

Hans-Fredrik Wennström – Another Wennström Family Member in Sweden

by Burks Oakley II
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Introduction

My mother was Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000). Her paternal grandmother (*farmor* in Swedish) was Bernhardine Wennström (1855-1932), who immigrated to America with her husband Paulus Brorström in 1882. So while my mother's family name was Brorström, she was just as much Wennström as Brorström.

I have been searching for Wennström relatives in America and in Sweden. I have been helped in this process by my Swedish cousin Lena Kannesten (nee Wennström). On 10 January 2018, she sent me the following scan via e-mail:

Here are some relatives to us. Magnus, Nils and Andreas were siblings.

Magnus 1809-1898	Nils 1815-1914	Andreas 1833-1924
Nils	Bernhardine	Gottfrid
Alfred	Paul Thure	Ragnar
Torsten	Grace	Ingemar, Barbro
Görel	Burks	Peter, Cecilia
Gönnar		
Magnus		
Daniel		
Björn		
Lena, Hans-Fredrik		

The persons with bold writing style are now living persons.

Bengt Gunnar **Tomas Wennström** born 19391105, Trädgårdsgatan 2 B lgh 1101, 264 38 Klippan. He knows who I am but we have not met.

Björn Erik Wilhelm **Wennström** born 19350127, Vittnesgränd 55, 226 47 Lund. Björn is my cousin. His father and my father were brothers. He knows me.

Hans-Fredrik Vilhelm **Wennström** born 19430817, Snögatan 8 B, 802 76 Gävle. He is my brother.

Barbro Gunhild Christina **Blomberg** (b. Wennström) born 19450116, Flaggskjeppsgatan 14 lgh 1102, 211 14 Malmö. She knows who I am. Last year she wrote a book about her grandfather, Gottfrid, and his family, "Långtans vals".

Jan **Peter** Fredrik **Wennström** born 19570831, Galoppvägen 200, 244 95 Dösjöebro. I don't think he knows who I am.

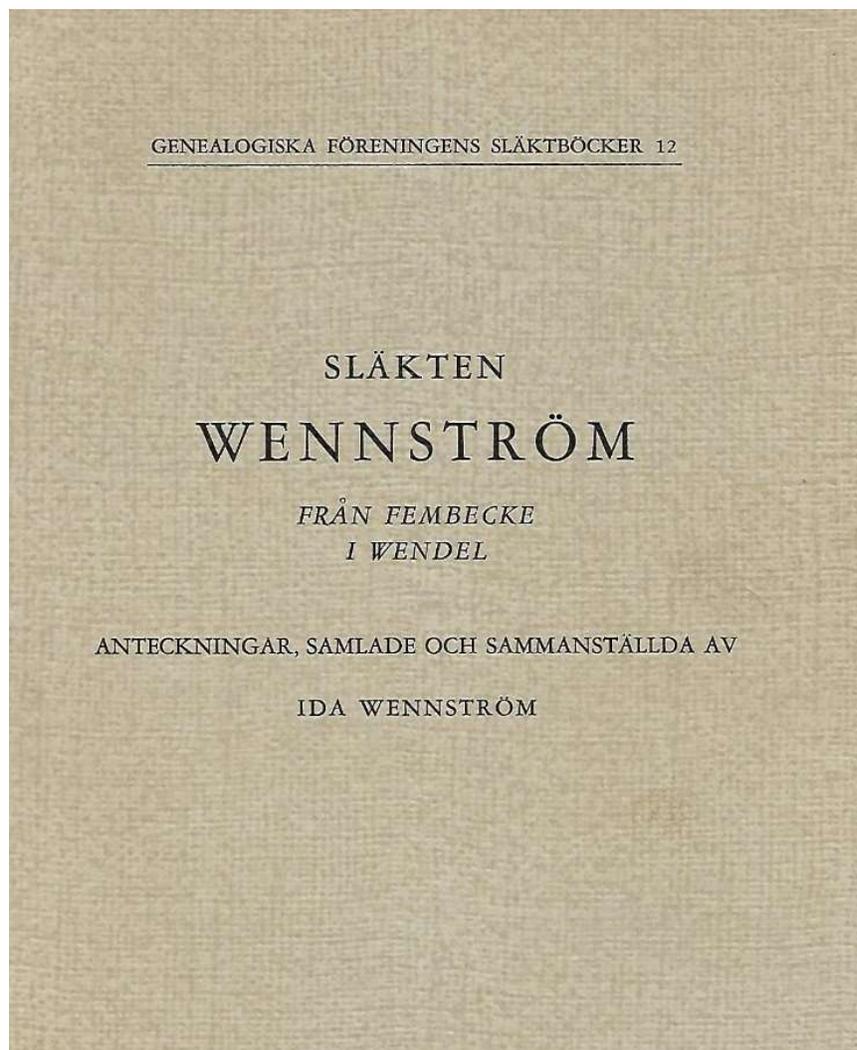
Helena **Cecilia** Maria **Liljedahl** (b. Wennström) born 19610305, Himmelriksgränden 2 lgh 1301, 252 23 Helsingborg. My husband, Lars, met her several times at work and I met her a few times with him. I later discovered that we are related, but I do not think she knows.

