

My DNA Match with Colleen Reynolds – Another Branch of the Brorström Family Tree

By Burks Oakley II
30 July 2025

I am interested in genetic genealogy; that is, the use of DNA to confirm and to extend my family tree. In this “work/hobby/pastime”, I make extensive use of the Ancestry.com website. In the past year, Ancestry.com has released new software tools that aid users in sorting and viewing their DNA matches. For example, users now can view their DNA matches “by parent”, so it is immediately obvious which side of the family tree a given DNA match is on. Here are my DNA matches viewed “by parent”:

The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com interface for user Burks Oakley. The 'Matches' tab is selected, and the filter 'By parent' is highlighted with a red box. The page is divided into two main sections: Maternal and Paternal.

Maternal Section:

- Header: **Maternal**
- Parental icons: Three circular icons representing parents, with the label 'PL'.
- Match count: 5,570 matches
- Buttons: 'View matches' and 'Edit parent'
- Sub-sections:
 - Last names in trees:** Lists 'Brorstr', 'Ambj', 'Andersdotter', and 'Andersson'. Text: 'These are the most common last names which can be found in the trees of your closest maternal matches.' Button: 'View more'
 - Common journeys:** 'Early Connecticut & New York Settlers'. Button: 'View more'
 - Regions by parent:** A donut chart showing a large green segment for the maternal side.

Paternal Section:

- Header: **Paternal**
- Parental icons: Three circular icons representing parents, with labels 'TO' and 'HO'.
- Match count: 49,684 matches
- Buttons: 'View matches' and 'Edit parent'
- Sub-sections:
 - Last names in trees:** Lists 'Burks', 'Miller', 'Oakley', and 'Baker'. Text: 'These are the most common last names which can be found in the trees of your closest paternal matches.' Button: 'View more'
 - Common journeys:** 'Early Connecticut & New York Settlers'. Button: 'View more'
 - Regions by parent:** A donut chart showing a multi-colored segment for the paternal side.

At the time this screenshot was taken, I had 5,570 maternal DNA matches and 49,684 paternal DNA matches.

When I view just the maternal matches from largest to smallest, I'm really pleased to see that I now know how I am related to all but two of my largest twenty-five maternal matches. One of the DNA matches that I had yet to figure out is with Colleen Reynolds – she is number twenty-three (by size) on this list:



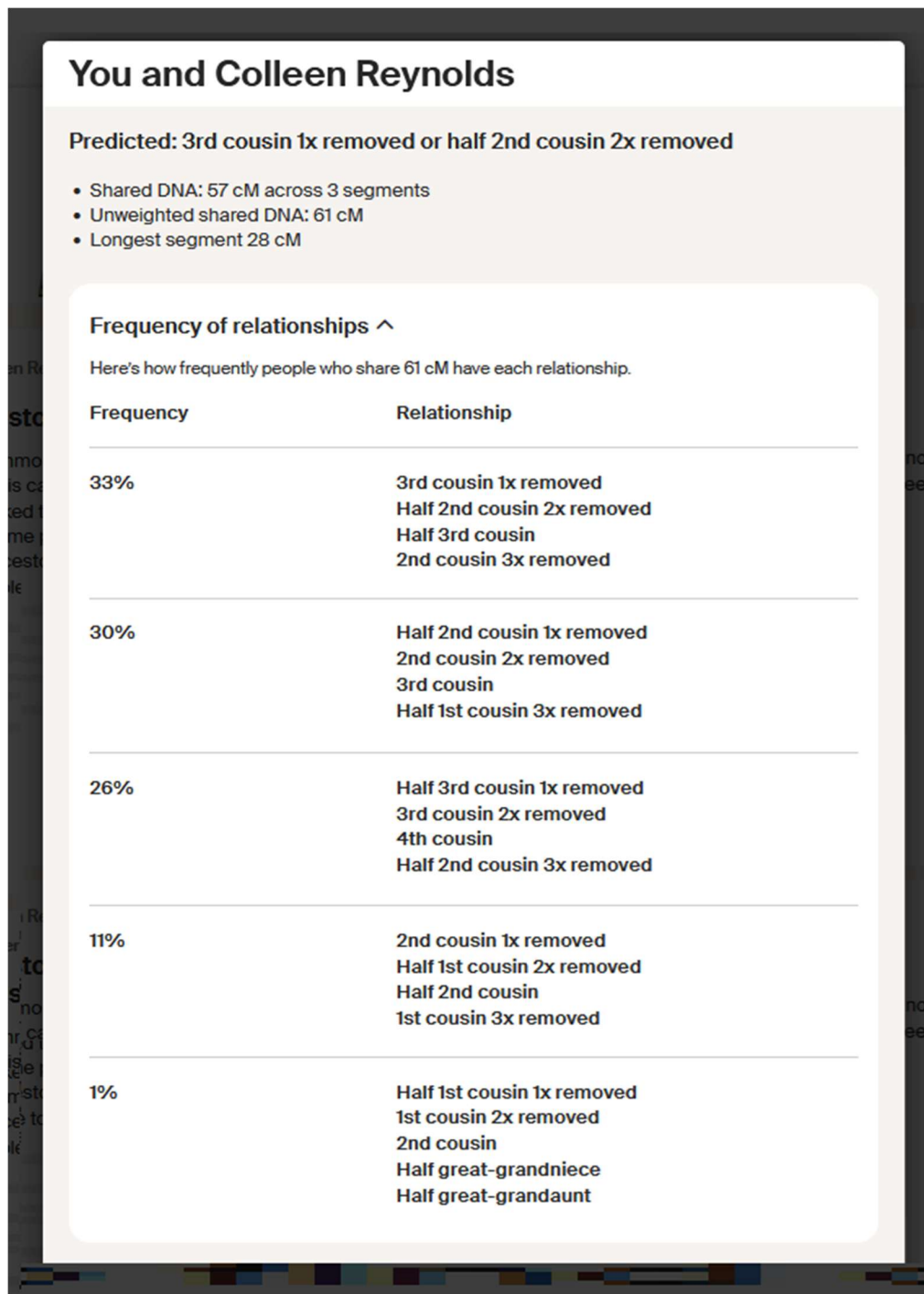
CR

You and Colleen Reynolds

3rd cousin 1x removed | Maternal side

< 1% shared DNA: 57 cM across 3 segments

Colleen and I share 57 cM of DNA, and based on the size of this match, software on Ancestry.com predicted that we were most likely to be third-cousins once-removed. But there certainly are other possibilities, as shown in the following chart:



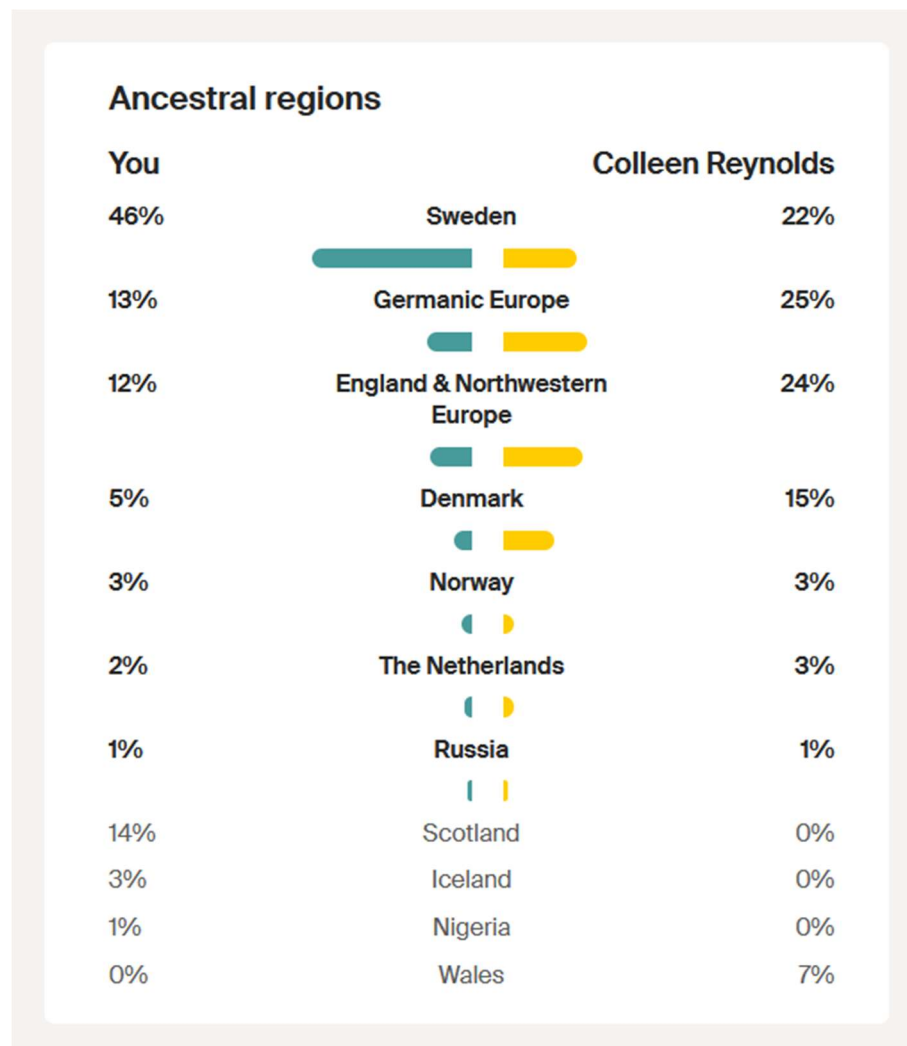
Colleen and I have a 33% probability of being third-cousins once-removed, a 30% probability of being third-cousins, and a 26% chance of being fourth-cousins.

Although I have known about my DNA match with Colleen for several years, I simply haven't been able to figure out how we are related – and it isn't for lack of effort. To begin with, Colleen's family tree consists of one person – herself:



Colleen is one of my maternal DNA matches, and my mother was Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000). All four of her grandparents were Swedes who immigrated to America in the 1880's. So my mother would have been close to 100% Swedish, which would make me close to 50% Swedish.

When I viewed Colleen's "ethnicity estimates", I saw that she was 22% Swedish:




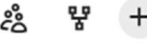

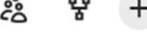






Colleen also is 15% Danish and 3% Norwegian.

So at this point, I know that Colleen is a maternal DNA match, she could be my third-cousin or fourth-cousin, and she has Swedish ancestry. I note that third-cousins share second-great grandparents, while fourth-cousins share third-great grandparents. So this tells me where I should be looking for our common ancestors.











Ancestry.com also has a new software tool that lets "Pro" users view the DNA matches that two individuals have in common – which they term "Shared DNA

Matches”. Here are the five largest DNA matches that I have in common with Colleen, sorted in order of descending size of my matches:

Shared match:	Your:	Colleen Reynolds's:
 Amy Oakley	 Your: Daughter 3,455 cM Both sides	Colleen Reynolds's: Half 3rd cousin or 3rd cousin 1x removed 57 cM
 PTB Larson	 Your: 1st cousin 964 cM Maternal side	Colleen Reynolds's: 2nd cousin 1x removed or half 1st cousin 2x removed 154 cM
 Susan Baker	 Your: 1st cousin 881 cM Maternal side	Colleen Reynolds's: Half 2nd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 99 cM
 Annmarie Brorström	 Your: 1st cousin 793 cM Maternal side	Colleen Reynolds's: 2nd cousin 2x removed or 3rd cousin 97 cM
 Elizabeth Brorstrom Lynes	 Your: 1st cousin 752 cM Maternal side	Colleen Reynolds's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 31 cM















My largest shared DNA match with Colleen is with my daughter Amy Oakley, and the next four shared matches are with my Swedish-American first-cousins – Peter, Susan, Annmarie, and Elizabeth. These four individuals are children of my mother’s older brother, Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001). Colleen has DNA matches with my four first-cousins that range from 31 cM to 154 cM, which just shows how random the inheritance of autosomal DNA can be.

