

A (Likely) DNA Relative on the Ida Gustava Larsson Line

By Burks Oakley II
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Introduction

My mother was Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000). All four of her grandparents were Swedes who immigrated to America in the 1880's. Her maternal grandmother (*mormor* in Swedish) was Ida Gustava Larsson (1871-1954). Ida Gustava was born in Bergum, Västra Götaland County – just northeast of Gothenburg (*Göteborg* in Swedish).



Swedish Countryside in Västra Götaland County. Photo by Mathias Liebing
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mathias764/29253426626>

In 2013, my Swedish cousin Göran Grottling, who lives in Gothenburg, researched all four of my mother's Swedish grandparents when he was trying to determine how he and I are related (we are fourth-cousins, once-removed). He

sent me a PDF document showing Ida Gustava Larsson's ancestors. Here is the first generation:

Generation I

I:1 f

Erik **Larsson** (233). Född 1835-08-03 i Bergum (O). The family Larsson emigrated 1882-09-19 from Gothenburg. (Barn Proband, Far II:1, Mor II:2)

Gift 1871 i Bergum (O) med efterföljande ana.

Barn:

Ida Gustava **Larsson** (231). Född 1871-03-17 i Bergum (O). Död 1954-12-30 i Pleasantville, U.S.A.. (Se Proband).

Emma Christina **Larsson** (235). Född 1873-04-10 i Bergum (O).

I:2 m

Anna Maria **Larsdotter** (234). Född 1842-09-07 i Angered (O). (Barn Proband, Mor II:4)

Gift 1871 i Bergum (O) med föregående ana.

This states that Erik Larsson (born 3 August 1835) married his wife Anna Maria Larsdotter (born 7 September 1842) in 1871. They had two daughters, Ida Gustava Larsson (born 17 March 1871) and Emma Christina Larsson (born 10 April 1873). The family emigrated on 19 September 1882, departing from Gothenburg.

Göran continued with information about the second generation:

Generation II

II:1 ff

Lars **Jonasson** (240). Död 1869 i Bergum (O). (Barn I:1, Far III:1, Mor III:2)

Gift 1833 i Bergum (O) med efterföljande ana.

Barn:

Erik **Larsson** (233). Född 1835-08-03 i Bergum (O). (Se I:1).

II:2 fm

Ingrid Beata **Eriksdotter** (241). Född 1797 i Bergum (O). (Barn I:1)

Gift 1833 i Bergum (O) med föregående ana.

This states that Erik Larsson's parents were Lars Jonasson (died 1869 in Bergum) and Ingrid Beata Eriksdotter (born 1797 in Bergum). They were married in 1833 in Bergum. So this family has deep roots in Bergum, Sweden.



Map showing location of Bergum, Sweden

As of mid-March 2019, my family's only DNA matches with descendants of this family were with Amanda and Ben Hundley, who are great-grandchildren of Emma Christina Larsson (the younger sister of Ida Gustava Larsson). I wrote about our DNA matches in an earlier narrative:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/Hundley-LarssonConnection.pdf>

I now have used the ThruLines™ software on the Ancestry.com website to find a new DNA match with a man whose ancestors connect with this family. Read on!

My ThruLines™ for Erik Olsson

I have been systematically looking at all of my ThruLines™ on the Ancestry.com website. This software first identifies each of my DNA matches, and then uses various family trees on the site to determine how I am related to this person. If successful, the software actually constructs a complete tree that "suggests" how I

am related to the person with whom I have the DNA match. In so doing, it fills in blanks in my family tree and suggests new ancestors who are not already in my tree.

ThruLines™ are created for each of my ancestors, up to my fifth-great grandparents. So I potentially have ThruLines™ for 2 parents, 4 grandparents, 8 great-grandparents, 16 second-great grandparents, 32 third-great grandparents, 64 fourth-great grandparents, and 128 fifth-great grandparents. Of course, half of each set are on my father's side of the family, and half are on my mother's side of the family.

