

Amanda and Ben Hundley – Swedish-American Cousins from one of the Larsson Branches of our Family

by Burks Oakley II
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Introduction

My mother was Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000). All four of her grandparents were Swedes who immigrated to America in the 1880's. Two of these individuals were her paternal grandparents:

- Paulus Bernhard Jacob Brorström (1859-1932)
- Bernhardine Wennström (1855-1932)

Paulus and Bernhardine immigrated to America on their honeymoon in 1882.

The other two of my mother's grandparents were her maternal ones:

- Lars Emil Larsson (1864-1945)
- Ida Gustava Larsson (1871-1954)

Yes, they both had the family name of Larsson. Lars Emil and Ida Gustava immigrated to America separately, and met each other in America (as far as I know). Larsson was a very common name in Sweden (and still is), and Ida Gustava didn't have to change her name when she married Lars Emil.

I am very interested in my Swedish ancestry, and I have been using DNA testing on Ancestry.com and 23andme.com to confirm and to extend my knowledge of my Swedish roots. Up to this point (February 2019), I have identified DNA matches with descendants of three of the four branches of my family tree represented by my mother's four Swedish grandparents; however, I have not found any DNA matches that involve Ida Gustava Larsson.

My mother's older brother, Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001), was the father of six children, five of whom lived to adulthood. Four of the five of them (Peter, Beth, Annmarie, and Susan) have had their DNA tested on the 23andme.com

website. I have found it useful to examine their DNA matches, since they undoubtedly have DNA matches with some of our distant Swedish relatives that I do not have.

In this narrative, I will describe how I identified two new DNA matches, which connect my close family with Ida Gustava's branch of the Larsson family – the fourth branch that had been absent in my DNA matches up until now.

Ida Gustava Larsson's Branch of my Family Tree

My mother's maternal grandmother (***mormor*** in Swedish) was Ida Gustava Larsson. When I first became interested in DNA and my Swedish ancestry, I corresponded with a distant Swedish cousin, Göran Grotting, who lives in Gothenburg, Sweden. Göran is an expert genealogist, and he researched the ancestors of all four of my mother's grandparents, in his quest to determine how he and I are related. As part of his research, he sent me the following¹ about Ida Gustava Larsson's family:

Generation I

I:1 f
Erik **Larsson** (233). Född 1835-08-03 i Bergum (O). The family Larsson emigrated 1882-09-19 from Gothenburg. (Barn Proband, Far II:1, Mor II:2)
Gift 1871 i Bergum (O) med efterföljande ana.

Barn:

Ida Gustava **Larsson** (231). Född 1871-03-17 i Bergum (O). Död 1954-12-30 i Pleasantville, U.S.A.. (Se Proband).
Emma Christina **Larsson** (235). Född 1873-04-10 i Bergum (O).

I:2 m
Anna Maria **Larsdotter** (234). Född 1842-09-07 i Angered (O). (Barn Proband, Mor II:4)
Gift 1871 i Bergum (O) med föregående ana.