Nils Wennström, 1815-1914, had nine children who lived in adulthood. Three daughters and four sons emigrated to USA. The daughter Gunilla, *Cecilia*, 1843 - 1929, married to Ernst Gustaf Detlof *Alfred* Bexell, 1831 - 1900. The "big house" was built for their wedding. I think you can find information about the Family Bexell at Ancestry.

Lena's document shows a number of my Wennström cousins living in Sweden. I am slowly working my way through this list, trying to learn what I can about these relatives. The documents shows that Lena has a brother named Hans-Fredrik, and this short narrative is about him.

Hans-Fredrik* Wilhelm Wennström

I have been aided in my research about the Wennström family in Sweden by a book entitled ***Släkten Wennström*** (The Family Wennström), which was written by Ida Wennström and published in 1965. I was given a copy of this book by my cousin Lena Kannesten. Here is a scan of the cover of this book:



Hans-Fredrick appears in Table 19, at the top of page 37:

Eva Elsa Kristina, f. 1942 30/8 i Malmö Pauli förs. Realexamen i Malmö 1958, studentexamen vid Källängens läroverk i Malmö 1962 18/4. Skrivbiträde på Länsstyrelsen i Malmö 1962 14/5—31/12, lärarkandidat på småskollärlinjen vid Lärarhögskolan i Malmö fr. vt 1963. — G. 1965 3/4 i Malmö Sancta Maria kyrka, Möllevångens förs., m. fil. och pol. mag. Carl Gunnar Berner Olsson, f. 1938 1/2 i Hälsingborg (skriven Skärsjödalen, Markaryd), son av stationsmästaren Emil Berner Olsson och Frida Nygvist. (Falkenbergsgatan 11, Malmö ö.)

Tabell 19.

Karl Fredrik Daniel (son av Claes Julius Wilhelm, tab. 14), f. 1903 11/12 i Ränneslöv 7, Ränneslövs sn. Folkskollärare, musikdirektör. — Studentexamen vid Lunds privata elementarskola 1925, organistexamen i Skara 1927, kyrkosångarexamen därstädes s.ä., musiklärarexamen vid Kungl. Musikkonservatorium i Stockholm 1931, folkskollärarexamen i Lund 1936, under tre månader (11 jan.—7 april 1928) bedrivit musikstudier i Tyskland, studerat pedagogik och psykologi samt genomgått en en termin lång kurs i experimentell psykologi vid Lunds universitet (ht 1931 och vt 1932), erhållit behörighet att undervisa i engelska i folkskolan 1957 9/9. — Under elva månader 1928—29 uppehållit domkyrkoorganistbefattningen i Göteborg och därunder även varit ledare för domkyrkans såväl koralkör som hymnkör, vikarierat vid Stockholms stads fortsättningsskolor för musik vt 1931, varit timlärare i sång vid Lunds stads folkskolor vt 1933, under tre års tid (maj 1932—juli 1935) medverkat vid Lunds domkyrkas musikafnär, vid ett flertal tillfällen under åren 1931 och 1932 vikarierat som organist i S:t Peters Klosters församling i Lund. Folkskollärare i Malmö ht 1936—vt 1940, folkskollärare och organist i Västerlövsta 1940 1/7—1952 31/12 och i Ytterby 1953 1/1—1956 30/6. Fr.o.m. 1956 1/7 folkskollärare i Göteborg. (Drejaregatan 3, Göteborg N.)

G. 1942 25/7 i Landskrona kyrka m. *Ruth Dagny Heyl*, f. 1916 6/5 i Landskrona, dotter av skeppsmäklaren *Hilario Wilhelm Otto Heyl* och *Ruth Maria Ingeborg Sjunnesson*. Realexamen vid Landskrona högre allmänna läroverk 1933, sjuksköterskeexamen vid Södra Sveriges sjuksköterskehems sjuksköterskeskola i Lund 1940.