When I recently looked at the ThruLines™ for my 32 fourth-great grandparents on my mother's side of the family, I found Erik Olsson (1766-1832). Huh? Who is he? He isn't in my family tree, but the ThruLines™ software suggests that he is my fourth-great grandfather:

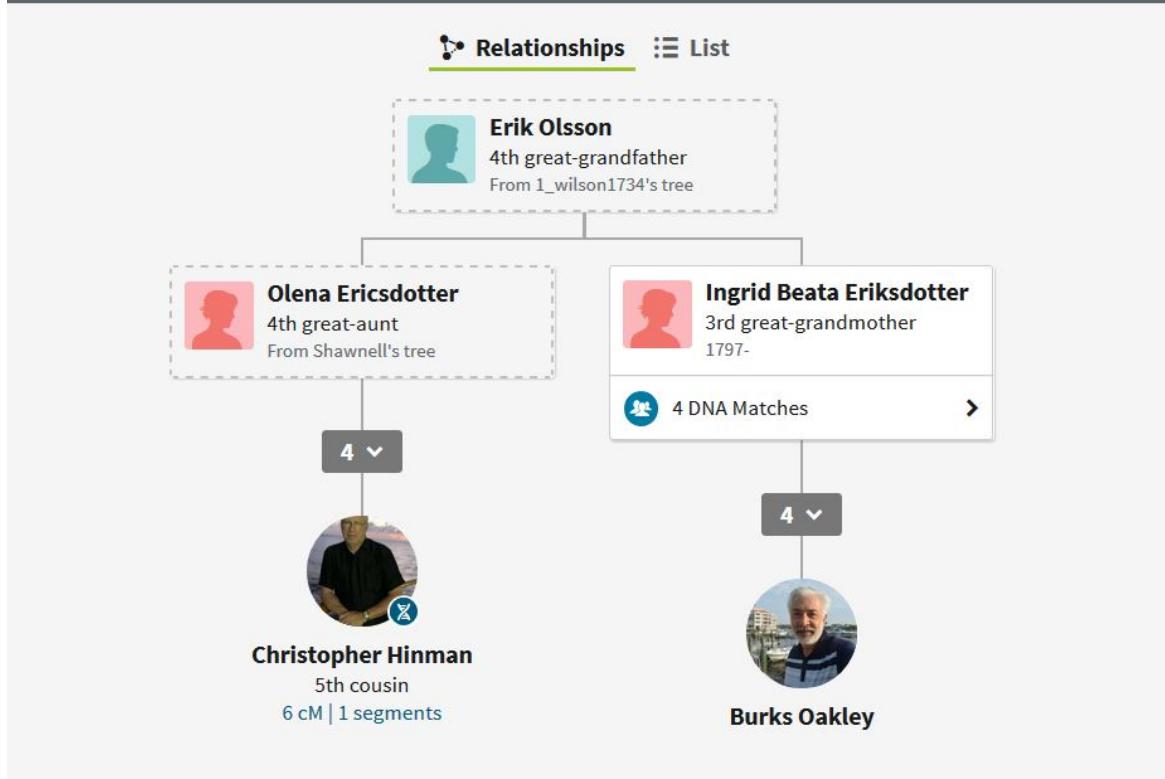
The screenshot shows the ThruLines™ software interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a back arrow and the text "ThruLines for Burks Oakley ▾". To the right of the arrow is the "ThruLines™" logo with a green "BETA" badge. Below the navigation bar, a message reads: "ThruLines suggests how you may be related to your DNA matches through these common ancestors." The main content area is titled "4th Great Grandparents" and displays four profile cards. Each card features a silhouette of a person's head and shoulders against a colored background (pink or teal). The first three profiles are solid-colored and represent actual ancestors: Kristina Andersdotter (4th great-grandmother, 1784-1850), Jonas Anderson (4th great-grandfather, -1825), and Annika Andersdotter (4th great-grandmother, -1834). The fourth profile, Erik Olsson (4th great-grandfather, 1766-1832), has a dashed border around its silhouette and a red rectangular box around its name and details, indicating it is a "POTENTIAL ANCESTOR".

His name appears inside a rectangle with a dotted line, to indicate that he is not currently in my family tree. And he clearly is labelled "POTENTIAL ANCESTOR".

When I looked at my ThruLines™ for Erik Olsson, I found the following:

ThruLines™ for Erik Olsson BETA

ThruLines suggests that you may be related to 5 DNA matches through Erik Olsson.