I also viewed the list of “Shared DNA Matches” from Colleen’s perspective – that is, starting with her largest shared match and decreasing from there:

Shared match:	Your:	Colleen Reynolds's:
 Peterhorton58	 Your: 2nd cousin 70 cM Maternal side	Colleen Reynolds's: 2nd cousin 1x removed or half 1st cousin 2x removed 160 cM
 PTB Larson	 Your: 1st cousin 964 cM Maternal side	Colleen Reynolds's: 2nd cousin 1x removed or half 1st cousin 2x removed 154 cM
 jimhorton311 Managed by Cheryl Horton	 Your: 2nd cousin 276 cM Maternal side	Colleen Reynolds's: 2nd cousin 1x removed or half 1st cousin 2x removed 141 cM
 Susan Baker	 Your: 1st cousin 881 cM Maternal side	Colleen Reynolds's: Half 2nd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 99 cM
 Robert Baker	 Your: 1st cousin 1x removed 440 cM Maternal side	Colleen Reynolds's: Half 2nd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 99 cM

Her largest match is with Peter Horton and her third-largest match is with Jim Horton. The Hortons are grandsons of Ebba Maria Cecilia Brorström (1887-1967), who was a younger sister of my maternal grandfather, Paul Thure Brorström Sr. (1884-1932).

Some of our other Shared DNA Matches are quite important for figuring out how Colleen and I are related. We have shared matches with four members of the **Cederholm** family:

 <p>Jamie Watson-Chatelain-McGuire</p>	  	<p>Your: 3rd cousin 74 cM Maternal side</p>	<p>Colleen Reynolds's: 3rd cousin 1x removed or half 2nd cousin 2x removed 59 cM</p>
 <p>Rochelle Abraham</p>	 	<p>Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 38 cM Maternal side</p>	<p>Colleen Reynolds's: 3rd cousin 1x removed or half 2nd cousin 2x removed 52 cM</p>
 <p>Stanley Church</p>	 	<p>Your: 3rd cousin 100 cM Maternal side</p>	<p>Colleen Reynolds's: 3rd cousin 1x removed or half 2nd cousin 2x removed 47 cM</p>
 <p>Jason Abraham</p>	  	<p>Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 23 cM Maternal side</p>	<p>Colleen Reynolds's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 31 cM</p>

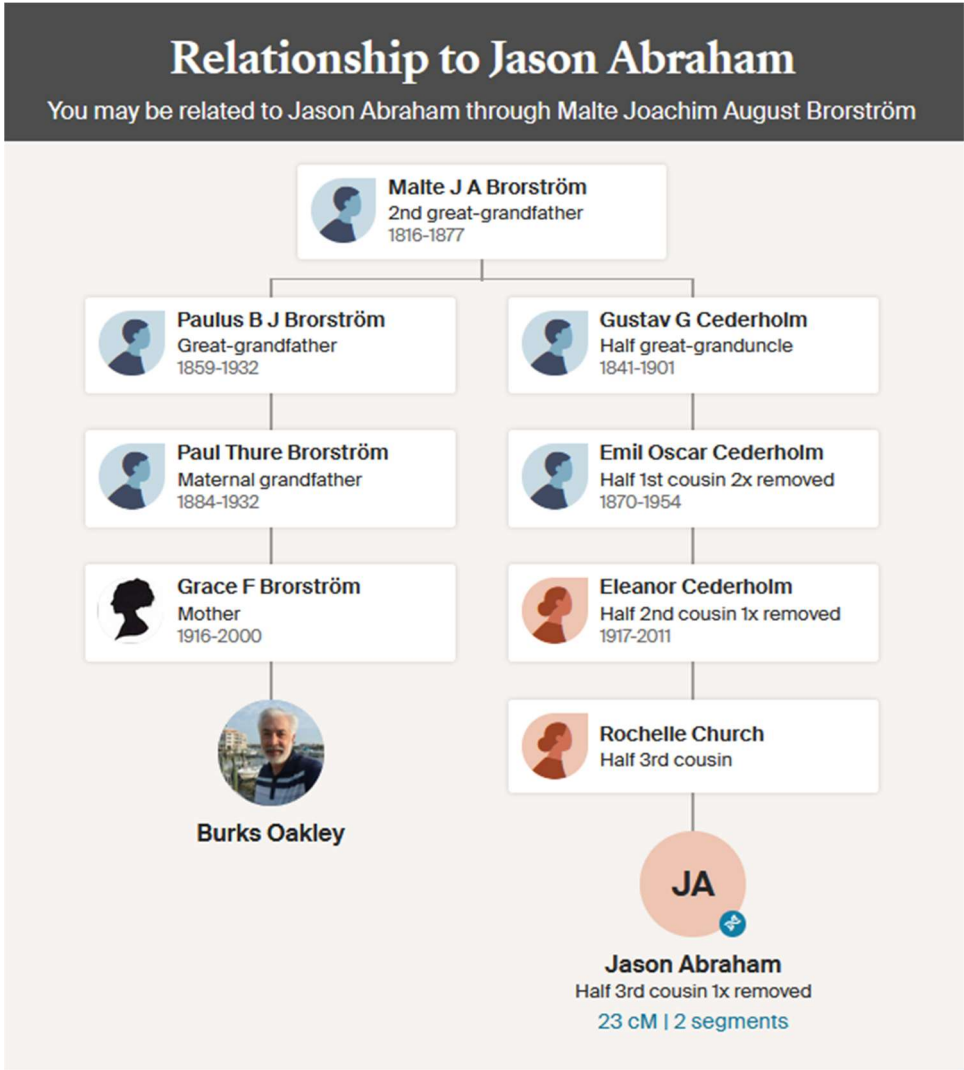
The **Cederholm** story is one of my most memorable findings in genetic genealogy. My second-great grandfather, Malte* Jochim August Brorström (1816-1877), fathered a son out of wedlock in 1841. The son took the inheritable surname of **Cederholm** as an adult, and his son, Emil Oscar Cederholm (1870-1954), immigrated to America. From a DNA perspective, the **Cederholm** line is identical to the **Brorström** line.

