

Our Family's ThruLines™ for Erik Jonsson and Elin Nilsson

Going Back on the Lars Emil Larsson Line in Fjärås, Sweden

By Burks Oakley II
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This narrative includes a DNA connection with:

- Hans-Erik Eriksson

Introduction

I am using DNA testing to expand and to confirm my family tree. In the past few years, I have become quite interested in learning more about my Swedish ancestry. My mother was Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000), and all four of her grandparents were Swedes who immigrated to America in the 1880's.

In February 2019, Ancestry.com released a beta version of its ThruLines™ software. This software first identifies my DNA matches (that is, the individuals with whom I have matching segments of DNA, indicating a common ancestor) and then examines my family tree and theirs, seeking to discover how we are related. An important feature of this software is that it also examines all of the family trees on Ancestry.com as it seeks to discover these connections.

ThruLines™ **BETA**

ThruLines uses Ancestry® trees to suggest how you may be related to your DNA matches through these common ancestors.

As I continued to work my way through my ThruLines™ for my fifth-great grandparents on the Swedish side of my family, I finally got to Erik Jonsson (1702-1760) and his wife Elin Nilsson (?-1749):



I'm not used to thinking about my fifth-great grandparents. To put this in perspective, here is how a person's ancestors grow by generation:

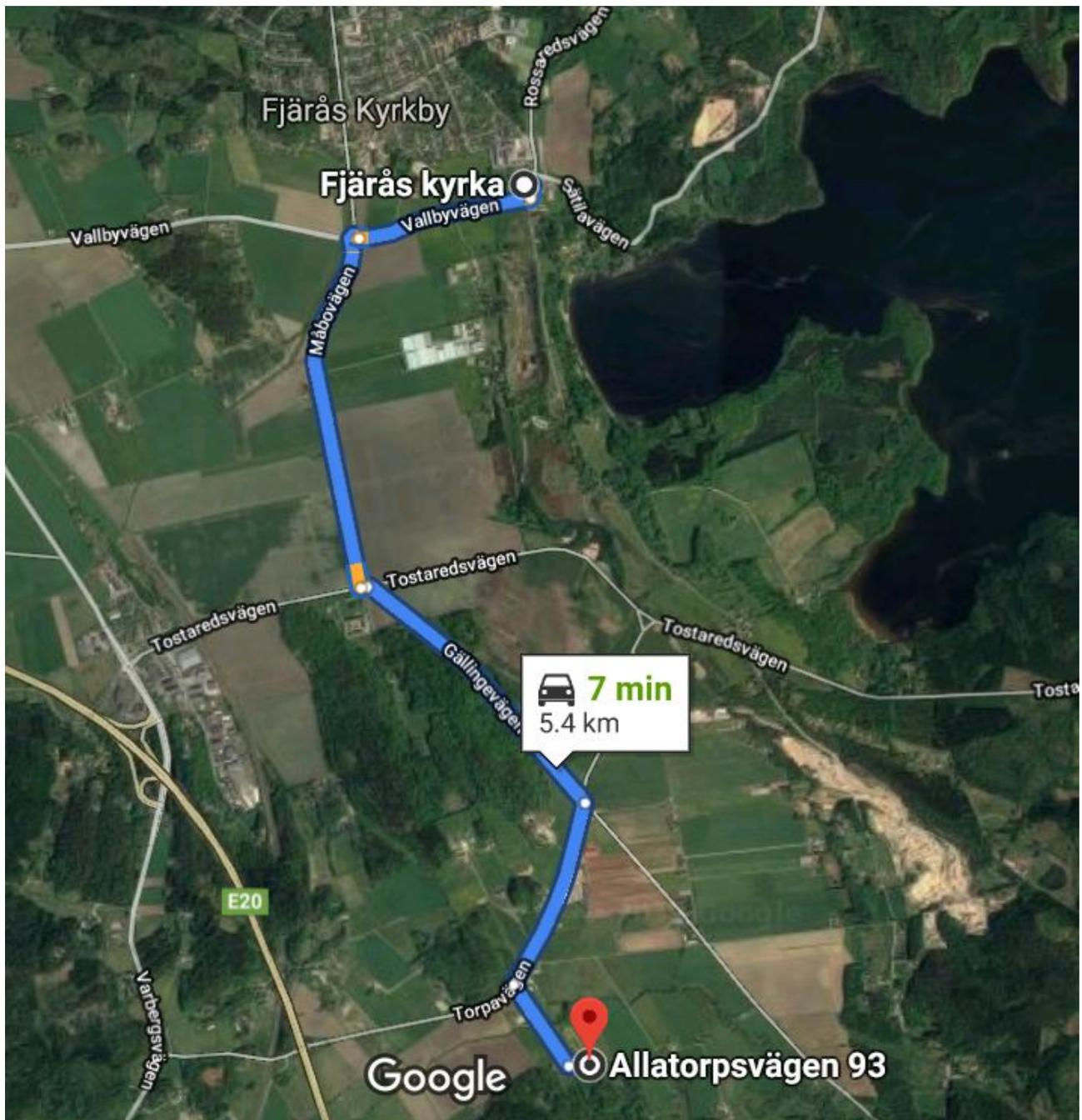
- Parents – 2
- Grandparents – 4
- Great-Grandparents – 8
- 2nd-Great Grandparents – 16
- 3rd-Great Grandparents – 32
- 4th-Great Grandparents – 64
- 5th-Great Grandparents – 128

