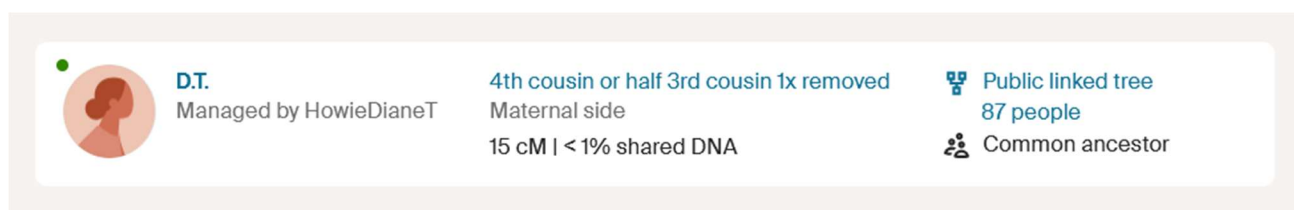


My New DNA Match with *D.T.*

By Burks Oakley II
8 November 2025

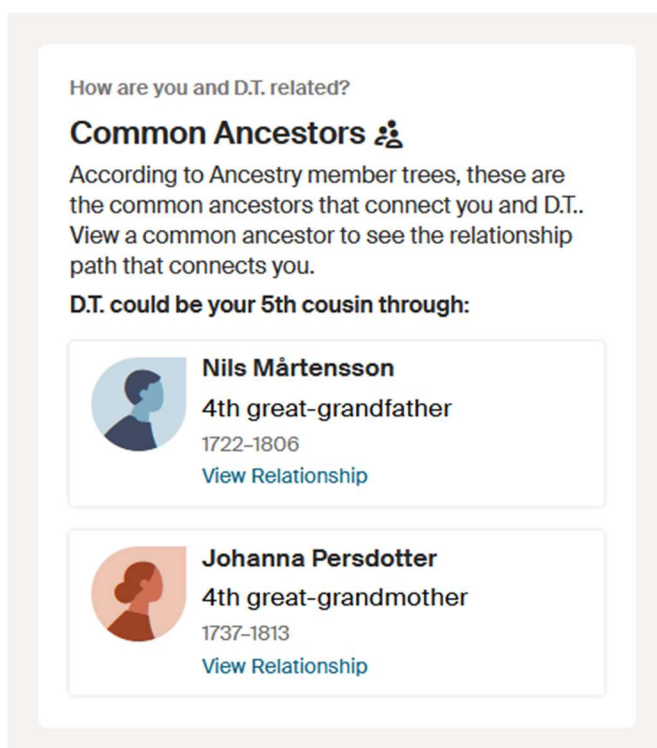
I am interested in genetic genealogy – that is, the use of DNA to verify and to extend my family tree. To that end, I make extensive use of the Ancestry.com website. On a fairly regular basis (i.e., daily), I view my DNA matches on Ancestry.com and filter them so that I only see those matches that I have not viewed previously where software on the website has been able to identify our common ancestors. Most of the time, this filtering process comes up empty – no new matches with common ancestors. But a few days ago, I saw that I had a new DNA match with a woman having the username of *D.T.*:



A screenshot of a DNA match card from Ancestry.com. On the left is a profile icon for a woman with the username **D.T.** and the text "Managed by HowieDianeT". To the right, it states "4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed" and "Maternal side" with "15 cM | < 1% shared DNA". On the far right, there are two icons: a tree icon for "Public linked tree" with "87 people" and a group of people icon for "Common ancestor".

D.T. and I share only 15 cM of DNA, which means we are fairly-distant relatives. Software on the site determined that this was a “Maternal side” match, and since my mother’s four grandparents all immigrated from Sweden in the 1880’s, I was pretty confident that our common ancestors would be a Swedish couple that lived a few centuries ago.

I went on to look at my DNA match with *D.T.* I first viewed the panel showing our common ancestors:



A screenshot of the "Common Ancestors" panel from Ancestry.com. The title is "How are you and D.T. related?" followed by "Common Ancestors" with a group icon. Below the title, it says: "According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect you and D.T.. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects you." Underneath, it states "D.T. could be your 5th cousin through:". There are two entries, each with a profile icon, name, relationship, and dates: "Nils Mårtensson" (4th great-grandfather, 1722-1806) and "Johanna Persdotter" (4th great-grandmother, 1737-1813). Each entry has a "View Relationship" link.

D.T. and I are most likely both descended from Nils Mårtensson (1722-1806) and his wife Johanna Persdotter (1737-1813). This couple were my fourth-great grandparents.

