

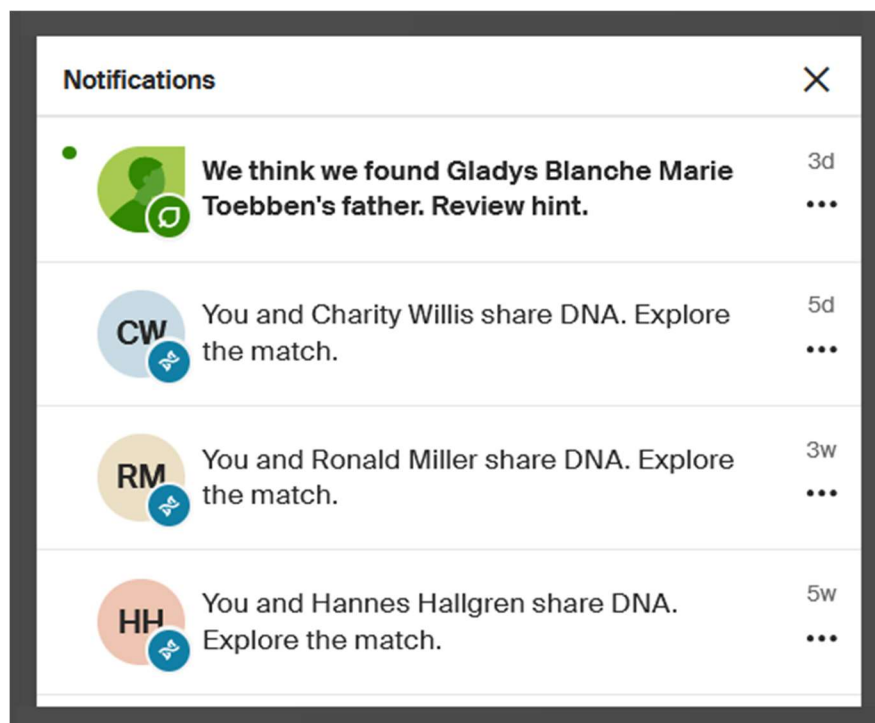
Hannes Hallgren – A DNA Match Going Back to Fjärås, Sweden, on my Lars Emil Larsson Line

By Burks Oakley II
23 June 2023

I recently learned that Ancestry.com has a “Notifications” feature that I never had used previously. The “Notifications” can be accessed by clicking on the bell-shaped icon on the webpage showing one’s DNA matches:



Here are my most recent notifications (as of a few days ago):



The fourth notification on this panel was “You and Hannes Hallgren share DNA. Explore the match.”

Clicking on the text of this notification took me to a new page where I could view my DNA match with Hannes:

Burks Oakley's DNA Matches

All matches By parent **BETA** By ancestor By location

Filter by:

● Unviewed

👤 Common ancestors

🔍 Search | Sort ▾

Extended Family




Hannes Hallgren

2nd – 3rd Cousin
98 cM | 1% shared DNA
Unassigned

👤 Unlinked Tree

Hannes and I share 98 cM of DNA. Since his DNA “test results” are not linked to his family tree, it wasn’t possible for software on Ancestry.com to calculate how Hannes and I are related to each other.

I next went to Hannes’ profile page:



Hannes Hallgren
Gothenburg, Västra Götaland, Sweden
Age: 40-49

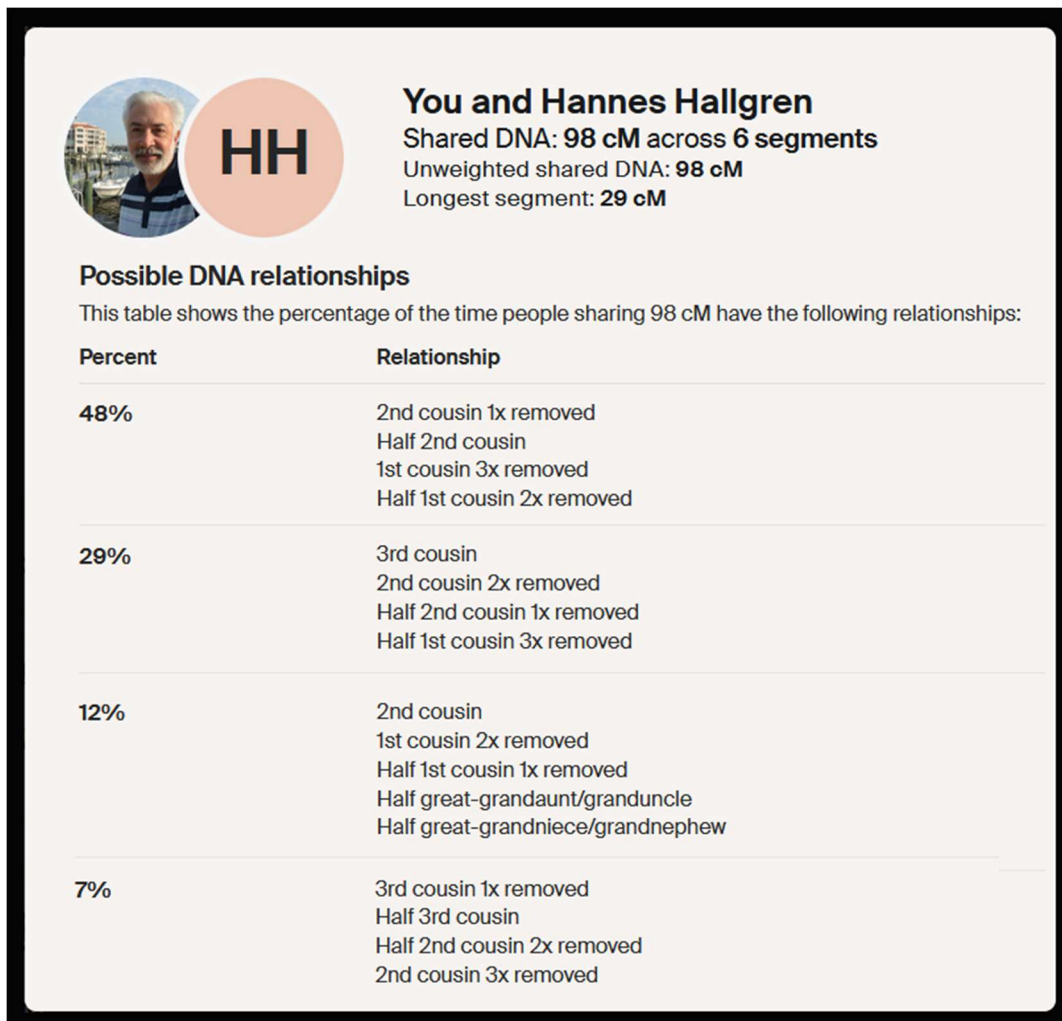
Speaks
English, Swedish

Joined
20 Feb 2023

Last active
Today

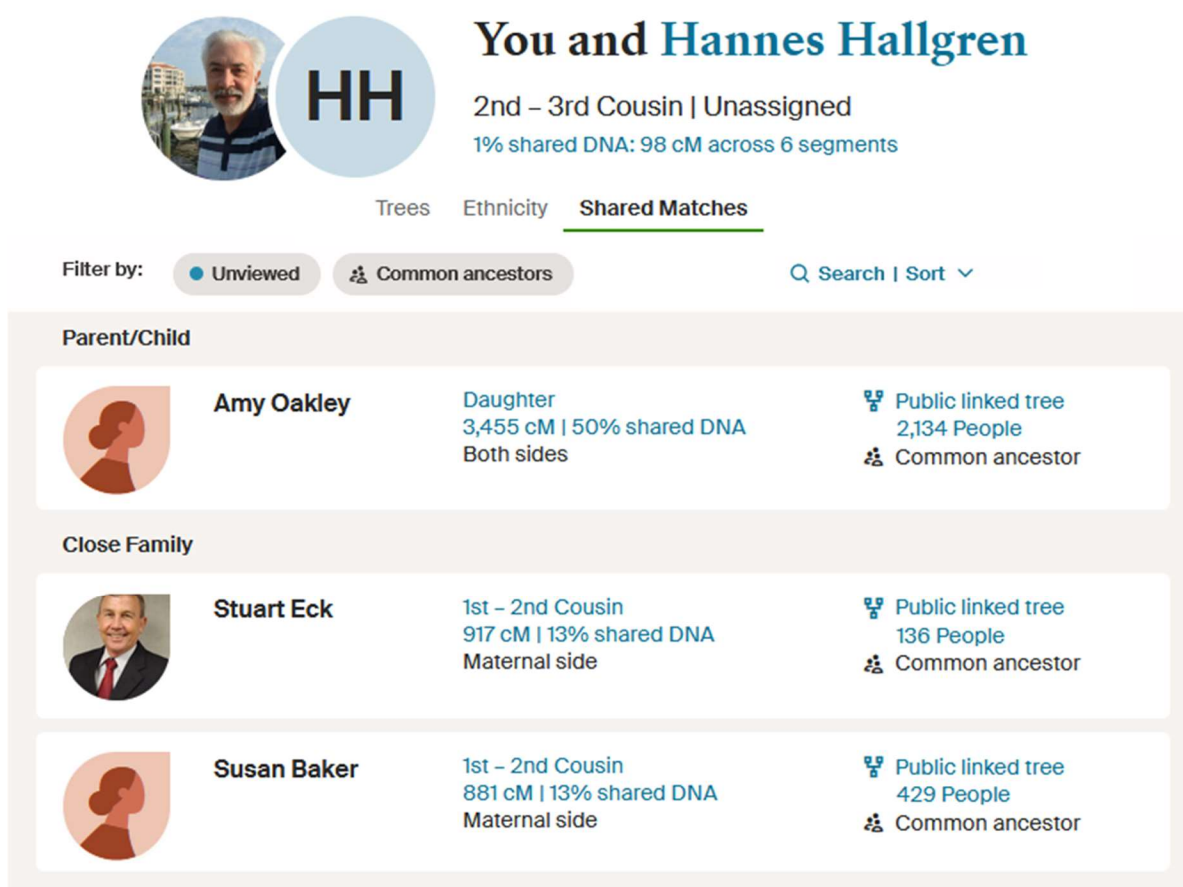
I learned that Hannes is a Swede who lives in Göteborg (Gothenburg), and that he is in his 40's.

Based solely on the size of our DNA match, Ancestry.com showed the probability of us having various genealogical relationships:



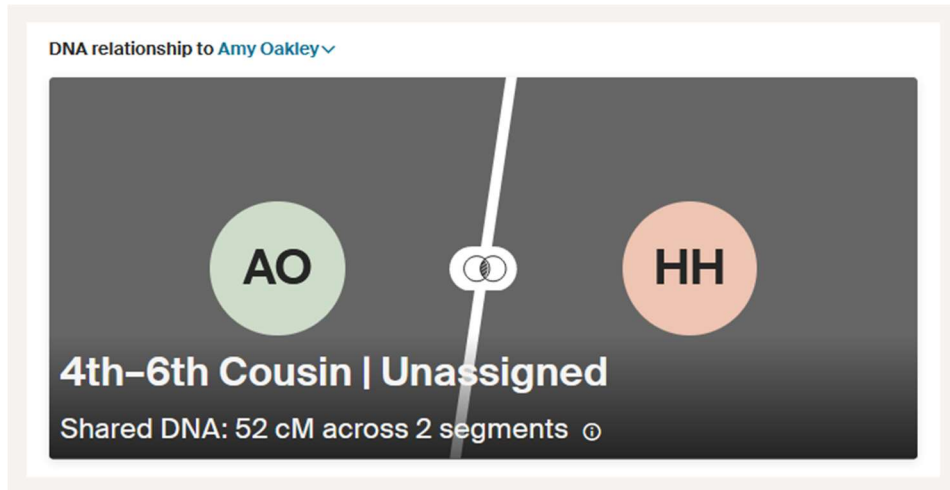
According to this chart, Hannes and I have a 48% probability of being second-cousins once-removed, a 29% probability of being third-cousins, a 12% probability of being second-cousins, and a 7% probability of being third-cousins once-removed.

I next looked at our “Shared DNA Matches”. In order to be on this list, an individual has to have DNA matches with both Hannes and me that are at least 20 cM in size. Here are our top three shared matches:



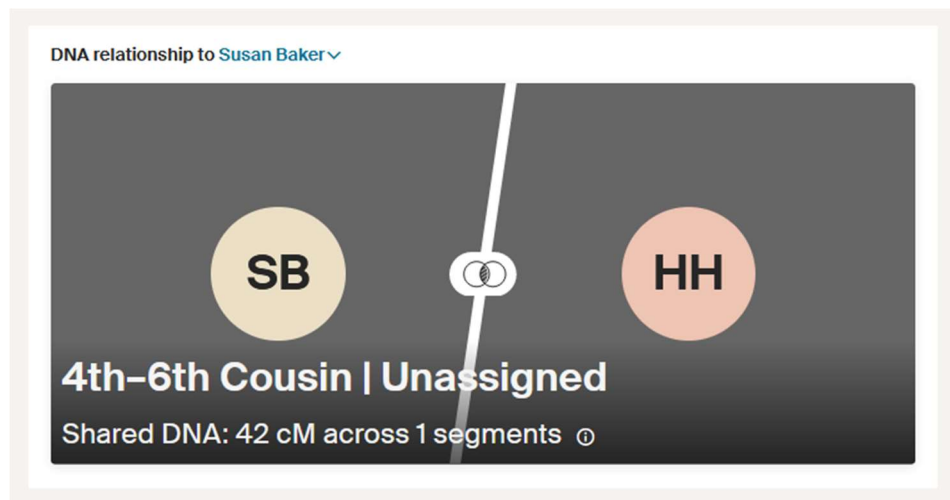
The three individuals on this list include Amy Oakley (my younger daughter), as well as Stuart Eck and Susan Baker. Stuart and Susan are my Swedish-American first-cousins – their father, Paul Thure Brorstrom Jr. (1913-2001), was my mother’s brother.

Since I have access to the DNA “tests” for all three of these individuals, I decided to look at how they match Hannes. Here is Amy’s match:



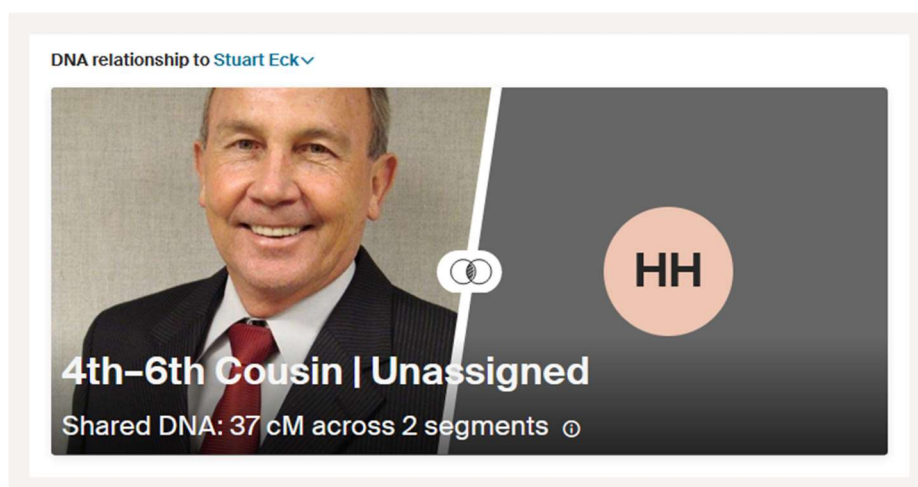
Amy and Hannes share 52 cM of DNA.

Here is Susan’s match:



Susan and Hannes share 42 cM of DNA, which is less than half as much as I share with Hannes.