Looking only at my mother's side of the family (my Swedish side of the family), I have 64 fifth-great grandparents from Sweden. On Ancestry.com, I actually have 45 of them identified. But I digress. Returning to my 5th-great grandfather Erik Jonsson:



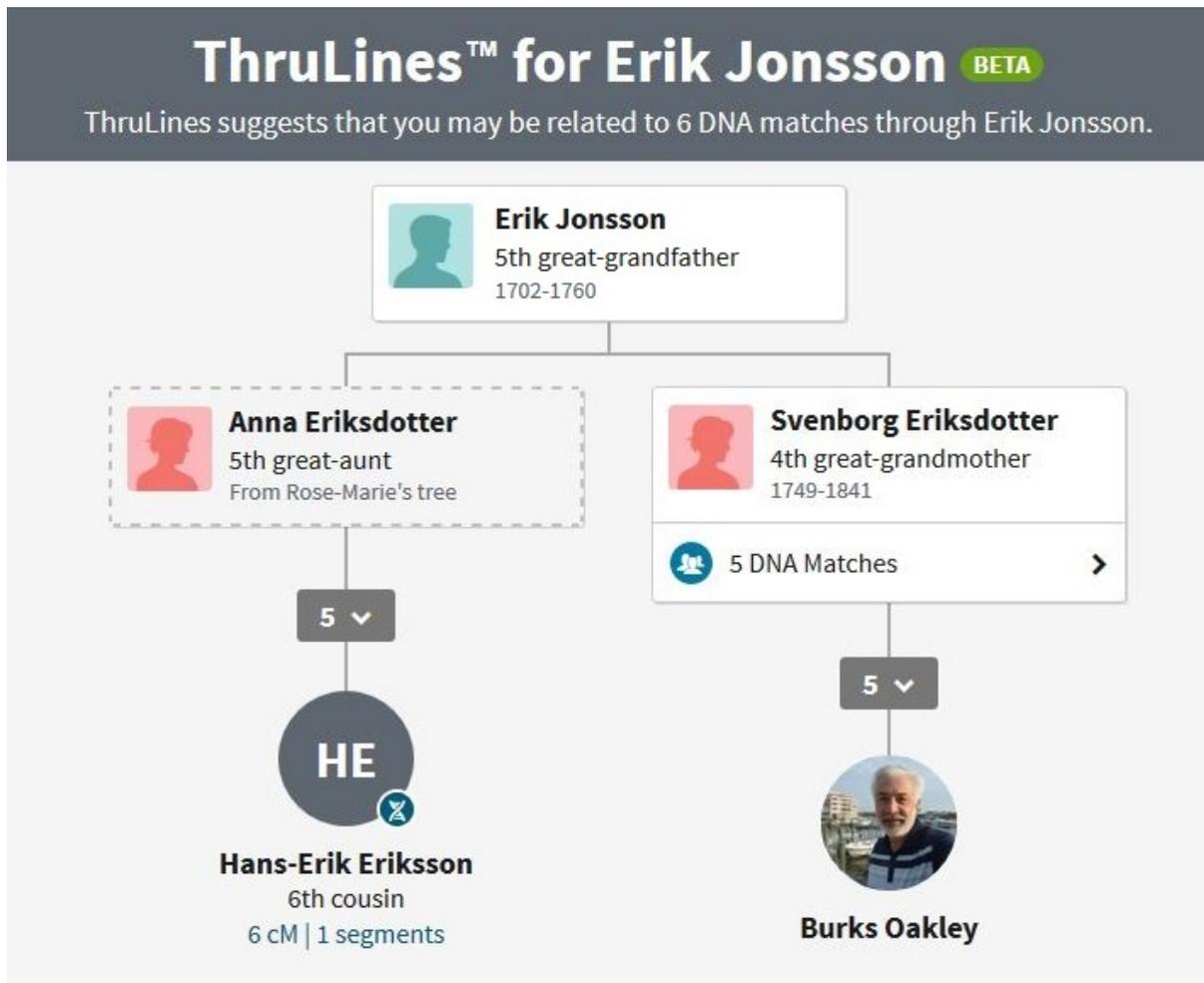
Erik Jonsson lived his life on the Allatorp farm in Fjärås, Sweden. Erik was the 2nd-great grandfather of my great-grandfather Lars Emil Larsson (1864-1945), who also lived in Fjärås, and immigrated to America in 1887.