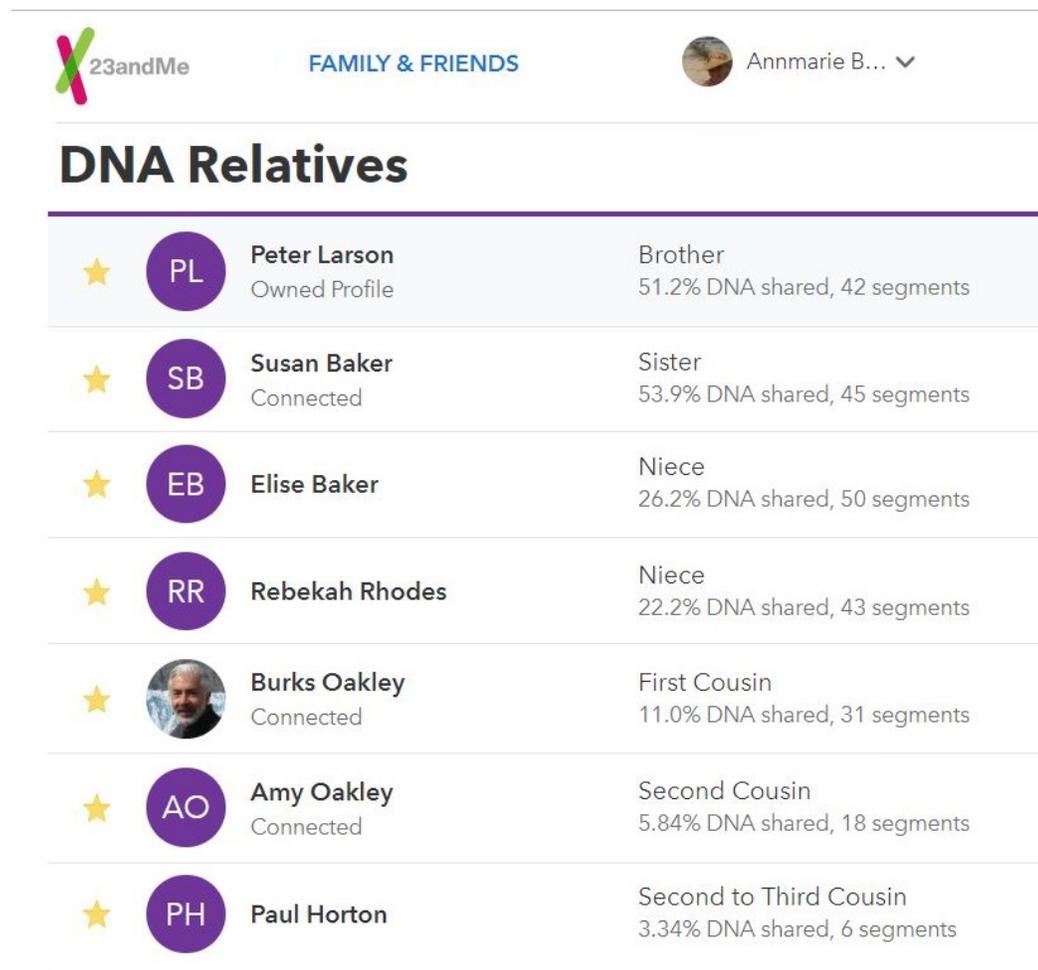
Ida Gustava was born on 17 March 1871 in Bergum, Sweden (north-east of Gothenburg). She had a younger sister, Emma Christina, who was born on 10 April 1873, also in Bergum. The family emigrated on 19 September 1882, departing from Gothenburg (as many Swedish immigrants did).

As an aside, Göran was able to track one branch of Ida Gustava's mother's family back to her third-great grandparents, who lived in the early 1700's.

¹ Sent via e-mail on 17 October 2013.

DNA Matches with Amanda and Ben Hundley

I examined my first-cousin Annmarie Brorström's top DNA matches on 23andme.com – here they are (in order of decreasing size) as of mid-February 2019:



The screenshot shows the 23andMe interface for a user named Annmarie Brorström. The page is titled "DNA Relatives" and lists seven matches in descending order of DNA shared. Each match includes a star icon, a profile picture or initials, the name, relationship, and the percentage of DNA shared along with the number of segments.

Match	Relationship	DNA Shared	Segments
★ PL Peter Larson (Owned Profile)	Brother	51.2%	42
★ SB Susan Baker (Connected)	Sister	53.9%	45
★ EB Elise Baker	Niece	26.2%	50
★ RR Rebekah Rhodes	Niece	22.2%	43
★ Burks Oakley (Connected)	First Cousin	11.0%	31
★ AO Amy Oakley (Connected)	Second Cousin	5.84%	18
★ PH Paul Horton	Second to Third Cousin	3.34%	6

As expected, her largest matches are with her brother Peter Brorström (changed to Peter Larson as an adult) and her sister Susan Brorström (changed to Susan Baker as an adult). Then come her DNA matches with her nieces Elise Baker (Susan's daughter) and Rebekah (Beth's daughter). Then DNA matches with her first-cousin Burks Oakley (yours truly) and his daughter Amy Oakley (a first-cousin once-removed). Finally, the last match on this list is with Paul Horton, who is a second-cousin (a grandson of Annmarie's Great-Aunt Ebba Brorström). So no surprises here.