Here is Stuart’s match:

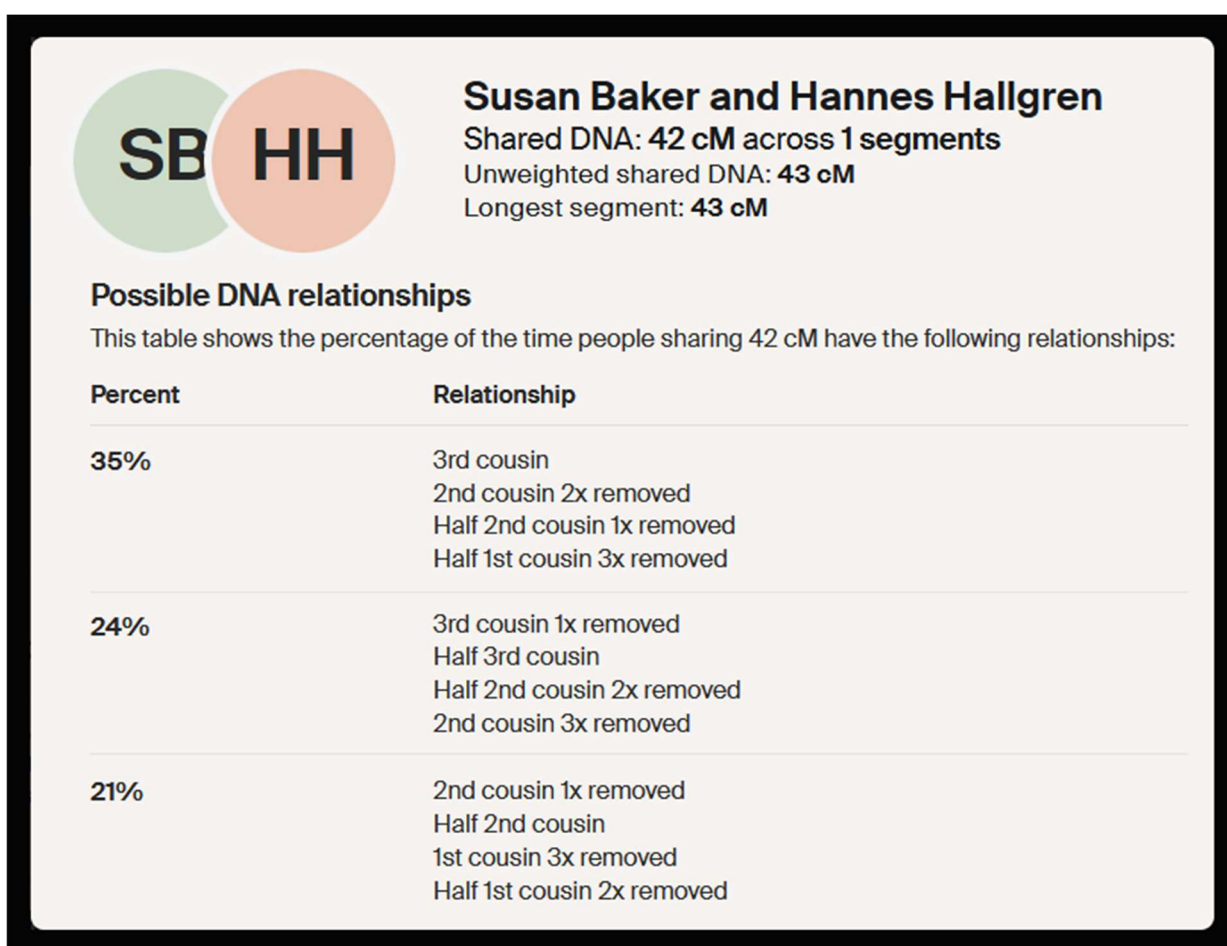


Stuart and Hannes share 37 cM of DNA.

Two of my Uncle Paul's other children (Peter, Annmarie) have had their DNA "tested" on Ancestry.com. Interestingly, neither of them has a DNA match with Hannes.

I note that Peter, Annmarie, Susan, and Stuart are all my first-cousins. My mother and their father were siblings. So I should have exactly the same relationship with Hannes as they do. And here I learn that I have a large 98 cM match with Hannes, two of my first-cousins have smaller 42 cM and 37 cM matches, and two of them don't have DNA matches with Hannes at all. Quite a difference in the way that autosomal DNA is inherited, for sure.

I wondered if my rather larger DNA match with Hannes was an outlier. So I looked at the possible relationships that my cousin Susan has with Hannes:



As expected, since Susan's DNA match with Hannes is smaller than my match with Hannes, Ancestry.com predicted that Susan and Hannes were likely to be more distant relatives. For example, Susan and Hannes have a 24% probability of being third-cousins once-removed, whereas Hannes and I have a 7% probability of having this same relationship (again, based solely on the size of the DNA matches).

I went on to look at the other shared DNA matches that I have with Hannes:

Extended Family



Robert Bergmark

2nd – 3rd Cousin
179 cM | 3% shared DNA
Maternal side

Unlinked Tree



Ginger Greenzang

3rd – 4th Cousin
83 cM | 1% shared DNA
Maternal side

No Trees



Kathy Wallace

4th – 6th Cousin
47 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Unassigned

No Trees



David Engels

4th – 6th Cousin
41 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Maternal side

Public linked tree
4 People



Michael Engels

4th – 6th Cousin
40 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Maternal side

Unlinked Tree



Donna Del Porto

4th – 6th Cousin
31 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Maternal side

Public linked tree
4 People



Bert Andersson

4th – 6th Cousin
31 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Maternal side

Public linked tree
26 People
 Common ancestor



Martin Engels

4th – 6th Cousin
30 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Maternal side

Private linked tree
10 People
 Common ancestor



M.T.

Managed by Tygail

4th – 6th Cousin
27 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Maternal side

Public linked tree
6,456 People



cbaldwin566

4th – 6th Cousin
24 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Unassigned

Unlinked Tree



Cckreitz@comcast.net

4th – 6th Cousin
23 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Maternal side

Public linked tree
701 People



pdrpam1

4th – 6th Cousin
23 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Maternal side

Public linked tree
1,359 People
 Common ancestor



Katie Williams

4th – 6th Cousin
21 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Maternal side

Public linked tree
4 People

Oh my! I recognize the names of most of these people, and all of them have ancestors who lived in Fjärås, Sweden. My great-grandfather, Lars Emil Larsson (1864-1945), lived in Fjärås before he immigrated to America in the early 1880's. So it certainly appears that my genealogical connection to Hannes Hallgren must go back to Fjärås through my Larsson line.

I'll now provide some brief details for just a few of my shared DNA matches with Hannes:

- **Robert Bergmark:** Lars Emil Larsson had a sister named Anna Louise Larsson, and she married Olaf Bergmark. They had a son named Olaf Wilmer Bergmark, and Olaf's son was Robert Bergmark.

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

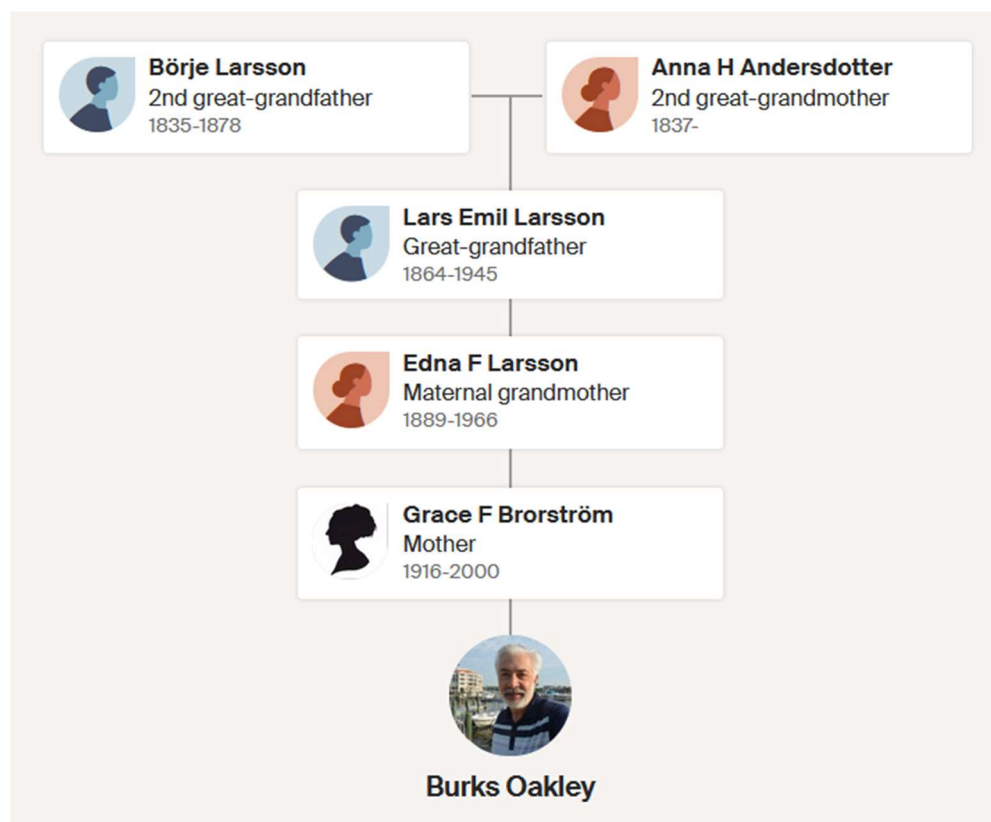
- **Ginger Greenzang:** Ginger is descended from Lars Hansson (1788-1838), who was the paternal grandfather of Lars Emil Larsson.