The following satellite image from Google Maps shows that the Allatorp farm is located almost straight south of the Fjärås church (*kyrka* in Swedish).



My ThruLines™ for Erik Jonsson

Here is my ThruLines™ for Erik Jonsson:

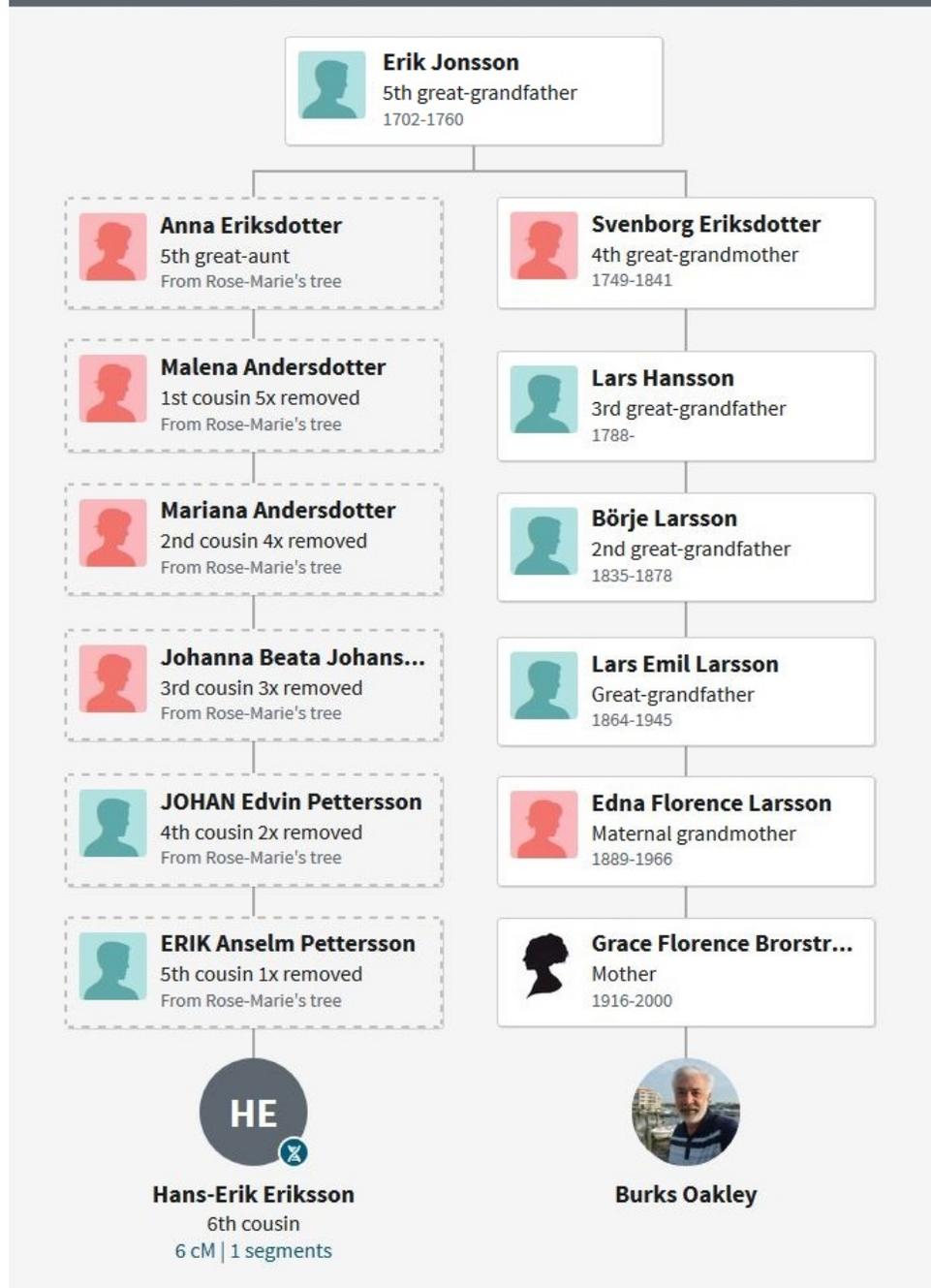


I have a small DNA match of 6 cM with a sixth-cousin named Hans-Erik Eriksson. According to this ThruLines™ chart, we both are descended from Erik Jönsson, so ThruLines™ suggests that this genealogical connection could be responsible for the DNA match.

Expanding both lines gives the following view of this ThruLines™:

ThruLines™ for Erik Jonsson BETA

ThruLines suggests that you may be related to 6 DNA matches through Erik Jonsson.



All of the people in Hans-Erik Eriksson's line are found in Rose-Marie's tree. And when I looked at my DNA match with Hans-Erik, I found that his DNA profile is managed by Rose-Marie Eriksson (who turns out to be his wife):

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley

★  **Hans-Erik Eriksson**
 (managed by [Rose-Marie Eriksson](#))
 Member since 2016, last logged in 4 days ago