I wrote about all this previously:





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

http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/CederholmPresentation_21Feb22.pptx

Jason Abraham is one of the **Cederholm** descendants listed above. Here is a chart showing how Jason and I are related:



One last “Shared DNA Match” is worth mentioning, and that is with Pippi Engstedt:

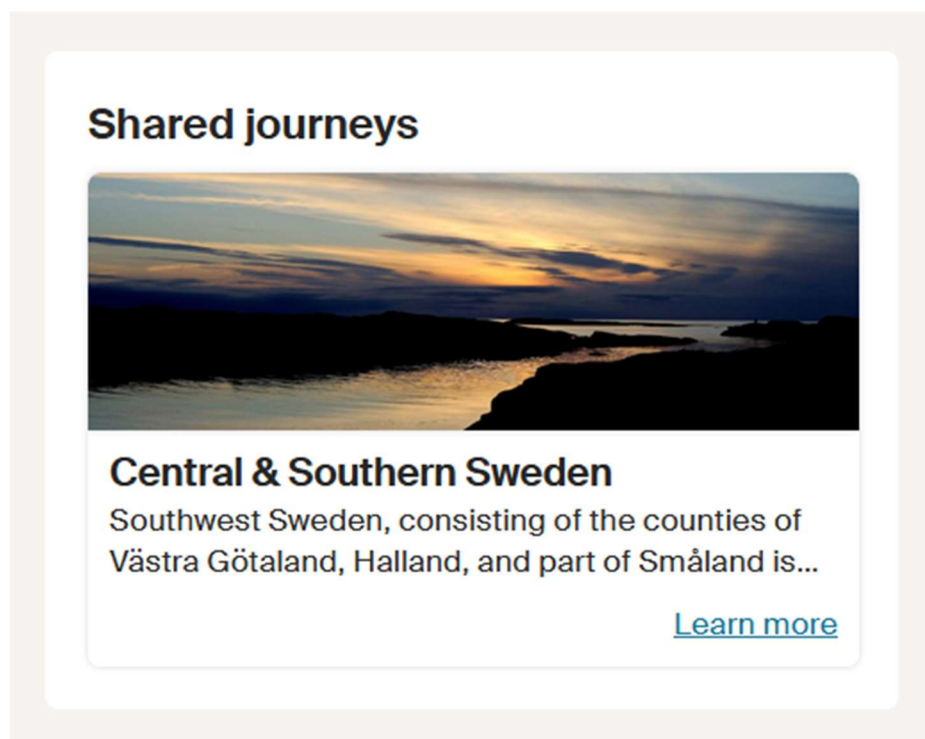
 <p>Pippi Engstedt</p>	  	<p>Your:</p> <p>Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin</p> <p>20 cM</p> <p>Maternal side</p>	<p>Colleen Reynolds's:</p> <p>4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed</p> <p>20 cM</p>
<p>TL suggests that she is descended from Thure Petter Brorstrom (my 3rd-great grandfather)...</p>			

Pippi is a Swede who lives in the Stockholm area, and we both are descended from Thure Petter Brorström (1768-1855):



Thure Petter was my third-great grandfather, and he was the father of Malte Brorström. All of these Shared DNA Matches certainly point to Colleen being a **Brorström** descendant.

One of the other “features” of the Ancestry.com website is “Shared journeys”, which I believe shows geographical areas where common ancestors lived. For my DNA match with Colleen, our “Shared journey” is “Central & Southern Sweden”:



The **Brorström** family lived in Borrby, Skåne, Sweden, for multiple generations. Here is a Google Map showing the location of Borrby:



You can't get much farther south in Sweden than Borrby!

Thure Petter was the priest at the church in Borrby, and he and his wife, as well as their son Malte and his wife, are buried next to the church. Here is a selfie I took next to the church when I visited there in 2023:



More photos from Borrby are in the Appendix.

At this point, I have to admit that I was stumped. I knew that Colleen Reynolds is a **Brorström** descendant. I ruled out that she was a **Cederholm** descendant, since her DNA matches with known **Cederholm** descendants were too small. I didn't see that Colleen had any DNA matches with **Wennström** descendants, so I

didn't think that she was descended from Paulus Brorström and his wife Bernhardine Wennström.

I always had a thought in the back of my mind that there was a second **Brorström-Wennström** couple – Bror ALFRED Constantin Brorström (1860-1919) and his wife Alma* Sofia Wennström (1859-1895). This is a case where two **Brorström** brothers married two **Wennström** sisters, and both couples immigrated to America and lived in the New York City area. But if Colleen was descended from this second **Brorström-Wennström** couple, then I would expect Colleen to have one or more **Wennström** matches, and she doesn't.