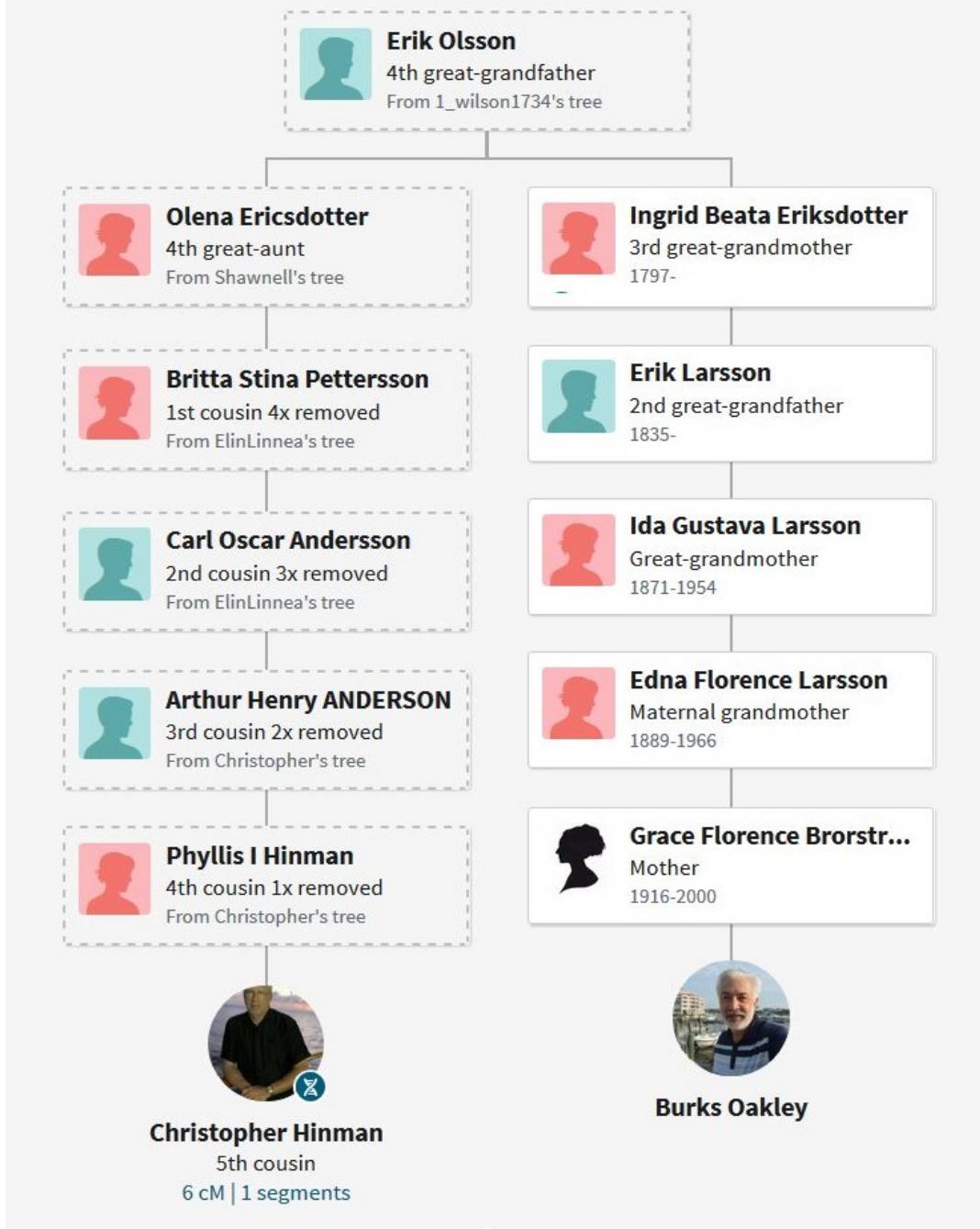


This ThruLines™ suggests how I may be related to a man named Christopher Hinman. We have a small (6 cM) DNA match and it appears that we both are descended from Erik Olsson. Christopher is descended from Erik's daughter Olena Eriksdotter, while I am descended from Erik's daughter Ingrid Beata Eriksdotter. I have Ingrid Beata in my family tree, so she appears in a rectangle with a solid line. However, I don't have Olena in my family tree, so she appears in a rectangle with a dotted line.