 **Predicted relationship: Distant Cousins**
 Possible range: 5th - 8th cousins ([What does this mean?](#))

 Confidence: Moderate 

Amount of Shared DNA

6.2 centimorgans shared across 1 DNA segment

And when I looked at Rose-Marie, I was blown away to find that she lives in Fjärås!

Ancestry Profile



Rose-Marie Eriksson
Fjärås, Halland, Sweden

AncestryDNA Select DNA Test ▾



Rose-Marie Eriksson



You

Rose-Marie Eriksson is not on your DNA match list

This person is either not a DNA match or has not yet taken a DNA test.

You match the following 1 test administered by Rose-Marie Eriksson



Hans-Erik Eriksson
Relationship: 5th - 8th cousins
Confidence: Moderate 

View match

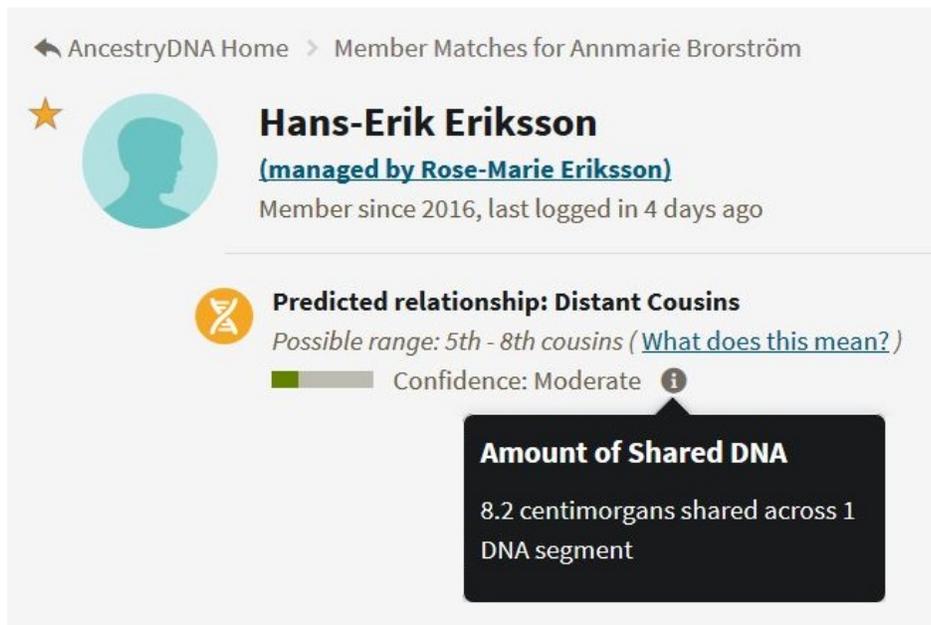
Oh my! This connection to Fjärås really supports the idea that this is a Lars Emil Larsson line. I then examined all the people in Hans-Erik's line, and I learned that they all lived in Fjärås.

Is my relationship with Hans-Erik believable? My DNA match with Hans-Erik is only 6.2 cM, and usually it needs to be at least 7 cM to be significant. So I'm a little hesitant to have 100% belief in this ThruLines™. But wait, it gets better!

