

# How My Swedish-American Cousins and I Are Related to Descendants of Erik Jonsson

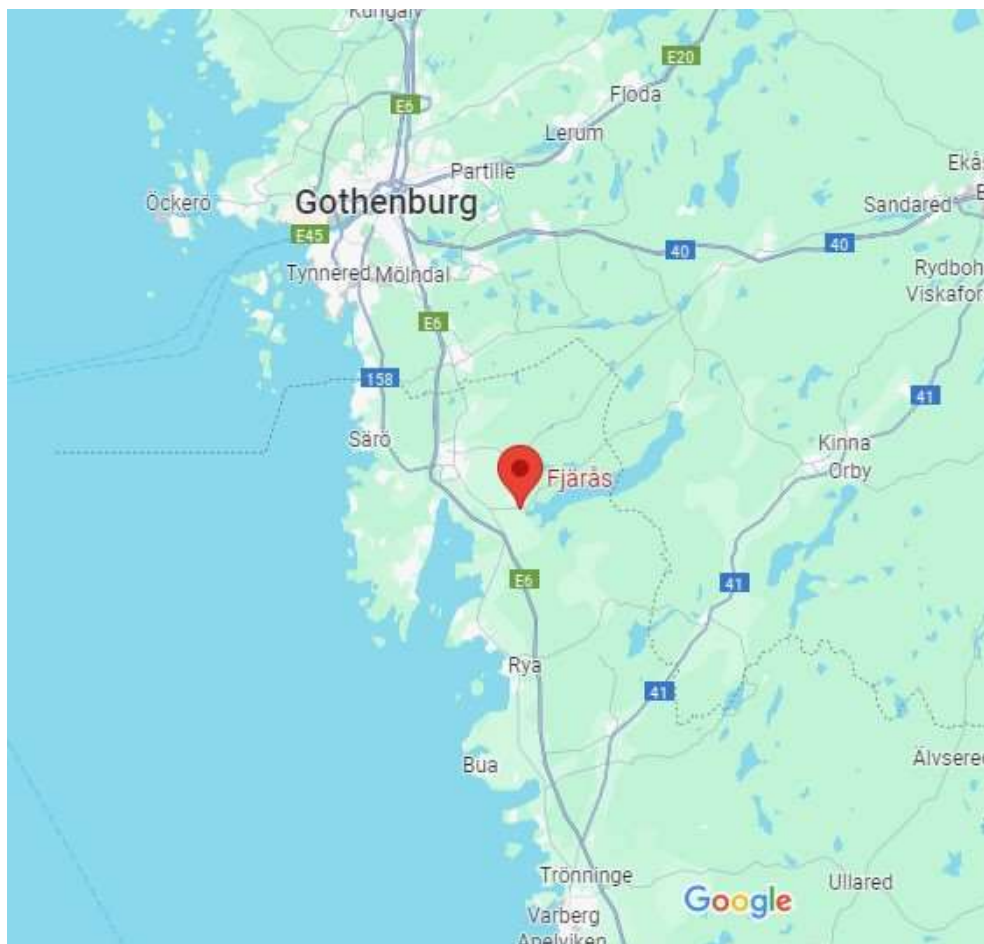
By Burks Oakley II  
26 January 2024

Everyone has two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, and so on, with the number of ancestors doubling in each generation. By the time you get to your fifth-great grandparents, there are 128 ancestors in that generation.

One of my 128 fifth-great grandparents was Erik Jonsson (1702-1760):



Erik Jonsson lived his entire life in Fjärås, Sweden, which is located south of Göteborg on the west coast of Sweden:

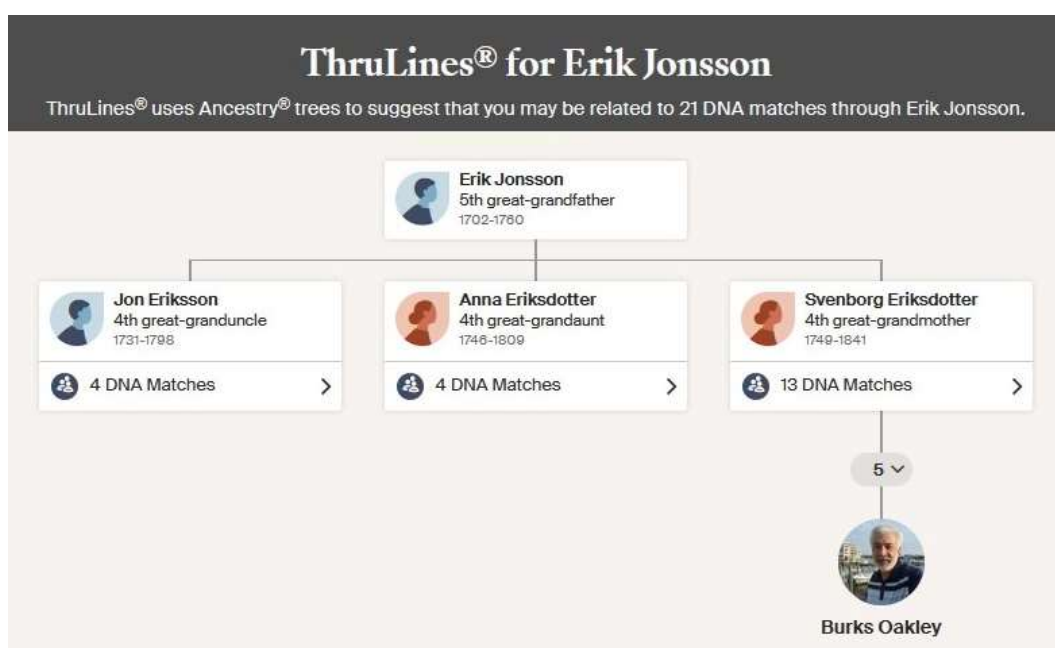


Here is my ancestral line going back to Erik Jonsson:



This line goes back through my great-grandfather Lars Emil Larsson (1864-1945), who lived in Fjärås before immigrating to America as a very young man in the early 1880's.

