

# Finding Out How I am Related to Hedda Brorstrom

by Burks Oakley II  
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## *Introduction*

My mother was Grace Florence Brorstrom (1916-2000), and all four of her grandparents were Swedes who immigrated to America in the 1880's. I have written extensively about my Swedish ancestors and my DNA matches with my Swedish and Swedish-American relatives – see:

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

My mother's paternal grandfather ("farfar" in Swedish) was Paulus Bernhard Jacob Brorström (1859-1932), who immigrated from Sweden to America in 1882. It turns out that the surname Brorström (Americanized to Brorstrom) is not at all common, either in Sweden or in the USA. I wrote a narrative about the small number of adult Swedes with this surname – see:

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

I recently traveled to Sweden, and while in Göteborg, I met two Brorström relatives that I had not met previously, Ann Brorström (left) and Sara Brorström (right):



Meeting these Brorström family members gave me a "push" to figure out how I am related to a Brorström woman here in America.

## *Hedda Brorstrom*

Let me now go back to June 2017, when I had just returned from another trip to Sweden. At that time, I wondered if I had any Brorström relatives living in America. I knew that there isn't anyone with the Brorström surname still living

in my branch of the family. My mother's immigrant grandfather Paulus Brorström had two sons and five daughters, and the first son (Malte Brorström) did not have any children. The second son was Paul Thure Brorström Sr. (1884-1932), and he had one son (my mother's brother), Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001). PTB Jr. had one son and three daughters, and the son did not marry (and as an adult, he changed his surname to Larson). So the Brorström surname died out in my branch of the family.

What about other relatives in the Brorström family who immigrated to America? To search for possibilities, I looked at my RootsMagic database, which was originally based on my father's family tree (with input from my mother). Going back to my third-great grandfather Thure Petter Brorström (1768-1855), I saw a line that seemed to have interesting potential:

Name	Sex	Born	Birth Place	Died	Death Place
1 - Thure Petter Brorström	M	10 Oct 1768	Fågeltofta, Sweden	3 Oct 1855	Borrby, Sweden
+Beata Christina Hultman	F	6 Jan 1787	Karlskrona, Sweden	10 May 1826	Borrby, Kristianstad, Sweden
2 - Bror Thure Brorström	M	1 Nov 1807		12 Feb 1886	
+EMMA Karin Rosenqvist	F	1821		1857	
3 - Thure MAGNUS Brorström	M	1844	Husie, Malmöhus län, Sweden	1907	Huaröd 3, Kristianstad län, Sweden
+Elise Pålsson	F	1850			
4 - Bror THURE Brorström	M	13 Dec 1878	Öjehult, Blekinge län, Sweden	25 Sep 1942	Oakland, Alameda, California, United States
+EMMA Karlsson	F				
5 - Magnus Elis Brorström	M	11 Dec 1907	Alameda, California, United States	15 Aug 1975	Danville, Contra Costa, California, United States
5 - Carl Malte Elnar Brorström	M	29 Apr 1913	Alameda, California, United States	28 Nov 1981	Walnut Creek, Contra Costa, California, United States
+Elaine Marie Johnson	F	1922		2014	

Thure Petter had a great-grandson Bror Thure Brorström (1878-1942), who immigrated to America in 1903. Bror Thure died in Oakland, California. He had two sons, Magnus Elis Brorström (1907-1975) and Carl Malte Elnar Brorström (1913-1981), both of whom were born and died in the Bay Area. I wondered if either (or both) of them had left any Brorström descendants.

### ***Searching for Brorström Descendants in California***

Remember that all this was in 2017, after I returned from my trip to Sweden. I'll try to recreate my search. I did a Google search for anyone named Brorström in California (omitting other spellings from the search):



brorstrom california -broström -brostrom



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About 32,900 results (0.38 seconds)

<https://www.sonomamag.com> > flower-farmer-hedda-br...

### Flower Farmer Hedda Brorstrom's 6 Favorite Sonoma Spots

Jul 5, 2022 — Here are a few more of **Brorstrom's** favorites, from the flower world and beyond. Hidden Forest Nursery has rare rhododendrons and azaleas along ...

<https://www.linkedin.com> > heddabrbrorstrom

### Hedda Brorstrom - Full Bloom Flower Farm - LinkedIn

I am passionate about environmental education and community service projects. I have experience teaching K-12th grades as well as adults ranging in group ...

