

# I am Descended from a Swedish King

By Burks Oakley II  
25 June 2019

## *Introduction*

I am descended from King Charles VIII of Sweden. My knowledge of this comes from a typewritten paper given to me by the Guttorp family, which is shown on the next page. This document is based on research done by Anders Malte\* Viktor Guttorp (1890-1959), who was my first-cousin twice-removed.



King Charles VIII

This typewritten document shows Malte Guttorp's line back to King Charles VIII, which goes through Malte Joachim August Brorström (1816-1877), who was my second-great grandfather:

2

Härstamning från Carl VIII Knutsson

Carl VIII Knutsson Bonde f. 1409 + 1470  
Konung av Sverige, g. 1431 m. Birgitta  
Turesdotter Bjelke + 1436

dotter

Christina Carlsd:r f. 1432 + 1491 g.  
1446 m. Erik Gyllenstjerna + 1477,  
riddare och riksråd

son

Erik Gyllenstjerna + 1502, riddare och  
riksråd, g.m. Anna Carlsdotter av Vinstorp

son

Göran Gyllenstjerna + 1576, överste, g.m.  
Kjerstin Grip, + 1538

son

Nils Gyllenstjerna, f. 1526 + 1601, riks-  
drots, g. 1568 m. Ebba Bjelke + 1588

dotter

Gunilla f. 1586 + 1631, g.m. storamiralen  
Nils Bjelkenstjerna, + 1622

dotter

Anna Nilsdotter + 1663, g. 1653 m. presi-  
denten Jacob Skytte av Duderhoff, f. 1623  
+ 1654

dotter

Gunilla f. 1654, g.m. majoren Ludvig Mör-  
ner av Tuna, f. 1645 + 1675

dotter

Sophia Beata f. 1675 + 17.. g.m. rege-  
mentskvartermästaren Gustaf Bergstedt  
+ 1740

son

Thure Bergstedt f. 1700 + 1781, inspek-  
tor på Närtuna, g.m. Ulrica Sophia von  
Rosbach

dotter

Christina Charlotta f. 1736 + 1811, g.  
1766 m. kyrkoherden i Mellangrevie Jöns  
Brorström, f. 1730 + 1802

son

Thure Peter Brorström f. 1768 + 1855,  
kyrkoherde och prost i Borrby, g. 1805  
m. Gustava Dorotea Hultman f. 1797 + 1864

son

Malte Joachim August Brorström, f. 1816  
+ 1877, kommissionslantmätare, g. 1845  
m. Boel Bengtsdotter, f. 1818 + 1853

dotter

Hanna Petronella Gustava , f. 1853 + 1922,  
g. 1883 m. kantorn och folkskolläraren  
Frans August Åkesson, f. 1860 + 1928

son

Anders Malte Viktor (Åkesson) Guttorp,  
f. 1890, överlärare, fil. kand. g. 1918  
m. Kerstin Valborg Maria Niléhn, f. 1893,  
småskollärare

son

Nils Malte Guttorp, f. 1920, kantor och  
organist, g.m. Inga Nilsson f. 1914, sjuk-  
sköterska

## ***Who was King Charles VIII?***

Charles was the second Swedish king by the name of Charles (Carl/Karl), so he should have been Charles II – and indeed that is what he was called during his reign. I’ll get back to this below. Now I need to add that the Anglo-Saxon-Frankish variant of Carl/Karl is Charles. So this guy was born Karl but used the name Charles when he was king. Charles was the first Swedish monarch of the name to actually use a “regnal” number as Charles II.<sup>1</sup>

The designation Charles VIII is a posthumous invention, counting backwards from Charles IX (who was the king of Sweden from 1604–1611). Charles IX adopted his numeral according to a fictitious history of Sweden (coming up with a number of previous kings named Charles). So then they went back and retrospectively changed Charles II to Charles VIII.