The Ancestry.com website has a software tool called ThruLines®, which creates charts showing all of a person's DNA matches with descendants of a direct ancestor. Here is the basic structure of my ThruLines® chart for Erik Jonsson:

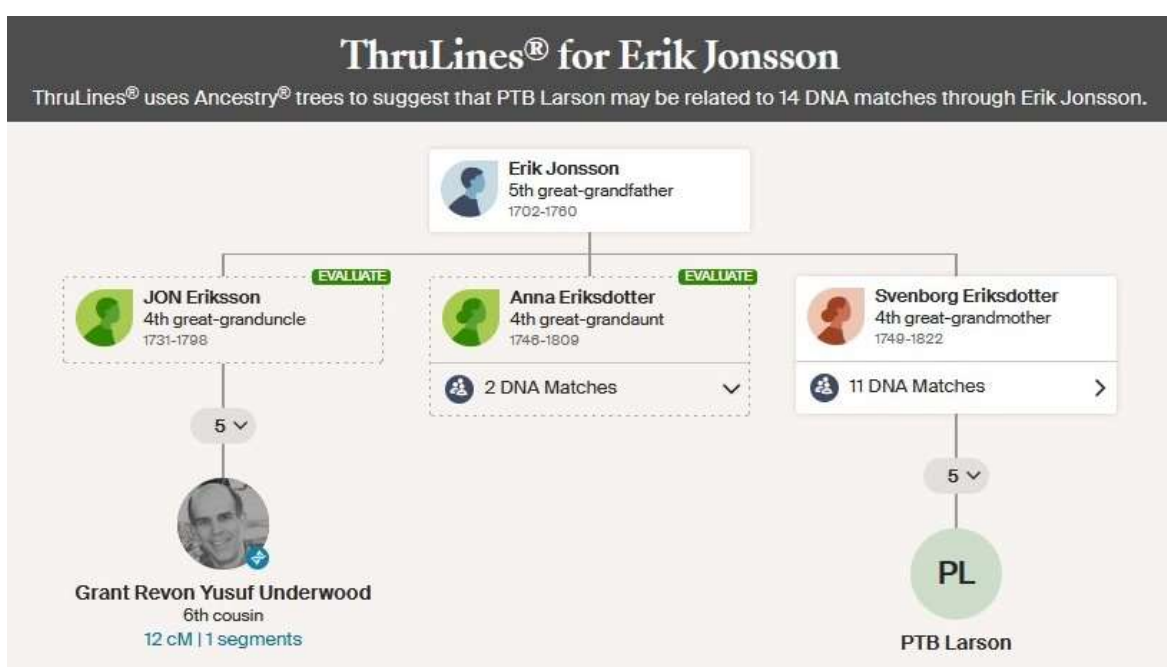


I have twenty-one DNA matches with descendants of Erik Jonsson. Each section of this chart can be “opened” to show the path back to Erik Jonsson from each of my twenty-one DNA matches.

In my ThruLines® chart on the previous page, I have four DNA matches going back to Erik Jonsson through his son Jon Eriksson, four DNA matches going back to Erik Jonsson through his daughter Anna Eriksson, and thirteen DNA matches going back to Erik Jonsson through his daughter Svenborg Eriksson (my fourth-great grandmother).

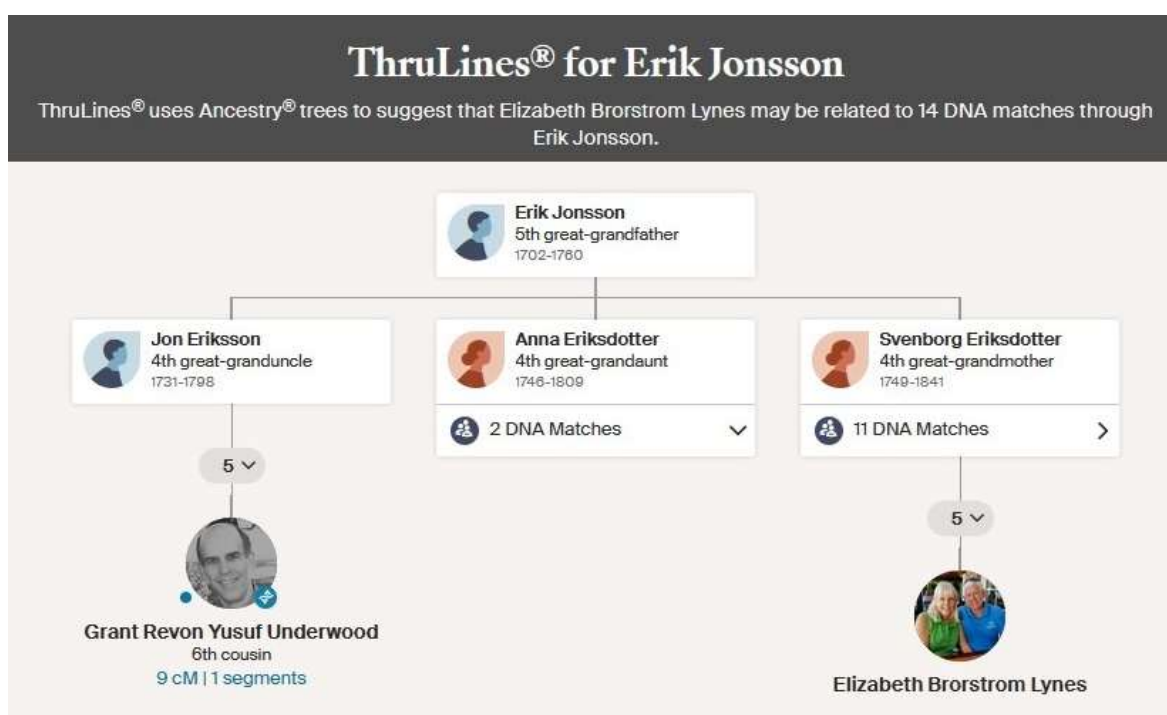
My mother's brother, Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001), had five children who lived into adulthood, and all of them now have their DNA on the Ancestry.com website. I thought it might be interesting to see how much variability there would be in all of our DNA matches with descendants of Erik Jonsson (hej – I'm retired and I figured that this would be a good way to keep myself busy...).