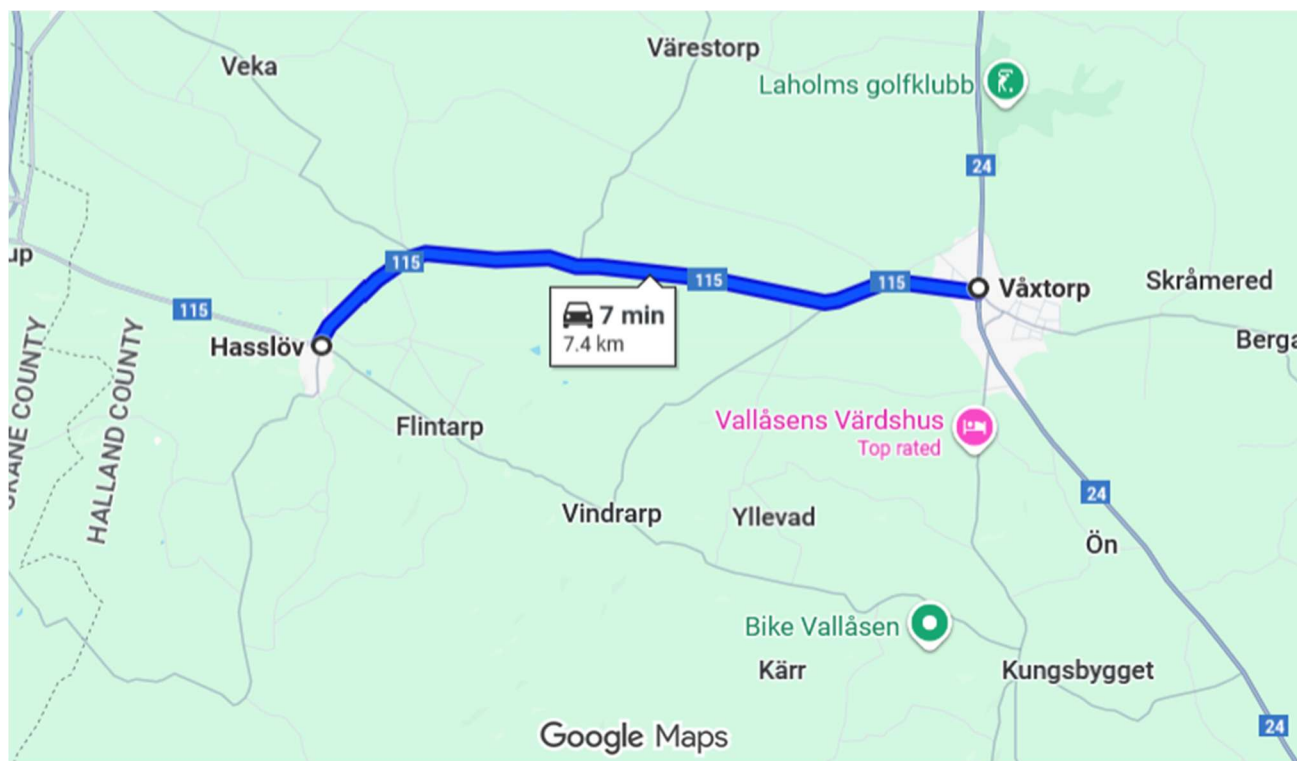
Nils Mårtensson was born in Våxtorp and he died in Hasslöv:



It appears that Johanna Persdotter lived her entire life in Hasslöv:



Hasslöv and Våxtorp are small towns in southern Halland County, located just 7+ km apart, as shown on this Google map:

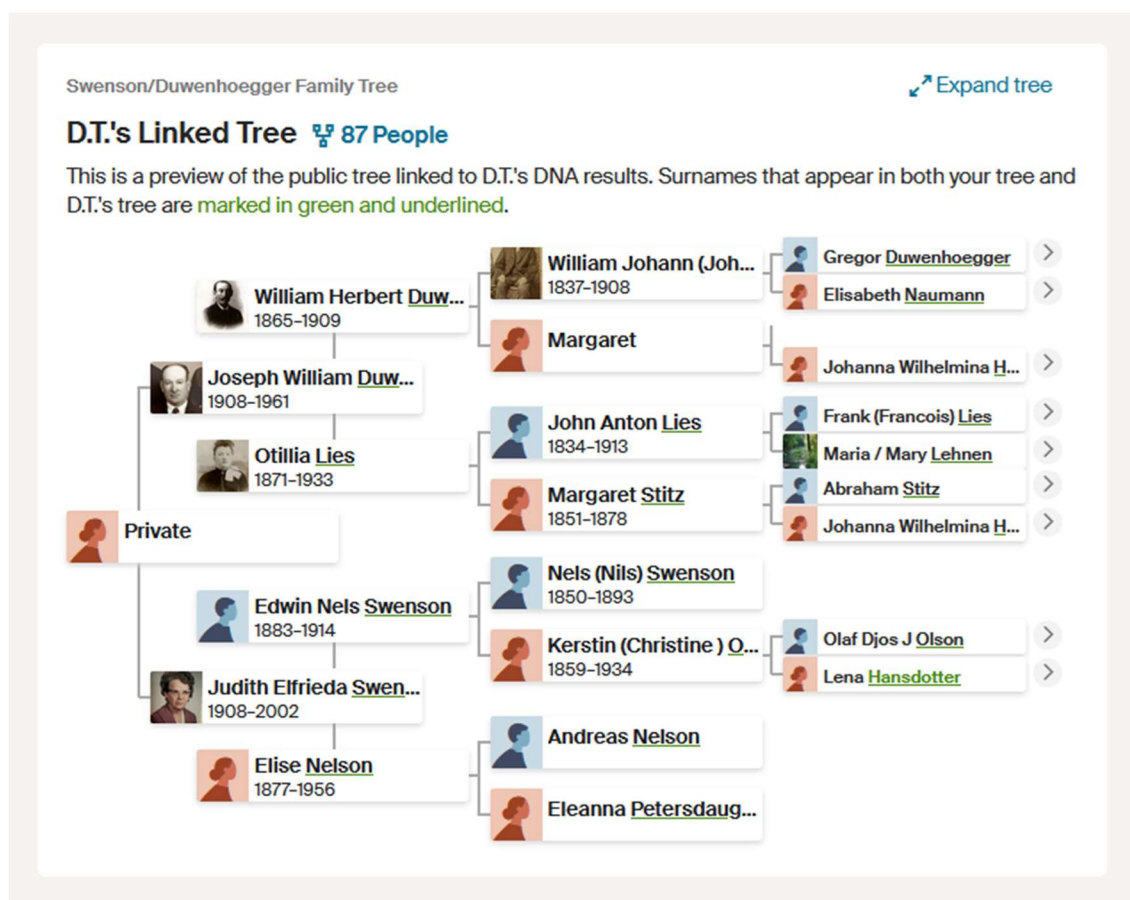


I next looked at the chart showing how *D.T.* and I are most likely related:



I am descended from the Mårtensson-Persdotter couple through their son Ola Nilsson (1775-1826), while **D.T.** is descended from this couple through their son Måns Nilsson (1767-1835). Based on this relationship chart, **D.T.** and I are fifth-cousins.

I went on to look at **D.T.**'s pedigree chart:



I note that **D.T.**'s mother, Judith Elfrieda Swenson, was born in 1908. This means that **D.T.** must be similar in age to me.

Based on the relationship chart on the previous page, **D.T.**'s ancestral line back to the Mårtensson-Persdotter couple goes through her mother, and looking at **D.T.**'s pedigree chart, it would appear that like me, her mother was fully Swedish.

Judith Elfrieda's four grandparents had the surnames Swenson, Olson, Nelson, and Petersdotter. The first two were both Swedish immigrants:



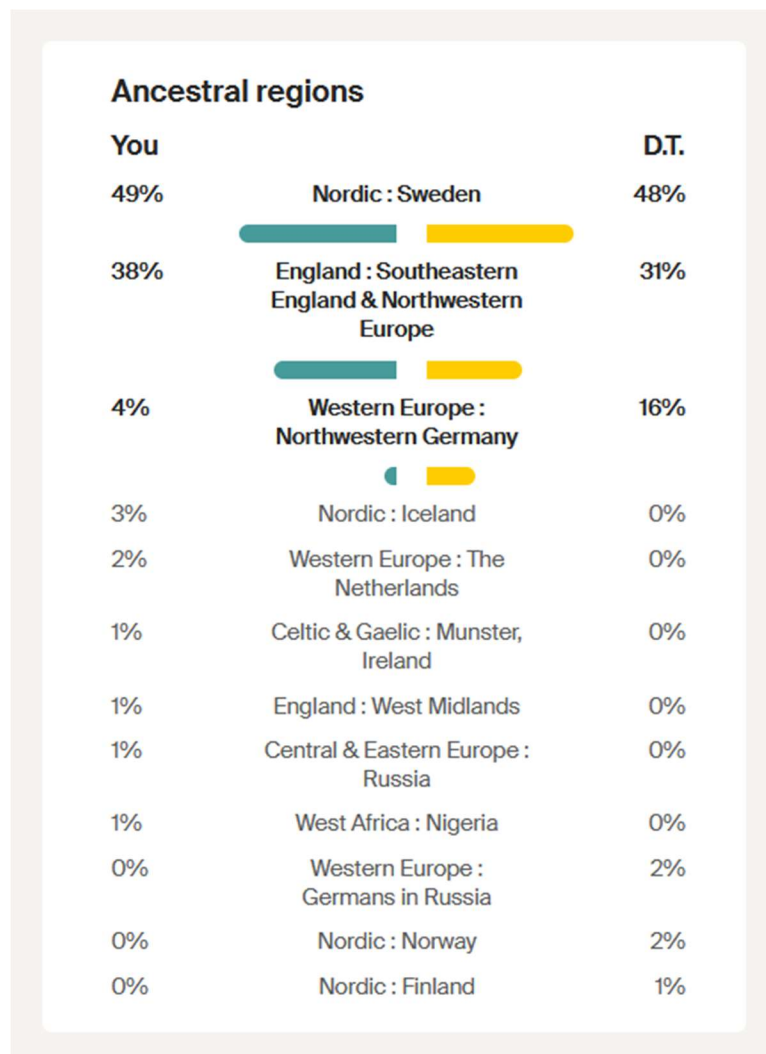
Nels (Nils) Swenson
BIRTH AUG 1850 • Voxtorp, Holland, Sweden
DEATH 11 JUL 1893 • Brandon, township, South Dakota, USA