Scrolling down through Annmarie's matches, I encountered the names Amanda Hundley and Ben Hundley:

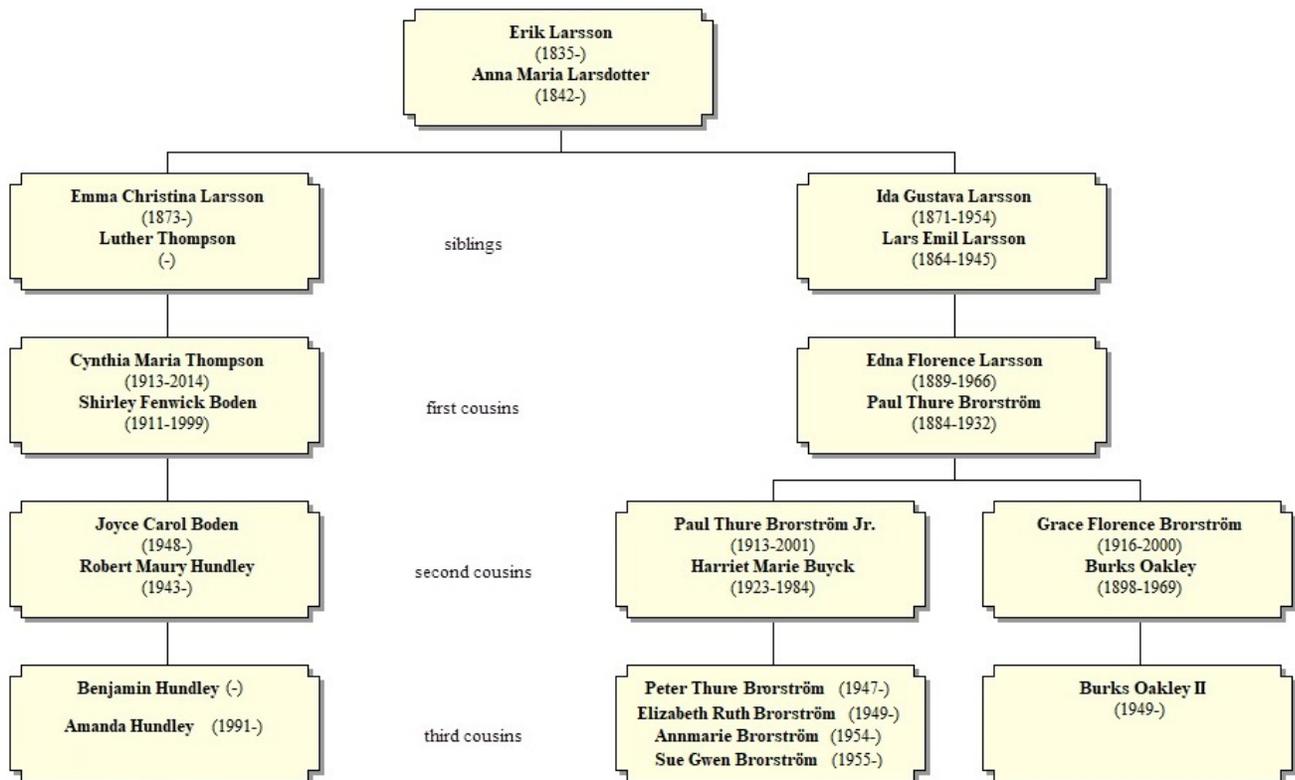
DNA Relatives

- ★ **AH** Amanda Hundley Third to Fourth Cousin
0.59% DNA shared, 3 segments

- ★ **BH** Ben Hundley Third to Fifth Cousin
0.41% DNA shared, 3 segments

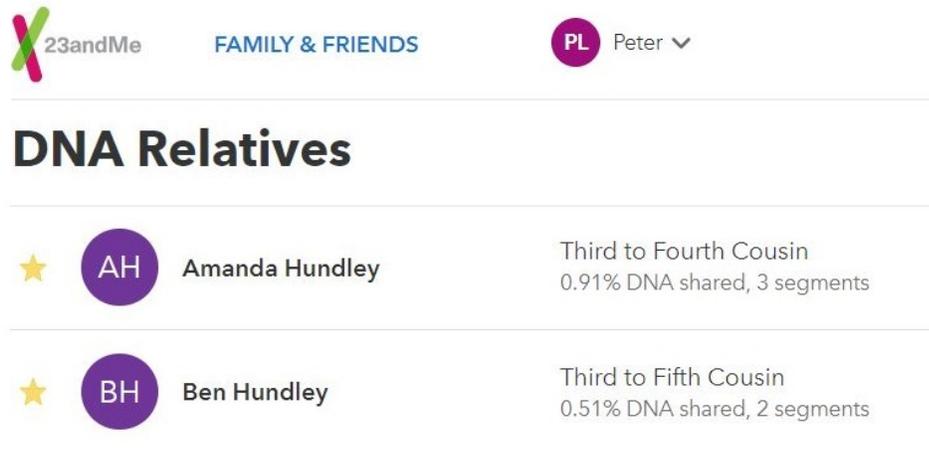
The size of her DNA matches with them suggest that they could be as close as third-cousins. The Hundley surname is known to me – I am Facebook friends with Joyce Boden Hundley. From Facebook, it appears that Amanda and Ben are Joyce’s children.

Joyce is one of our Swedish-American relatives; she was a second-cousin of my mother. Joyce’s mother, Cynthia Maria Thompson (1913-2014), was the daughter of the Swedish immigrant Emma Christina Larsson (born in 1873). Emma’s older sister was Ida Gustava Larsson (1871-1954), and Ida Gustava was my great-grandmother (as well as the great-grandmother of my Brorström cousins). These relationships are shown in the following chart:



Annmarie and Amanda are indeed third-cousins. Of course, all the rest of us in the extended Brorström family (Peter, Beth, Susan, and me) are also third-cousins of Amanda and Ben.

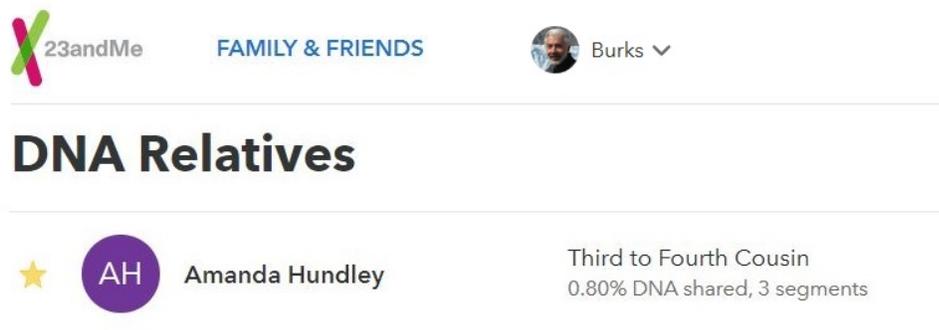
I next looked at the DNA matches of my first-cousin Peter Larson (really Peter Brorström, Annmarie's older brother). Peter also has significant DNA matches with Amanda Hundley and with Ben Hundley:



The screenshot shows the 23andMe interface for Peter Larson's DNA relatives. The page title is "DNA Relatives" and the user is identified as "Peter". Two matches are listed:

Match	Relationship	DNA Shared	Segments
Amanda Hundley (AH)	Third to Fourth Cousin	0.91%	3
Ben Hundley (BH)	Third to Fifth Cousin	0.51%	2

Interestingly, when I looked at my own DNA matches on the 23andme.com website, I found that I only have a DNA match with Amanda; I don't have a match with Ben:



The screenshot shows the 23andMe interface for Burks' DNA relatives. The page title is "DNA Relatives" and the user is identified as "Burks". One match is listed:

Match	Relationship	DNA Shared	Segments
Amanda Hundley (AH)	Third to Fourth Cousin	0.80%	3