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/GingerWalgren-HanssonCousin.pdf>

- **M.T.:** Mark Daniel Thackaberry Jr. (1945-2016). Mark also was descended from Lars Hansson (1788-1838) and his wife Anna Börjesdotter (1795-), and they were the paternal grandparents of Lars Emil Larsson.

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

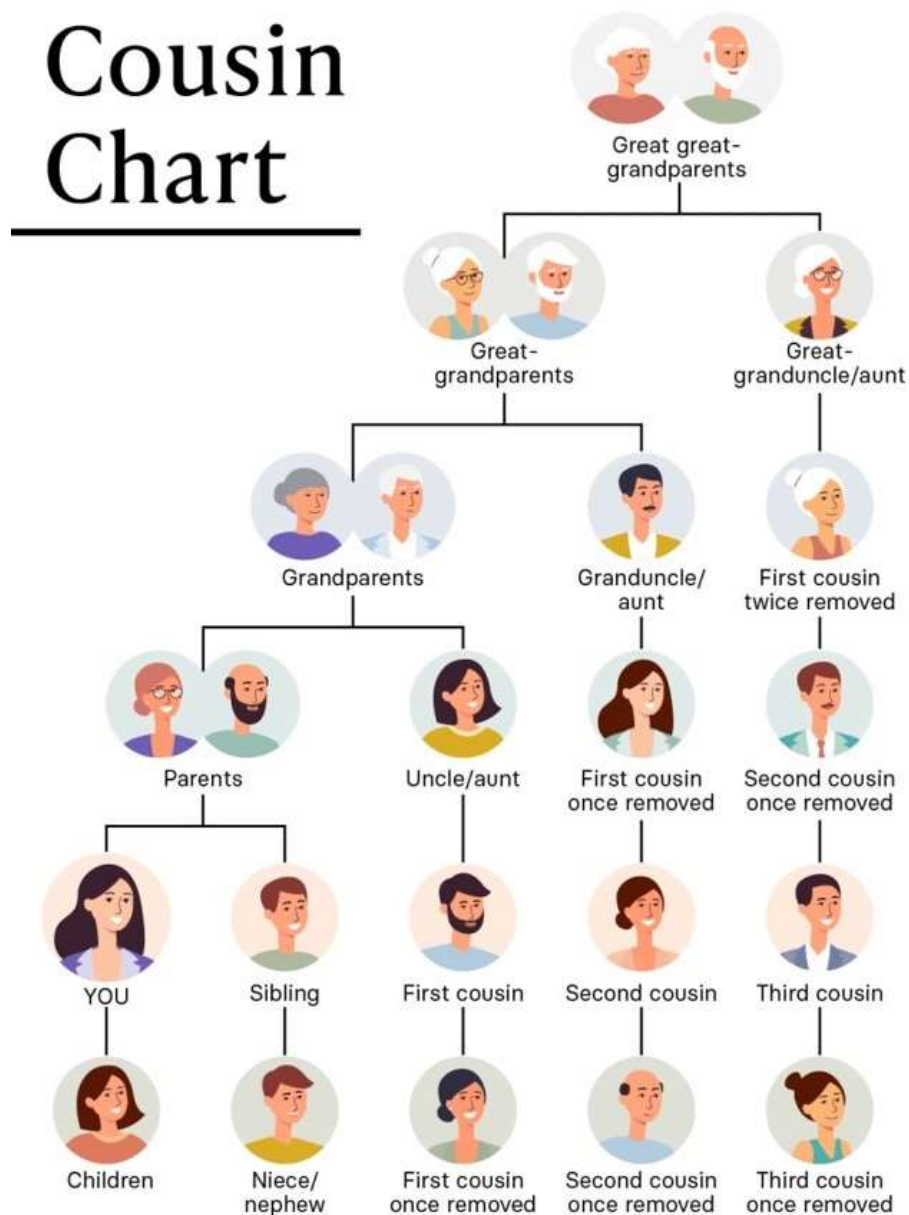
At this point, I thought it would be good to review my Larsson ancestral line back to Fjärås:



This brief chart shows that Lars Emil Larsson was the son of Börje Larsson and his wife Anna Helena Andersdotter. I believe that Lars Emil was born Lars Emil Börjesson, and that he changed his last name to Larsson when he immigrated to America.

So now let me return to my genealogical relationship to Hannes Hallgren. How close could I be? Recall that based on my large DNA match with Hannes, perhaps we are third-cousins. But based on Susan Baker's smaller DNA match with Hannes, perhaps we are third-cousins once-removed.

The following chart shows that third-cousins share second-great grandparents, while a third-cousin once-removed would be the child of a third-cousin:



In the case of my Larsson line going back to Fjärås, my second-great grandparents were Börje Larsson and his wife Anna Helena Andersdotter. So based solely on the DNA matches that my Swedish-American cousins and I have with Hannes, I would want to look closely to see if Hannes was descended from the Larsson-Andersdotter couple.

And what do you think I found?

[Scroll down.....]

Well, it turns out that I sent Hannes a message using the messaging system on Ancestry.com. Here is part of his reply:

Hej igen Burks!

Har tittat vidare lite på hur vi är släkt. Det stämmer bra att vi har gemensamma släktingar i Fjärås.

Börje Larsson född 1835 samt Anna Helena Andersdotter född 1837 fick ett antal barn tillsammans.

Lars Emil Larsson som du skrev om är bror till Hilda Evelina Börjesdotter född 23 juni 1862 i Fjärås som är min farfars mormor.

Jag tror att min pappa har några sparade gamla foton från Hilda Evelina Börjesdotters dotter Hanna Elisabeth Carlsson sparade. Så om dessa skulle vara av intresse att se kan jag försöka få fram dessa foton.

Lars Emil Larsson är alltså Morbror till Hanna Elisabeth Carlsson.

Mvh Hannes Hallgren

A rough translation of this would be:

Hello again Burks!

Have looked further into how we are related. It is true that we have common relatives in Fjärås.

Börje Larsson born 1835 and Anna Helena Andersdotter born 1837 had a number of children together.

Lars Emil Larsson, whom you wrote about, is the brother of Hilda Evelina Börjesdotter, born 23 June 1862 in Fjärås, (and she) is my grandfather's grandmother.