Expanding the ThruLines™ by clicking on the down-arrows gives the full lines back to Erik Olssen:

ThruLines™ for Erik Olsson BETA

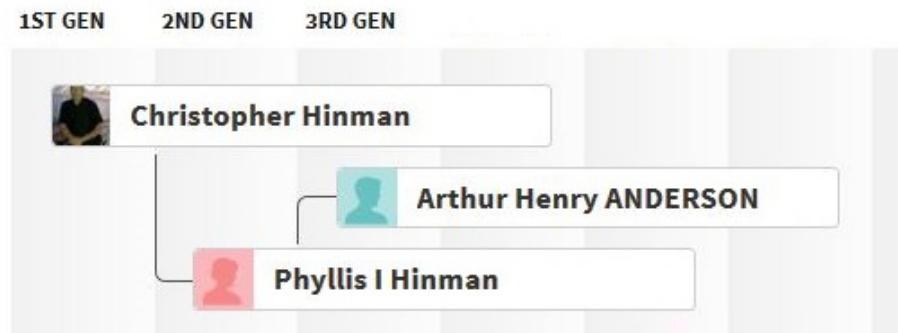
ThruLines suggests that you may be related to 5 DNA matches through Erik Olsson.



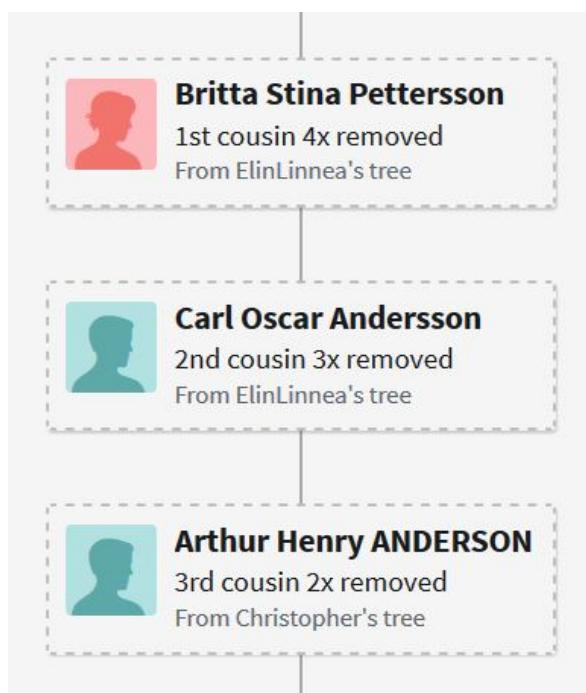
OMG! This line goes back through Ida Gustava Larsson!!! This is the FIRST DNA match that I have that connects through one of her ancestors.

This ThruLines™ needs some explaining. Well, maybe a lot of explaining. Christopher Hinman's tree only goes back to his mother and his maternal

grandfather on the ancestral line shown in the ThruLines™. Note that his mother is listed with her married name, not her maiden name:



So where did the rest of his ancestral line back to Erik Olsson come from? The ThruLines™ indicates the source for one part of the line:



Arthur Henry Anderson (Christopher's maternal grandfather in his tree) also appears in the *Pettersson Gustafsson Släktträd*, which is owned by a woman having the username of ElinLinnea. [My guess is that these are her first two names – Elin Linnéa.] Elin lives in Karlstad, Värmland, Sweden. Note that *Släktträd* is Swedish for “Family Tree”.

ElinLinnea's tree clearly shows that Arthur Henry Anderson's father was a Swede named Carl Oscar Andersson (1856-1926), who immigrated to America in 1880,

settling in Minnesota. Interestingly, Carl Oscar was born in Bergum Parish (*Bergum Socken*).