Kerstin (Christine) Olson
BIRTH 14 AUGUST 1859 • Dalarne, Sweeden
DEATH 20 APRIL 1934 • Brandon Township, Minnehaha, South Dakota

















Both the people Americanized their first names – Nils became Nels and Kerstin became Christine. Kerstin Olson probably was from Dalarna, not Dalarne.

I went on to look at the ethnicity estimates for **D.T.**:



As expected, **D.T.** is 48% Swedish, consistent with her mother being fully Swedish.

I continued to examine my DNA match with **D.T.** I next looked at our “Shared DNA Matches”. We have a total of twenty shared matches – here are eight of them where our common ancestors are known:

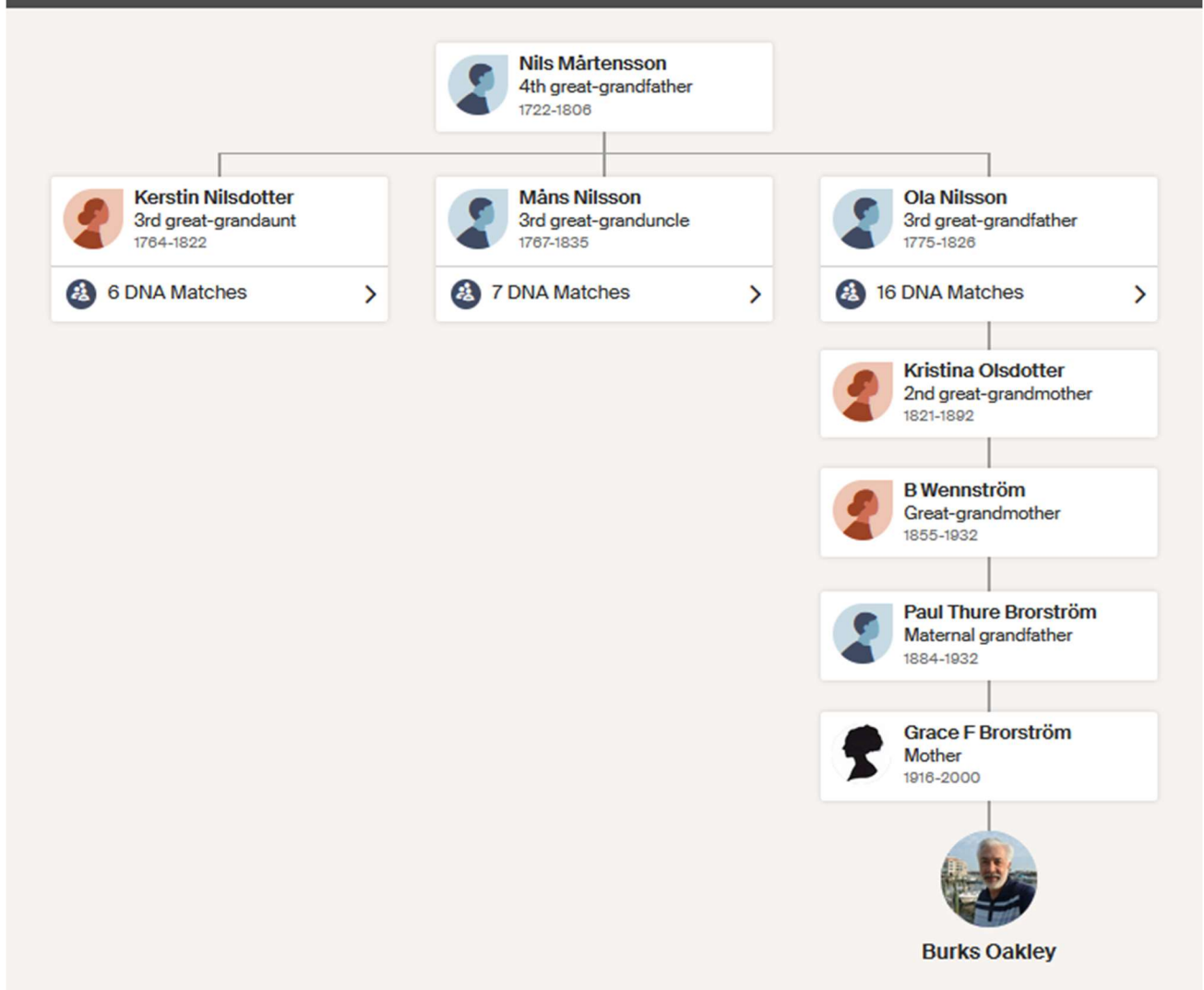
Shared match:	Your:	D.T.'s:
 jimhorton311 Managed by Cheryl Horton	 Your: 2nd cousin 276 cM Maternal side	D.T.'s: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 25 cM
 Peterhorton58	 Your: 2nd cousin 70 cM Maternal side	D.T.'s: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 24 cM
 Eva Josefsson Managed by Sterner.Josefsson	 Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 25 cM Maternal side	D.T.'s: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 23 cM
 Victoria Murdoch-Murdock	 Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 23 cM Maternal side	D.T.'s: Half 2nd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 63 cM
 robin sonnenberg	 Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 19 cM Maternal side	D.T.'s: 2nd cousin 198 cM
 sean hitchcock	 Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 15 cM Maternal side	D.T.'s: Half 2nd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 69 cM
 keith Hembre	 Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 12 cM Maternal side	D.T.'s: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 29 cM
 Theresa Aberle	 Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 10 cM Maternal side	D.T.'s: Half 2nd cousin 1x removed 104 cM