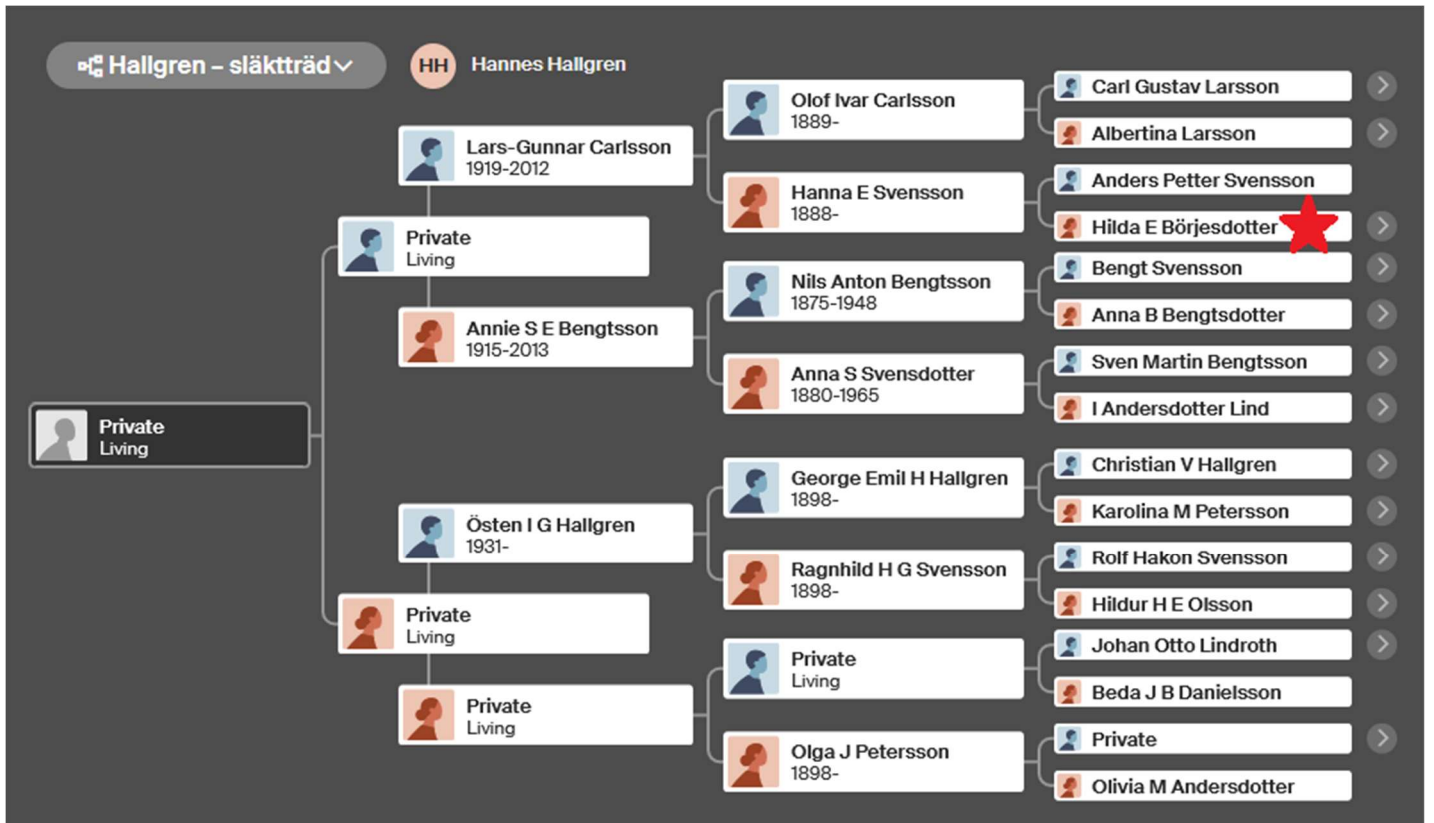
I think my father has some old photos from Hilda Evelina Börjesdotter's daughter Hanna Elisabeth Carlsson saved. So if these would be of interest to see, I can try to get these photos.

Lars Emil Larsson is thus Hanna Elisabeth Carlsson's paternal uncle.

With best wishes Hannes Hallgren

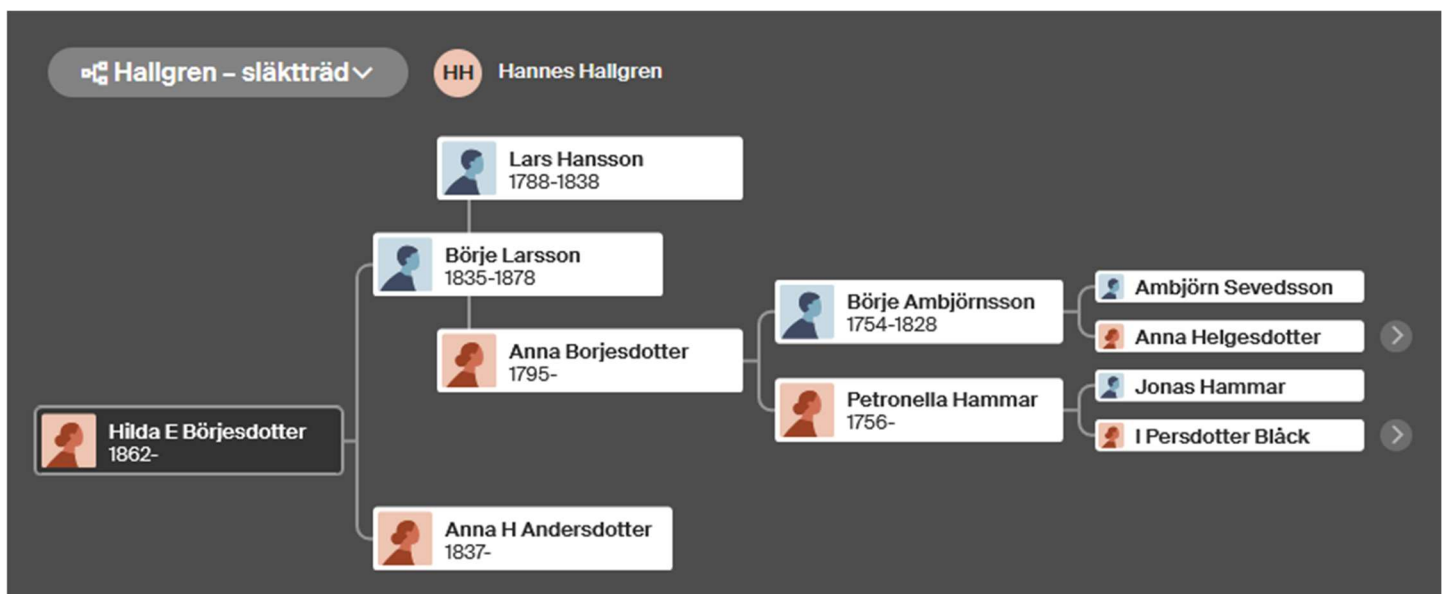
Oh my! How nice to learn about this! As I predicted, Hannes and I are both descended from my second-great grandparents, Börje Larsson and Anna Helena Andersdotter.

I went on to view this information in Hannes' family tree on the Ancestry.com website. Here is the first part of Hannes' pedigree chart:



This chart shows Hannes' line back to his second-great grandmother, Hilda Evelina Börjesdotter, who is marked with a red star.

Continuing back from Hilda, Hannes' family tree shows her parents, Börje Larsson and Anna Helena Andersdotter (the ancestors that I have in common with Hannes):



I note that Hannes' tree goes back to Jonas Hammar and Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck, and I have written about this couple previously:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/JonasHammar-IngeborgBlåck.pdf>

I realized that my entry for Börje Larsson on Ancestry.com is very incomplete:

Burks Oakley II Tree search

Börje Larsson
 BIRTH 18 DEC 1835 • Fjärås, Halland, Sweden
 DEATH 26 MAR 1878 • Fjärås, Halland, Sweden

Family

Parents

Lars Hansson 1788-1838

Anna Börjesdotter 1795-

Spouse and children

Anna Helena Andersdotter 1837-

Lars Emil Larsson 1864-1945

For quite some time now, I have known that Börje and Anna had other children in addition to Lars Emil. In fact, one of my first interactions with a Swedish DNA cousin was ten years ago, when Göran Grotting (a Swede from Göteborg) did some excellent research about my Swedish ancestors.¹ Here is an excerpt from the PDF file he sent me in 2013:

I:1 f
 Börje **Larsson** (300). Född 1835-12-18 i Fjärås (N). Döpt 1835-12-20 i Fjärås (N). Död 1878-03-26 i Fjärås (N).
 Dödsorsak: "Brain fever". (Barn Proband, Far II:1, Mor II:2)
 Gift 1859-04-08 i Fjärås (N) med efterföljande ana.

Barn:

Anna Lovisa **Börjesdotter** (373). Född 1859-12-12 i Örmevalla (N). Changed to Anna Louise in America.
 Emigrated probably together with Lars Emil 1887.
 Hilda Evelina **Börjesdotter** (374). Född 1862-06-23 i Fjärås (N). Changed to Hanna in America.
 Lars Emil **Börjesson-Larsson** (298). Född 1864-10-01 i Fjärås (N). Död 1945 i Dania, Florida, U.S.A.. (Se
 Proband).
 Thekla Elise **Börjesdotter** (375). Född 1873-04-02 i Fjärås (N). Emigrated together with her two children
 1897-04-12.
 Helga Bernhardina **Börjesdotter** (376). Född 1876-04-18 i Fjärås (N). Emigrated alone 1895-03-08.

I:2 m
 Anna Helena **Andersdotter** (301). Född 1837-12-08 i Fjärås (N). (Barn Proband, Far II:3, Mor II:4)
 Gift 1859-04-08 i Fjärås (N) med föregående ana.