Other Family DNA Matches with Hans-Erik

It turns out that three of my Swedish-American Brorström-Wennström-Larsson cousins who have their DNA profiles on Ancestry.com – namely Annmarie, Susan, and Stuart – also have DNA matches with Hans-Erik. Their father was Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001), and he was the older brother of my mother, Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000).

Here is Annmarie's match with Hans-Erik:



The screenshot shows a match for Hans-Erik Eriksson on AncestryDNA. The match is managed by Rose-Marie Eriksson and has a predicted relationship of Distant Cousins, with a possible range of 5th to 8th cousins. The confidence is moderate. A tooltip indicates that 8.2 centimorgans are shared across 1 DNA segment.

AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Annmarie Brorström

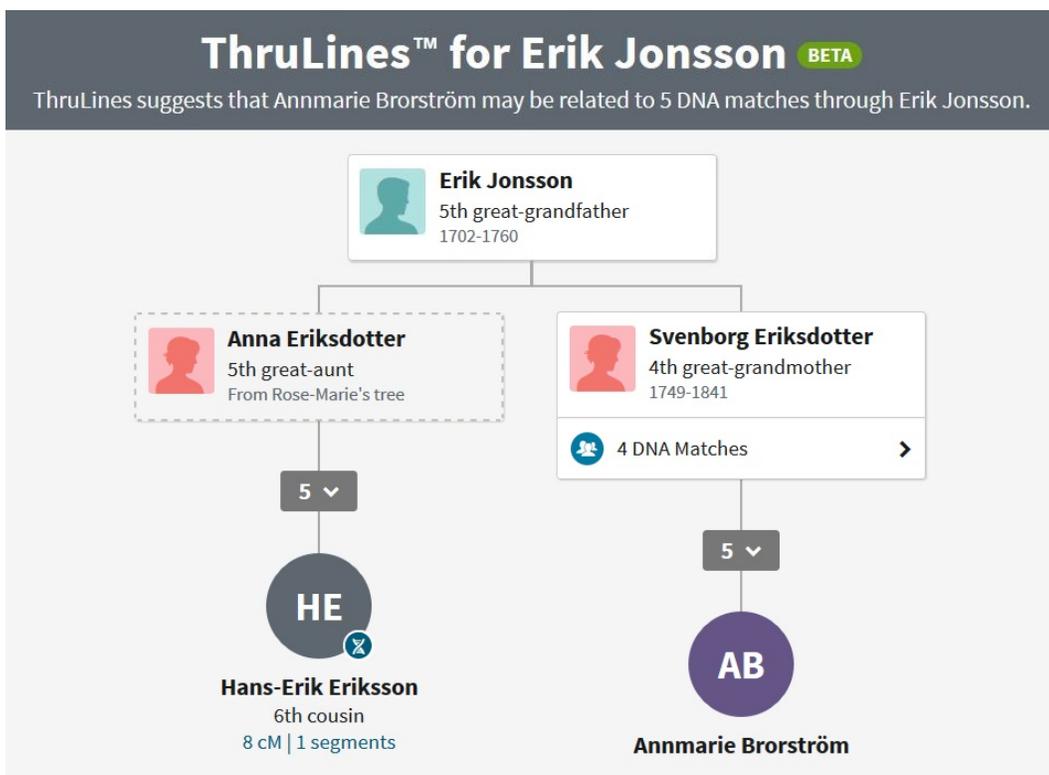
Hans-Erik Eriksson
(managed by Rose-Marie Eriksson)
Member since 2016, last logged in 4 days ago

Predicted relationship: Distant Cousins
Possible range: 5th - 8th cousins ([What does this mean?](#))
Confidence: Moderate

Amount of Shared DNA
8.2 centimorgans shared across 1 DNA segment

They share 8.2 cM on a single segment. I then realized that if they have a DNA match, Hans-Erik should show up in Annmarie's ThruLines™ for Erik Jonsson. So I looked and

[Go on to the next page.....]



Oh my! Annmarie's ThruLines™ shows the same relationship with Hans-Erik Eriksson that is in my ThruLines™.

