

My New DNA Match with Christopher Olstein (A Brorström-Wennström Relative)

By Burks Oakley II
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I am interested in genetic genealogy – that is, the use of DNA to confirm and to extend my family tree. I have my DNA profile on the Ancestry.com website, and every few days, I look to see if I have any new DNA matches on this site. I primarily am interested in those matches where software on the Ancestry.com website can identify a common ancestor (or ancestors) that I share with the match, so I usually “filter” my matches to show only the ones with common ancestors.

I have found that it also can be productive to look at all my DNA matches (listed from largest to smallest). Often, a close relative will not have a family tree on the Ancestry.com website, meaning that there is no way for software on the site to determine how we are related. So this past week, I looked at all my DNA matches. I found a new DNA match with a man named Christopher Olstein:



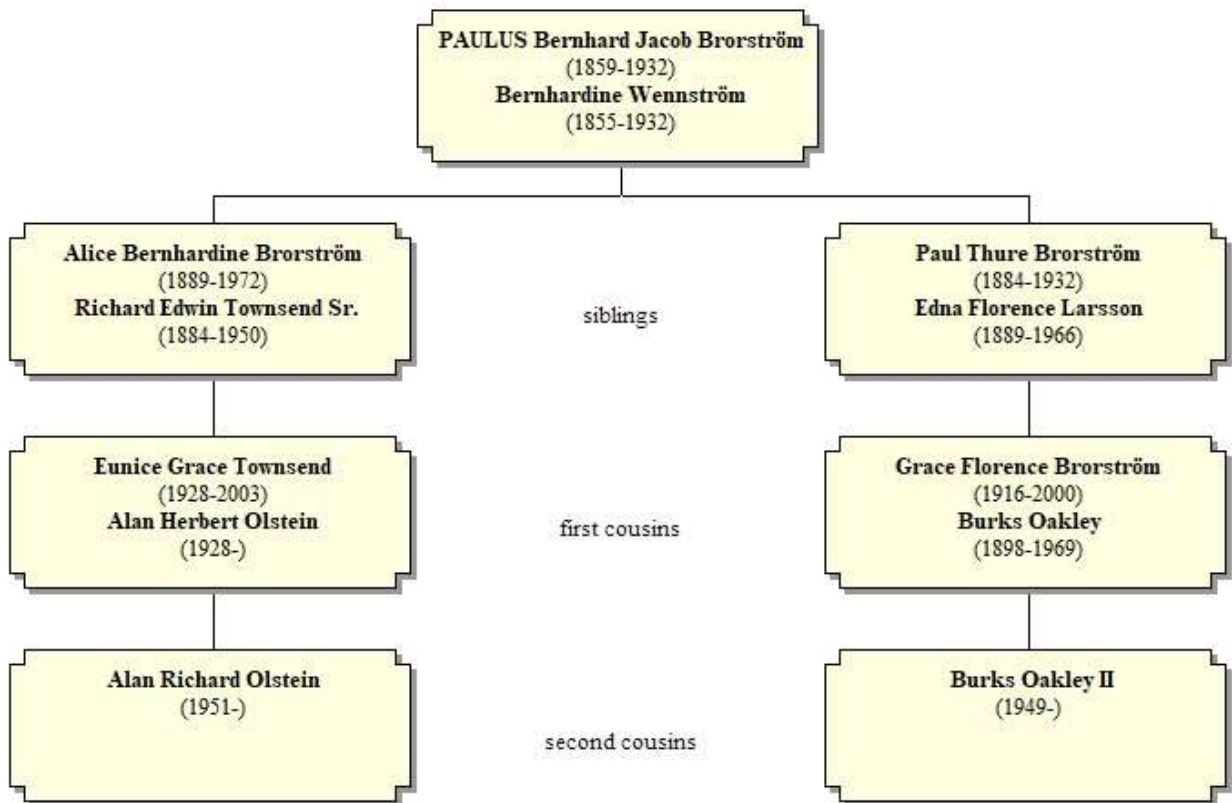
The screenshot shows the 'Burks Oakley's DNA Matches' interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'All matches', 'By parent', 'By ancestor', and 'By location'. Below the tabs, there are filter options: 'Filter by: Unviewed' (selected) and 'Common ancestors'. A search and sort icon is visible on the right. The main section is titled 'Extended Family' and displays a match for Christopher Olstein. The match details include: '2nd – 3rd Cousin', '101 cM | 1% shared DNA', and 'Maternal side'. There is also a 'No Trees' icon and a 'View match' button.

Christopher and I share 101 cM of DNA¹, and we are likely to be second- or third-cousins. Note that Christopher does not have a family tree on the Ancestry.com website.

