

More About Our Family's Roots In Fjärås, Sweden

By Burks Oakley II
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I hadn't looked at my cousin Stuart Eck's DNA matches on Ancestry.com in a long time. So a few days ago, I looked at his DNA matches and I filtered them so that I would see only those that I had not previously viewed ("Unviewed") AND where software on the site was able to determine that Stuart and the DNA match shared a common ancestor (or common ancestors). One of the DNA matches on the resulting list was Joel Johnson:

The screenshot shows the 'Stuart Eck's DNA Matches' page on Ancestry.com. The page title is 'Stuart Eck's DNA Matches'. Below the title are navigation tabs: 'All matches' (selected), 'By parent', 'BETA', 'By ancestor', and 'By location'. There are also filters for 'Unviewed' and 'Common ancestors', and a search/sort option. The main content area is titled 'Distant Family' and features a match for 'Joel Johnson'. The match details are: '5th - 8th Cousin', '18 cM | < 1% shared DNA', 'Parent 1's side', 'Public linked tree 24 People', and 'Common ancestor'.

Stuart and Joel share just 18 cM on DNA, but the small size of this match means that their common ancestor is likely to be many generations in the past.

I next looked at their common ancestor:

The screenshot shows the 'Common Ancestors' section for Stuart Eck and Joel Johnson. The title is 'How are Stuart Eck and Joel Johnson related?' followed by 'Common Ancestors'. The text explains that according to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect Stuart Eck and Joel Johnson. It states that Stuart Eck and Joel Johnson could be 6th cousins through two common ancestors: Erik Jonsson (5th great-grandfather, 1702-1760) and Elin Nilsson (5th great-grandmother, 1708-1762). Each ancestor has a 'View Relationship' link.

Stuart and Joel are both descended from Erik Jonsson (1702-1760) and his wife Elin Nilsdotter (1708-1762). This couple were Stuart's fifth-great grandparents.

I went on to look at the chart showing how Stuart and Joel are likely related:

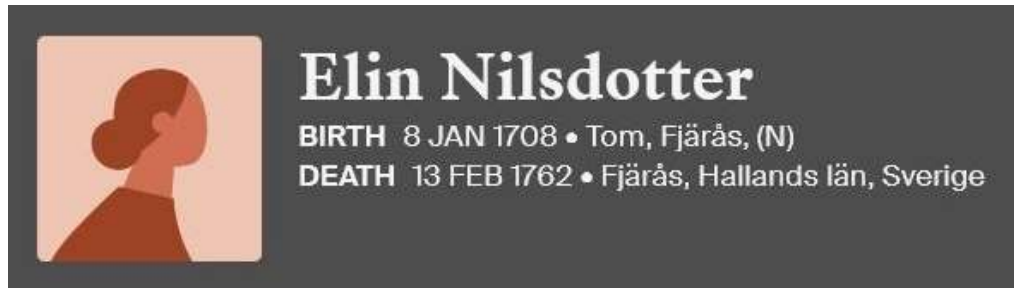


Stuart is descended from the Jonsson-Nilsdotter couple through their daughter Svenborg Eriksdotter (1749-1822), while Joel is descended from this couple through their daughter Anna Eriksdotter (1746-1809). On these lines, Stuart and Joel are sixth-cousins.