## ***More Swedish Kings with the Name of Charles/Carl***

The current king of Sweden is Carl XVI Gustaf, and the Roman numeral XVI means that there have been a number of other Swedish kings named Carl/Charles since Charles VIII:

- Charles VIII – 1448-1457, 1464-1465, 1467-1470
- Charles IX (Karl IX) – 1604-1611
- Charles X Gustav (Karl X Gustav) – 1654-1660
- Charles XI (Karl XI) – 1660-1697
- Charles XII (Karl XII) – 1697-1718
- Charles XIII (Karl XIII) – 1809-1818
- Charles XIV John (Karl XIV Johan) (born Jean Bernadotte) – 1818-1844
- Charles XV (Karl XV) – 1859-1872

---

<sup>1</sup> A regnal name, or reign name, is the name used by monarchs and popes during their reigns and, subsequently, historically. In some cases, the monarch has more than one regnal name, but the regnal number is based on only one of those names, for example Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

- Carl XVI Gustaf – the current king – 1973-present

Of course, there have been Swedish kings with many other names, such as Oscar, Gustav, Adolf, and Magnus. But Charles/Carl is certainly one of the more popular names.



King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia

### ***The Life of Charles VIII***

Karl Knutsson Bonde was born in October 1408 or 1409, at Ekholmen Castle, the son of Knut Tordsson Bonde, who was a knight and member of the privy council, and Margareta Karlsdotter, the only daughter and heiress of Charles Ulvsson, Lord of Tofta. King Charles VIII died 14 May 1470.

Charles was married three times. In 1428, he married Birgitta Turesdotter. Their daughter Kristina was born in 1432 – she was my ancestor. Birgitta died in 1436. Charles then married Katarina Karlsdotter in 1438, and they had a daughter Magdalena. Katarina died in 1450. His third wife (and former mistress) was Kristina Abrahamsdotter, and they had two children, Anna and Karl.

## ***His Early Years***

In 1434, Charles became a member of the Privy Council of Sweden and subsequently assumed one of its most senior offices, Lord High Constable of Sweden. In 1436, he was named Military Governor of the Realm, and then he finally replaced the king as an elected regent from 1438 to 1440.

In 1440, Christopher of Bavaria, was elected king of Sweden, Norway and Denmark. [At that time, the Kalmar Union joined the three kingdoms of Denmark, Sweden (including most of Finland's populated areas), and Norway under a single monarch.] At the coronation of King Christopher in 1441, Charles was dubbed a knight. In 1442, he became the military governor of Finland.

## ***King of Sweden***

King Christopher died in early 1448 without a direct heir, and Charles was elected king of Sweden on that summer. Shortly thereafter, the Danish elected Christian I as their new monarch. A rivalry ensued between Charles and Christian for the throne of Norway, which had also been ruled by Christopher. Although Charles was elected King of Norway in 1449, he ultimately was forced to relinquish the throne of Norway in favor of Christian.

During the next 20 years, Charles was deposed twice as the King of Sweden, only to regain the throne. So his overall reign as king was broken up into three segments: 1448–57, 1464–65, 1467–70.

Charles died in Stockholm in May 1470. He is buried in Riddarholm Church in Stockholm, Sweden. The church serves as the final resting place of most Swedish monarchs.



Riddarholm Church

### ***Succession***

Charles left only one young son, born of his mistress, Kristina Abrahamsdotter, whom he married on his deathbed. Though she was recognized as Queen, the Swedish government did not allow the boy, suddenly legitimized as Prince Charles (Karl Karlsson) to succeed him, but appointed one of their number, Sten Sture the Elder (who was Charles's nephew) as regent.

### ***Legacy***

Charles represented a growing nationalist tendency among the Swedish aristocracy, which tried first to subjugate the other Scandinavian countries under Sweden, but soon focused on dissolving the Kalmar Union. In the next century, when the union was finally dissolved, Charles received some respect as an early champion of Swedish independence.

Charles' fight for power and kingship was more successful than his experience thereof. He allegedly recognized this himself and described his life in a brief poem:

When I was Lord of Fågelvik, (pronounced foegle-veek)  
Then I had wealth and might unique.  
But once I was King of the Swedish land,  
I was a poor and unhappy man.