Going through the five of them in birth order, Peter has DNA matches with fourteen descendants of Erik Jonsson:



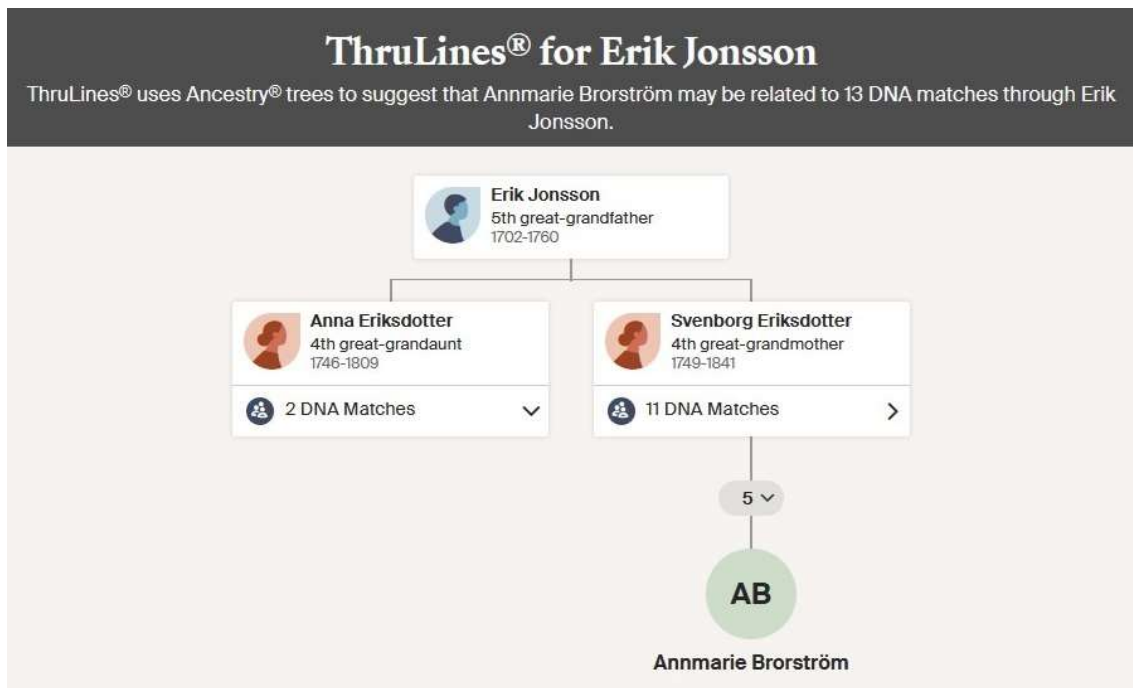
Peter's ThruLines® chart shows one DNA match through Jon Eriksson, two DNA matches through Anna Eriksson, and eleven DNA matches through Svenborg Eriksson.

Beth has fourteen DNA matches with descendants of Erik Jonsson:



Beth's ThruLines® chart shows one DNA match through Jon Eriksson, two DNA matches through Anna Eriksdotter, and eleven DNA matches through Svenborg Eriksdotter.

Anmarie has thirteen DNA matches with descendants of Erik Jonsson:



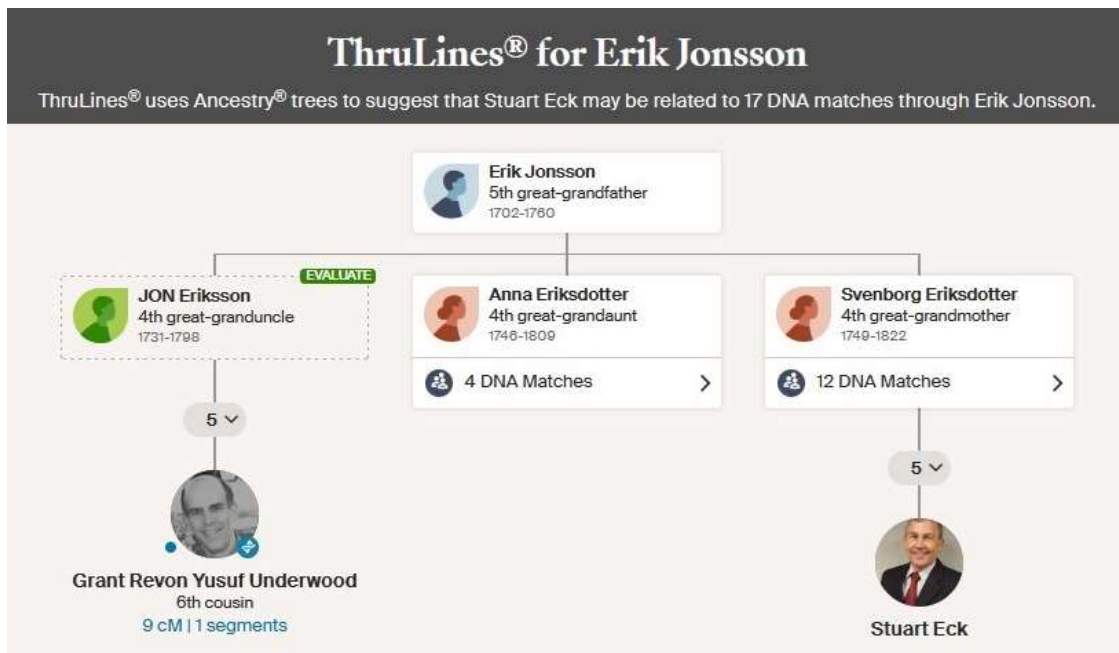
Anmarie's ThruLines® chart shows two DNA matches through Anna Eriksdotter and eleven DNA matches through Svenborg Eriksdotter.