In my notes for Colleen, I wrote “She has to be a Brorström descendant -- How about Bror ALFRED Brorström, who married a Wennström and immigrated to America?” But this didn't fit with the lack of **Wennström** DNA matches.

I sent several messages to Colleen using the message system on Ancestry.com. She responded to the message I sent on 15 July 2025. She wrote “My mother, Connie Caine Reynolds, recognizes your name. She will get me our family tree in a few days and I will send it to you. Have a good night and I'll be in touch.”

Bingo! I certainly remember the name Connie Caine – I recall going to a family party (anniversary? birthday?) that the **Caine** family hosted at a fancy ballroom in the NYC area when I was ten years old or so, when we were visiting my Grandma Brorström in Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York.

I did a search of the hard drive on my Windows computer, and I found an address for Rick Caine in my mother's address book (I had copied all the entries from her address book after she passed away in 2000). But no Connie Caine. But I was sure that I had heard her name sixty or more years ago.

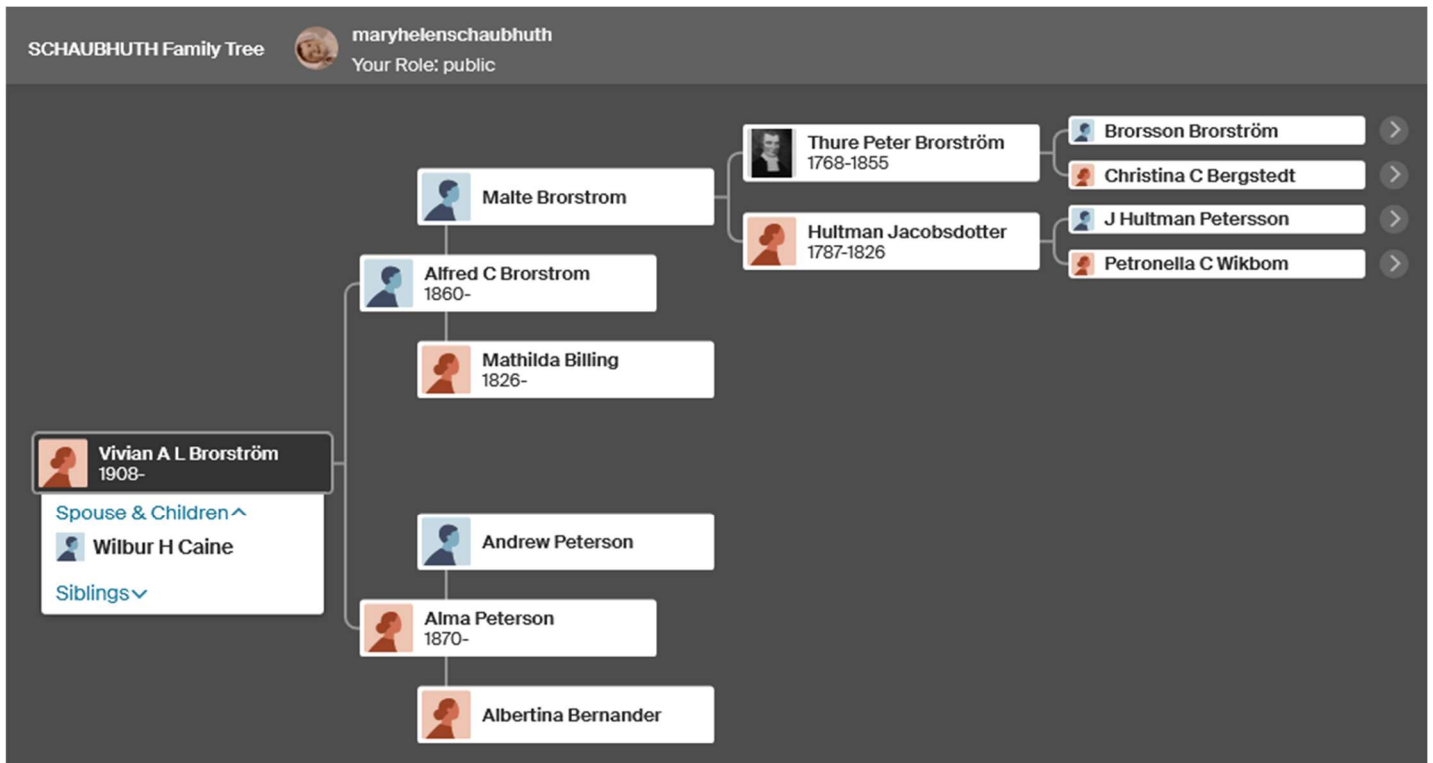
I went back to the entry for Bror ALFRED Constantin Brorström in my RootsMagic database:



2 - Bror ALFRED Constantin Brorström	M	25 Oct 1860	Borrby, Skåne, Sweden	18 Oct 1919	Jersey City NY
+Alma* Sofia Wennström	F	22 Nov 1859	Menlösa	22 Apr 1895	Jersey City, New Jersey
3 - Charles Albert Nervell Brorström	M				
3 - Bror Malte GEORG Brorström	M	4 May 1885			
3 - ALMA Christina Matilda Brorström	F	7 Jan 1887	Brooklyn, New York		
+Charles Albert Nervell	M				
3 - Thure VICTOR Harry Brorström	M	4 Nov 1888			
3 - Carl ALFRED Yngve Brorström	M	24 Nov 1893			
3 - Charles Albert Nervell Brorström	M				
3 - Bror Malte GEORG Brorström	M	4 May 1885			
3 - ALMA Christina Matilda Brorström	F	7 Jan 1887	Brooklyn, New York		
+Charles Albert Nervell	M				
3 - Thure VICTOR Harry Brorström	M	4 Nov 1888			
3 - Carl ALFRED Yngve Brorström	M	24 Nov 1893			
+Alma Pettersson	F	3 Nov 1870	Fjärås, Halland		
3 - VIVIAN Albertina Louise Brorström	F	25 Aug 1908			Jun 1986

Oh my! Alfred was married first to ALMA Sofia Wennström, and she died on 22 April 1895. He then married Alma Pettersson, and they had a daughter VIVIAN Albertina Louise Brorström (1908-1986). I wondered if Vivian was the **Brorström** connection I was looking for.

