

Jessica Anderson – A Wennström Relative

By Burks Oakley II
20 March 2019 [Updated 2 June 21019]

This narrative includes DNA connections with:

- Jessica Anderson
- Trisha Gable
- Robert Lipot
- Steve Reed
- Jared Wennstrom

Introduction

I am a Swedish-American – my mother was Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000), and all four of her grandparents were Swedes who immigrated to America in the 1880's. I am very interested in learning about my Swedish ancestors, and to that end, I have been using DNA on the Ancestry.com website to expand my knowledge of the Swedish part of my family tree.



Church in Hasslöv, Sweden, where my 2nd-great grandfather Nils Wennström is buried.

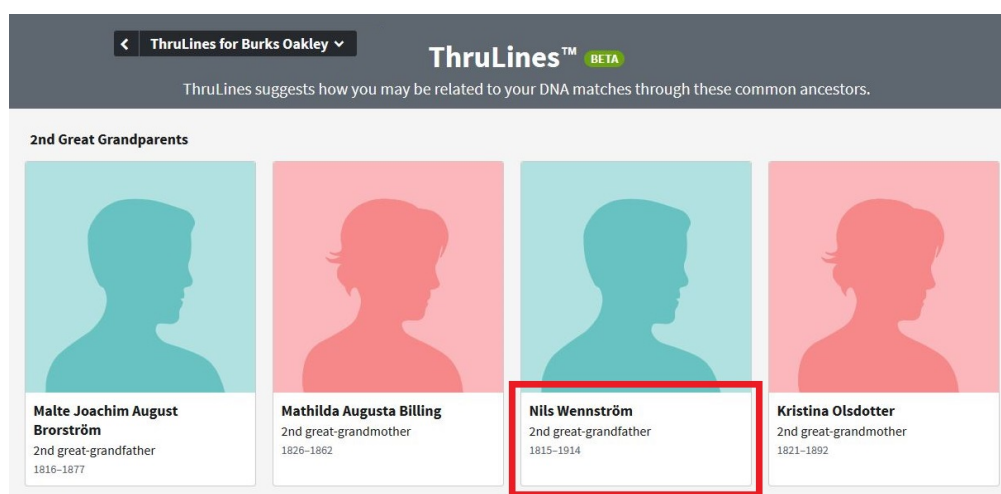
In February 2019, Ancestry.com released a new software feature called ThruLines™. This software first identifies my DNA matches and then searches their family trees (and mine) to determine how we are related. An interesting aspect of this software is that it also searches through other family trees on Ancestry.com, looking to build-out more complete family trees for all the individuals involved. And a somewhat surprising feature of ThruLines™ is that the software also searches family trees that are marked “Private” by their owners. This feature of ThruLines™ is quite useful, in that it provides a look into family trees that are otherwise inaccessible. The ThruLines™ software is still in beta, meaning it is still being tested and is yet to be finalized. I wonder if this access to private trees will make it into the final product.

I have been systematically working my way through all of my ThruLines™, seeking to find new DNA relatives and to determine how we are related. In this way, I have been adding new branches to my family tree, and using the DNA matches to confirm the genealogical record.

In this narrative, I will describe part of my ThruLines™ for my second-great grandfather, Nils Wennström. Nils was born in 1815 in Tåssjö, in northwest Skåne County, Sweden. He lived much of his life in Menlösa, in southwest Halland County, and he died in 1914 just a few weeks after his 99th birthday. He is buried in the church cemetery in Hasslöv, just a few kilometers from Menlösa.

My ThruLines™ for Nils Wennström

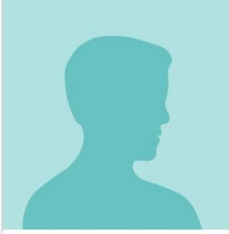

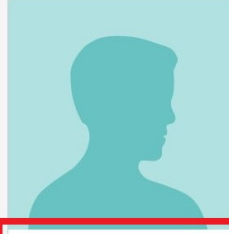

The ThruLines™ on the Ancestry.com website are organized by relationships, starting with two parents, then four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, etc. Nils Wennström appears in the section with my sixteen 2nd-great grandparents:



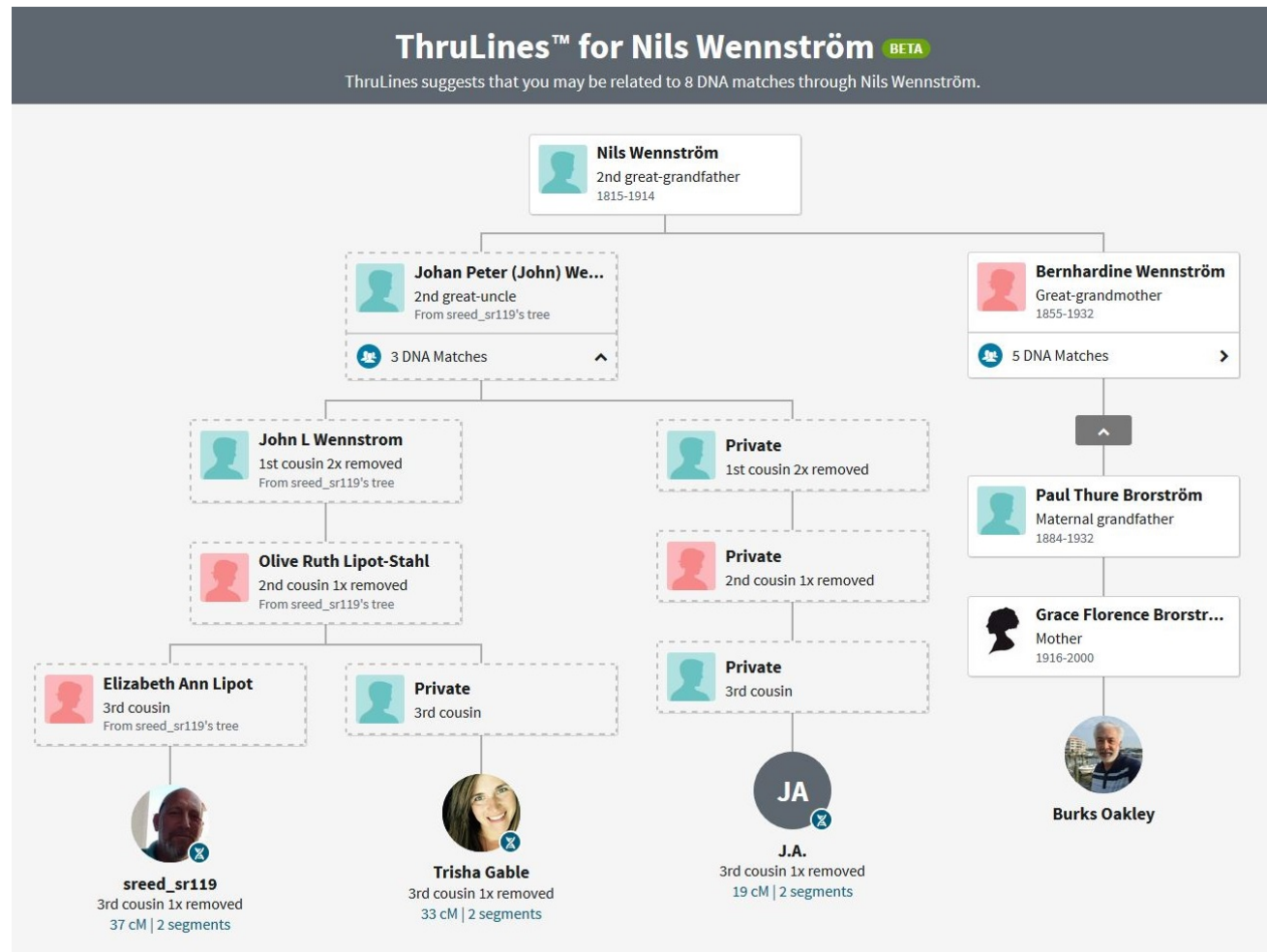
ThruLines™ BETA

ThruLines suggests how you may be related to your DNA matches through these common ancestors.

