmarie Brorström	Close Family–1st Cousin	391 People
		Shared DNA: 1,905 cM across 53 segments ⓘ	Common ancestor
	Susan Baker	Close Family–1st Cousin	391 People
		Shared DNA: 1,651 cM across 46 segments ⓘ	Common ancestor

1st Cousin

	Burks Oakley	1st–2nd Cousin	1,944 People
		Shared DNA: 917 cM across 41 segments ⓘ	Common ancestor

2nd Cousin

	Peterhorton58	2nd–3rd Cousin	15 People
		Shared DNA: 209 cM across 10 segments ⓘ	Common ancestor

3rd Cousin

	J.A. <small>Managed by KJC2182</small>	3rd–4th Cousin	32 People
		Shared DNA: 111 cM across 5 segments ⓘ	Common ancestor

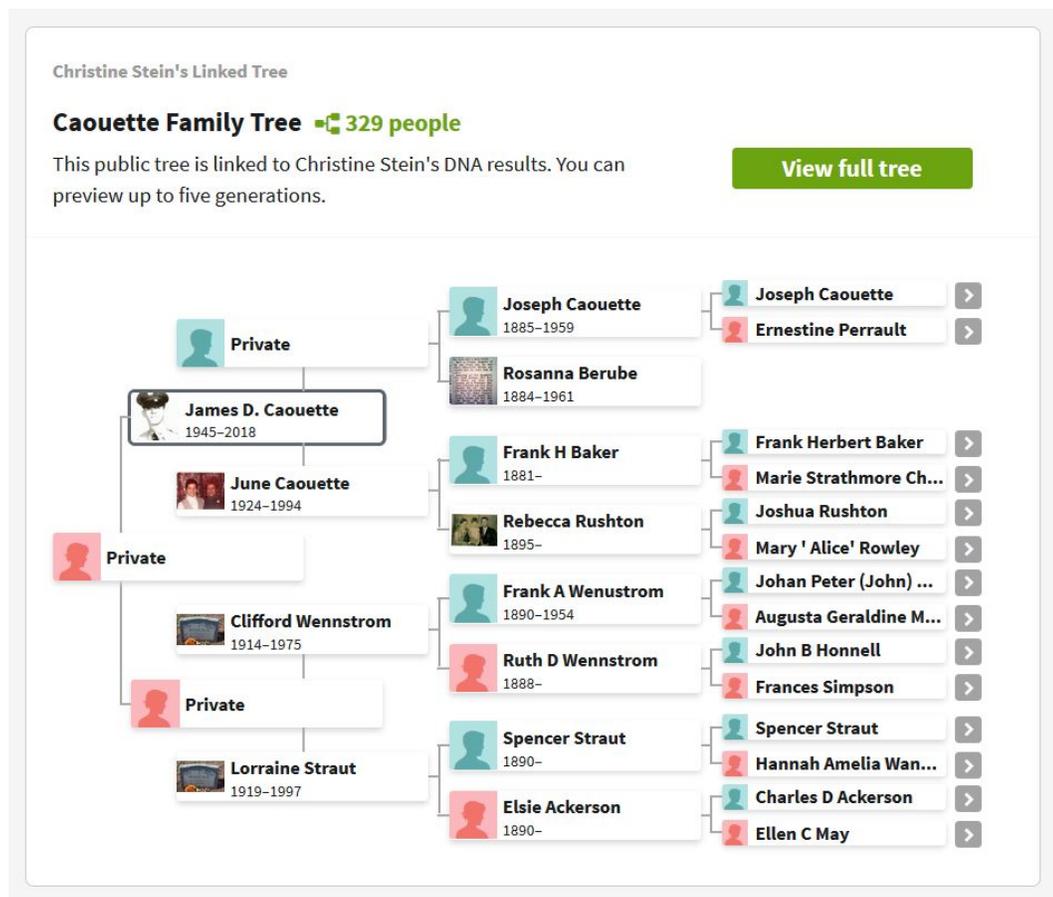
4th Cousin

	Trisha Gable	4th–6th Cousin	248 People
		Shared DNA: 49 cM across 3 segments ⓘ	Common ancestor
	sreed_sr119	4th–6th Cousin	785 People
		Shared DNA: 43 cM across 2 segments ⓘ	Common ancestor
	Nicole Shaffer	4th–6th Cousin	26 People
		Shared DNA: 35 cM across 3 segments ⓘ	Common ancestor
	Melissa Emert	4th–6th Cousin	10 People
		Shared DNA: 28 cM across 3 segments ⓘ	Common ancestor
	patrik sandelin	4th–6th Cousin	458 People
		Shared DNA: 26 cM across 2 segments ⓘ	Common ancestor

All these people who have DNA matches with both Stuart and Christine are well-known to me, and indeed are related to our family through Nils Wennström and his wife Kristina Olsdotter. I have written about them previously – in the Wennström family section at:

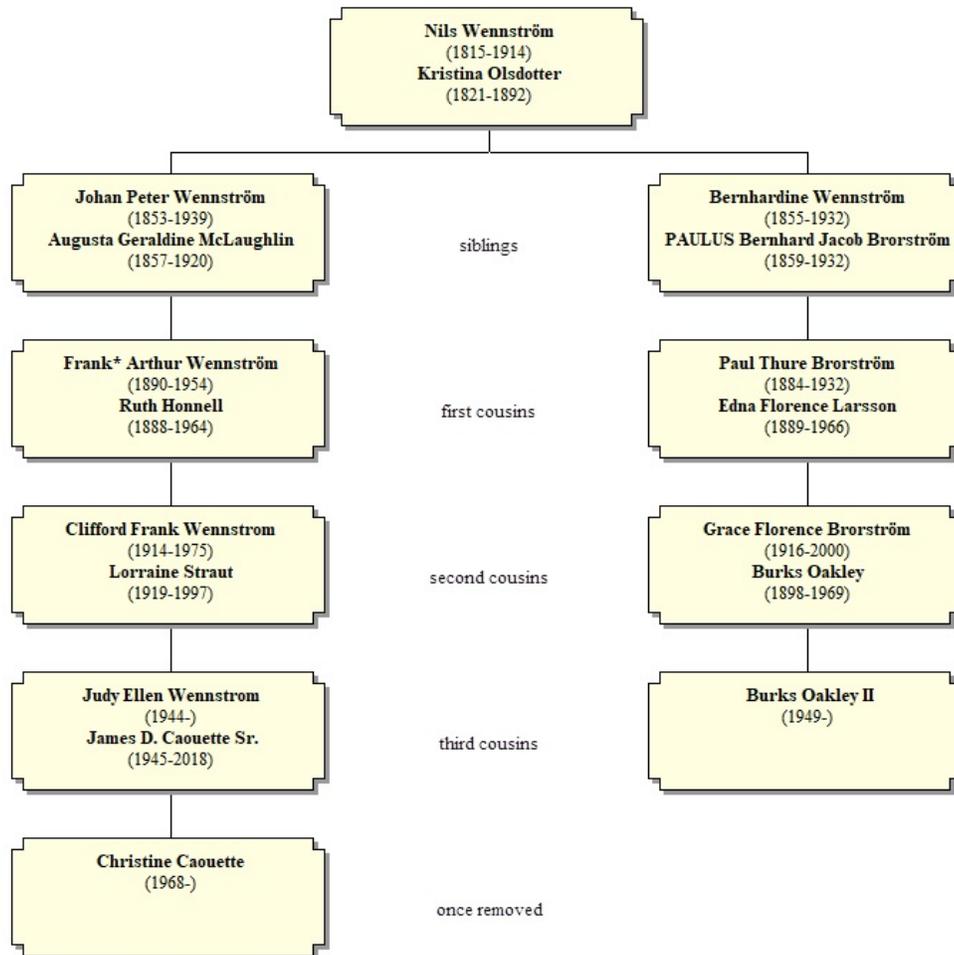
<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/>

I next looked at Christine's family tree (really a pedigree) on the Ancestry.com website:



From this tree, it is clear that Christine's maiden name was Caouette. OMG!! This pedigree also shows that her mother's maiden name was Wennstrom – she was the daughter of Clifford Wennstrom (1914-1975).

I sent Christine a message using the message system on Ancestry.com, and I was pleased to hear back from her within a few hours. She provided additional information about her family. I added this information to the RootsMagic database that I have on my personal computer, and then generated the following relationship chart:

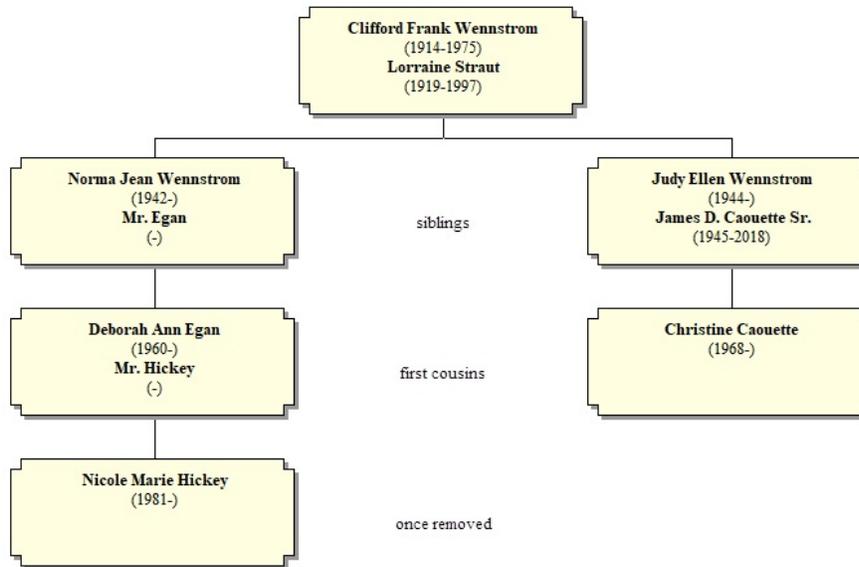


This chart shows that Christine’s mother, Judy Ellen Wennstrom, is my third-cousin, and that Christine Caouette and I are third-cousins once-removed.