I went to Ancestry.com and searched for Vivian Brorström. I found her in a number of family trees – here is her pedigree chart from the “Schaubhuth Family Tree”:



Son of a gun! Vivian was married to Wilbur Huggins Caine. This has to be the connection.

I then looked up this family on Ancestry.com, and found them listed in the 1950 US Census:

Source citation for 1950 United States Federal Census

1950 United States Federal Census



[View image](#)

[View record](#)

[Record summary](#)

Name **Wilbur H Caine**
Age 38
Birth Date abt 1912
Gender Male
Race White
Birth Place New York
Marital Status Married
Relation to Head of House Head
Residence Date 1950
Home in 1950 New York, Queens, New York, USA
Street Name Queens Blud
Apartment Number 12
Dwelling Number 110
Farm No
Acres No
Occupation General Manager
Industry Gold Storage Tim
Occupation Category Working
Worked Last Week Yes
Hours Worked 40
Worker Class Private

Household members

Name	Age
Wilbur H Caine	38
Vivian B Caine	41
Constance A Caine	8
Bruce J Caine	5
Richard D Caine	1

Yes!!!! Wilbur and Vivian’s oldest child was Constance A. Caine – and of course, she would be called “Connie” – and Colleen’s e-mail mentioned that her mother was Connie Caine Reynolds.

A Google search on “Constance Caine Reynolds” turned up a document “In Memoriam: Clark G. Reynolds”:

Afghanistan.

Nor should we be too squeamish about what warriors do best: killing. War, John Keegan famously pronounced when challenged to produce a definition, is “collective killing for a purpose.” We do it, as do our ene-

mies. It is the obvious tonal contrast, however, between the respective humanity of the Western warrior and the inhumanity of his opponents that explains why we’re so reluctant to think of the suicide bomber as a warrior—and we’re right not to. But it would be

equally misguided to delude ourselves that we can keep the warrior ethos alive in our soul if we continue along the path we are going.

IN MEMORIAM: CLARK G. REYNOLDS

Donald A. Yerxa

Prominent naval historian and contributor to *Historically Speaking* Clark G. Reynolds died suddenly of a heart attack following a jog on December 10, 2005 at his home in Pisgah Forest, North Carolina. He was 65 years old. Reynolds was a recognized authority on the fast carriers of World War II. He is best known for his *The Fast Carriers: The Forging of an Air Navy* (McGraw-Hill, 1968), a classic work of naval history recognized by the U.S. Naval Institute as one of the ten best English-language naval books published in its first 100 years. His biography, *Admiral John H. Towers: The Struggle for Naval Air Supremacy* (Naval Institute Press, 1991), won the Samuel Eliot Morison Prize and the K. Jack Bauer Award. In addition to his work in 20th-century American naval history, Reynolds wrote three books that updated and refined concepts of sea power and command of the sea initially made famous by Alfred Thayer Mahan.

Reynolds earned his Ph.D. from Duke University in 1964 where he studied under Theodore Ropp. He taught at the U.S. Naval Academy, the University of Maine, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and the University/College of Charleston where he received the faculty distinguished teaching award and the faculty research award for 1999 and retired as distinguished professor emeritus in history in 2002. He served two five-year terms on the Executive Board of the International Commission for Maritime History and was a member of the Secretary of the Navy’s Advisory Committee on Naval History from 1987 to 1995, chairing it from 1987-1989.

A lover of jazz music of the 1920s-1940s, “Doc” Reynolds was a volunteer disc jockey for jazz radio programs from 1973-76 on Maine Public Broadcasting Network and from

1983-2002 on South Carolina Educational Radio. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Constance Caine Reynolds (who was his typ-



ist and proofreader), two sons, and a daughter.

I will never forget the first day I met him in 1972 at the University of Maine, where with Robert Greenlaugh Albion he created an extraordinary, albeit short-lived, program in naval history. I was a very green graduate student interested in exploring naval history, and as I made my way down the hall to his office, a booming voice and the aroma of Borkum Riff whiskey blend tobacco greeted me. He was thoroughly intimidating that day. He told me that military and naval history tended to attract “weirdos” who had no concept of what rigorous historical inquiry entailed and that if I studied with him, I would have to be a serious historian with ambitions to make significant contributions to the field. I must leave it to others to assess whether I was/am a weirdo

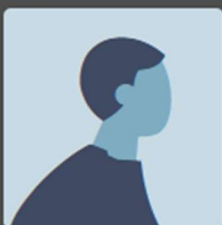
or whether my work in naval history ever reached the threshold of significance, but these were important words to hear at the outset of a graduate career. His deep love of naval history was infectious, and his expectations of high performance from his students showed respect not only for them but also for the important work of the historian. He was the best lecturer I have ever heard, and I left many a class excited with some new insight that altered how I viewed the past.

As the student-mentor relationship matured over the years, Clark Reynolds became a great source of encouragement. When I ventured into new intellectual waters related to the interface between science and religion, he was thrilled that I had recaptured the excitement of new inquiry. And when I became editor of *Historically Speaking*, he supported me with regular notes of encouragement and occasional submissions that were far from boring. Just months before he died, Clark asked me to write a jacket blurb for his last book, *On the Warpath in the Pacific: Admiral Jocko Clark and the Fast Carriers* (Naval Institute Press, 2005). It was an honor.