<https://fullbloomflower.com> > read-me

### fresh flowers- floral delivery- Sonoma County florist Wedding ...

-Owner Hedda **Brorstrom**. Full Bloom Flower Farm. Farming started for me growing up on Wiggle Worm Bait Farm in Graton, **Ca**. My parents tended rich worm beds ...

<https://madelocalmagazine.com> > 2015/07 > coming-int...

### Coming Into Bloom | Made Local Magazine

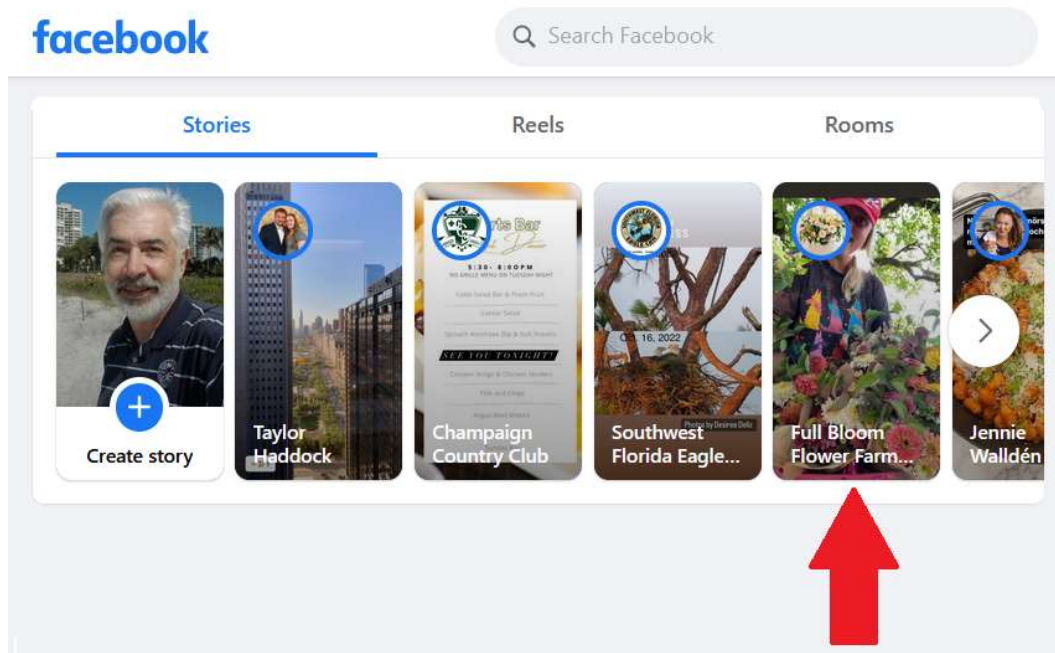
"I cringe when I see people put their faces into conventional flowers," says Hedda **Brorstrom**, a 30-year-old farmer-florist from Full Bloom Flower Farm in ...

Oh my! This search turned up a woman named Hedda Brorstrom, who is a "flower farmer" at the Full Bloom Flower Farm in Sonoma County – see:

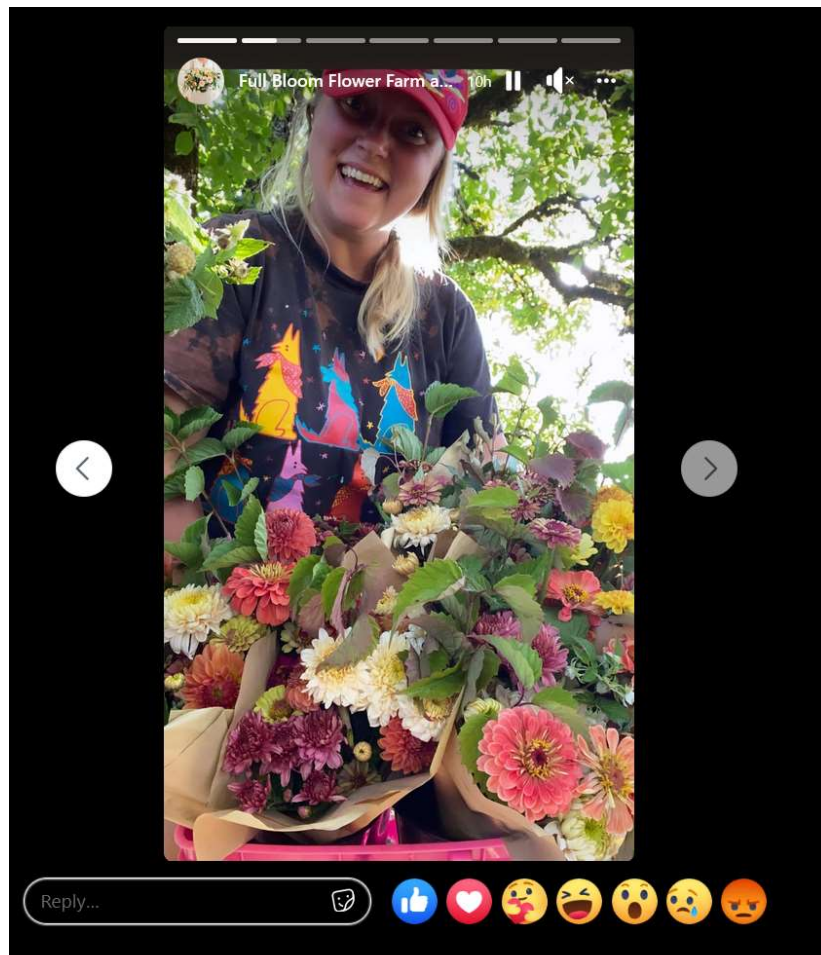
<https://fullbloomflower.com/>

I contacted her using a form on her farm's website, and we exchanged several emails during the summer of 2017. However, she was way too busy running her farm and flower business to think about genealogy. Fortunately, she copied her sister, Leah Brorstrom, on several of our emails, so that gave me another name in her Brorstrom line in America.

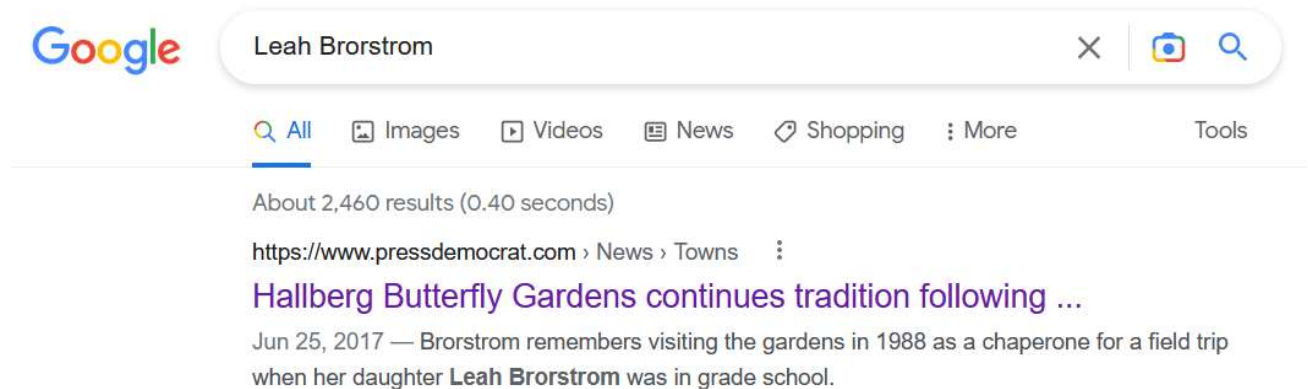
Fast forward to October 2022, when I decided to come back to Hedda and see if I could learn how we are related. I should add that Hedda has never been too far out of mind, since she is a prolific user of Facebook, and I regularly see postings from her and her Full Bloom Flower Farm and Floral Design:







Since I knew that Hedda's sister was named Leah, I searched for Leah Brorstrom on Google, and I found an article on the *Santa Rosa Press-Democrat* website:



This article quoted Leah's mother, Gay Bishop Brorstrom:

Longtime docent and gardens staffer Gay Bishop Brorstrom, 72, estimates there may be 30 sightings on a given day - enough to delight those with patience and appreciation. Some 50 species of butterflies have been identified at the gardens.

Presumably her mother's maiden name was Gay Bishop, and she married a man with the Brorstrom surname. Well, at least I was making progress - going back a generation from Leah and her sister Hedda.

I next Googled Gay Bishop Brorström:



Gay Bishop Brorstrom



All

Images

Videos

News

Maps

More

Tools

About 98,100 results (0.43 seconds)

<https://www.amazon.com> › Vital-Signs-Gay-Bishop-Bro... ⋮

### Vital Signs: A Memoir: Brorstrom, Gay Bishop - Amazon.com

Deeply personal, Vital Signs follows a young woman navigating the life-threatening times of 1968. She struggles to forge the right to her own life as well as to ...