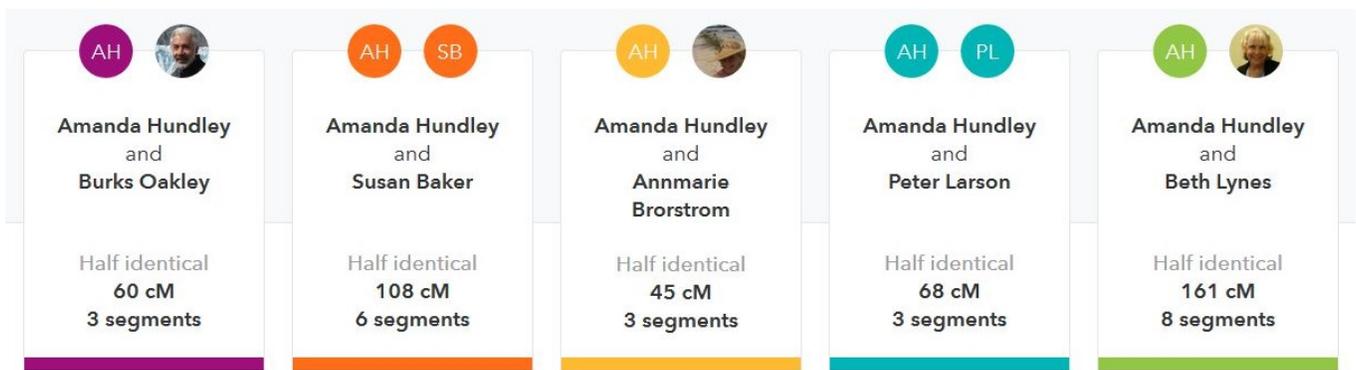
As will be shown below, it is possible for third-cousins NOT to have a DNA match at all, so my lack of a match with Ben is not unheard of.

I found that my first-cousin Susan has a match with Amanda – the following screenshot shows that Amanda is one of 50 relatives that I have in common with Susan:

You have **50 relatives** in common with Susan Baker

Relative In Common		You	Susan Baker	Shared DNA
 Amanda Hundley	3rd Cousin 0.80%	3rd Cousin 1.45%	Yes	

Finally, it is interesting to see how my Brorström first-cousins and I all match Amanda:

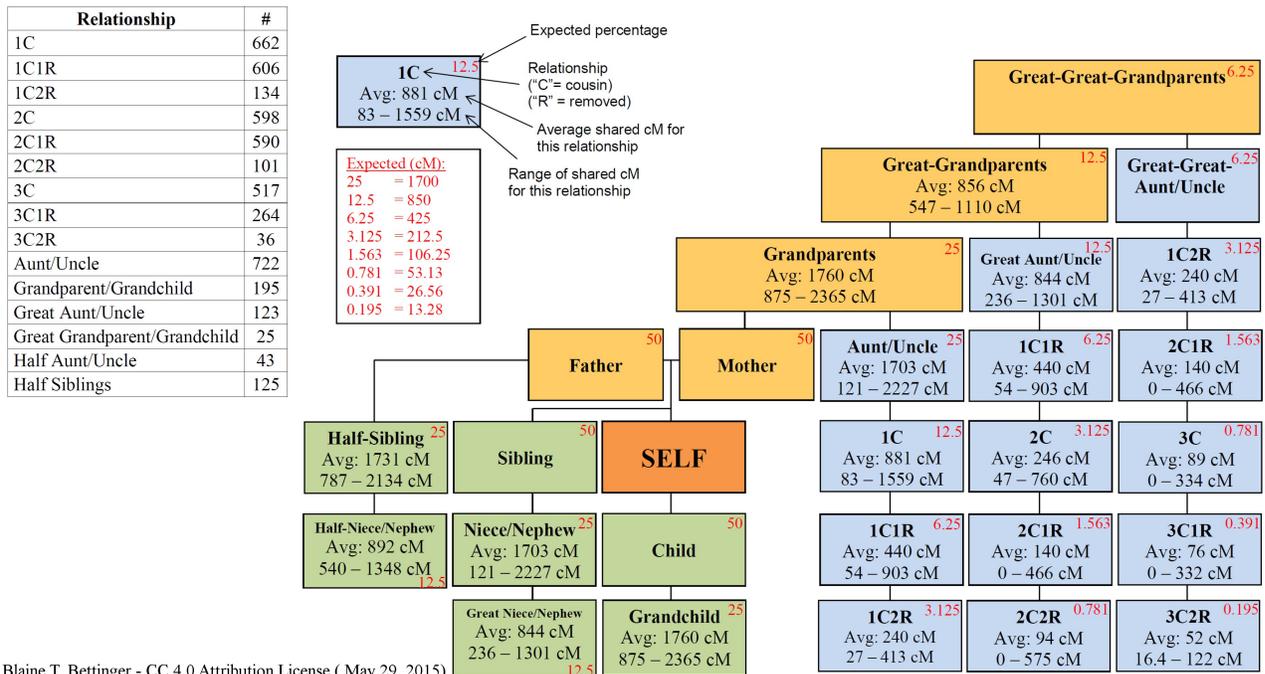


As shown in this graphic:

- Amanda and I share 60 cM of DNA
- Amanda and Susan share 108 cM of DNA
- Amanda and Annmarie share 45 cM of DNA
- Amanda and Peter share 68 cM of DNA
- Amanda and Beth share 161 cM of DNA.