Clark Reynolds, like the salty naval officers he loved to study, was a man of great character and enormous talent. I have never met anyone with greater command of military and naval history. And I will always be grateful for his ability to inspire and lead by example. Clark was an “old school” historian, troubled by the direction that historians of my generation have taken the profession and unafraid to speak his mind. This sentiment led him to write two of the most provocative essays ever to appear in these pages. This was the feisty Clark Reynolds who was my mentor and friend. He will be missed.

<https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/1/article/423209/pdf>

Clark G. Reynolds was Connie’s husband; they were married for 42 years.



Clark Gilbert Reynolds

BIRTH 11 DEC 1939 • Pasadena, Los Angeles, California, USA

DEATH 10 DEC 2005 • Pisgah Forest, Transylvania, North Carolina, USA

A new search on Ancestry.com turned up this newspaper clipping

CAINE—BRORSTROM

Miss Vivian Brorstrom of Bay Ridge, daughter of Mrs. Alma Brorstrom and the late B. Alfred C. Brorstrom, was married on Nov. 25 to Wilbur Huggins Caine of Belle Harbor, son of Mrs. Florence Caine and the late Benjamin P. Caine. The ceremony was performed at the Church of the Good Shepherd by the pastor, the Rev. Dr. William F. Sunday.

Miss Edna Cornell of Brooklyn was the maid of honor. The bridesmaids were Miss Alva Phillips, Miss Irene Schmiedel, Mrs. Roald Bonnas and Mrs. Albert Sickinger Jr. Wesley Stott of East Rockaway was best man for the bridegroom. The ushers were Alfred Brorstrom, Norman Peterson, Everett Knipe and Albert Sickinger Jr. The bride was given in marriage by her brother-in-law, Charles A. Newell.

Following the ceremony there was a reception at the Marine and Field Club. Upon their return from Washington the couple will reside in Belle Harbor.

Mrs. Caine is a member of the Alpha Chapter of the Rho Omega Phi Sorority of Brooklyn.

Brooklyn Eagle

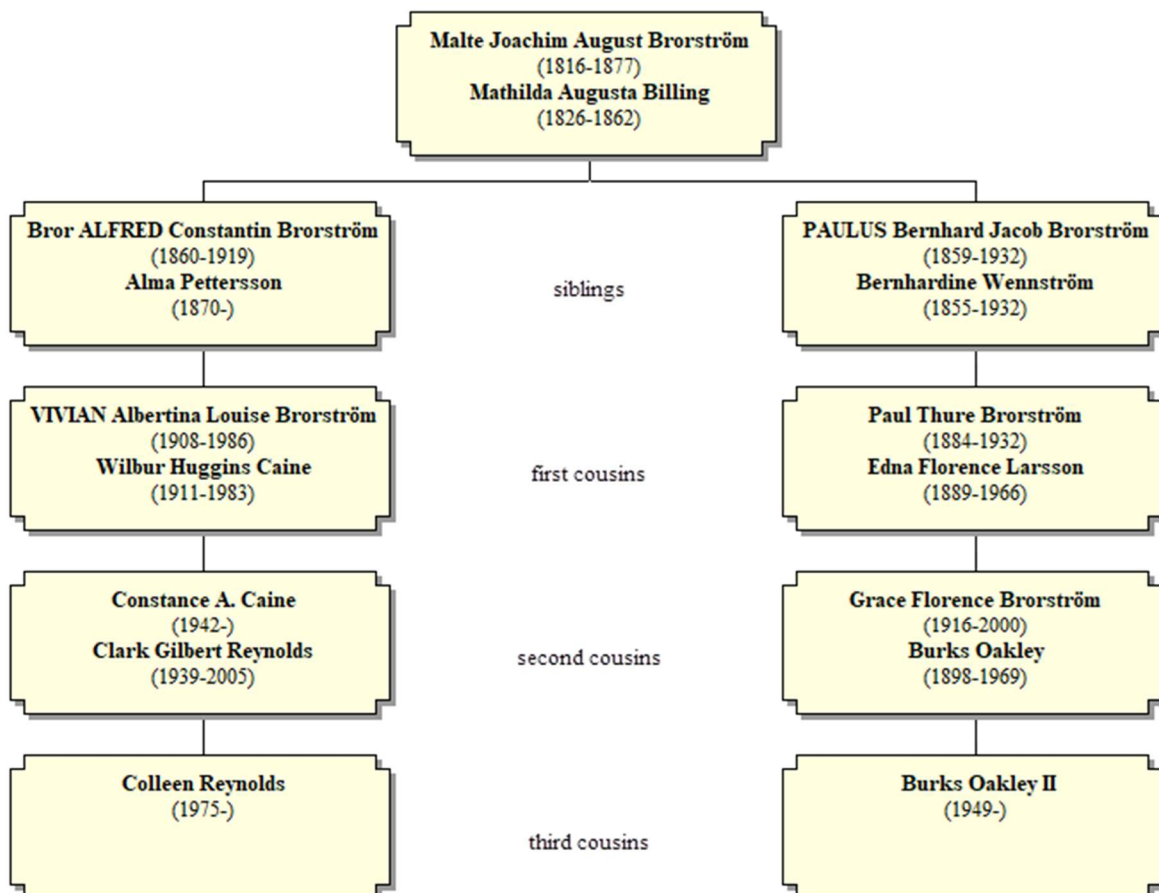
Brooklyn, New York
Sun, Dec 13, 1936
Page 28

Of course, I immediately sent Colleen an email note, informing her that I had figured out how we are related. She replied with some family photos, including this one of Vivian and her husband Woody (apparently Wilbur went by the nickname Woody, and I certainly recall my mother mentioning the name "Woody Caine"):



Quite a stylish couple, aren't they?!!