Pettersson Gustafsson ... ElinLinnea

Carl Oscar Andersson

BIRTH 1856 • Bergum Socken, Sweden, came to America 1880
DEATH 10 DEC 1926 • Donnelly, Minnesota

Family

Parents

Anders Gustafsson
1826-1892

Britta Stina Pettersson
1827-1882

Spouse & Children

Olivia Lovise Larson
1857-1930

Agnes Emily Anderson
1884-1924

Elmer Oscar Anderson
1888-1962

Ida Hedvig Anderson
1890-1974

Arthur Henry Anderson
1892-1937

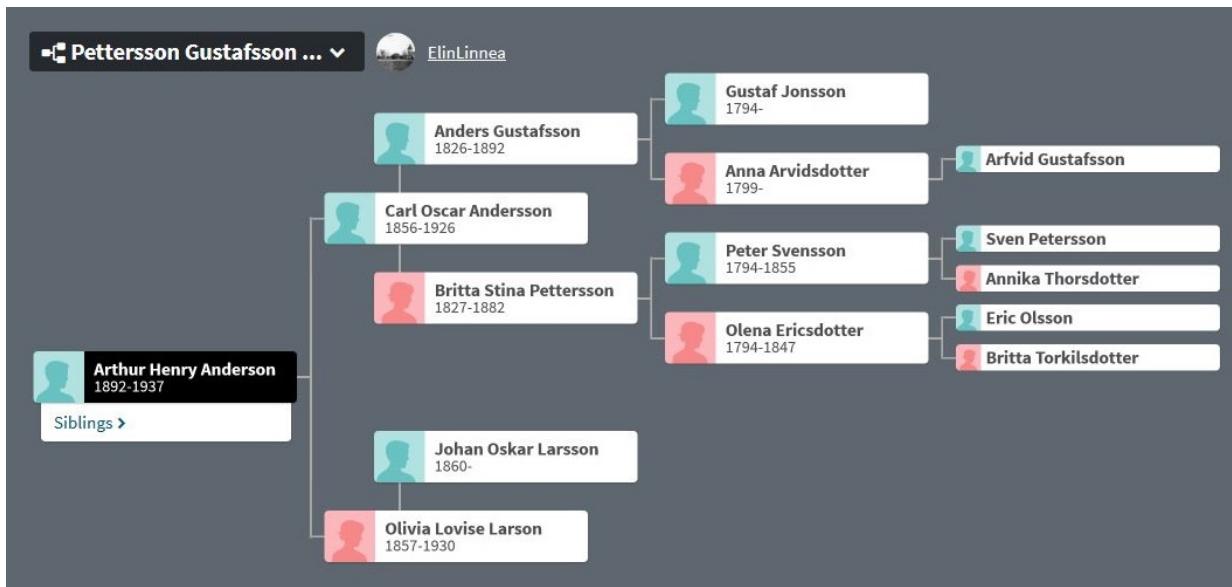
Mable Alphilde Anderson
1896-1957

Ester Marin Anderson
1900-1967



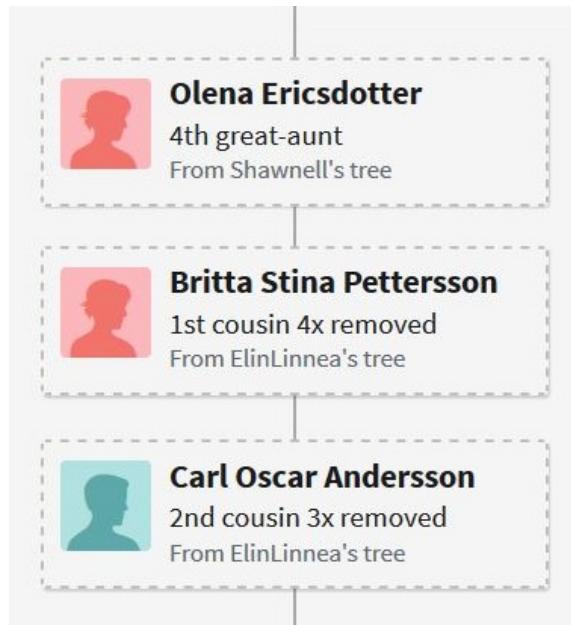
It would appear that they changed the spelling of the family name from **Andersson** to **Anderson** when they immigrated to America, since all of Carl Oscar's children have the surname Anderson.