Barn:

Hans Fredrik Wilhelm, f. 1943 17/8 i Uppsala (skriven i Västerlövsta). Studentexamen 1963 22/4 vid Hvitfeldtska högre allmänna läroverket i Göteborg, inskriven vid Handelshögskolan i Göteborg fr. ht 1964.

Ruth Lena Christina, f. 1946 13/5 i Uppsala (skriven i Västerlövsta). Avgångsbetyg 1964 från Vasa kommunala flickskola, Göteborg; elev i gymnasiet vid Hvitfeldtska högre allmänna läroverket i Göteborg fr. ht 1964.

Tabell 20.

Nils (son av Jan Peter, tab. 3), f. 1815 7/1 i Svenstorp vid Hälshult, Tässjö sn, † 1914 19/1 i Hasslöv 2, Hasslövs sn. I skräddarlära och sedan sockenskräddare i Växtorp 1829—o. 1838; handlande där o. 1838—56; lantbrukare i Menlösa, Växtorp, 1856—67, ägde där 2 mtl, byggde Menlösa gård; ägde Timsfors pappersbruk i Markaryd med underlydande gårdar 1867—70; förvaltare på S. Århult Norregård, Ulvaryd, Markaryd, 1870—75; handlande i Hasslöv 1875—87, då han överlät affären till sonen Otto (se tab. 21).

G. 1839 29/12 i Växtorp m. *Christina Olsdotter*, f. 1821 15/5 i Menlösa, Växtorps sn, † 1892 18/7 i Hasslöv 2, Hasslövs sn, dotter av åboen Ola Nilsson och Sissa Jönsdotter.

Barn:

Andreas Magnus, f. 1840 13/5 i Växtorp 4, Växtorps sn, † där 1840 22/8.

Matilda, f. 1841 11/7 i Växtorp, † 1931 12/3 i Hempstead, N.Y., U.S.A. Flyttade från Markaryd till N. Amerika 1869.

Gunilla Cecilia, f. 1843 11/12 i Växtorps sn, † 1929 23/9 i Varberg, begr. i Grimeton. G. 1865 21/6 på Menlösa i Växtorps sn m. godsägaren, riksdagsmannen *Ernst Gustaf Detlof Alfred Bexell* å Torstorp i Grimetons sn, f. 1831 22/11 i Harplinge prästgård, † 1900 3/5 i Varberg, begr. i Grimeton, son av kyrkoherden i Harplinge och Steninge församlingar av Göteborgs stift, Hallands län, teol. d:r, k. hovpredikanten *Justus Gabriel Bexell* och Eleonora Christina (*Nora*) von Segebaden. (Se Släkten Bexell av Carl-Otto Bexell, Göteborg 1911, Gustaf Elgenstierna, Svenska Släktkalendern 1913, andra årgången, Stockholm 1912, sid. 149—52, och Röster i Radio 1955: 46).

Otto, f. 1846, † 1918, handlande och lantbrukare. Se tab. 21.

Here is an enlarged view:

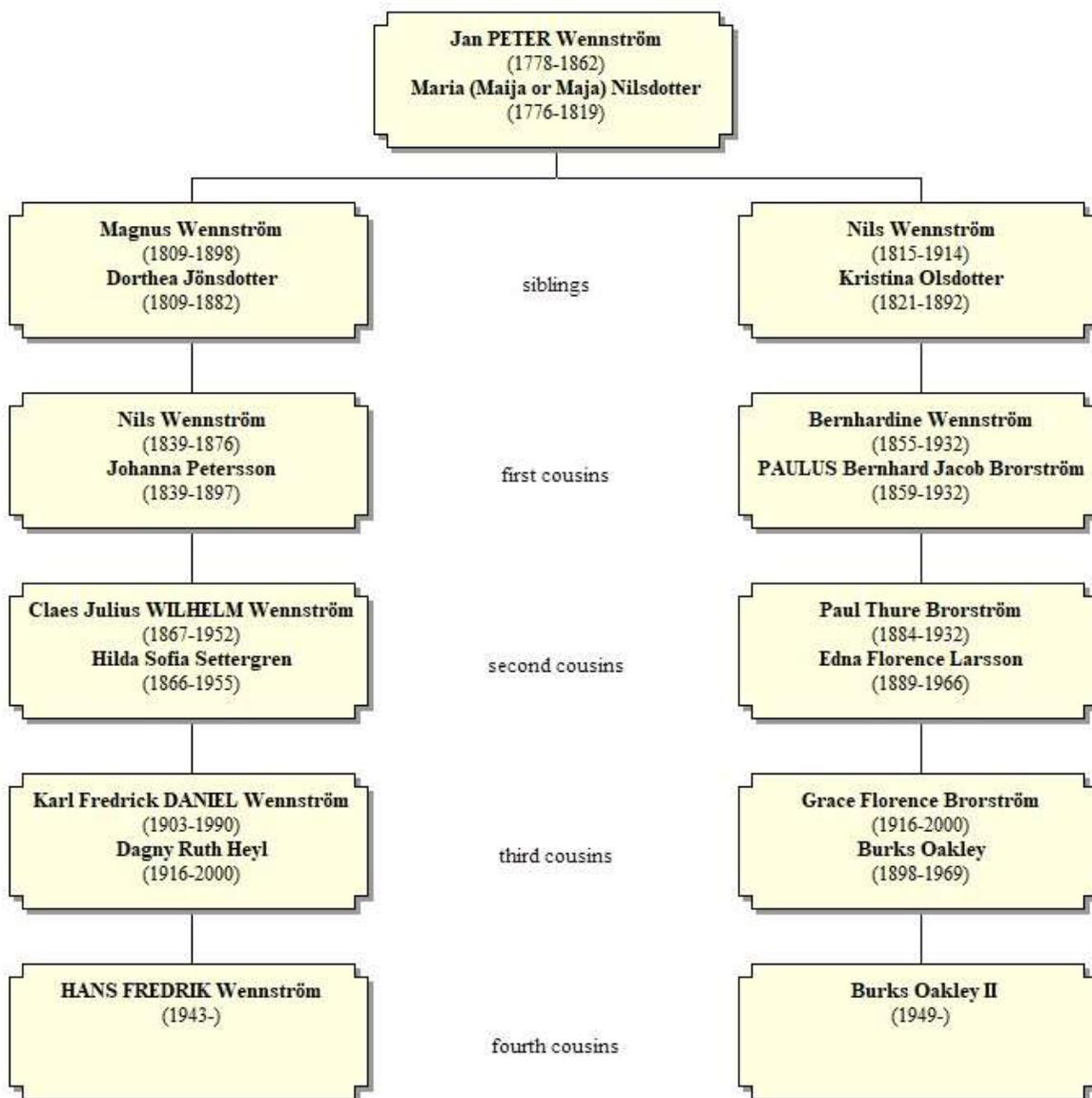
Barn:

Hans Fredrik Wilhelm, f. 1943 17/8 i Uppsala (skriven i Västerlövsta). Studentexamen 1963 22/4 vid Hvitfeldtska högre allmänna läroverket i Göteborg, inskriven vid Handelshögskolan i Göteborg fr. ht 1964.

Ruth Lena Christina, f. 1946 13/5 i Uppsala (skriven i Västerlövsta). Avgångsbetyg 1964 från Vasa kommunala flickskola, Göteborg; elev i gymnasiet vid Hvitfeldtska högre allmänna läroverket i Göteborg fr. ht 1964.

Hans-Fredrik was born on 17 August 1943 in Uppsala, Sweden. He is Lena's older brother. He graduated from the business school at the University of Gothenburg.

Since I already had Lena's family tree, it was simple to substitute Hans-Fredrik for Lena – and our relationship is shown in the following chart:



Hans-Fredrik is my fourth-cousin. Our Most Recent Common Ancestors (MRCA) were Jan Peter* Wennström (1778-1862) and his wife Maria (or Maija or Maja) Nilsdotter (1776-1819). This couple were my third-great grandparents.