Our first two shared matches are with Jim and Peter Horton. The Hortons are my second-cousins, and we are descended from Berhardine Wennström, who was a great-granddaughter of the Mårtensson-Persdotter couple. The other six individuals on this list all go back to the Mårtensson-Persdotter couple.

Here is my ThruLines® chart for Nils Mårtensson:

ThruLines® for Nils Mårtensson

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 29 DNA matches through Nils Mårtensson.



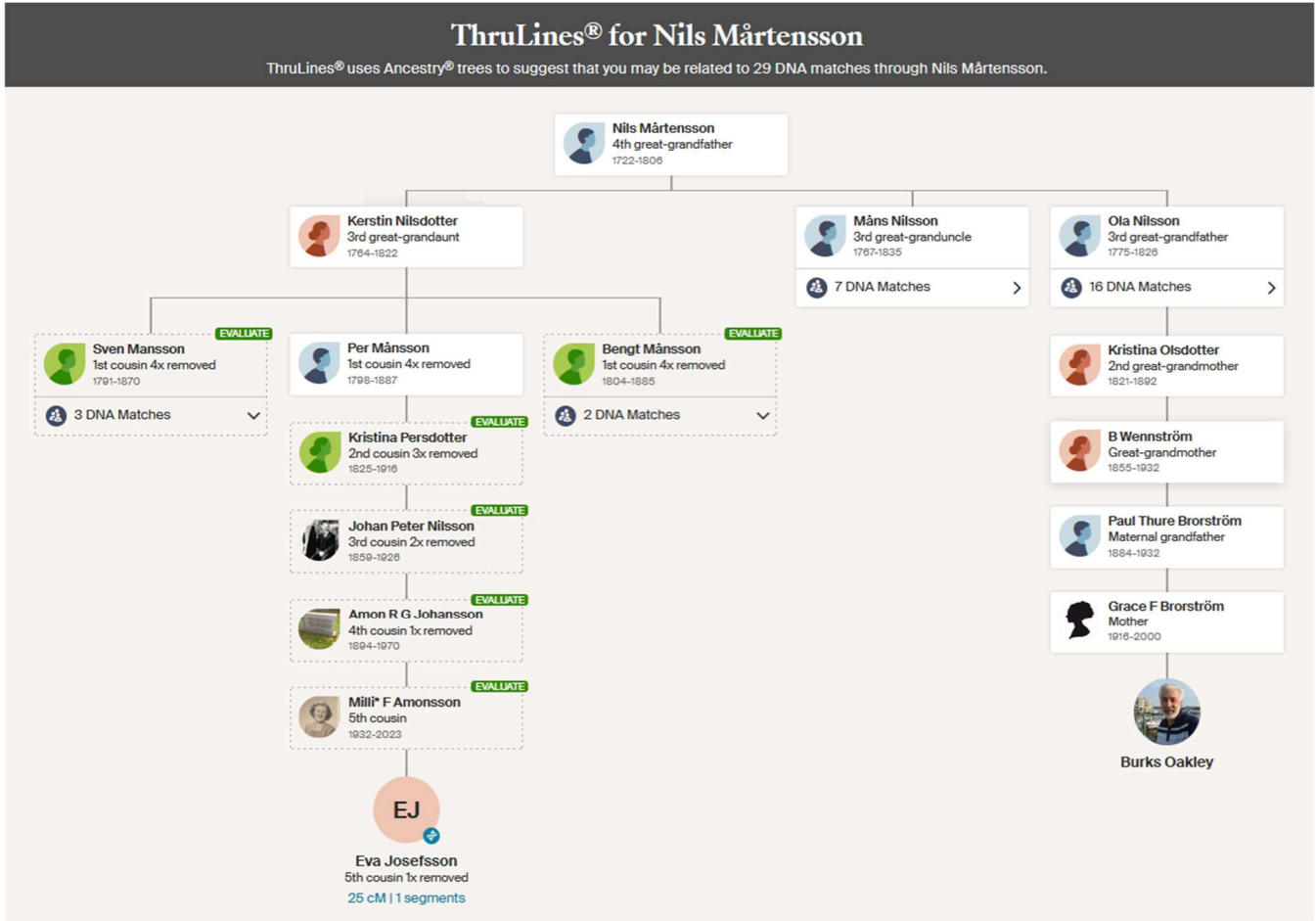
I have a total of 29 DNA matches with descendants of the Mårtensson-Persdotter couple. I obviously can't show a diagram with all 29 people, so I'll just show a few selected lines.