The surname ***Olstein*** is familiar to me. In March 2020, I learned that I have a DNA match with a man named Alan Richard Olstein. It turned out that Alan was already in the RootsMagic database that I have on my computer. This database was given to me at least fifteen years ago by my cousin Hal Oakley, and it was based on my father’s family tree (perhaps updated by my mother after my father’s death).

Here is a chart showing how Alan and I are related:

¹ A centiMorgan (abbreviated cM) is a measure of the size of an autosomal DNA match. On average, one centimorgan corresponds to roughly 1 million base pairs in the human genome.



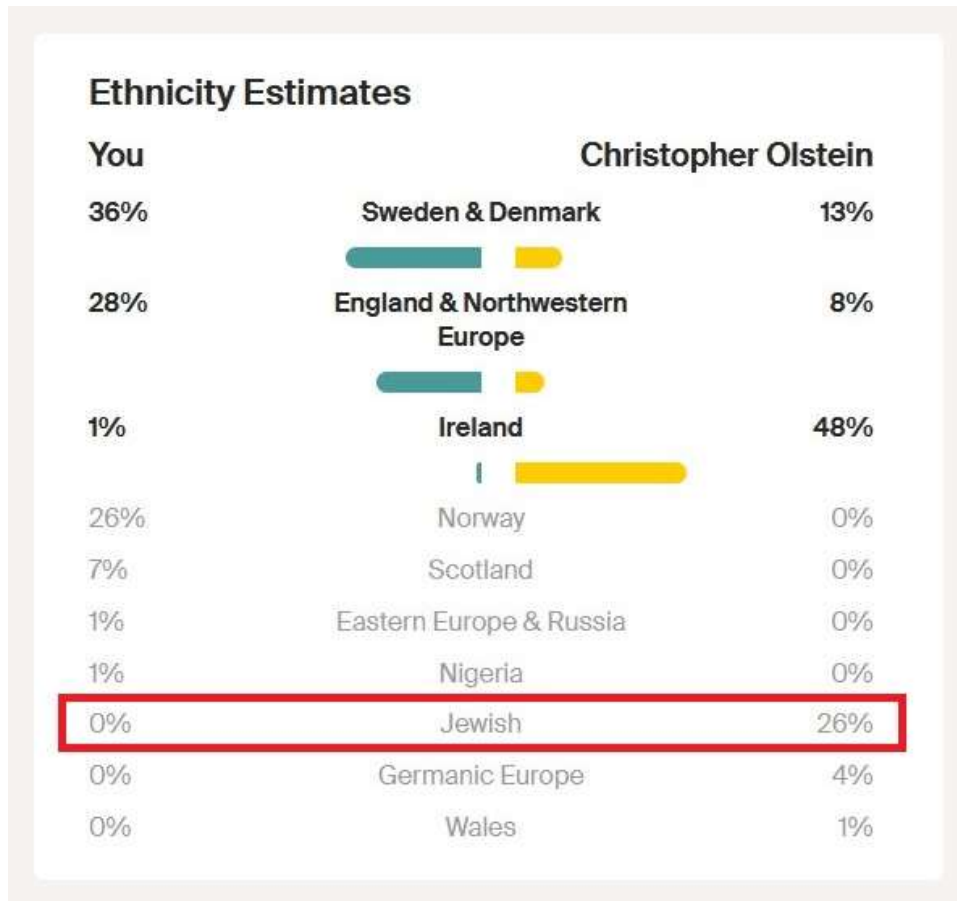
Alan's maternal grandmother, Alice Bernhardine Brorström (1889-1972), was a younger sister of my maternal grandfather, Paul Thure Brorström (1884-1932). Alice and Paul were children of Paulus Brorström (1859-1932) and his wife Bernhardine Wennström (1855-1932). Paulus and Bernhardine were born in Sweden and immigrated to America on their honeymoon in 1882.

As shown in this chart, Alan and I are second-cousins. In July 2021, I wrote a short narrative about my DNA match with Alan:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/AlanOlstein-BrorströmCousin.pdf>

Getting back to my new DNA match with Christopher Olstein, I reasoned that the surname **Olstein** was not that common, and Christopher is likely to be a close relative (second- or third-cousin), so I immediately thought that he must be descended from Alan Olstein's parents, Eunice Grace Townsend (1928-2003) and Alan Herbert Olstein (1928-2017).