ElinLinnea's tree also shows additional ancestors for Arthur Henry Anderson:



Like my ThruLines™ for Erik Olsson, it has Arthur Henry Anderson as a descendant of Eric Olsson (but spelled Eric and not Erik).

My ThruLines™ actually involves two more family trees. Note that Carl Oscar Anderson's maternal grandmother (*mormor*) was Olena Ericsdotter, but instead of taking the information from ElinLinnea's tree (above), it uses the same information from Shawnell's tree, which is owned by a woman named Shawnell Pilz:



Here is what Shawnell has for Olena Ericsdotter:

The screenshot shows a family tree interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with a logo, the text "Pilz Family Tree", a search icon, and a user profile for "Shawnell Pilz". Below the header, the profile card for "Olena Ericsdotter" is displayed, featuring a pink silhouette icon. The card includes her name, birth date (1794) in Bergum, and death date (1847). Under the heading "Family", there are sections for "Parents" and "Spouse & Children". The "Parents" section lists "Erik Olsson" (1766–1832) and "Britta Torkildsdotter" (–1815). The "Spouse & Children" section lists "Peter Svensson" (1794–1855) and "Britta Stina Pettersson" (1827–1882).

Interesting that both ElinLinnea's tree and Shawnell's tree have the same people with the same dates in the same locations.

Note that my ThruLines™ for Erik Olsson has information about Erik himself from yet another family tree – the *Wilson Släktträd*, which is owned by an individual having the username of **1_wilson1734**:



This tree has the following information for Erik Olsson:

The screenshot shows a profile card for "Erik Olsson" with a teal silhouette icon. The card includes his name, birth date (1766), and death date (3 MARS 1832 in Bingared, Bergum Västra Götaland).

I note that this is the same information for Erik Olsson as in the other two trees (ElinLinnea's and Shawnell's). After looking at all the people in this ancestral line, it is clear that this family was in Bergum, Sweden, for many generations.

The *Wilson Släktträd* also shows the two daughters of Erik Olsson who connect Christopher Hinman and with me in the ThruLines™ that I have been discussing:

The screenshot shows a genealogical software interface. At the top, it displays "Wilson Släktträd" and a user icon with the handle "1_wilson1734". Below this is the profile of Erik Olsson, with a teal silhouette icon. His details are listed as follows:

Erik Olsson
BIRTH 1766
DEATH 3 MARS 1832 • Bingared, Bergum Västra Götaland

Below the profile, under the heading "Spouse & Children", are seven boxes, each containing a small profile picture and the name and birth/death dates of a child of Erik Olsson:

- Britta Torkelsdotter, -1810
- Anna Eriksdotter, 1792-1793
- Olena Eriksdotter, 1794-
- Ingrid Beata Eriksdotter, 1797-
- Tobias Eriksson, 1800-1828
- Anna Eriksdotter, 1802-1844
- Arfid Eriksson, 1806-

Next to the third and fourth boxes, the names "Olena Ericsdotter" and "Ingrid Beata Eriksdotter" are displayed in bold black text, likely indicating they are the specific individuals being connected to the user's DNA match.