I should add that my ThruLines® chart for Nils Mårtensson's wife, Johanna Persdotter, looks identical to the chart for Nils himself.

Here is the part of the overall ThruLines® chart showing where Eva Josefsson fits in:

ThruLines® for Nils Mårtensson

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 29 DNA matches through Nils Mårtensson.

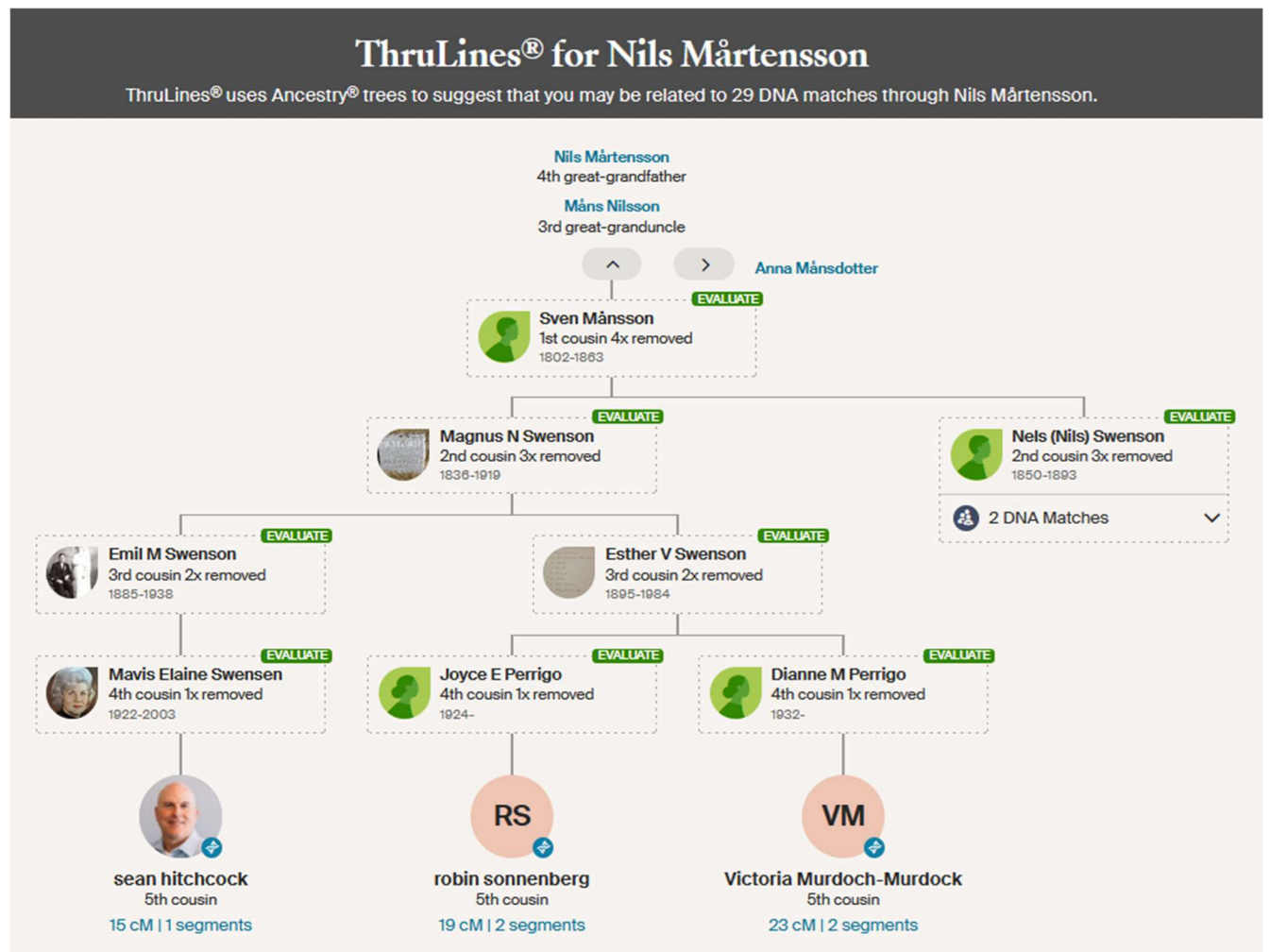


Eva is descended from the Mårtensson-Persdotter couple through their daughter Kerstin Nilsdotter. I have visited Eva and her husband Sterner multiple times now. They live in Halmstad, Halland County, Sweden, and they have taken me all around southern Halland County, including a number of visits to Hasslöv.