In looking at my DNA match with Alan Richard Olstein, I learned that his ethnicity was 50% European Jewish (presumably since his father, Alan Herbert Olstein, was 100% European Jewish). So I next looked at Christopher Olstein's ethnicity estimates:



I learned that Christopher is 26% Jewish, and this is exactly what I would expect if he was Alan Herbert Olstein's grandson. And consistent with this idea, Christopher's ethnicity includes 13% Sweden & Denmark, as would be expected if he were a great-grandson of Alice Bernhardine Brorström (who was 100% Swedish). [Think one-half, one-quarter, one-eighth with each successive generation.]

I went back to my RootsMagic database and looked at Eunice Grace Townsend (and her immediate family):

Father:							
Alan Herbert Olstein							
b: 4 Dec 1928, Huntington, NY							
m:							
d: 15 Nov 2017, Boca Raton, Florida, United States							
Mother:							
Eunice Grace Townsend							
b: 4 Dec 1928							
d: 25 Jul 2003							
Children	Sex	Born	Birth Place	Died	Death Place	Relation	
1 Alan Richard Olstein	M	14 Sep 1951	Huntington, NY			birth	
2 Stephen Jeffrey Olstein	M	11 Aug 1952	Huntington, NY			birth	
3 Harry Townsend Olstein	M	15 Mar 1954	Huntington, NY			birth	
4 Richard Grant Olstein	M	2 May 1956	Huntington, NY	3 Feb 2008	Greenville, South Carolina, United States	birth	
5 Paul Edwin Olstein	M	18 Jul 1960	Puerto Rico			birth	
+ Click to add a child							

This screenshot shows that Alan Herbert Olstein had five sons, so I hypothesized that Christopher Olstein is the son of one of them. I note that the online obituary for Richard Grant Olstein (1956-2008) listed a sixth son, Peter D. Olstein.²

² <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/greenvilleonline/name/richard-olstein-obituary?id=49004033>

I next found the online obituary for Alan Herbert Olstein, who died at the age of 88 on 15 November 2017 in Boca Raton, Florida.³ This obituary included:

Also surviving are his grandchildren Chase, Jolene, Toni, Amanda, Lauren, Jillene, Christopher, Cassidy, Alisha, Sydney, Hannah, Jacob and Yosef.

So this does list Christopher as one of Alan Herbert Olstein's grandchildren.

I tried contacting Christopher using the message system on Ancestry.com, but I have not yet received a reply.

I should also note that I have access to five of my Brorström first-cousins' DNA profiles on Ancestry.com. Their father was my mother's older brother, Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001). As expected, each of them has a significant DNA match with Christopher Olstein. Here are the five matches:

Susan Baker (née Brorström):



**Susan Baker and
Christopher Olstein**

2nd – 3rd Cousin | Paternal side

3% shared DNA: 178 cM across 8 segments

Stuart Eck:

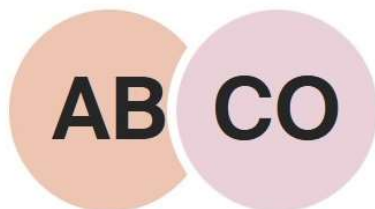


**Stuart Eck and
Christopher Olstein**

2nd – 3rd Cousin | Parent 1's side

2% shared DNA: 116 cM across 6 segments

Annmarie Brorström:



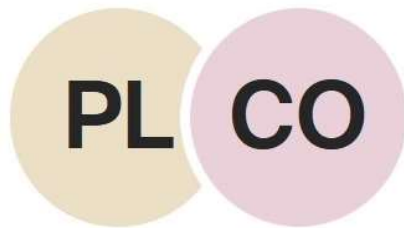
**Annmarie Brorström and
Christopher Olstein**

2nd – 3rd Cousin | Unassigned

2% shared DNA: 116 cM across 7 segments

PTB Larson (born Peter Thure Brorström):

³ <https://www.bethisraelchapel.com/obituaries/Alan-Olstein-32976/#!/Obituary>



PTB Larson and Christopher Olstein

2nd – 3rd Cousin | Unassigned

2% shared DNA: 114 cM across 5 segments

Elizabeth “Beth” Brorström Lynes:



Elizabeth Brorstrom Lynes and Christopher Olstein

4th – 6th Cousin | Paternal side

< 1% shared DNA: 63 cM across 4 segments

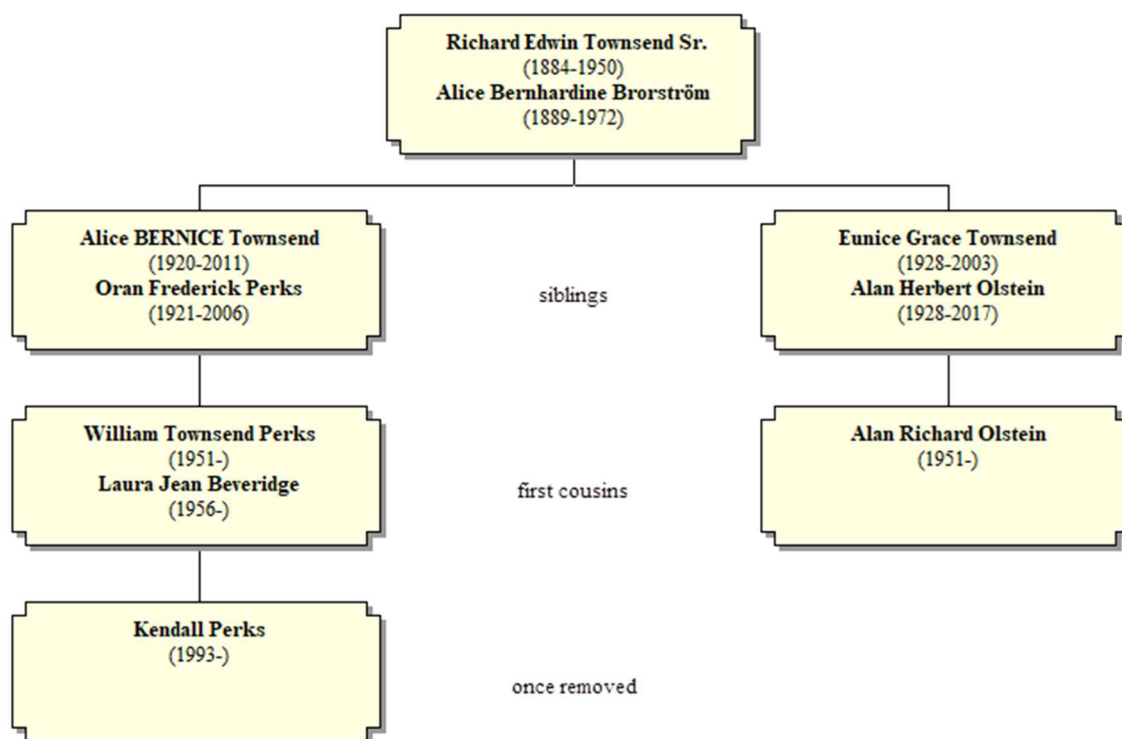
I find it interesting that my five Brorström cousins have DNA matches with Christopher Olstein ranging in size from 63 cM (Beth) to 178 cM (Susan). This really emphasizes the random way in which autosomal DNA is inherited.

Finally, I looked at the DNA matches that I have in common with Christopher Olstein. In order to be on the “Shared DNA Matches” list, an individual must have DNA matches with both Christopher and me that are at least 20 cM in size. This size requirement limits the number of people on the “Shared DNA Matches” list.

Here are the individuals on the “Shared DNA Matches” list:

- Amy Oakley (my daughter)
- PTB Larson
- Stuart Eck
- Susan Baker
- Annmarie Brorström
- Elizabeth Brorström Lynes
- Jessica Lynn Eck (Stuart’s daughter)
- Robert Baker (Susan’s son)
- Jim Horton – descended from the Brorström-Wennström immigrant couple through their daughter Ebba Brorström
- Walter Cederholm (**wceder**) – a descendant of Malte Brorström (the father of Paulus Brorström, the Swedish immigrant)
- Alan Olstein
- Kendall Perks – descended from Alice Brorström Townsend
- Stanley Church – another descendant of Malte Brorström
- Peter Horton – descended from the Brorström-Wennström immigrant couple through their daughter Ebba Brorström
- Birgit Tesch – Born Birgit Brorström; she is a Swede living in Stockholm
- Jared Wennström – unknown relationship, but he carries the Wennström surname

The “Shared DNA Matches” with all of these individuals make perfect sense. One that stands out is Kendall Perks. Here is a chart showing how Kendall and Alan Olstein are related:



I assume that Christopher Olstein is a grandson of Eunice Grace Townsend and her husband Alan Herbert Olstein. If this is the case, then Kendall and Christopher are second-cousins.