I then looked at Susan's DNA match with Hans-Erik:

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Susan Baker

Hans-Erik Eriksson
([managed by Rose-Marie Eriksson](#))
Member since 2016, last logged in 4 days ago

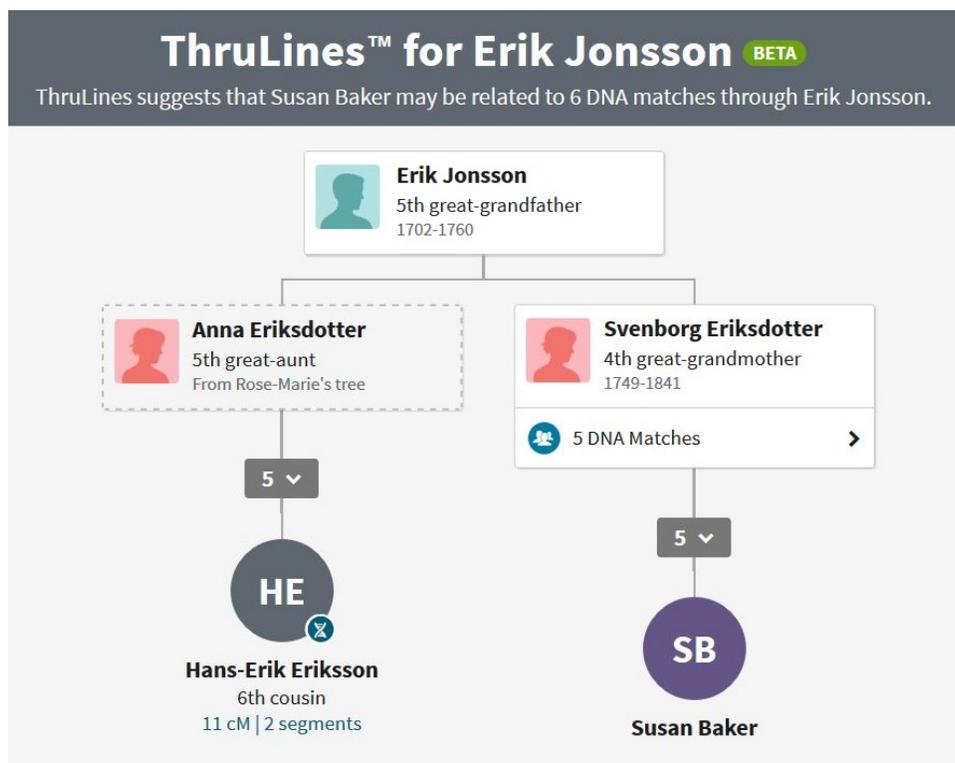
Predicted relationship: Distant Cousins
Possible range: 5th - 8th cousins ([What does this mean?](#))

Confidence: Moderate

Amount of Shared DNA

11.4 centimorgans shared across
2 DNA segments

Of course, Susan's ThruLines™ for Erik Jonsson should have Hans-Erik:



And it does! How cool to see this!

Finally, I looked at Stuart's DNA match with Hans-Erik:

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Stuart Eck

Hans-Erik Eriksson
 (managed by Rose-Marie Eriksson)
 Member since 2016, last logged in 4 days ago

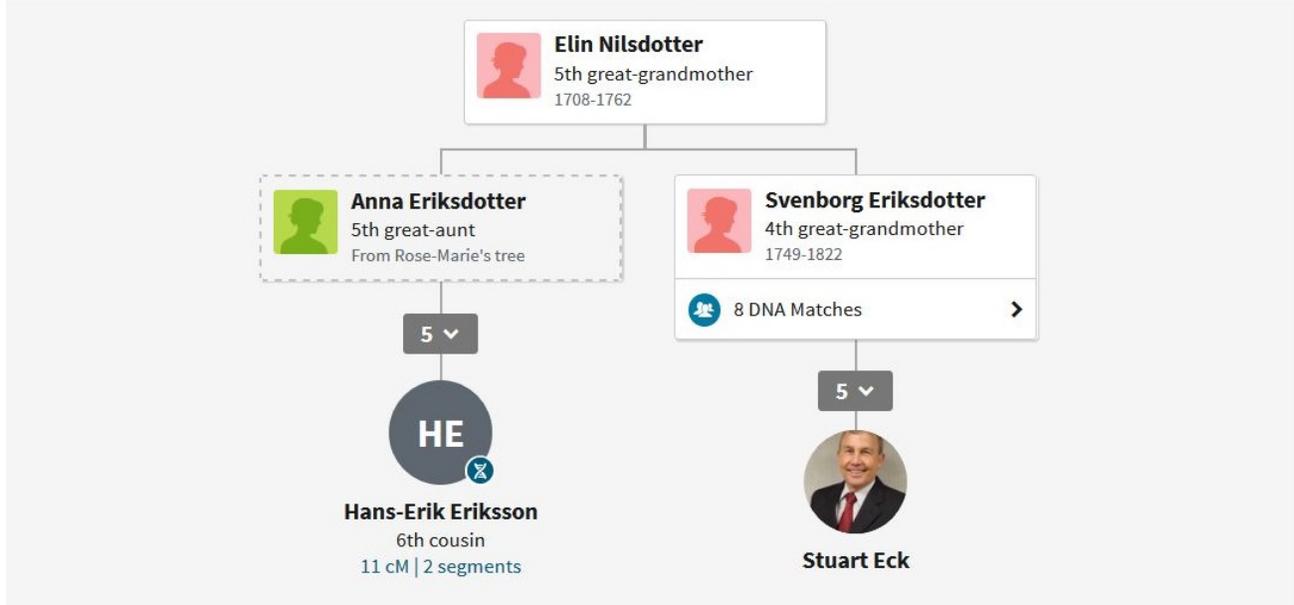
Predicted relationship: Distant Cousins
 Possible range: 5th - 8th cousins ([What does this mean?](#))
 Confidence: Moderate