Publisher: McCaa Publications (Novembe... Dimensions: 5 x 0.37 x 8 inches

Publication date: November 8, 2020 Print length: 164 pages

\$15.00 · In stock



<https://clustrmaps.com> › US Persons › B › Gay Bishop ⋮

### Gay Bishop, (707) 823-4929, Sebastopol - ClustrMaps

Mar 6, 2022 — **Gay Bishop** Sebastopol ; Persons Associated with Address 9516 Graton Rd.

**Gay L Brorstrom** · Age 77. (707) 823-4929. Mark A **Brorstrom** ; Persons ...

I learned that Gay is an author, that she lives in Sebastopol, California, and a person associated with her is Mark A. Brorstrom. More progress.

Another “hit” from the Google search was to Gay’s listing on Nuwber.com:

The screenshot shows a Nuwber profile for Gay L Brorstrom. At the top, there are tabs for PERSON, PHONE, and ADDRESS, with the current address 'Sebastopol, CA' entered in a search box. The profile header reads 'Gay L Brorstrom from Sebastopol, CA'. Below this, there are sections for Gender (Female) and Born (January 10, 1945). The ADDRESS section shows the current address as '9516 Graton Rd, Sebastopol, CA, 95472-9749' and includes a 'SHOW MAP' button. The LANDLINE PHONE NUMBER section shows a redacted number '(707) [REDACTED]' and notes it is associated with Mark A Brostrom (2013-2014) and Mark A Brorstrom (2004, 2018). The RELATIVES section lists three individuals: Elaine Marie Brorstrom (Age 99 - Sebastopol, CA), Hedda Brorstrom (Age 37 - Sebastopol, CA), and Leah B Brorstrom (Age 41 - Sebastopol, CA).

This showed that her phone number was associated with Mark Brorstrom, that Hedda and Leah were Gay’s relatives, AND it also listed another relative as Elaine Marie Brorström, age 99. This woman would have to be Mark’s mother. OK –

now I'm starting to build a family tree for Hedda's branch of the Brorström family, and this additional information is moving me forward.

I next searched on the Ancestry.com website for Mark A. Brorstrom – this gave me:

## All Public Member Trees results for Mark A. Brorstrom

Carl Matte Elnar Brorstrom found in 16 trees [View all](#)

Carl Matte Elnar Brorstrom from tree Pedersen Family Tree

Birth	29 Apr 1913 Oakland, Alameda, California, USA	Father	Bror Thure Brorström (1878-1942)
Marriage	5 Feb 1943 Oakland, Alameda, California, USA	Mother	Emma Karlsson (1878-1968)
Residence	1987 Walnut Creek, Contra Costa, California, USA	Spouse	Elaine Marie Johnson (1922-2014)
Death	28 Nov 1981 Walnut Creek, Contra Costa, California, USA		

11845 People 15 Records 17 Sources

Well, I didn't see Mark here, but I did see Elaine Marie Johnson, who was born in 1922. She was married to Carl Matte (probably Malte) Elnar Brorstrom (1913-1981), who lived in the Bay Area. So her married name would have been Elaine Marie Brorstrom – Mark's mother! Note that this is the same name that turned up on the Nuwber search for Gay Bishop Brorstrom.

Here is the profile for Carl Matte (probably Malte) Elnar Brorstrom from the above search result:

Pedersen Family Tree Tree search deanna854

**Carl Matte Elnar Brorstrom**  
BIRTH 29 APR 1913 • Oakland, Alameda, California, USA  
DEATH 28 NOV 1981 • Walnut Creek, Contra Costa, California, USA