Susan has sixteen DNA matches with descendants of Erik Jonsson:



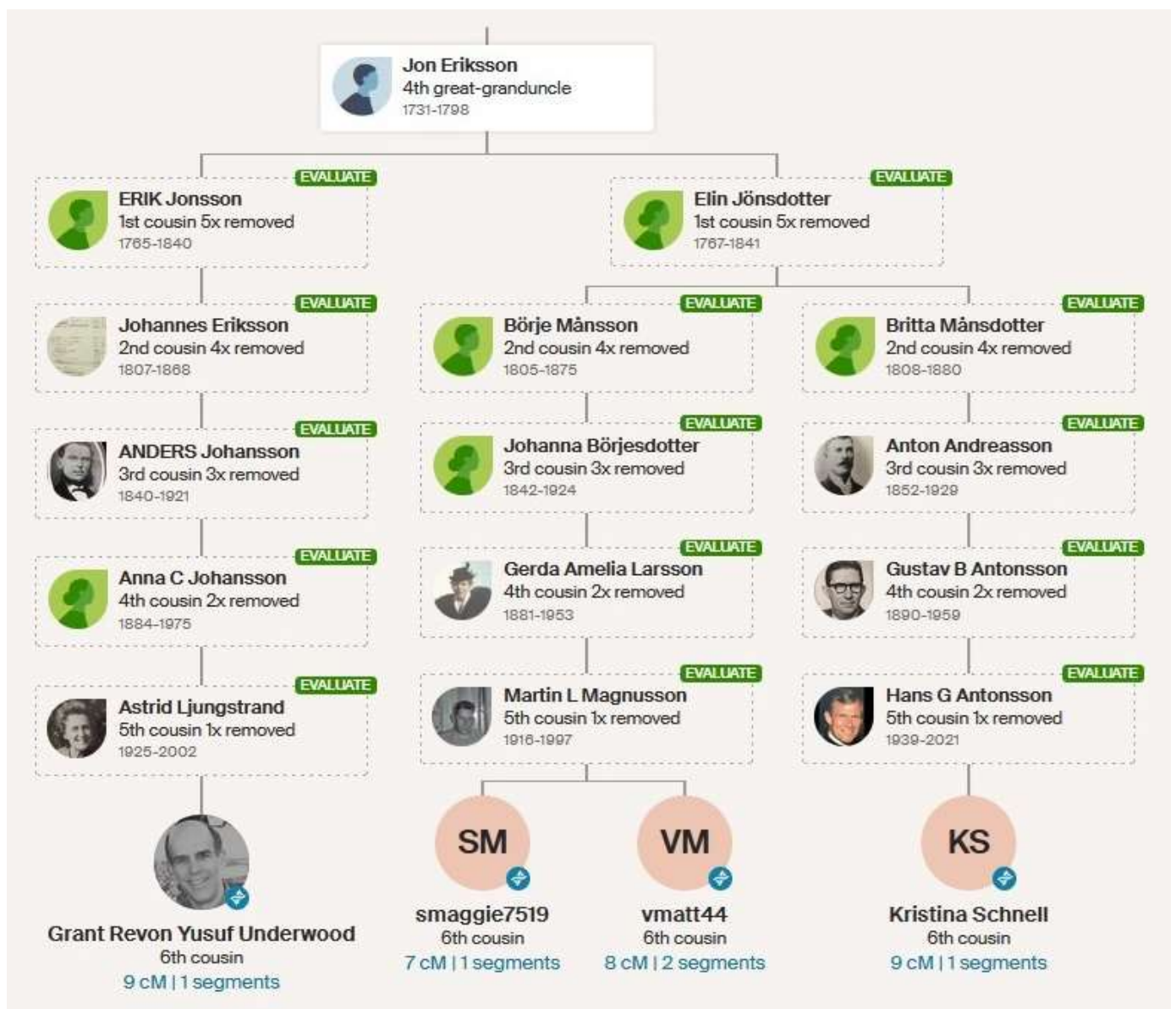
Susan's ThruLines® chart shows one DNA match through Jon Eriksson, three DNA matches through Anna Eriksdotter, and twelve DNA matches through Svenborg Eriksdotter.