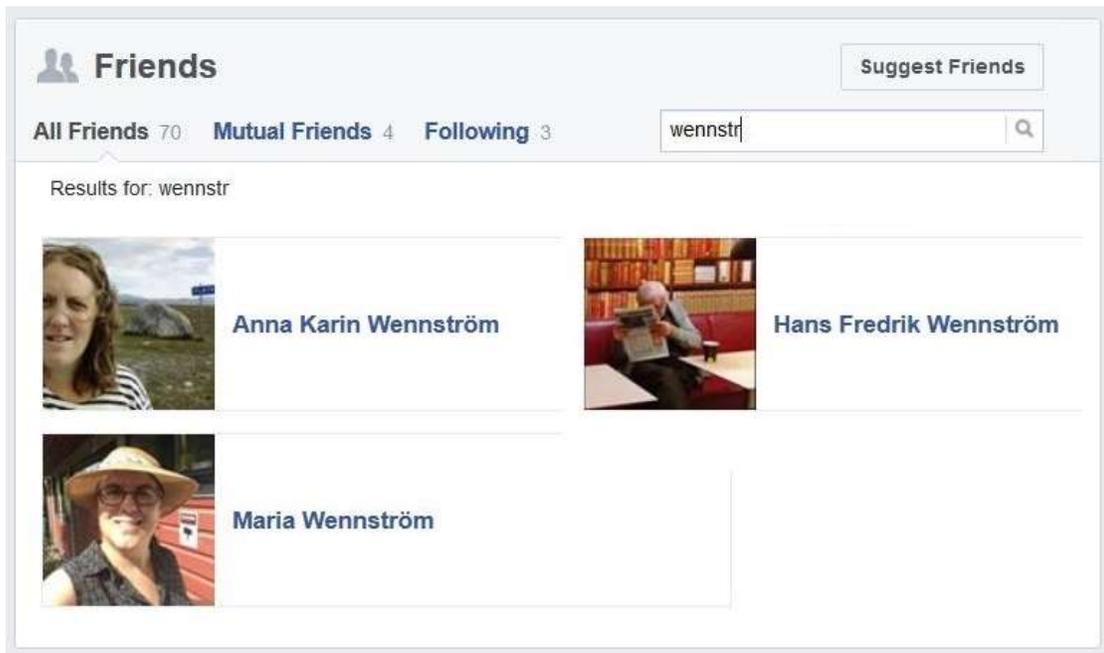
Earlier, I mentioned that Hans-Fredrik and Lena are siblings. Here is a chart showing this relationship:



Some Information about Hans-Fredrik Wennström

I was able to put everything together about Hans-Fredrik just from the *Släkten Wennström* book. But it isn't enough just to know how we are related. I really want to know something about him as a person.

I found Hans-Fredrik on Facebook. And Lena is Facebook friends with Hans-Fredrik and two other Wennströms – Maria and Anna Karin.



Maria and Anna Karin appear to be the correct age to be Hans-Fredrik's daughters.

Lena gave me Hans-Fredrik's e-mail address and we exchanged e-mails. Hans-Fredrick told me that Maria and Anna Karin are indeed his daughters, and they all live in Gävle, which is north of Stockholm on the Baltic Sea:



Origin of the name Wennström

Hans-Fredrik briefly mentioned the origin of the name Wennström in an e-mail that he sent me. He wrote “Also of interest may be that Gävle is not far from the rural 'gård' (farm) in the parish of Vendel, from which the name Wennström is taken.” In a subsequent e-mail, he added that the parish name originally was Wendel, and that the modern spelling is Vendel.

The name Wennström apparently was created by taking the first three letters of the location (Wendel), combined with “ström”, meaning stream or current. If this is the case, then Wennström is another one of those “ornamental” names in Sweden, such as Bergman (mountain man) or Lindgren (linden branch). Ornamental family names frequently were based on a location. For example, Frans August Åkesson (1860-1928) changed his family name from Åkesson to the ornamental name Gutturp, and he selected Gutturp since his family was living in Gudmundtorp at the time.¹

¹ Frans August Åkesson's wife was Pella Hanna Petronella Gustafva Brorström (1853-1922), and she was my great-grandfather's sister.

There are a number of ornamental family names in Sweden that end in -ström, including Lindström, Bergström, Engström, Wikström, and Nyström. According to ratsit.se, there are 21,502 adults in Sweden having the last name of Lindström, and there are 18,199 adults in Sweden having the last name of Bergström. By comparison, there are only 1,658 adults in Sweden having the last name of Wennström (or Vennström).

Here is a map showing the location of Vendel (previously spelled Wendel):



One more thing. I need to add that the full name of the Wennström family book is:

Släkten Wennström
Från Fembecke i Wendel

This translates as:

The Family Wennström
From Fembecke in Wendel

Hans-Fredrik wrote that “Fembecke” was the name of the family’s house and farm, about a kilometer from the small town of Wendel. Fem (also spelled Fen and Fenne) may be related to the English word fen, meaning marshland or

drained marshland; an example of this would be the Fens in East Anglia.² And the ending “-becke” (nowadays “bäck”) is a small canal or river. So the name Fembecke is loosely translated as marshland drained by a small canal or river. And now I know where the Wennström family has its origin – *Från Fembecke i Wendel* (from Fembecke in Wendel).

Summary

In this brief narrative, I have shown how I am related to Hans-Fredrik Wennström, who lives in Gävle, Sweden. I don't really know much about him and I very much am looking forward to meeting him and his daughters, Maria and Anna Karin, when I visit Sweden next summer. Hans-Fredrik already has offered to take me to see Fembecke and Vendel, although he wrote that “Fembecke [is] now a deserted settlement.”

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Fens