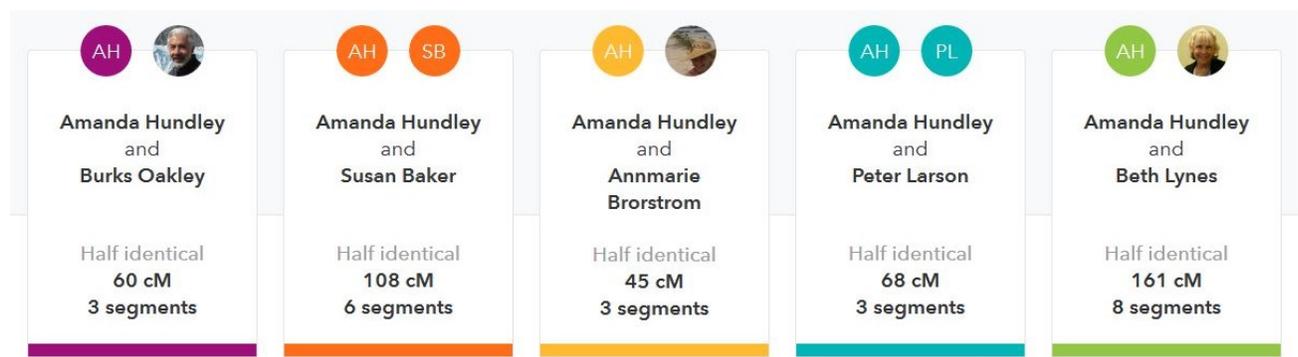
[A centiMorgan, abbreviated cM, is the measure of the size of a DNA match. Very roughly, one centiMorgan corresponds to 1 million base pairs along a chromosome.] In 2015, the noted genetic genealogist Blaine T. Bettinger published the results of a study in which he examined the amount of DNA shared

between two individuals with a known relationship. His results are summarized in the following chart:



Note that third-cousins (3C) on average share 89 cM of DNA, with a range of 0 to 334 cM. So the DNA matches that my Brorström first-cousins and I share with Amanda (60 cM – 161 cM) are well within the expected range.

The 23andme.com website has a tool that allows users to visualize the DNA matches among a group of people. I used this tool to show how Amanda matches all of us:



The following graphic shows how we all match Amanda on Chromosome 2. The color-coding shows that all of us except Annmarie have a matching segment on Chromosome 2:



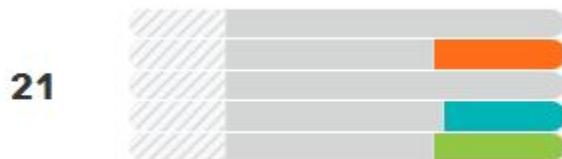
Note that Amanda isn't shown in this graphic; it only shows where we match her.

The largest match that any of us have with Amanda is on Chromosome 19, where Peter and Beth have DNA segments that match Amanda:



Note that Burks, Susan, and Annmarie do not have this segment of DNA.

Finally, three of us – Susan, Peter, and Beth – match Amanda on Chromosome 21:



These graphics illustrate one aspect of how DNA is inherited. Since an individual receives half her DNA from her father and half from her mother, over multiple generations, the DNA is “diluted”, and different descendants of a common ancestor end up with different DNA segments.

About Emma Christina Larsson

Emma Christina immigrated to America with her family in the fall of 1882, when she was just nine years old. Emma Christina had diphtheria as a child, and as a result, she was deaf. She met her husband, Lincoln Andrus Thompson (1866-1940), in Rochester, New York – he also was deaf. I can only assume that they were in Rochester to attend the Rochester School for the Deaf.²

Emma Christina, her husband, and their children Arthur and Anna, appear living in Portage, New York, in the 1910 U.S. Census:

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

1910 United States Federal Census for Lincoln A Thompson
New York > Livingston > Portage > District 062

Street	House No	Visited No	Family No	Name	Relation	Sex	Race	Age	Marital St	Years Mar	Children	Children	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Immigrat	Naturaliz	Speaks English	Occupation	Industry	Empl Type	Out of Wc	Weeks w/	Can Read	Can Write	Attended	Own or R	Mortgage	Farm or F	Farm Sch	Veteran	Blind	Deaf and		
		27726		Lincoln A Thompson	Head	M	W	43	M	4	2	2	New York	Massachusetts	Connecticut			English	Large Farm	Manufacturing		No	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				Emma C Thompson	Wife	F	W	36	M	4			New York	Sweden	Sweden			None	None	None		No	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				Arthur L Thompson	Son	M	W	3					New York	New York	Sweden			None	None	None		No	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				Anna S Thompson	Daughter	F	W	1					New York	New York	Sweden			None	None	None		No	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The column at the far right is “Deaf and Dumb”, and both Lincoln and Emma are marked “DD” in that column. In this context, Deaf and Dumb meant unable to hear and speak.

1910 United States Federal Census for Lincoln A Thompson
New York > Livingston > Portage > District 062

Employment	Out of Wc	Weeks w/	Can Read	Can Write	Attended	Own or R	Mortgage	Farm or F	Farm Sch	Veteran	Blind	Deaf and
None	0	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	DD
None	0	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	DD

Deaf and Dumb		Deaf and Dumb
Household Members		
Name	Age	
Lincoln A Thompson	43	
Emma C Thompson	36	
Arthur L Thompson	3	
Anna S Thompson	1	

The entire family appeared in the 1920 U.S. Census, living in Rochester, where Lincoln was working as a laborer in a car factory:

1920 United States Federal Census for Lincoln A Thompson
New York > Monroe > Rochester Ward 19 > District 0221

Dwelling	Visited No	Name	Relation	Home Ow	Mortgage	Sex	Race	Age	Marital St	Year Imm	Year Naty	Attended	Can Read	Can Write	Birthplace	Tongue	Birthplace	Tongue	Speaks E	Occupation	Industry	Employment
381	199	Lincoln A Thompson	Head	Yes	Yes	M	W	53	M	1906	1906	Yes	Yes	Yes	New York	Swedish	Swedish	Swedish	Yes	Laborer	Car Factory	W
		Emma C Thompson	Wife	Yes	Yes	F	W	47	M	1906	1906	Yes	Yes	Yes	New York	Swedish	Swedish	Swedish	Yes	None	None	
		Arthur L Thompson	Son	Yes	Yes	M	W	12				Yes	Yes	Yes	New York	Swedish	Swedish	Swedish	Yes	None	None	
		Anna S Thompson	Daughter	Yes	Yes	F	W	11				Yes	Yes	Yes	New York	Swedish	Swedish	Swedish	Yes	None	None	
		Gyuthia M Thompson	Nephew	Yes	Yes	M	W	6				Yes	Yes	Yes	New York	Swedish	Swedish	Swedish	Yes	None	None	

The 1920 U.S. Census shows that Emma Christina became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1906.

Larsson Roots in Sweden

The sisters Ida Gustava Larsson and Emma Christina Larsson were born and raised in Bergum, Sweden. Bergum is a small town located north-east of Gothenburg:



Bergum is located in Västra Götaland County. Interestingly, Bergum is almost straight north of Fjärås, which is where Lars Emil Larsson was born and raised. And, of course, Ida Gustava married Lars Emil on 9 September 1888.

Conclusion

In this brief narrative, I have provided some details about my family's DNA matches with Amanda and Ben Hundley. Our DNA matches go back to our Most Recent Common Ancestors (MRCA), who were our second-great grandparents, Erik Larsson (born 1835) and his wife Anna Maria Larsdotter (born 1842). Amanda and Ben are descended from their daughter Emma Christina Larsson, while my Brorström first-cousins and I are descended from their daughter Ida Gustava Larsson.

The DNA matches described in this narrative are a real breakthrough for me, since up until now (mid-February 2019), I did not have any DNA matches that involved my great-grandmother Ida Gustava Larsson (1871-1954). And now I do – with a DNA match going back to her parents in Sweden. I now have DNA matches that include all four of my mother's Swedish immigrant grandparents.