**Family**

Parents

**Bror Thure Brorström**  
1878-1942

**Emma Karlsson**  
1878-1968

**Spouse and children**

**Elaine Marie Johnson**  
1922-2014

**Mark Allen Brorstrom**  
1950-

Private

Private

Private

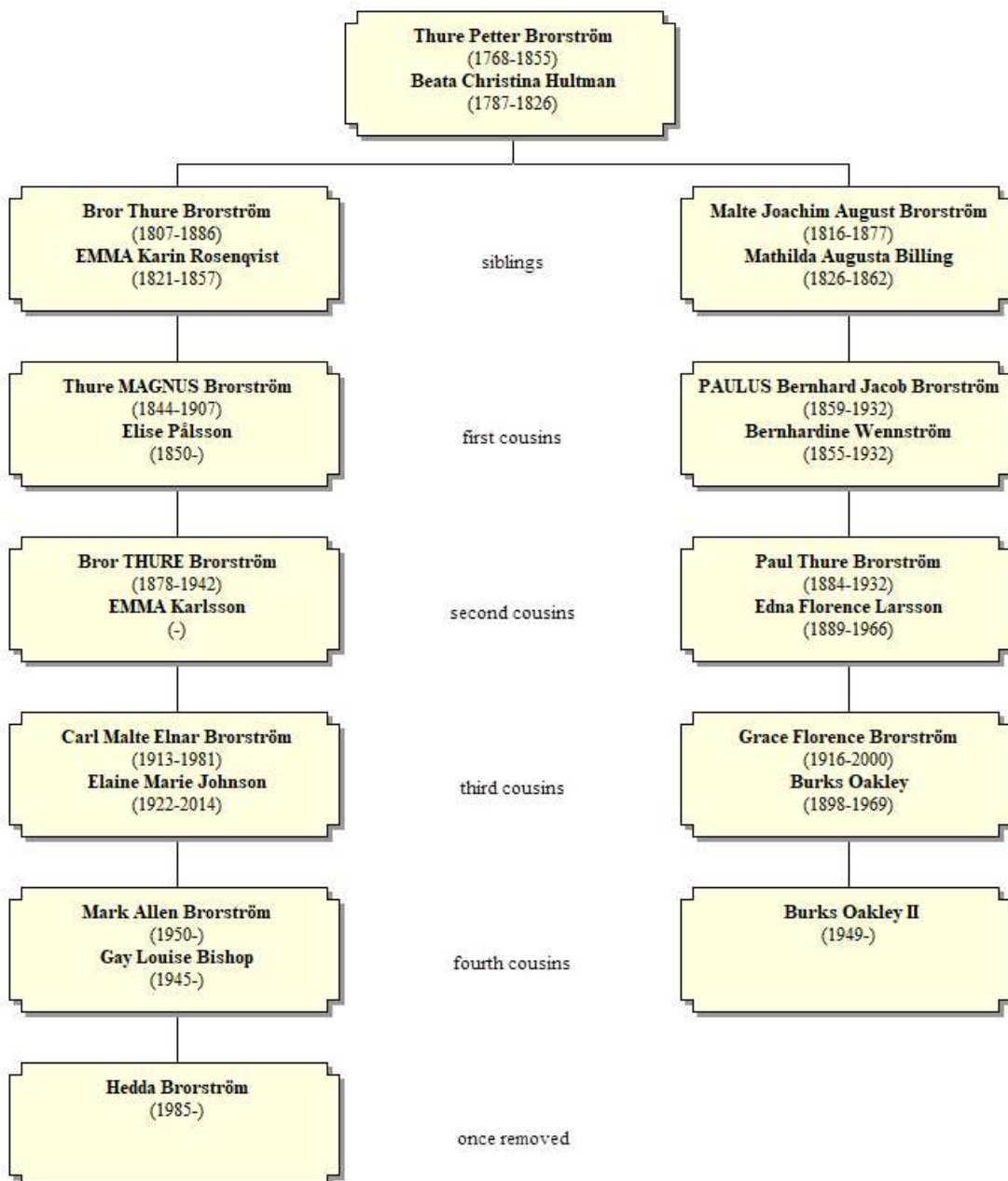
So here we have Mark Allen Brorström (born 1950) and his parents, Carl and Elaine. And Mark's parents were in my RootsMagic database shown earlier:



Name	Sex	Born	Birth Place	Died	Death Place
1 - Thure Petter Brorström	M	10 Oct 1768	Fågeltofta, Sweden	3 Oct 1855	Borrby, Sweden
+Beata Christina Hultman	F	6 Jan 1787	Karlskrona, Sweden	10 May 1826	Borrby, Kristianstad, Sweden
2 - Bror Thure Brorström	M	1 Nov 1807		12 Feb 1886	
+EMMA Karin Rosenqvist	F	1821		1857	
3 - Thure MAGNUS Brorström	M	1844	Husie, Malmöhus län, Sweden	1907	Huaröd 3, Kristianstad län, Sweden
+Elise Pålsson	F	1850			
4 - Bror THURE Brorström	M	13 Dec 1878	Öljehult, Blekinge län, Sweden	25 Sep 1942	Oakland, Alameda, California, United States
+EMMA Karlsson	F				
5 - Magnus Elis Brorström	M	11 Dec 1907	Alameda, California, United States	15 Aug 1975	Danville, Contra Costa, California, United States
5 - Carl Malte Elnar Brorström	M	29 Apr 1913	Alameda, California, United States	28 Nov 1981	Walnut Creek, Contra Costa, California, United States
+Elaine Marie Johnson	F	1922		2014	

Son of a gun! This means that Mark's line goes back to my third-great grandfather, Thure Petter Brorström (1768-1855), and his wife Beata Christina Hultman (1787-1826). And this shows that I am indeed related to Mark and his daughters Hedda and Leah. Success!