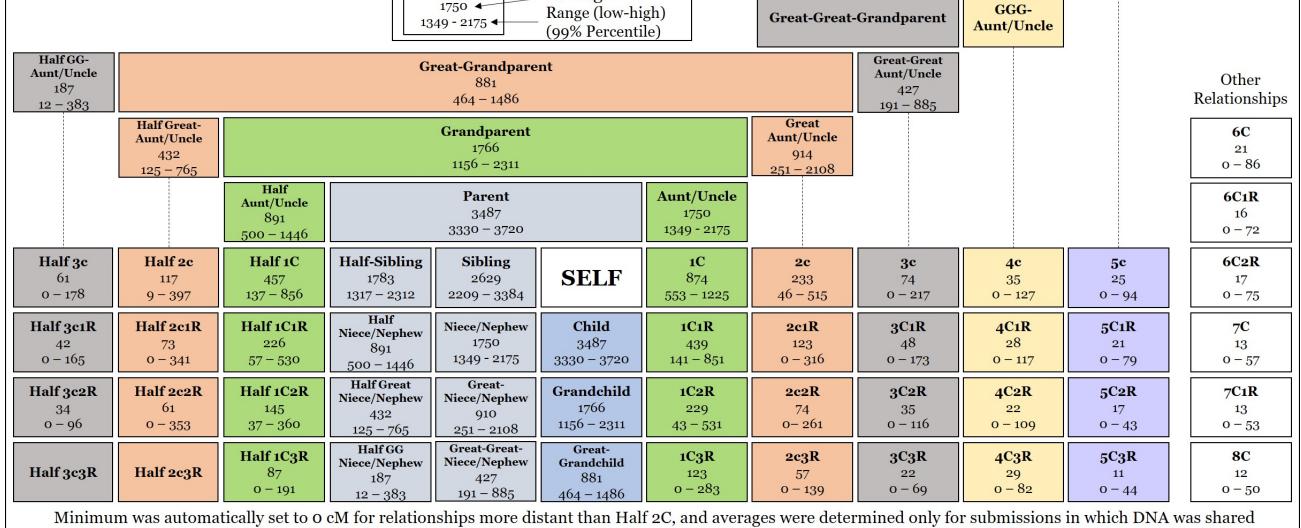
What to Make of This?

Erik Olsson and Britta Torkilsdotter were my 4th-great grandparents. Amazing that the ThruLines™ software is able to take someone with whom I have a small DNA match and determine how we might be related.

Christopher Hinman is suggested to be my fifth-cousin. In 2017, the noted genetic genealogist Blaine T. Bettinger published updated results of his Shared cM Project. He found that fifth-cousins (5C) average 25 cM, with a range of 0 to 94 cM.

August 2017

Blaine T. Bettinger
www.TheGeneticGenealogist.com
 CC 4.0 Attribution License



Minimum was automatically set to 0 cM for relationships more distant than Half 2C, and averages were determined only for submissions in which DNA was shared

My match with Christopher (6 cM) is in this range.

What should I make of this connection? The ancestors in my ThruLines™ for Erik Olsson appear with the same information in several different trees. His descendants lived in Bergum for many generations, and Bergum is where Ida Gustava Larsson was born and lived before immigrating to America.¹ So I'm inclined to believe that this is the "right" connection. If so, then this is an amazing find – since I have never found a DNA match with an ancestor of Ida Gustava Larsson – we only have DNA matches with descendants of her younger sister Emma Christina.

I need to make note of the fact that I am the only one in our family who has this DNA match and this ThruLines™. My Brorström-Wennström-Larsson cousins – Annmarie, Susan, and Stuart – don't have this DNA match.

Conclusion

In this narrative, I have described my ThruLines™ going back to my fourth-great grandfather Erik Olsson (1766-1832). The ThruLines™ software determined that he was my ancestor (he wasn't in my family tree), and also figured out how I am related to Christopher Hinman, who also appears to be descended from Erik Olsson. To make these connections, the ThruLines™ software used information

¹ I will be visiting Bergum in May 2019, with my cousin Göran Grottling.

from multiple family trees on the Ancestry.com website (although it really didn't need to use so many different trees).

This ThruLines™ connects back through my great-grandmother Ida Gustava Larsson (1871-1954). I was born in 1949, and I remember seeing a photograph of "four generations" when I was younger – Ida Gustava, her daughter Edna Florence Larsson Brorström, her granddaughter Grace Florence Brorström Oakley, and me. What I would give for a copy of that photo now!! Ida Gustava was the only one of the Swedish immigrants that I ever "met" (I was just a baby in the photo).

Finally, I continue to be impressed by the power of the ThruLines™ software, which is able to search multiple trees on Ancestry.com and make connections that an individual never could. Really impressive!

[Go to the next page for the Appendix.]

Appendix - Photos



A sign on the outside wall of Emigrant House (Emigranternas Hus), Gothenburg, Sweden. Ida Gustava Larsson and her family would have passed through this building before getting on a ship. Photo taken by Burks on 11 May 2018.



The famous painting by Geskel Saloman, *Emigration from Göteborg*, 1872, Gothenburg Museum of Art. Photo taken by Burks on 11 May 2018.