Appendix – Family Photos



Amanda and Ben – Photo from Facebook



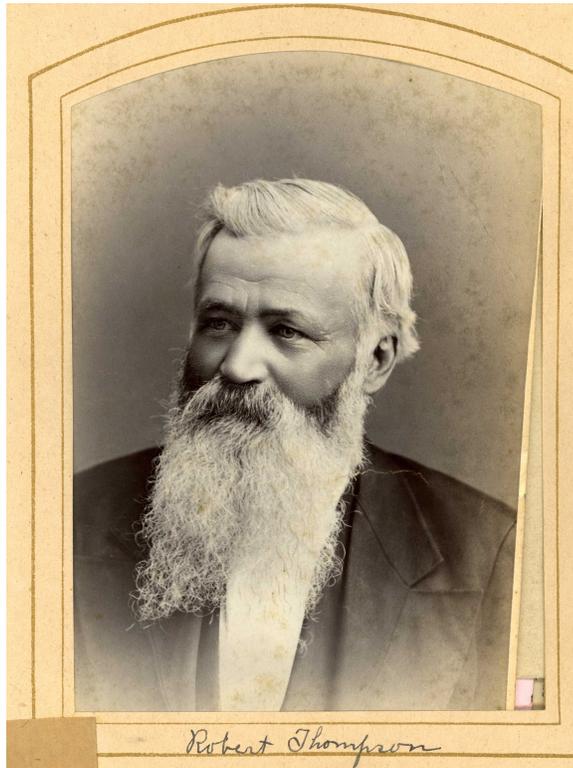
Ben – Photo from Facebook



Amanda – Photo from Facebook



Amanda & her mother Joyce – Photo from Facebook



Robert Wilson Thompson Jr. – Emma Christina’s father-in-law
Photo from Ancestry.com

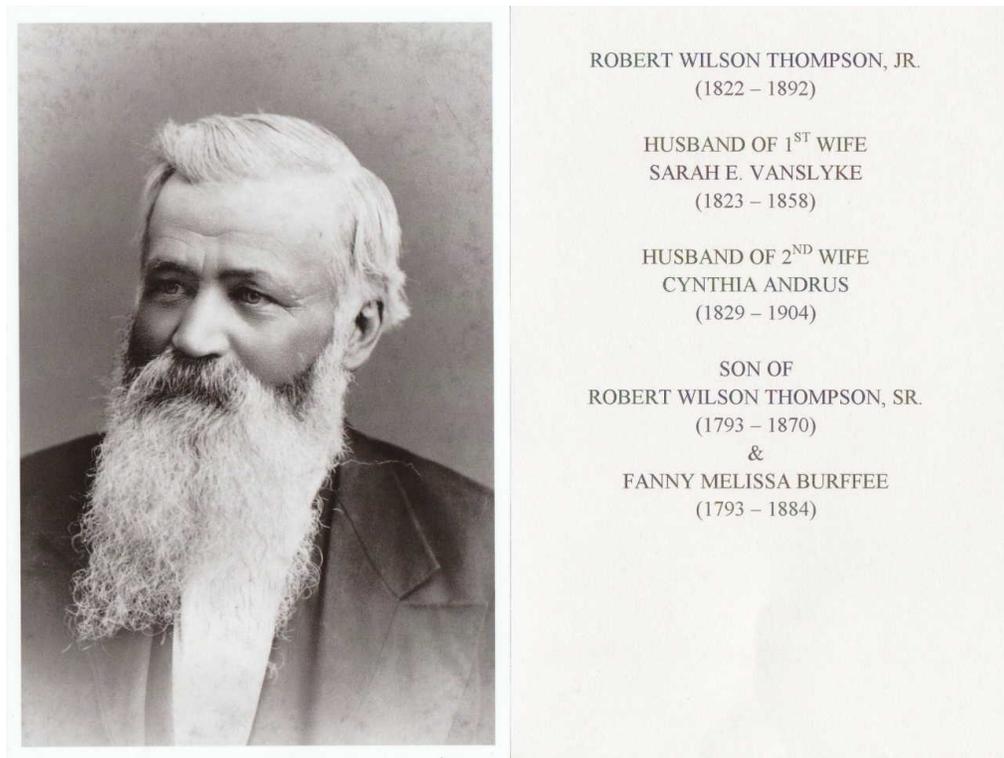


Photo from Ancestry.com