Note that all of Börje's children had the surname Börjesson or Börjesdotter. Again, I believe that Lars Emil took the surname Larsson when he immigrated to America.

Göran's research clearly shows that Lars Emil had a sister Hilda Evelina Börjesdotter (born 23 June 1862), and Hilda Evelina was Hanne's second-great grandmother. I don't know why I hadn't updated my profiles for Börje Larsson and Anna Helena Andersdotter on Ancestry.com.

¹ Göran and I also have common ancestors in Fjärås. We both are descended from Anna Helena Andersdotter's mother's parents. See:

Here is a better profile for Börje Larsson from Kent Stenborg (who has an extensive family tree on Ancestry.com – with more than 115,000 entries):

Börje Larsson
 BIRTH 21 NOV 1835 • Fjärås, Halland, Sverige
 DEATH 26 MAR 1878 • Fjärås, Halland, Sweden

Family

Parents

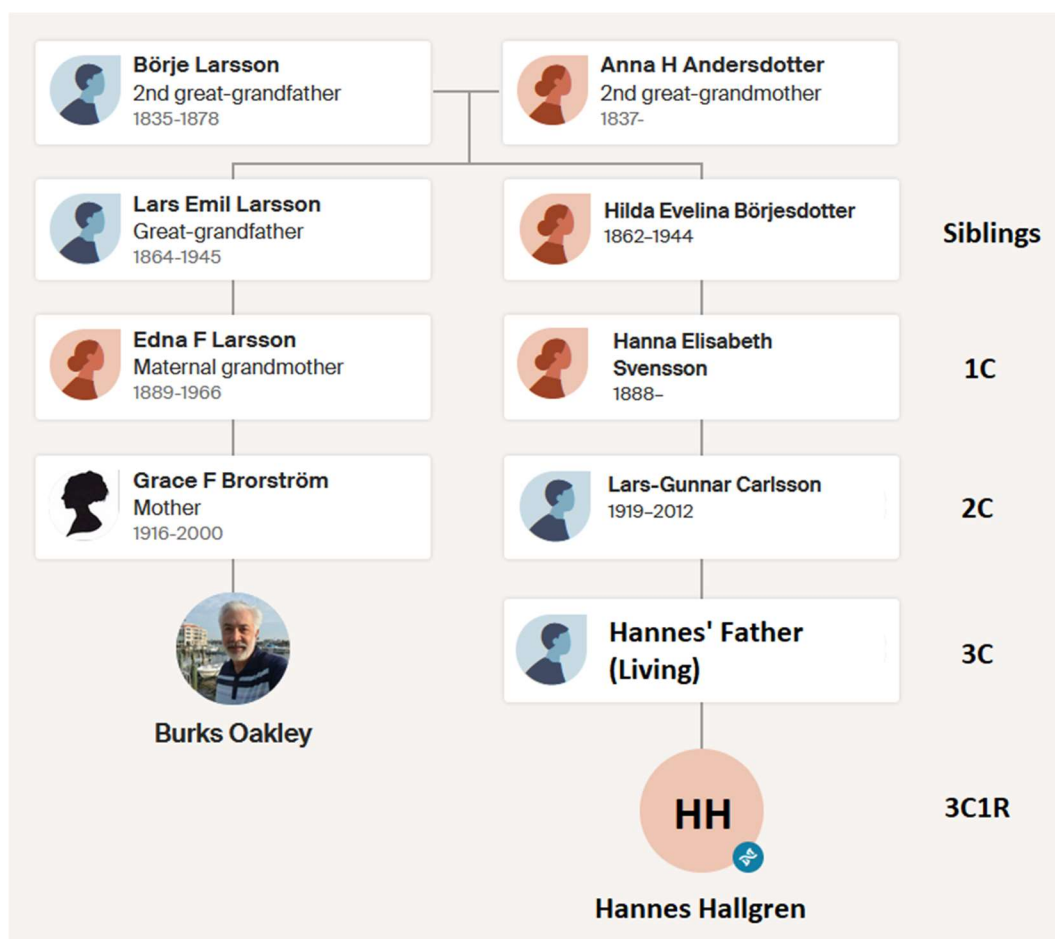
- Lars Hansson 1788-1838
- Anna Börjesdotter 1795-

Spouse and children

- Anna Helena Andersdotter 1837-
- Anna Lovisa Börjesdotter 1859-
- Hilda Evelina Börjesdotter 1862-1944
- Lars Emil Larsson 1864-1945
- Thekla Elise Börjesdotter 1873-

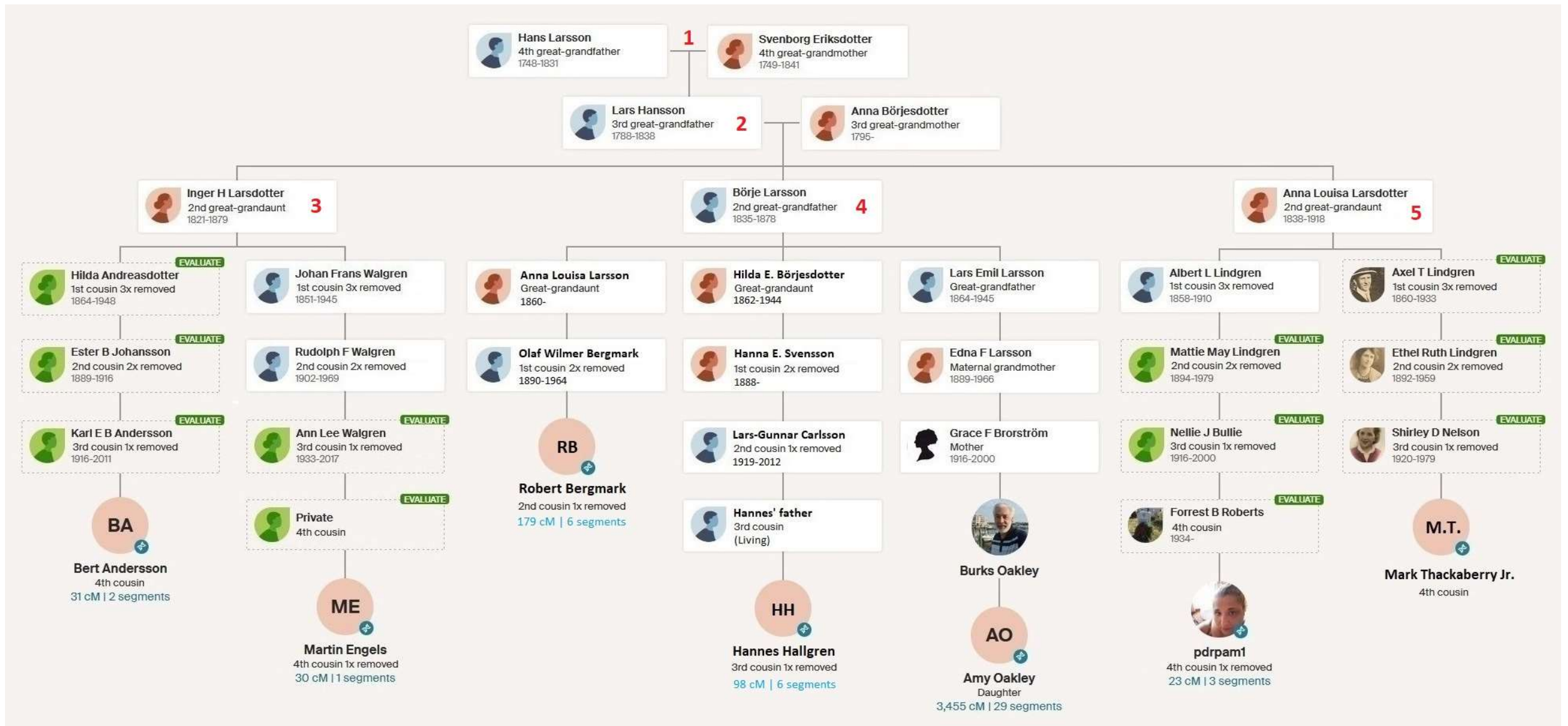
But even this tree is missing Börje’s fifth child, Helga Bernhardina Börjesdotter.

I finally created a chart showing how Hannes and I are related:



If I have all this correct, then Hannes and I are third-cousins once-removed (3C1R), which is just about what I thought I would find, based on the size of the DNA matches.