I also looked at the DNA matches that my five Brorström cousins share with Christopher Olstein. One that really popped out at me was on Annmarie's list:

AB CO

Annmarie Brorström and Christopher Olstein

2nd – 3rd Cousin | Unassigned

2% shared DNA: 116 cM across 7 segments

Trees Ethnicity **Shared Matches**

Filter by: Unviewed Common ancestors [Search](#) | [Sort](#) ▾

Distant Family

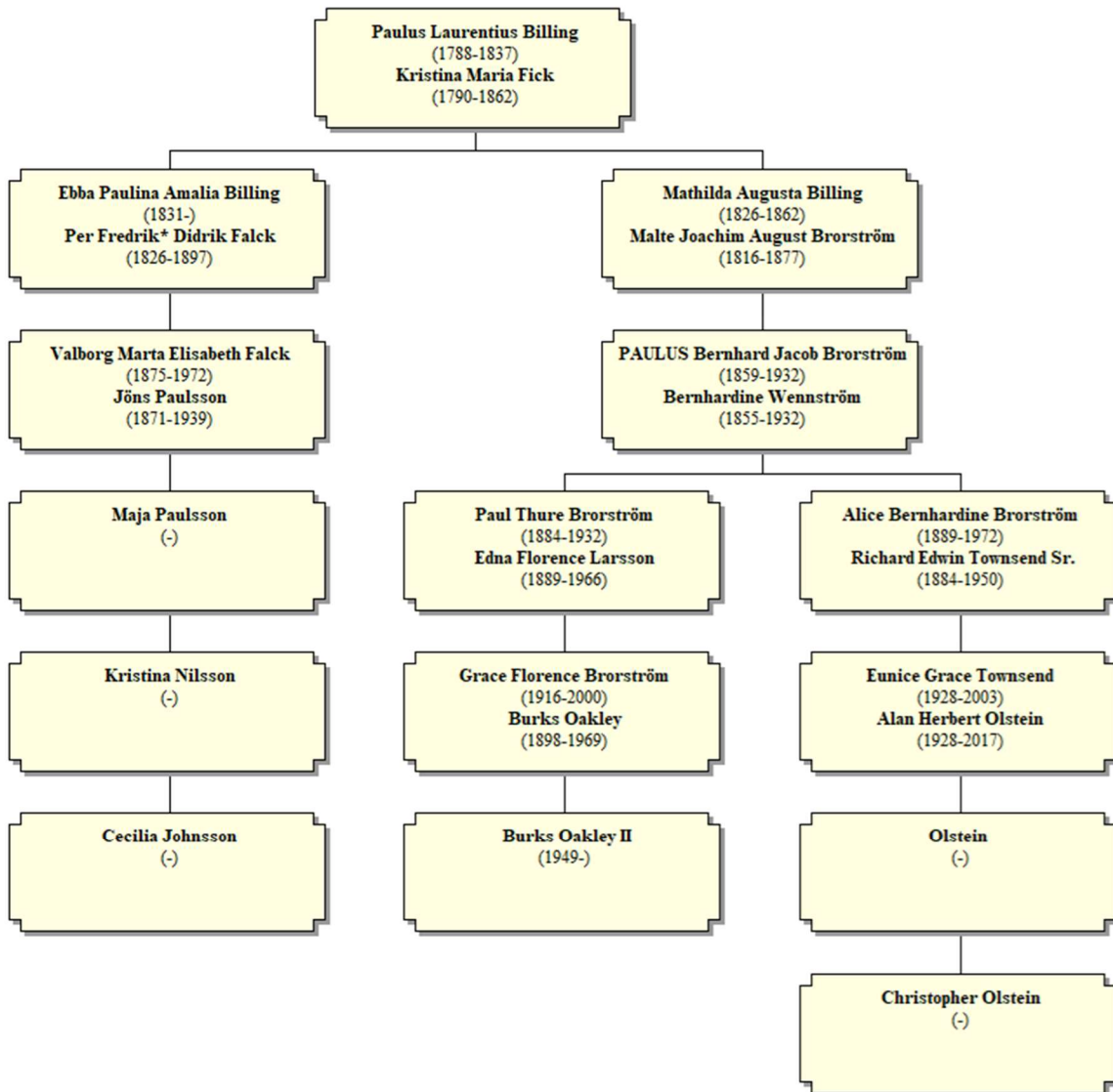
Cecilia Carlsson 4th – 6th Cousin
24 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Unassigned

Public linked tree
1 person

Descended from Paulus Laurentius Billing. 2Apr19.

Annmarie and Christopher have a shared match with Cecelia Carlsson. Cecilia is a direct descendant of Paulus Laurentius Billing. In our Brorström family in the US, we have very few DNA matches with **Billing** descendants, so it is pretty cool to see that Christopher must have a DNA match with Cecilia that is at least 20 cM in size.

Here is a chart showing how Cecilia, Christopher, and I are most likely related:



Note that in the lower-right of this chart, I didn't specify which of the sons of the Olstein-Townsend couple is Christopher's father.

Well, I think that this is as good a place as any to end this narrative. Hopefully I'll hear back from Christopher, and he'll be able to fill-in the blanks.