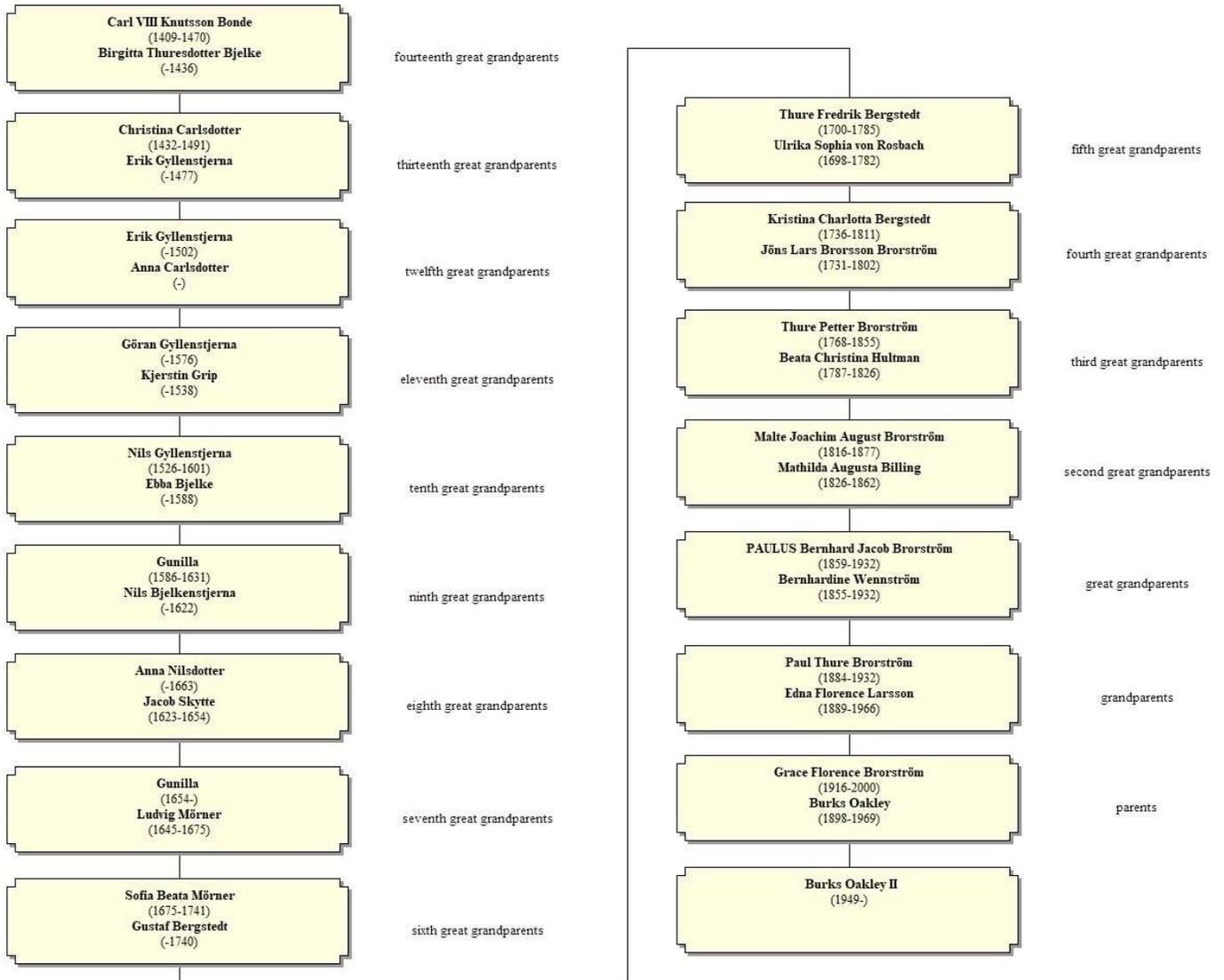
Charles' great-granddaughter Christina Nilsdotter Gyllenstjerna was married to Sten Sture the Younger, whose regentship represented similar values: nationalism and Swedish independence.

Though the Bonde family remained prominent among the Swedish nobility and in politics into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Charles's own descendants did not ascend or inherit any thrones until Prince Christian zu Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg became Christian IX of Denmark in 1863. Charles' descendants have since ascended the thrones of Norway, Greece and Great Britain.

His direct descendant, Sibylla of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, married Swedish Prince Gustaf Adolf, Duke of Västerbotten, who tragically died before he was able to ascend the Swedish throne. Their son is the current king of Sweden, Carl XVI Gustaf.

Like Carl XVI Gustaf, I also am descended from King Charles VIII. My line back to Charles VIII is shown on the next page.

# My Line Back to Charles VIII





Royal coat of arms, created by King Charles VIII in 1448. It has served as a template for Sweden's greater coat of arms since.