At this point, I thought it would be good to create an overall chart, showing how Hannes and I are related to some of our DNA matches with roots in Fjärås. So here is such a chart, shown in landscape view:



I note that each individual at the bottom of the various ancestral lines has a DNA match with both Hannes and me that is at least 20 cM in size.

The overall chart begins at the top with Hans Larsson and his wife Svenborg Eriksdotter (labelled with a red #1). This couple were my fourth-great grandparents.

Immediately below the Larsson-Eriksdotter couple is their son, Lars Hansson (labelled #2), who was my third-great grandfather. As an aside, I always think of this as a quirk of the Swedish patronymic naming system – Hans Larsson had a son Lars Hansson. And I never can keep these names straight.

The chart continues with the third-row from the top. It shows that Lars Hansson (#2) and his wife Anna Börjesdotter had three children, Inger Helena Larsdotter (#3), Börje Larsson (#4), and Anna Louisa Larsdotter (#5). These three children produced the seven ancestral lines shown in the chart – leading to the DNA matches with the last person in each line.

At the left, there are two lines connecting back through Inger Helena Larsdotter (#3); these lines are through her children Hilda Andreasdotter and Johan Frans Walgren. I note that the son was born Johan Frans Andreasson, but he changed his surname to Walgren when he immigrated to America.

In the middle of the chart are three ancestral lines connecting back through Börje Larsson (#4), who was my second-great grandfather. These three lines connect back through Börje Larsson's children, Anna Louisa Larsson, Hilda Börjesdotter, and Lars Emil Larsson. Of course, Lars Emil was my great-grandfather. The three lines going back through Börje Larsson lead to Robert Bergmark, Hannes Hallgren, and me (and my daughter Amy).

Finally, at the right of the chart are ancestral lines connecting back through Anna Louisa Larsdotter (#5). These lines connect back through her sons Albert T. Lindgren and Axel T. Lindgren, and they lead to ***pdrpam1*** and Mark Thackaberry Jr.

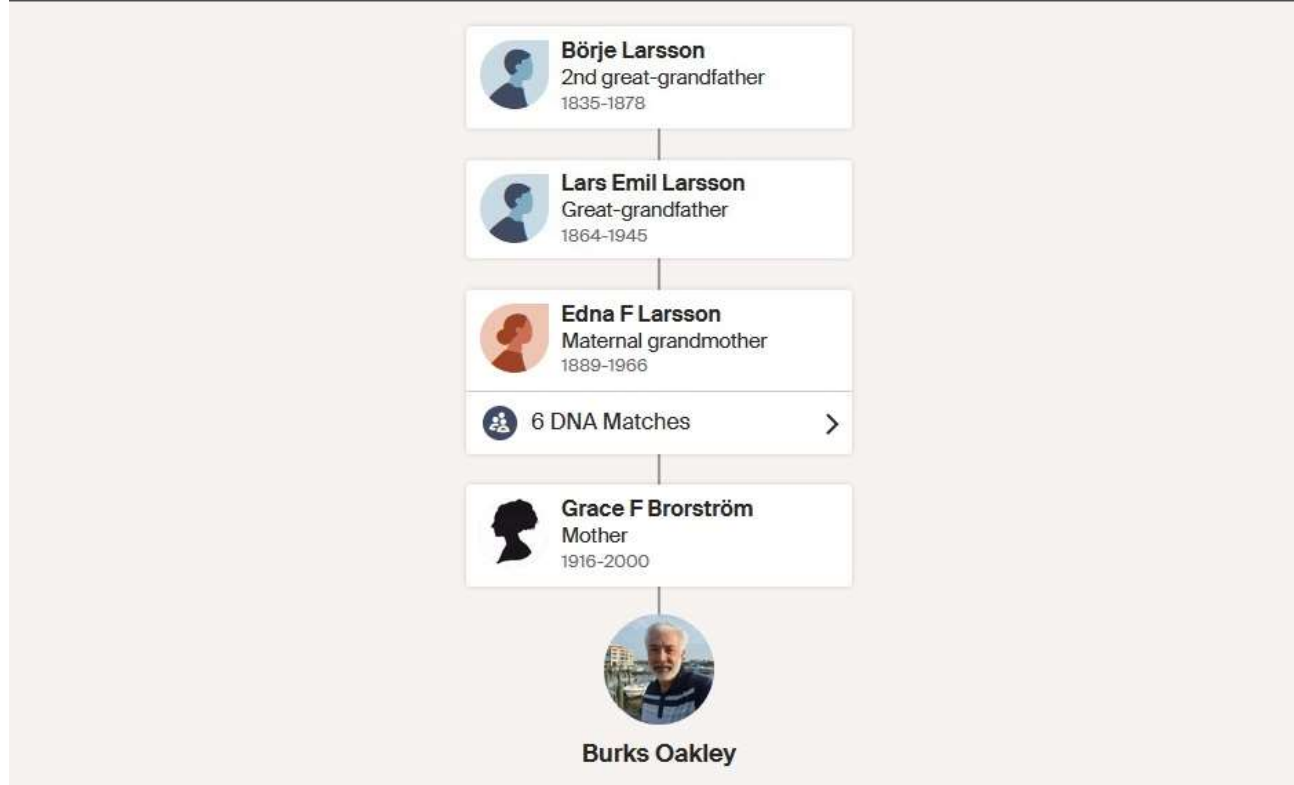
Of course, there are more individuals who have shared DNA matches with Hannes and me (such as my Swedish-American cousins Susan and Stuart), but my aim with this chart was to have at least one DNA match for each line back to the original Larsson-Eriksdotter couple.

I have to add that I think it is really amazing that DNA matches like this can be used to confirm the genealogical record, going back to a couple born in the middle 1700's in the small village of Fjärås, Sweden. Really, really amazing!

One more point. As I look back on this narrative, I realize that my DNA match with Hannes Hallgren is the first match I have with a descendant of Börje Larsson (and his wife Anna Helena Andersdotter), other than with descendants of Lars Emil Larsson. Here is my ThruLines® chart for Börje Larsson:

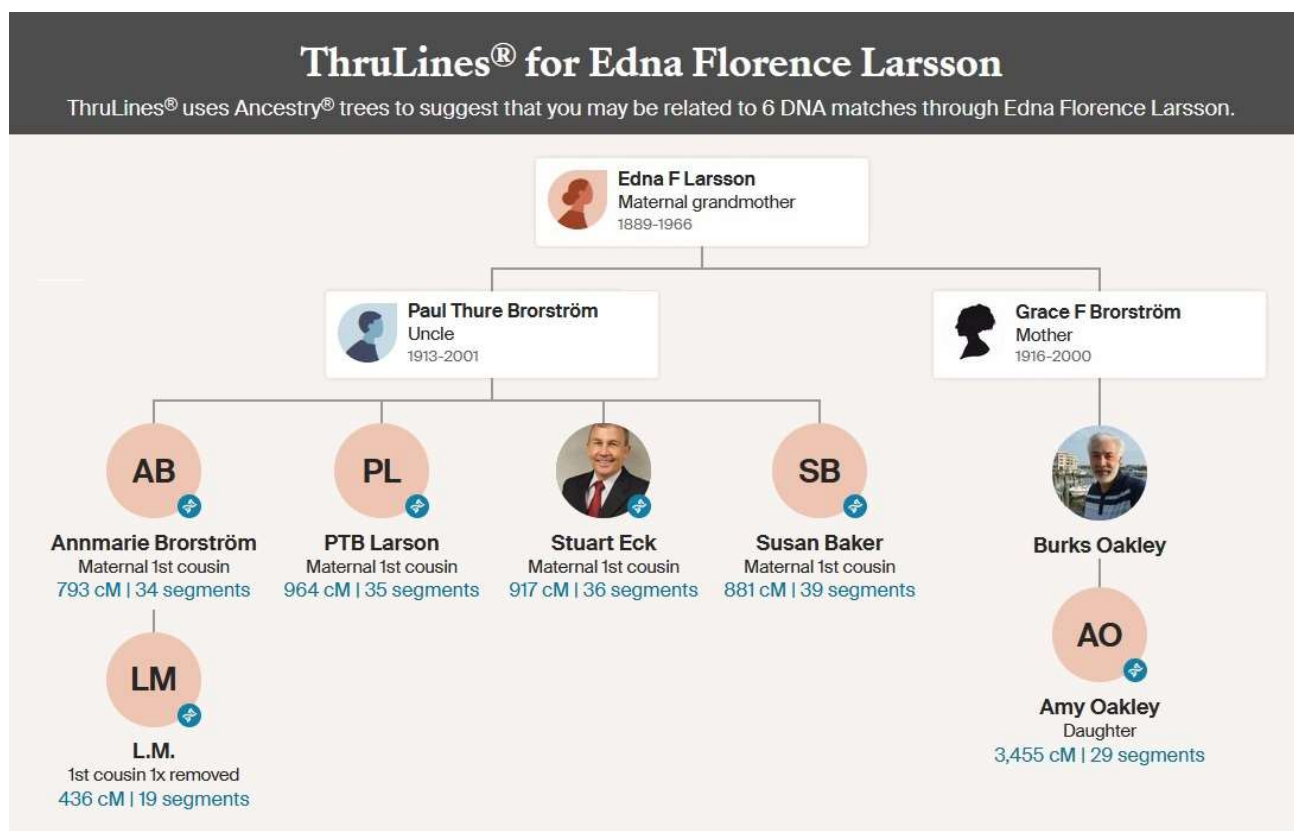
ThruLines® for Börje Larsson

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 6 DNA matches through Börje Larsson.



Note that this chart doesn't show any DNA matches with descendants of Börje Larsson other than through his son Lars Emil Larsson (my great-grandfather). In fact, all my DNA matches on the line going back to Börje Larsson are with descendants of Börje's granddaughter, Edna Florence Larsson.

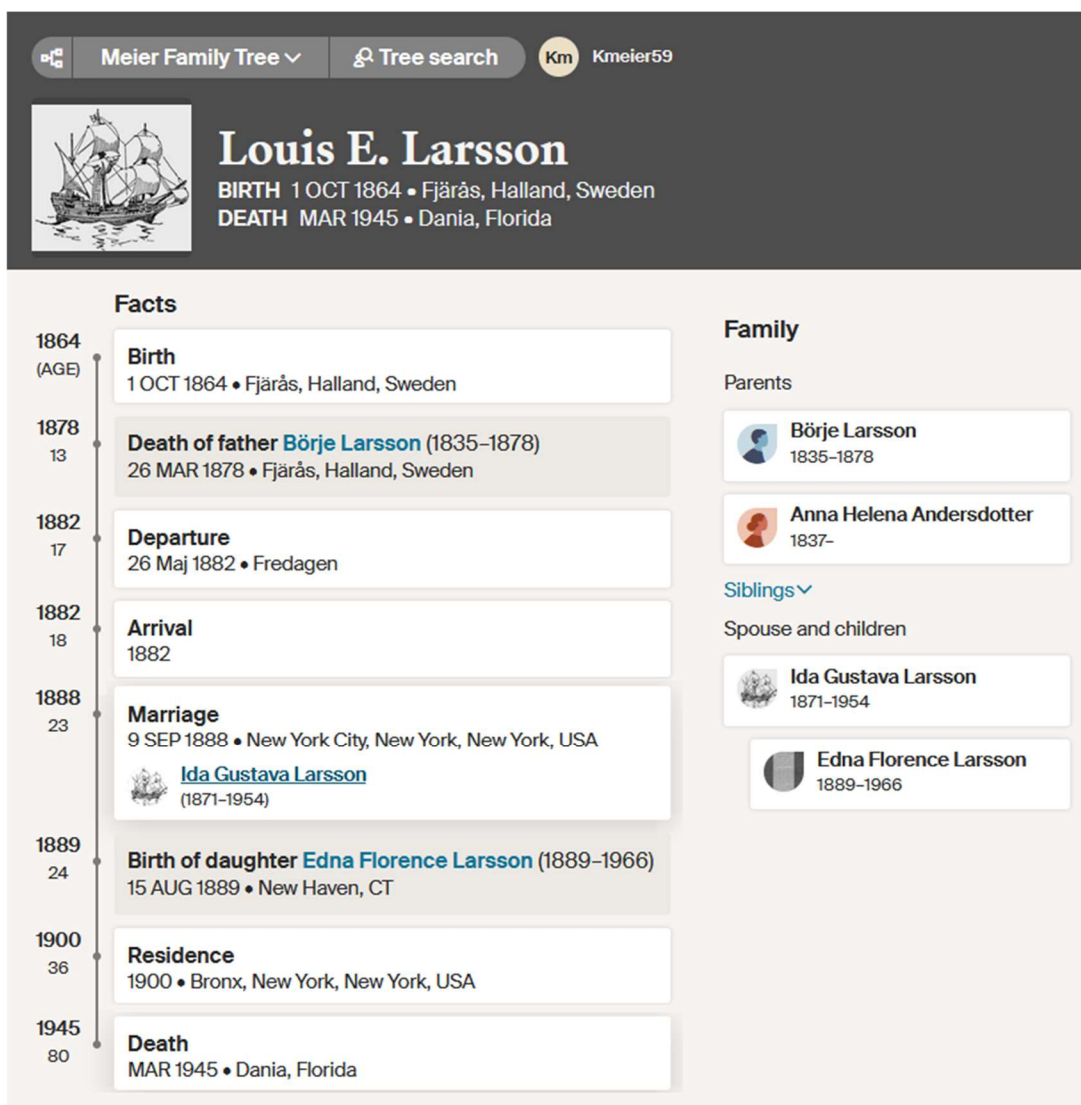
Here is my ThruLines® chart for Edna Florence Larsson:



This chart shows my DNA matches with four of my Uncle Paul Brorström's children and one of his grandchildren, as well as my DNA match with my daughter Amy.

I also have DNA matches with Susan's son Robert Baker and with Stuart's daughter Jessica Lynn Eck, but Ancestry.com doesn't include them in my ThruLines® chart, presumably due to errors in their family trees.

One last item. I have often said that I didn't fully appreciate my Swedish heritage while growing up, since my mother didn't really celebrate any Swedish holidays or embrace any Swedish traditions. Well, I guess we always had a plum pudding at Christmas-time, and we did have a Swedish candelabra where angels turned around in the heat of the candle flame. But that was about it. I believe that my mother's four grandparents – all Swedish immigrants – did all they could to become Americanized when they arrived in America. And that most definitely included Lars Emil Larsson, who went by the name Louis instead of Lars. In fact, my cousin Annmarie's daughter Lauren lists Lars Emil Larsson in her family tree as Louis E. Larsson:



The image shows a screenshot of an Ancestry.com profile for Louis E. Larsson. The profile is titled "Meier Family Tree" and is managed by "Kmeier59". It features a header with a ship icon and the name "Louis E. Larsson". Below the name, it lists his birth date as 1 OCT 1864 in Fjärås, Halland, Sweden, and his death date as MAR 1945 in Dania, Florida. The main content is divided into two columns: "Facts" and "Family". The "Facts" column is a vertical timeline with events including Birth (1 OCT 1864), Death of father Börje Larsson (26 MAR 1878), Departure (26 Maj 1882), Arrival (1882), Marriage (9 SEP 1888) to Ida Gustava Larsson (1871-1954), Birth of daughter Edna Florence Larsson (15 AUG 1889), Residence (1900), and Death (MAR 1945). The "Family" column lists Parents (Börje Larsson and Anna Helena Andersdotter), Siblings, and Spouse and children (Ida Gustava Larsson and Edna Florence Larsson).

Year (Age)	Event	Location
1864 (AGE)	Birth	Fjärås, Halland, Sweden
1878 (13)	Death of father Börje Larsson (1835-1878)	Fjärås, Halland, Sweden
1882 (17)	Departure	Fredagen
1882 (18)	Arrival	
1888 (23)	Marriage	New York City, New York, New York, USA
1889 (24)	Birth of daughter Edna Florence Larsson (1889-1966)	New Haven, CT
1900 (36)	Residence	Bronx, New York, New York, USA
1945 (80)	Death	Dania, Florida

And with that, I'll wrap up this lengthy narrative.

Appendix

Here are some photos that I have taken on my visits to Fjärås.



Sign by the road at the edge of town.



Fjärås kyrka (Fjärås church)



The view of the sea from the churchyard.



The view of Lars Emil Larsson's house from the churchyard.



Yours truly standing in front of Lars Emil Larsson's house in Fjärås.