Stuart has seventeen DNA matches with descendants of Erik Jonsson:

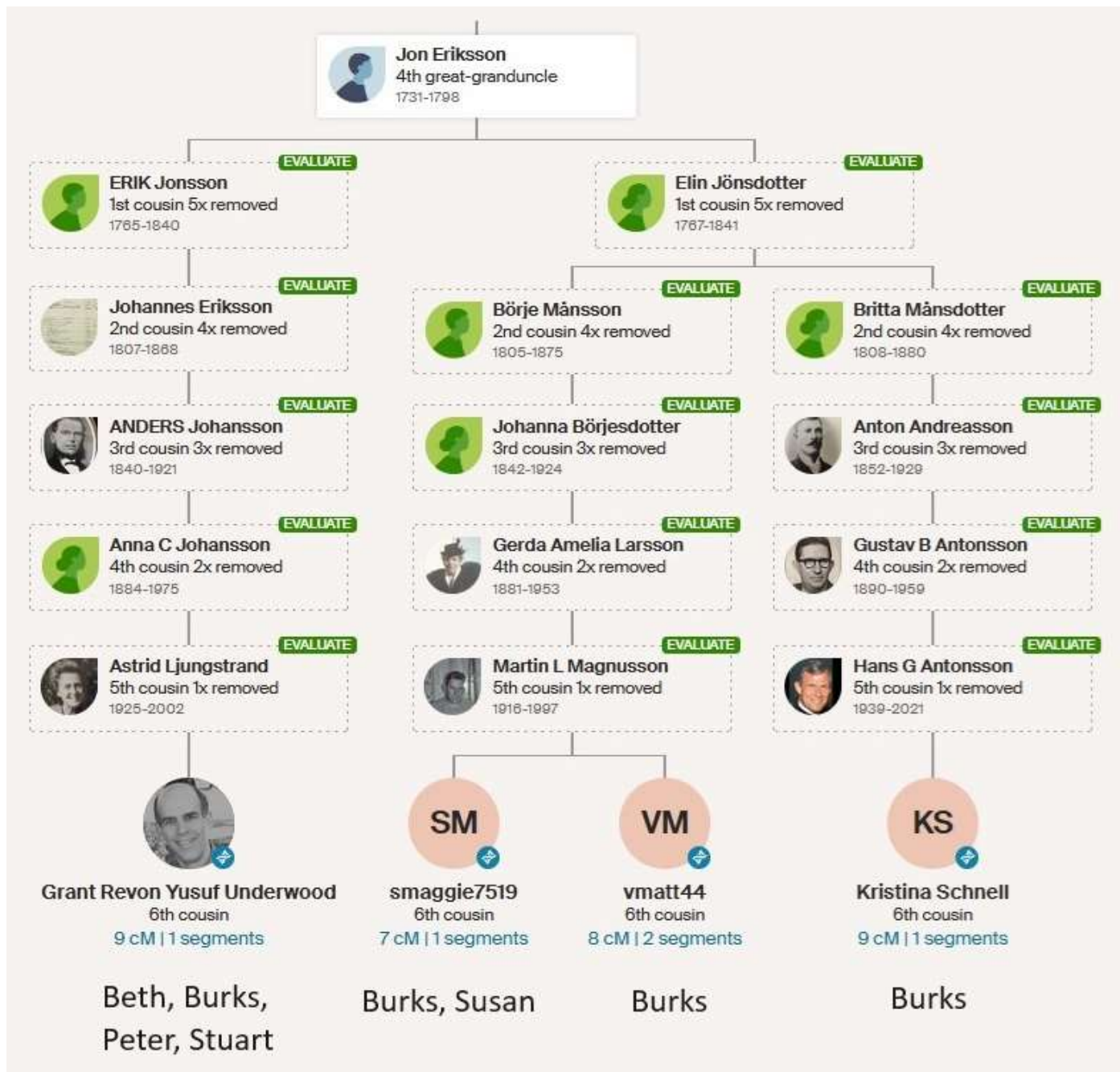


Stuart's ThruLines® chart shows one DNA match through Jon Eriksson, four DNA matches through Anna Eriksdotter, and twelve DNA matches through Svenborg Eriksdotter.

I'll now show all of the sections of the ThruLines® charts that connect back to Erik Jonsson through his son Jon Eriksson. Here is my chart:



Much to my surprise, none of my Brorström cousins have DNA matches with anyone else besides the four individuals at the bottom of this chart. So in the following chart, I'll just note (at the bottom of the chart) who has these matches:



As a group, the six of us have DNA matches with four different descendants of Jon Eriksson. Interestingly, I have all four of these matches and Annmarie has none.

Since I am always looking for new Swedish relatives, I looked at the four DNA matches in this line. Unfortunately, they all seem to be from America. Having written this, several of them appear to be very interesting people and I'm sure that I would enjoy meeting them.

Grant Underwood's information is on Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grant\\_Underwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grant_Underwood)

Grant Revon Underwood is a historian of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) and a professor at Brigham Young University (BYU). He is also the author of *The Millennial World of Early Mormonism* and the editor of *Voyages of Faith: Explorations in Mormon Pacific History*.

Kristina Schnell is a physician with a membership-based concierge practice in Boulder, Colorado:

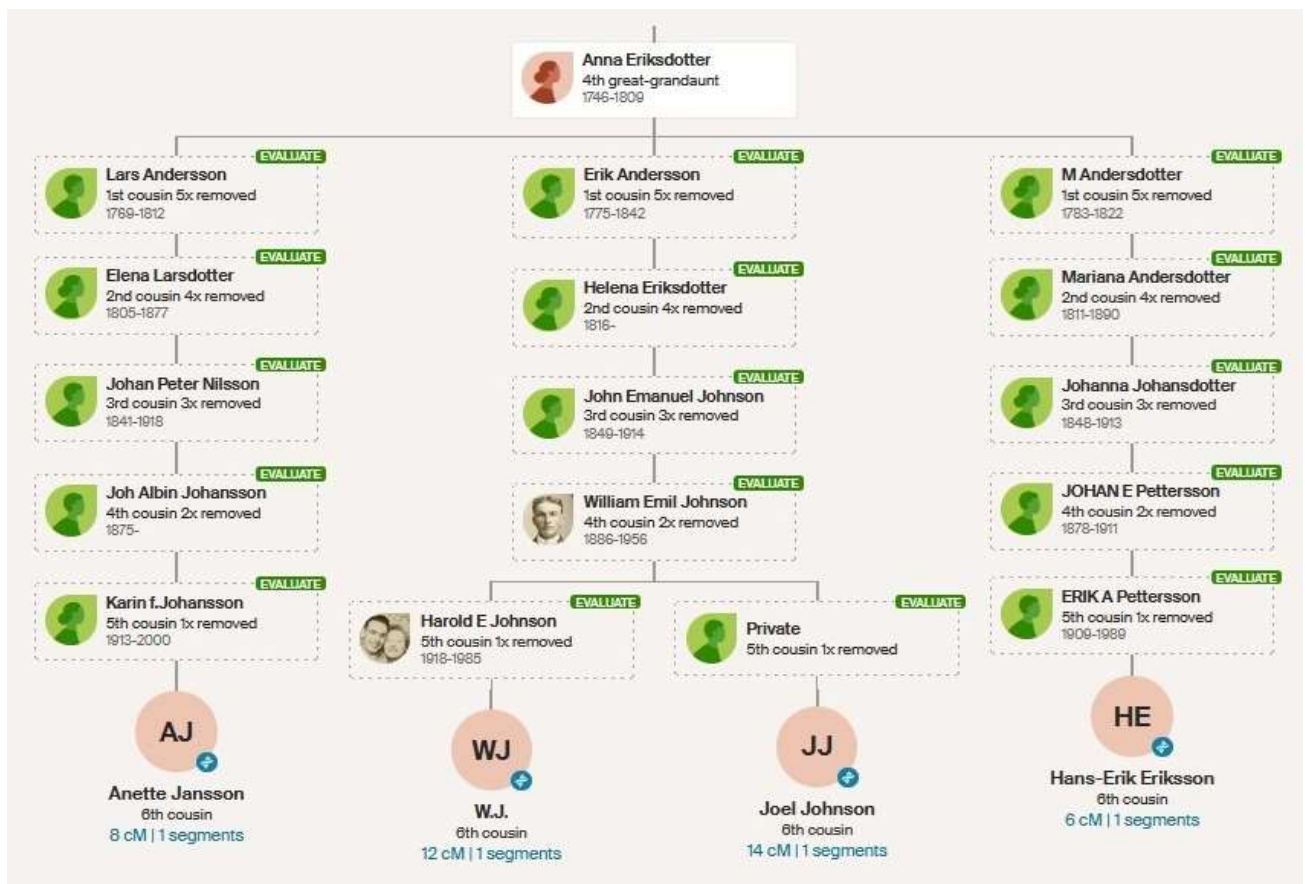
<https://schnellmd.com/about/>



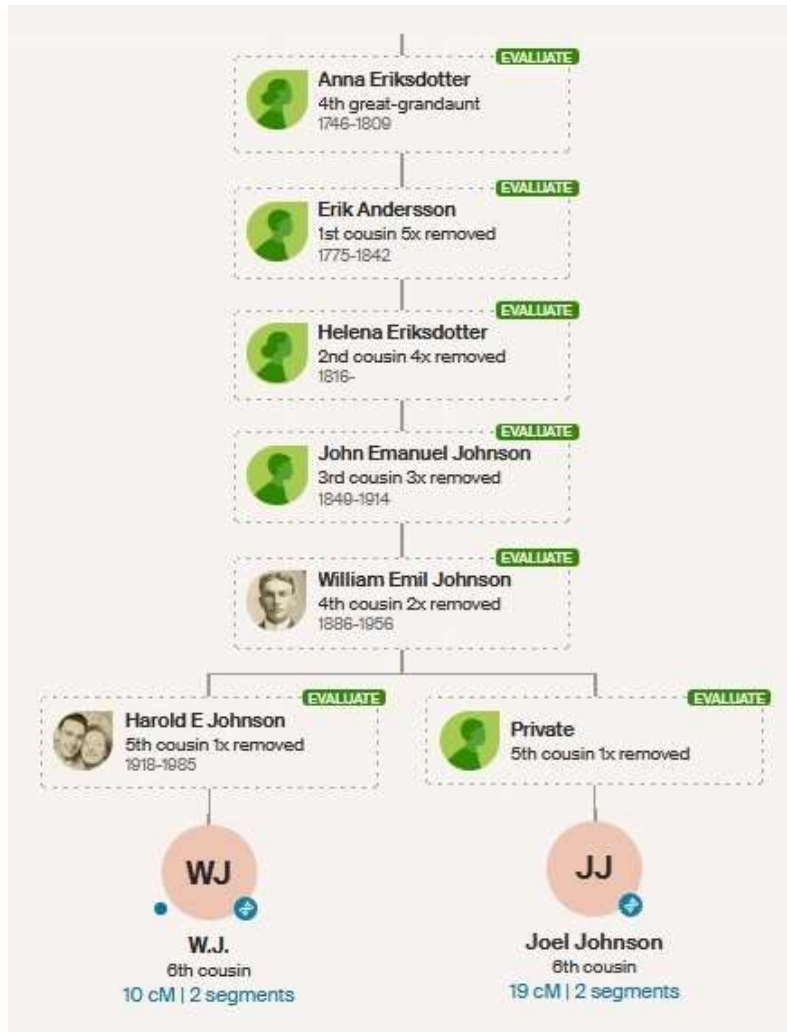
Let me now move on to Erik Jonsson's daughter Anna Eriksdotter. Recall from above that my Brorström cousins and I all have DNA matches with people whose ancestral lines go back to Erik Jonsson through his daughter Anna.

I'll now show the ThruLines® charts that connect back to Erik Jonsson through his daughter Anna.