2nd Great Grandparents

 <p>Malte Joachim August Brorström 2nd great-grandfather 1816-1877</p>	 <p>Mathilda Augusta Billing 2nd great-grandmother 1826-1862</p>	 <p>Nils Wennström 2nd great-grandfather 1815-1914</p>	 <p>Kristina Olsdotter 2nd great-grandmother 1821-1892</p>
--	--	---	--

Opening my ThruLines™ for Nils Wennström shows three lines going back to Nils Wennström through his son Johan Peter (John) Wennström (1853-1939), plus my line going back to Nils through his daughter Bernhardine Wennström (1855-1932). Both John and Bernhardine immigrated to America, settling in New York.



The two lines at the left connect to Steve Reed (*sreed_sr119*) and Trisha Gable. I previously have written about my relationship with each of them:

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

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

Note that the ThruLines™ doesn't include Trisha's father Robert Lipot, since he doesn't have a family tree linked to his DNA profile on Ancestry.com.

The ThruLines™ also identified a new line to **J.A.**, who is my third-cousin once-removed.

In 2017, I contacted her using the message system on Ancestry.com. She replied:

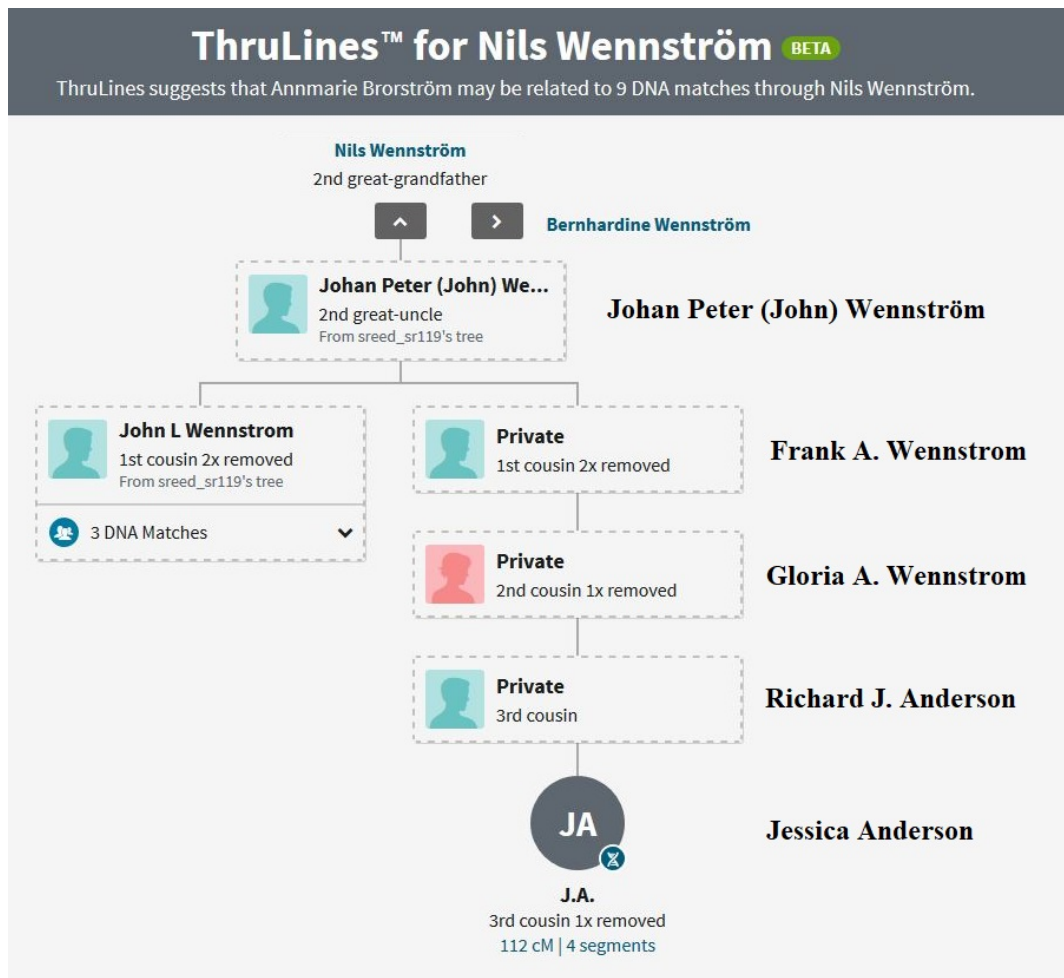
Ancestry message from Jessica Anderson

June 26, 2017

Hey Burks Oakley, this is Jessica Anderson. I am the one who matched on the DNA! I'm curious to find out how we are related!