I added Wilbur, Connie, Clark, and Colleen to my RootsMagic database. Here is a chart showing how Colleen and I are related:



Colleen and I are third-cousins. Our Most Recent Common Ancestors (MRCA) are Malte Brorström and his wife Mathilda Billing.

As I look at the relationship chart on the previous page, Bror ALFRED and his second wife were both 100% Swedish. So Vivian would also have been 100% Swedish, her daughter Connie would be 50% Swedish, and Connie's daughter Colleen would be 25% Swedish. And her ethnicity estimate is 22% Swedish. It all fits!

I really am pleased to have figured out this connection (with a little help from Colleen). I'm kicking myself for not figuring this out on my own. I had Bror ALFRED in my RootsMagic database, along with his second wife Alma Pettersson and their daughter Vivian:

2 - Bror ALFRED Constantin Brorström	M	25 Oct 1860	Borrby, Skåne, Sweden	18 Oct 1919	Jersey City NY
+Alma* Sofia Wennström	F	22 Nov 1859	Menlösa	22 Apr 1895	Jersey City, New Jersey
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3 - Thure VICTOR Harry Brorström	M	4 Nov 1888			
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+Alma Pettersson	F	3 Nov 1870	Fjärås, Halland		
3 - VIVIAN Albertina Louise Brorström	F	25 Aug 1908		Jun 1986	

Why didn't I pay attention to Vivian?

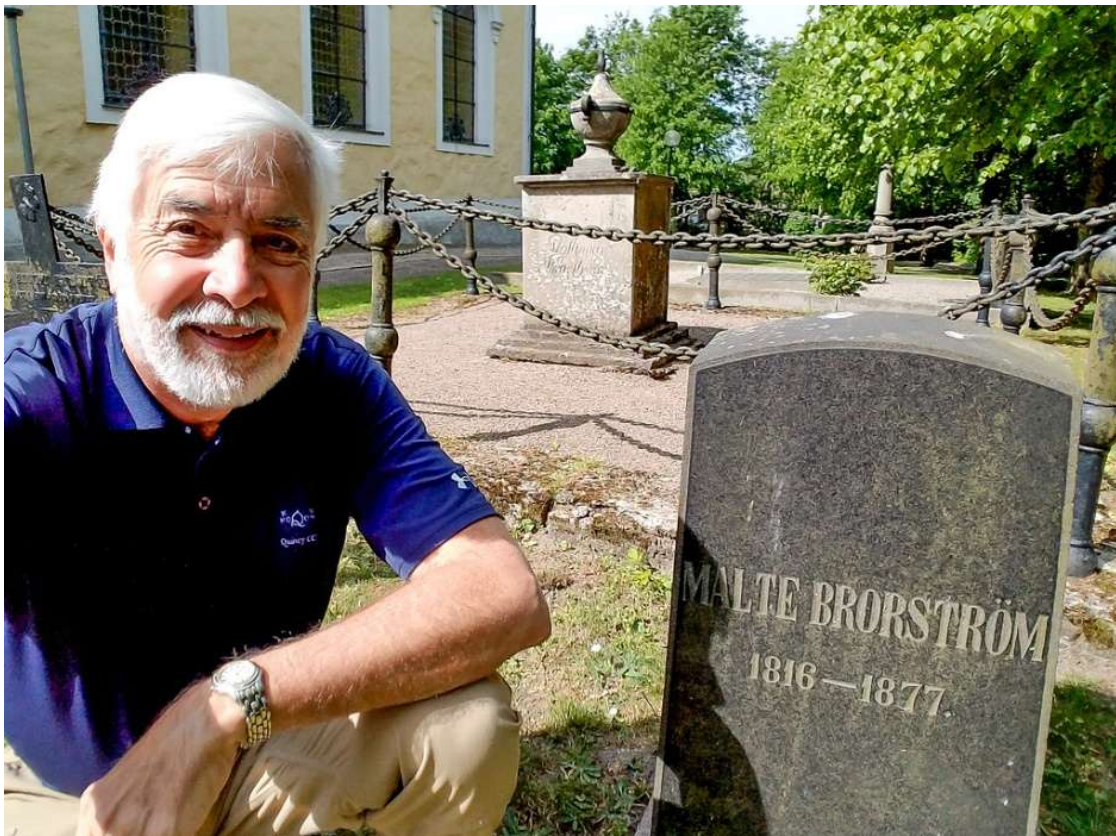
I now know how I am related to all but one of my largest twenty-five maternal DNA matches. That person is Courtney Owens, and based on our Shared DNA Matches, she clearly is a **Brorström-Wennström** descendant. As I look at the children from Alfred Brorström's first marriage, I'm thinking that Courtney could be descended from one of Alfred's children from his first marriage to Alma Sofia Wennström. Hopefully I'll figure this out one day...

Appendix: Photos from Borrby, Skåne, Sweden

I visited Borrby in May 2018 – I took a train from Malmö to Simrishamn, and then a local bus to Borrby. At that time, the church steeple had been hit by lightning and was no more:



Thure Petter Brorström and his son Malte Brorström (and their wives) are buried right next to the church. Here is a selfie I took next to Malte's gravestone, with Thure Petter's gravestone inside the chains over my left shoulder:



I also went to Borrby on my visit to Sweden in 2023. This time I had a rental car, and I stopped in Borrby on my way from Kristianstad to Malmö. I was surprised to see that the church steeple had been restored:



Note that Thure Petter Brorström's grave is in a prominent position next to the church. The main church cemetery is several blocks down the street.



Here is a close-up of Thure Petter's gravestone. It reads "Prosten Brorström", which translates to "Priest Brorström" in English:



Certainly a special place in our Brorström family history!