Burks:



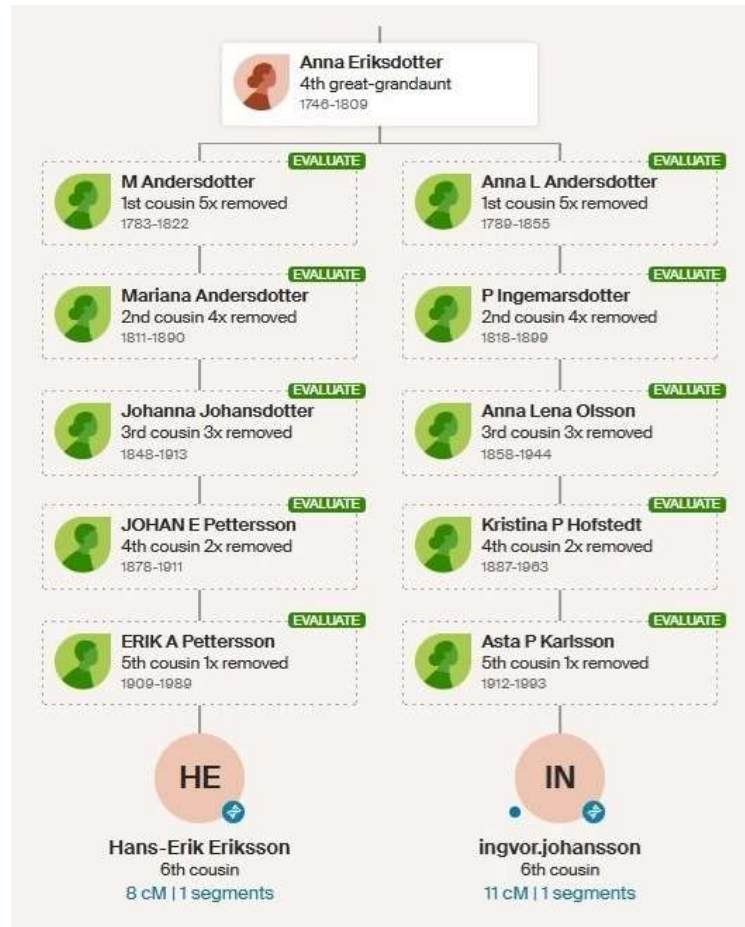
Peter:



Beth:



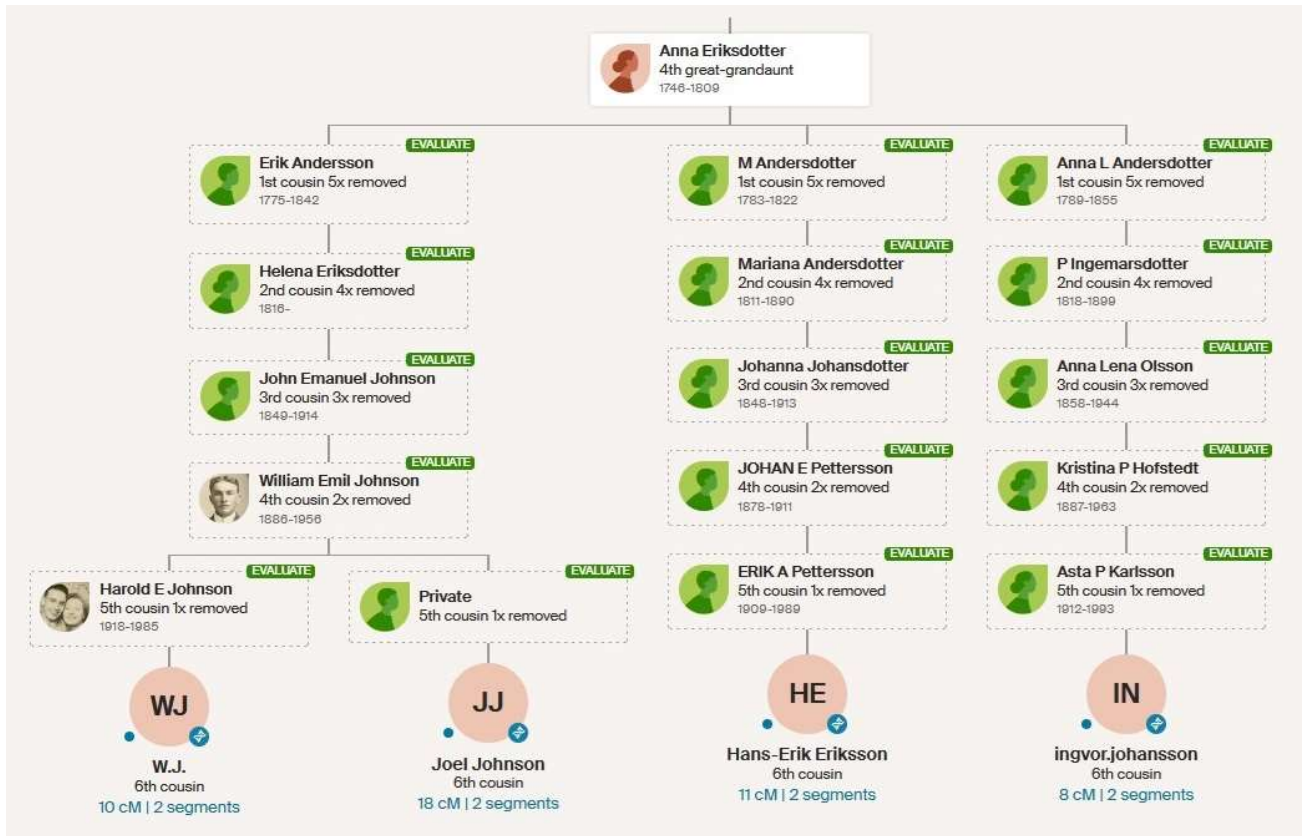
Annmarie:



Susan:



Stuart:



Starting with our six ThruLines@ charts (above) that show our DNA matches with people who are descended from Erik Jonsson through his daughter Anna Eriksdotter, I synthesized a composite chart that shows all of our DNA matches and all of their lines. Since the chart is so wide, it is displayed in landscape mode on the next page.