As I was adding Christine’s line to my RootsMagic database, I realized that I had the line going from Clifford Frank Wennstrom back to Nils Wennström and his wife already in this database; I had added it when I found my DNA match with Nicole Hickey Shaffer. I wrote about this match previously:

<http://www.burksOakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/HickeyReedWennströmConnection.pdf>

Nicole is also descended from Clifford Frank Wennstrom. Here is a chart showing how Christine and Nicole are related:



I contacted Nicole to tell her about finding my DNA match with Christine, and I asked if she knew Christine. She replied “Yes! I have known her my whole life. Her mom and my grandma are sisters”. The DNA doesn’t lie!

GEDmatch.com

I asked Christine if she knew about GEDmatch.com, and it turns out that Christine already had her DNA profile on this site.

I compared our two DNA profiles:

GEDmatch® Autosomal One-to-one Comparison

Comparing Kit A122463 (Burks Oakley II) [Migration - F2 - A] and DL4344381 (Christine Caouette) [Ancestry]

Chr	B37 Start Pos'n	B37 End Pos'n	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs
15	92,091,172	102,385,234	33.9	2,581

Largest segment = 33.9 cM

We have a 33.9 cM match on Chromosome 15. I have no idea why Ancestry.com finds that we have a 23 cM match. Oh well....

I also looked at my cousin Susan’s DNA match with Christine on GEDmatch.com:

GEDmatch® Autosomal One-to-one Comparison

Comparing Kit M209915 (*S.B.B.) [Migration - V4 - M] and DL4344381 (Christine Caouette) [Ancestry]

Chr	B37 Start Pos'n	B37 End Pos'n	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs
8	137,309,449	146,292,734	16.4	1,059
13	26,313,986	33,658,270	17.0	1,014
13	61,200,244	81,722,228	19.1	1,958
15	92,056,518	98,824,169	24.1	1,243
18	56,422,868	68,093,592	20.6	1,430

Largest segment = 24.1 cM

Total Half-Match segments (HIR) = 97.3 cM (2.712 Pct)

Estimated number of generations to MRCA = 3.6

5 shared segments found for this comparison.

Wow! Susan has a much larger DNA match with Christine than I do. They match on five segments, and their total match is 97.3 cM.

I also compared my cousin Stuart and Christine on GEDmatch.com:

GEDmatch® Autosomal One-to-one Comparison

Comparing Kit A303490 (*Stu) [Migration - F2 - A] and DL4344381 (Christine Caouette) [Ancestry]

Chr	B37 Start Pos'n	B37 End Pos'n	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs
8	118,240,824	126,789,340	12.9	1,515
8	137,302,684	146,285,083	16.4	1,602
13	24,749,644	33,760,737	20.8	1,881
15	92,091,172	102,369,711	33.9	2,491
18	56,659,658	68,093,592	20.2	2,073