While I have known about my DNA match with her since 2017, I wasn't able to figure out our relationship, since her tree is "Private" and she didn't share any of her pedigree with me.

Annamarie's ThruLines™ for Nils Wennström also includes the line to **J.A.**:






As I mentioned in the **Introduction**, all the boxes marked private actually contain information about the person's name and year of birth. This is an excellent feature for obtaining information that would otherwise be hidden. I'm not sure if all users will like it when the information they thought was private is actually available to others.

The ThruLines™ show that Jessica is descended from Nils Wennström through his son Johan Peter (John) Wennström, who was born in Våxtorp in 1853 and immigrated to America in 1869. He resided in the New York area.

I next looked to see who else in my family has DNA matches with Jessica – and it turns out that all of my Brorström-Wennström first-cousins have DNA matches with her. Anmarie and Jessica share 112 cM on four DNA segments:

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Anmarie Brorström


★  **J.A.**
(managed by KJC2182)
Member since 2015, last logged in 2 days ago



 **Predicted relationship: 3rd Cousins**
Possible range: 3rd - 4th cousins ([What does this mean?](#))
Confidence: Extremely High 

Amount of Shared DNA
112 centimorgans shared across 4 DNA segments

Susan and Jessica share 77 cM on 5 DNA segments:

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Susan Baker



★  **J.A.**
(managed by KJC2182)
Member since 2015, last logged in 2 days ago


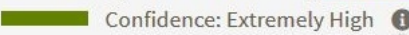
 **Predicted relationship: 4th Cousins**
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins ([What does this mean?](#))
Confidence: Extremely High 

Amount of Shared DNA
77 centimorgans shared across 5 DNA segments

Finally, Stuart and Jessica share 111 cM on five DNA segments:

[AncestryDNA Home](#) > Member Matches for Stuart Eck

  **J.A.**
(managed by KJC2182)
Member since 2015, last logged in 2 days ago

 **Predicted relationship: 3rd Cousins**
Possible range: 3rd - 4th cousins ([What does this mean?](#))
Confidence: Extremely High 



















Amount of Shared DNA
111 centimorgans shared across 5 DNA segments

One last thing – when I look at MY shared DNA matches with Jessica, I see Robert Lipot and his daughter Trisha, whom I have written about previously. But Jessica and I also share DNA matches with a man named Jared Wennstrom:

[AncestryDNA Home](#) > Member Matches for Burks Oakley

Shared matches with J.A.

4TH COUSIN

-   **Robert Lipot** 
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins
Confidence: High   No Trees 
-   **Trisha Gable** 
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins
Confidence: High   248 people 
-   **Jared Wennstrom** 
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins
Confidence: Good   Unlinked Tree 

I have no idea who Jared Wennstrom is, and his family tree only shows his two parents, both labeled "Private". However, it is nice to see that I have a DNA match with someone having the Wennström surname. Hopefully I can contact him sometime soon and learn more about his connection to our family. At first glance, he certainly fits into the Wennström family, in that he and I have shared DNA matches with Amy, Stuart, Susan, Annmarie, Robert Lipot, Steve Reed, Trisha Gable, and Eva Josefsson. Recall that Eva is a Swede who is descended from Hans Petter Wennström (1835-1923), who was a younger half-brother of Nils Wennström.

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

Conclusion

I successfully used my ThruLines™ for my second-great grandfather Nils Wennström to determine exactly how Jessica Anderson and I are related. Jessica is my third-cousin once-removed. She is descended from Nils Wennström's son Johan Peter (John) Wennström, while I am descended from Nils Wennström's daughter Bernhardine Wennström. Both John and Bernhardine immigrated to America, settling in the New York area.

Jessica also has DNA matches with a number of my Brorström-Wennström cousins.

Finally, by examining my shared DNA matches with Jessica, I found a man named Jared Wennstrom, and it will be interesting to determine exactly how we are related.