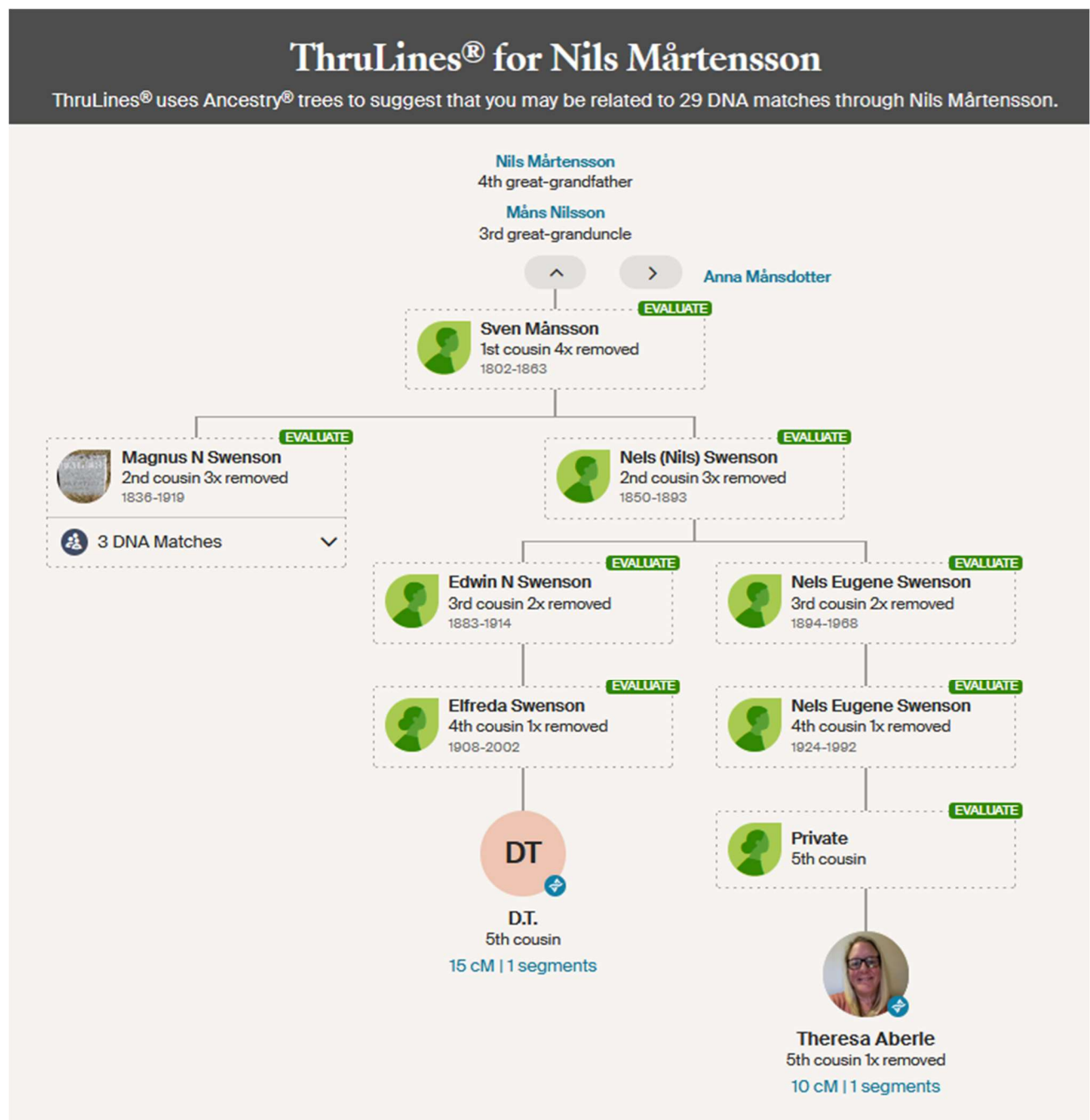
Here is another part of the ThruLines® chart, showing where Sean Hitchcock, Robin Sonneberg, and Victoria Murdoch-Murdock appear (recall that *D.T.* and I have shared DNA matches with all three of these individuals):

ThruLines® for Nils Mårtensson

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 29 DNA matches through Nils Mårtensson.