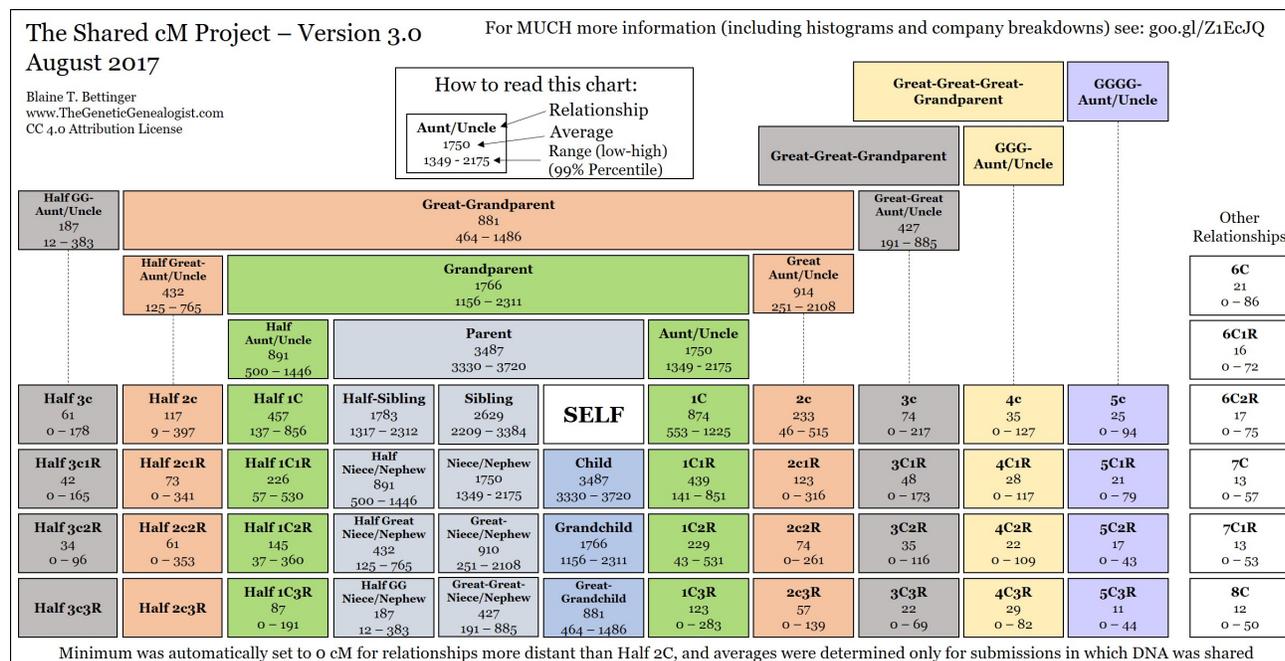
Largest segment = 33.9 cM

Total Half-Match segments (HIR) = 104.3 cM (2.907 Pct)

Estimated number of generations to MRCA = 3.6

They have a 104.3 cM match, which is really a large match for their third-cousin once-removed (3C1R) relationship.

Here is a chart that was published by the noted genetic genealogist Blaine T. Bettinger. This chart shows the average amount of shared DNA for a wide range of relationships.



This chart shows that 3C1R average 48 cM with a range of 0 to 173 cM. So Stuart's 104.3 cM match with Christine is much larger than average, while my 33.9 cM match with Christine is smaller than average.

As an aside, it looks like Stuart and I have almost the exact DNA segment matching Christine on Chromosome 15.

Comparing Kit A122463 (Burks Oakley II) [Migration - F2 - A] and DL4344381 (Christine Caouette) [Ancestry]

Chr	B37 Start Pos'n	B37 End Pos'n	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs
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Chr	B37 Start Pos'n	B37 End Pos'n	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs
15	92,091,172	102,369,711	33.9	2,491

Conclusion

In this narrative, I discussed how I found a new DNA match with Christine Caouette Stein, and how we are related (3C1R). We both are descended from my

second-great grandparents Nils Wennström and his wife Kristina Olsdotter. My Brorström cousins and I are descended from their daughter Bernhardine, while Christine is descended from their son Johan Peter "John" Wennström. Both Bernhardine and Johan Peter immigrated to America and settled in New York.

While adding Christine to my RootsMagic database, I learned that she is closely related to Nicole Hickey Shaffer, and indeed they know each other. Nicole's mother and Christine are first-cousins.

I hope to meet Christine at some time in the future.

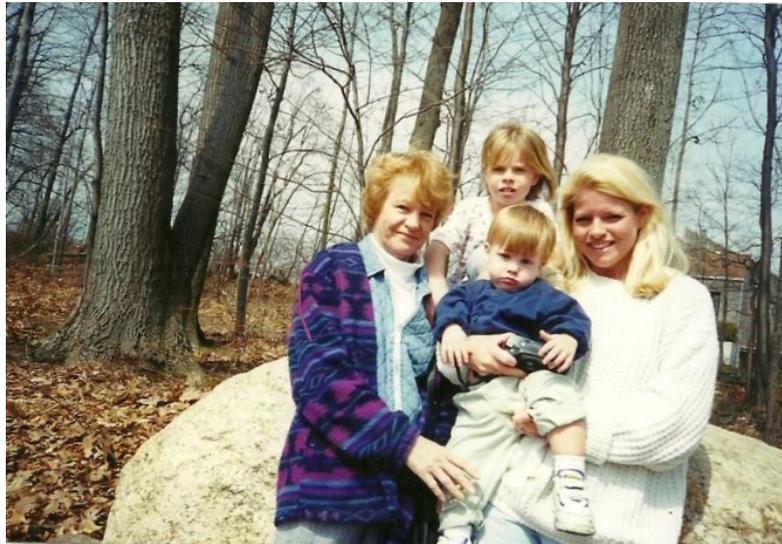
Appendix

Here are a few photos of Christine from her Facebook page:





Christine and her brother James



Judy (Christine's mother), Christine, and Christine's children
(photo taken when the children were young)



A more recent photo of Christine and her daughter