I added Mark, his wife Gay, and their daughters Hedda and Leah to my RootsMagic database. Here is a chart showing how Hedda and I are related:



I am a fourth-cousin of Mark, so Hedda and I are fourth-cousins once-removed. (Oops! I see in the chart above that I have listed Hedda and Mark using the Swedish spelling of their surname, Brorström).

### **Mark Brorstrom's Line on Ancestry.com**

My search for Mark A. Brorstrom on the Ancestry.com website found him in the Pedersen Family Tree, which is owned by **deanna854** (most likely Deanna Nelson). This family tree has Mark's father:



**Carl Matte Elnar Brorstrom**  
BIRTH 29 APR 1913 • Oakland, Alameda, California, USA  
DEATH 28 NOV 1981 • Walnut Creek, Contra Costa, California, USA

Then Carl's father:




**Bror Thure Brorström**  
BIRTH 13 DEC 1878 • Ölgehult, Blekinge, Sverige  
DEATH 25 SEPTEMBER 1942 • Jackson Lake Hospital, Alameda, California, USA

Then Bror Thure's father:



**Thure Magnus Brorström**  
BIRTH 1844  
DEATH Unknown

Then Thure Magnus' father:



**Bror Thure Brorström**  
BIRTH 01 NOV 1807 • Karlskrona, Blekinge, Blekinge, Sweden  
DEATH 12 FEB 1886 • Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Skåne, Sweden

The Pedersen Family Tree doesn't go back any farther than this, but Bror Thure is found in a number of other trees on Ancestry.com – here is his profile from Gerd Mörck's family tree:



**Bror Thure Brorström**  
BIRTH 1 NOV 1807 • Karlskrona, Blekinge, Sverige  
DEATH 12 FEB 1886 • Västra Karup, Kristianstad, Skåne, Sweden



And here is Bror Thure's father:



And Thure Petter was my third-great grandfather.

Thure Petter was the priest at the church in Borrby, Skåne. I visited there in May 2018, and took these photos of the family grave:



And here is a selfie in front of the church in Borrby:



Note that on his tombstone he is listed as Prosten Brorström, and in the Swedish church, the Prosten (Provost) is the immediate superior of the “parish priest”.

### ***Are There Any More Brorström/Brorstrom Males in America?***

Since Mark Brorstrom had two daughters (and apparently no sons), the Brorstrom surname will come to an end in his branch of our family tree. So I am left to wonder if there are any more Brorström/Brorstrom males in American who can continue the family name on this side of the Atlantic Ocean. To date, my Google searches on this family name have not found anything useful. Maybe Mark, Hedda, or Leah will know more.

### ***Summary***

In this short narrative, I documented the process that I went through to determine how Hedda Brorstrom and I are related. The Brorstrom surname is not at all common, either in America or in Sweden, so when I saw that Hedda was a Brorstrom, I was quite sure that we are related. After a multi-step search process, I finally learned that Hedda and I are both descended from Thure Petter Brorström (1768-1855) and his wife Beata Christina Hultman (1787-1826). This couple were my third-great grandparents.

In my line, my immigrant ancestor was Paulus Bernhard Jacob Brorström (1859-1932), who immigrated to America in 1882. In Hedda’s line, her immigrant ancestor was Bror Thure Brorström (1878-1942), who immigrated to America in 1903. Paulus and Bror Thure were first-cousins once-removed. Interestingly, Paulus ended up living in the New York area and Bror Thure ended up living in the San Francisco Bay area.



### ***Appendix: Hedda Brorström's Daughter***

After I first contacted Hedda Brorstrom in the summer of 2017, I found her on Facebook and we became Facebook friends. By following her on Facebook, I learned that she had an emergency C-Section in August 2021, giving birth to a daughter named Helena Aurelia Zelda Brorstrom-Gerhard. Her baby weighed just 1 lb. 12 oz. at birth.

I'm glad to report that little Helena is thriving and is now 14 months old. Here are some photos of her that I downloaded from Hedda's Facebook page:



She certainly has the blue eyes that a number of my Swedish-American Brorström cousins have.







And Hedda has those same blue eyes:





My Swedish-American cousins!