Here is the part of the ThruLines® chart where *D.T.* herself appears:

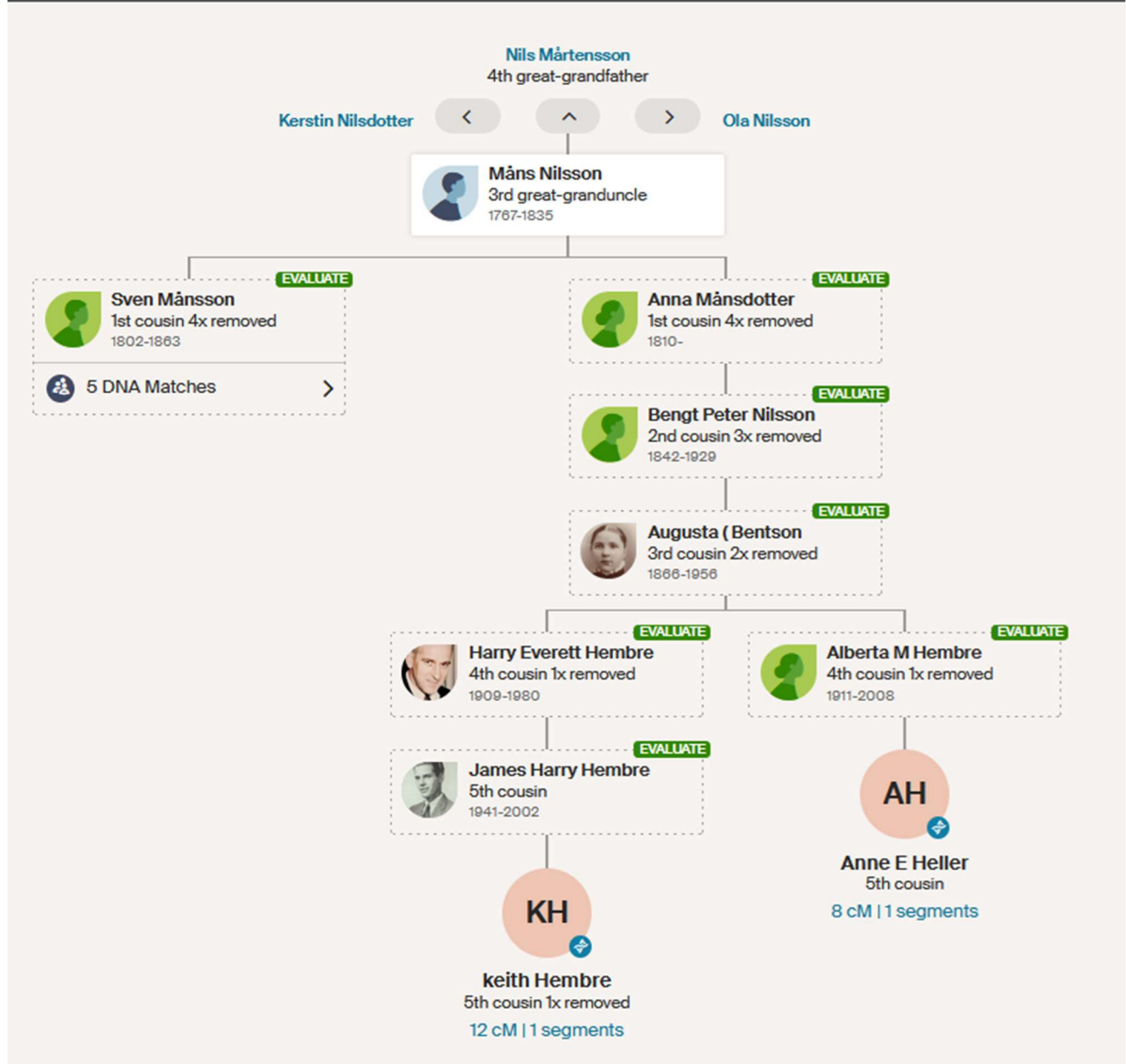


This branch of the ThruLines® chart also includes my DNA match with Theresa Aberle – another person on our list of shared DNA matches.

Finally, here is the branch of the ThruLines® chart that connects to Keith Hembre, who also is on our list of shared DNA matches:

ThruLines® for Nils Mårtensson

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 29 DNA matches through Nils Mårtensson.



Summary:

In this short narrative, I discussed various aspects of my DNA match on Ancestry.com with a woman having the username of **D.T.** She and I are both descended from Nils Mårtensson (1722-1806) and his wife Johanna Persdotter (1737-1813). This couple were my fourth-great grandparents, and lived in southern Halland County, Sweden. **D.T.** and I are fifth-cousins. We both have essentially 50% Swedish ethnicity.

I also discussed several aspects of my ThruLines® chart for Nils Mårtensson. I have DNA matches with twenty-nine individuals who are descended from Nils Mårtensson, and **D.T.** and I have shared DNA matches with eight of these individuals.