**Anna Eriksdotter**  
4th great-grand aunt  
1746-1809

**Lars Andersson**  
1st cousin 5x removed  
1769-1812

**Erik Andersson**  
1st cousin 5x removed  
1775-1842

**M Andersdotter**  
1st cousin 5x removed  
1783-1822

**Johanna Andersdotter**  
1st cousin 5x removed  
1785-

**Anna L Andersdotter**  
1st cousin 5x removed  
1789-1855

**Elena Larsdotter**  
2nd cousin 4x removed  
1805-1877

**Helena Eriksdotter**  
2nd cousin 4x removed  
1816-

**Mariana Andersdotter**  
2nd cousin 4x removed  
1811-1890

**Bengt Olofsson**  
2nd cousin 4x removed  
1813-1901

**P Ingemarsdotter**  
2nd cousin 4x removed  
1818-1899

**A Nilsdotter**  
3rd cousin 3x removed  
1837-1918

**Johan Peter Nilsson**  
3rd cousin 3x removed  
1841-1918

**John Emanuel Johnson**  
3rd cousin 3x removed  
1849-1914

**Johanna Johansdotter**  
3rd cousin 3x removed  
1848-1913

**Johan A Bengtsson**  
3rd cousin 3x removed  
1850-

**Anna Lena Olsson**  
3rd cousin 3x removed  
1858-1944

**Alida A Andersdotter**  
4th cousin 2x removed  
1879-1953

**Joh Albin Johansson**  
4th cousin 2x removed  
1875-

**William Emil Johnson**  
4th cousin 2x removed  
1886-1956

**JOHAN E Pettersson**  
4th cousin 2x removed  
1878-1911

**Alida J Johansdotter**  
4th cousin 2x removed  
1878-1967

**Kristina P Hofstedt**  
4th cousin 2x removed  
1887-1963

**AGNES V Andersson**  
5th cousin 1x removed  
1910-2005

**Karin f. Johansson**  
5th cousin 1x removed  
1913-2000

**Harold E Johnson**  
5th cousin 1x removed  
1918-1985

**Private**  
5th cousin 1x removed

**ERIK A Pettersson**  
5th cousin 1x removed  
1909-1989

**Elly Anna Carlsson**  
5th cousin 1x removed  
1912-1999

**Asta P Karlsson**  
5th cousin 1x removed  
1912-1993

**KE**

**AJ**

**WJ**

**JJ**

**HE**

**GM**

**IN**

**Kent Elofsson**  
6th cousin  
12 cM | 2 segments

**Anette Jansson**  
6th cousin  
8 cM | 1 segments

**W.J.**  
6th cousin  
12 cM | 1 segments

**Joel Johnson**  
6th cousin  
14 cM | 1 segments

**Hans-Erik Eriksson**  
6th cousin  
6 cM | 1 segments

**Gary Martens**  
6th cousin  
12 cM | 1 segments

**ingvor.johansson**  
6th cousin  
16 cM | 2 segments

Susan

Burks

Burks, Peter,  
Stuart

Burks, Peter,  
Stuart

Annamarie, Burks,  
Stuart, Susan

Beth

Annamarie, Beth,  
Stuart, Susan

Wow! This is pretty cool! As a group, the six of us have DNA matches with seven different descendants of Anna Erikdotter. So while each of us have anywhere between two (Beth, Peter) and four (Stuart) DNA matches, as a group we have seven DNA matches. Note that three of us have a unique DNA match – Susan with Kent Elofsson, Burks with Anette Jansson, and Beth with Gary Martens.

And now it gets interesting. I thought that I should see if any of these seven DNA matches are with Swedes living in Sweden. Right off the bat, I looked at Susan's match with Kent Elofsson. Kent's DNA profile is managed by Carina Sahlqvist Elofsson, and she lives in Fjärås! I assume that Carina is either Kent's wife or daughter. How cool to find that a DNA relative is still living in the area.

In the past, I knew about my DNA match with Hans-Erik Eriksson. His DNA profile is managed by his wife Rose-Marie Eriksson, and wouldn't you know it, they also live in Fjärås!!

Finally, *ingvor.johansson's* DNA profiles is managed by Madeleine Wunsch Rudén, and she lives in Göteborg. How amazing to have three of the seven DNA matches still living on the west coast of Sweden.

At this point, it would be logical to look at the branches of our ThruLines® charts that connect back to Erik Jonsson through his daughter Svenborg Erikdotter. However, she is our fourth-great grandmother, and each of us have our own ThruLines® chart going back to her:



So I think I'll leave looking at Svenborg's ThruLines® to another time. As an aside, the Swedish pronunciation of "Svenborg" sounds to me like "Sven-boy".

### ***Final Thoughts***

What did I learn through all this? Well, first and foremost, the comparison of the ThruLines® charts going back to our fifth-great grandfather Erik Jonsson emphasized just how random the inheritance of autosomal DNA actually is. My five Brorström cousins all have the same biological father, yet they inherited very different DNA segments that match different descendants of Erik Jonsson. And my set of DNA matches differ as well.

I also learned how important it is to test as many people in the family as possible, since different siblings will have different DNA matches with distant relatives.

Finally, since I now have visited Fjärås multiple times since 2016, it is wonderful to find more DNA matches that connect me to one of my ancestral "homes".



Fjärås kyrka, May 2019