Amount of Shared DNA
 11.2 centimorgans shared across
 2 DNA segments

And just for something different, here is Stuart's ThruLines™ for Elin Nilsdotter, who was Erik Jonsson's wife:

ThruLines™ for Elin Nilsdotter BETA

ThruLines uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that Stuart Eck may be related to 9 DNA matches through Elin Nilsdotter.



As expected, Stuart's ThruLines™ for Elin Nilsdotter look just like the other ones for Erik Jönsson.

Would I Have Made This Connection?

I got to thinking about my connection with Hans-Erik Eriksson – would I have figured this out without the new ThruLines™ software on Ancestry.com? Well, it turns out that I might have if I worked on it for a few years. Here is the result of a search of my DNA matches for people having the surname Jonsson and being born in Fjärås:

AncestryDNA Results for Burks Oakley

Filters

Search Matches

jonsson ✕ Fjärås, Halland, Sweden ✕ Search

DISTANT COUSIN

★  **GoFancyNancy** 📄 8,525 people 🔒 View Match

Possible range: 5th - 8th cousins
Confidence: Moderate ▬

★  **Hans-Erik Eriksson** (managed by Rose-Marie Eriksson) 4,382 people View Match

Possible range: 5th - 8th cousins
Confidence: Moderate ▬

This search turned up Nancy Wilde Thompson (**GoFancyNancy**), who does indeed have ancestors born in Fjärås, and the search also turned up Hans-Erik. However, I doubt that I would have been searching for the surname of my fifth-great grandfather from Fjärås. So let's just say that while I might have found this connection, it really would have been a stretch.

Connecting with Rose-Marie Eriksson & Hans-Erik Eriksson

I sent Rose-Marie Eriksson a message using the system on the Ancestry.com website, and she sent me a long reply with details about their family. She wrote:

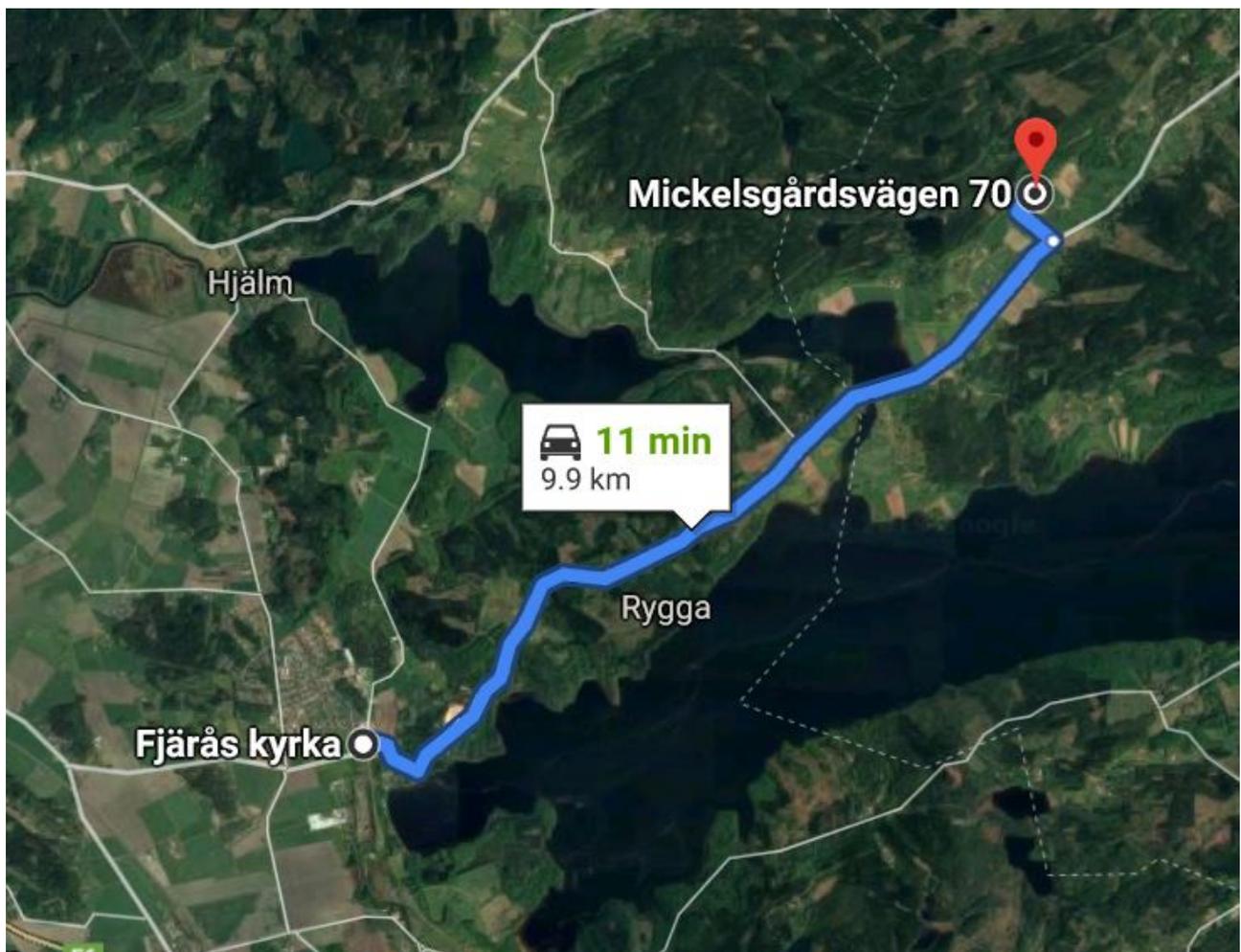
Hans-Erik was born 1944 on the farm in Sundstorp (Fjärås) where we still live. We have 3 children, 2 sons, Joakim born 1970 and Markus born 1982, and a daughter Lena born 1974. Joakim lives in the old house on the farm. His daughters are adults and now live in Kungsbacka. Markus (with girlfriend, no children) is 2 km away and Lena (with husband and 2 sons) lives with her family in Billdal, just south of the city of Gothenburg.

Hans-Erik has been working with the farm and trotting horses since 1968 and has both trained and bred lots of horses over the years. When he was

young this was a common family farm with cows, working horses, pigs and all that was customary on a farm. We have fields that are cultivated and are partly used for grazing for horses and some forests. The farm has been in the same family for 6 generations.

I have always been interested in history and have been researching our family since 1975, so there are many names in my family register (almost 7500 people). I also am writing a book on this part of Fjärås. I have been researching all farms and houses since the 1600's and I will eventually publish all this.

Here is a satellite image from Google Maps showing where they live in the Sundstorp area of Fjärås:



Conclusion

I think that it really is amazing that the ThruLines™ software is able to go back so far into the past and connect two family trees. I doubt that I would have found my sixth-cousin Hans-Erik any other way.

Would I have given much credence to a DNA match with a sixth-cousin that is less than 7 cM? Probably not. But the larger matches that all three of my Swedish-American cousins have sealed the deal for me. I believe it! And all this provides another link to our family's roots in Fjärås.

Appendix – Photos from Fjärås

On 1 July 2016, my first-cousin Susan Brorström Baker and I visited Fjärås. We were accompanied by our distant Swedish cousins Göran Grotting and Ingemar Nilsson, along with Ingemar's wife Pia. Here are some photos taken on that visit.



Burks standing in front of a house in which Lars Emil Larsson lived.



Another house in which Lars Emil Larsson lived.



The church in Fjärås.



The view looking west from the church.



Another view looking west from the church.



One of the houses in which Lars Emil Larsson lived is in the center of this photo.



Road sign for Fjärås.



Welcome to Fjärås Centre.



Burks, Stig RUNE Ingmar Carlsson, Susan, Göran, and Ingemar in the yard of one of the houses in which Lars Emil Larsson lived. Rune is a Larsson descendant, but due to my inability to speak Swedish, I never did learn the relationship.