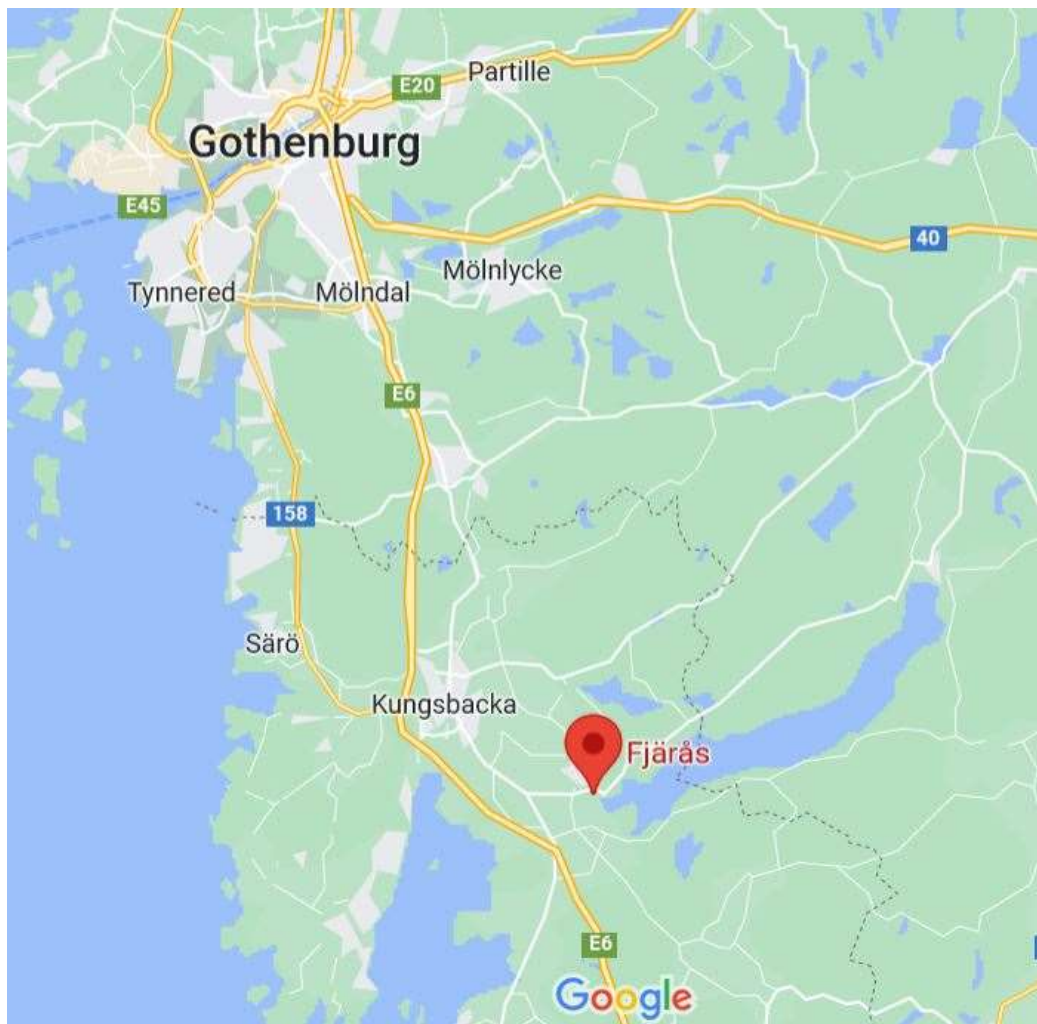
Here is part of the profile for Erik Jonsson:

Erik Jonsson
BIRTH 14 SEP 1702 • Fjärås, Halland, Sweden
DEATH 19 SEP 1760 • Fjärås, Halland, Sweden

And here is part of the profile for Elin Nilsson:

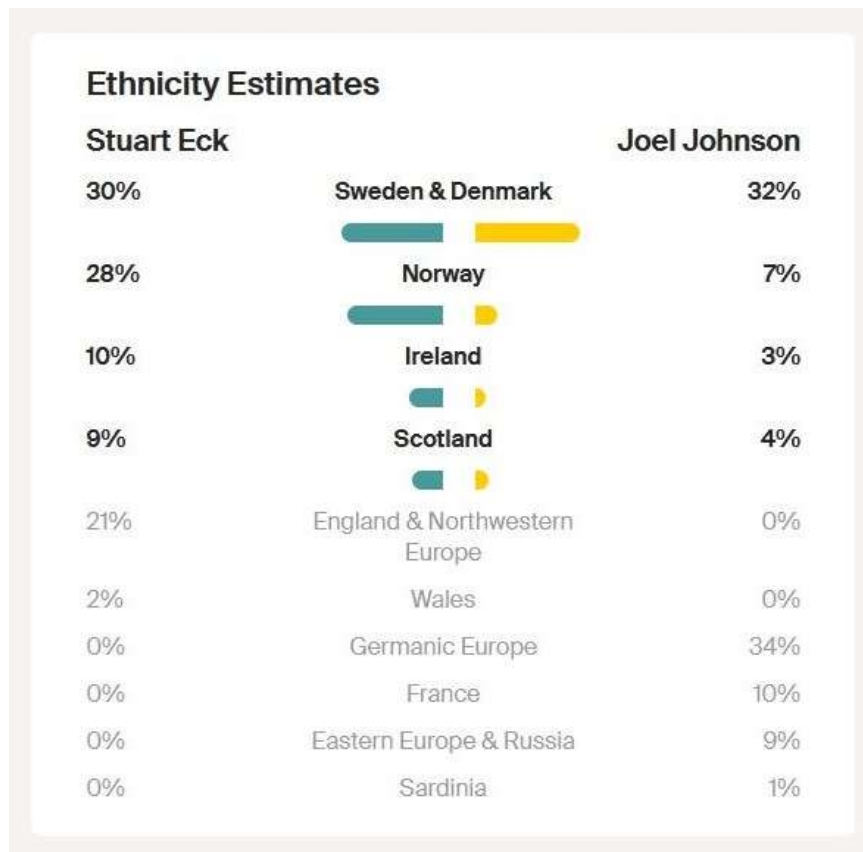


Nils and Elin lived in Fjärås, Sweden, which is located by the western coast of Sweden, south of Göteborg (Gothenburg). Fjärås is in the far northern part of Halland County:



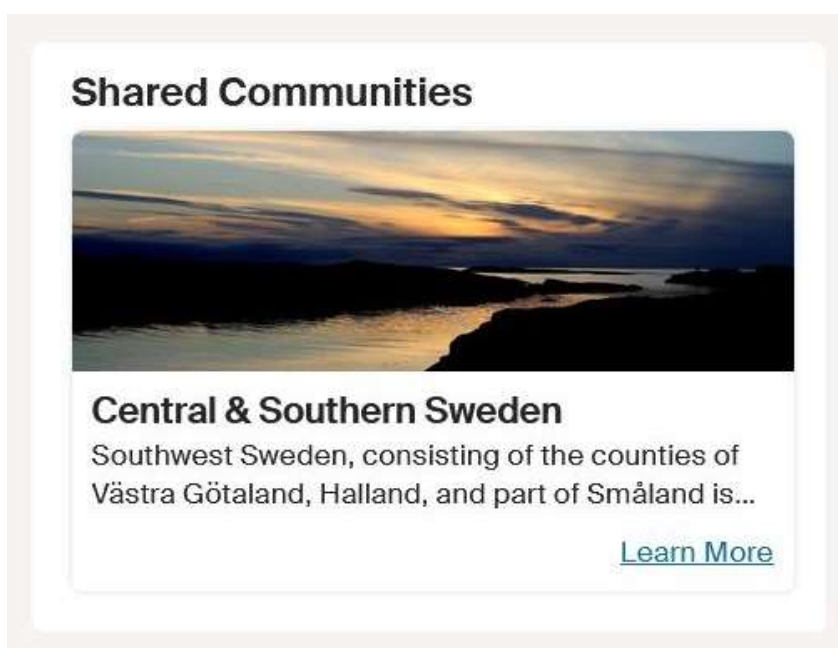
I have visited Fjärås several times during my trips to Sweden – the first time was in 2016 with my Swedish-American cousin Susan Baker (née Brorström).

I went on to compare the Ethnicity Estimates for Stuart and Joel:



As expected, Stuart and Joel both have significant ethnicity from Sweden & Denmark.

Interestingly, Ancestry.com correctly identified their “Shared Communities” as Central & Southern Sweden:



I also looked at my other Swedish-American Brorström cousins. Peter Larson (born Brorström) has a 19 cM DNA match with Joel Johnson:



Neither Susan Baker (née Brorström) nor Annmarie Brorström have a DNA match with Joel Johnson.

I have a 14 cM DNA match with Joel:



The screenshot shows a DNA match profile for 'You and Joel Johnson'. On the left is a circular profile picture of a man with a beard and a blue and white striped shirt. To its right is a pink circle containing the letters 'JJ'. The text to the right of the circles reads: 'You and Joel Johnson' in a large blue font, '5th - 8th Cousin | Maternal side' in a smaller black font, and '< 1% shared DNA: 14 cM across 1 segments' in a light blue font.

I also looked at the DNA matches that are shared by Stuart and Joel. In order to be in this group, an individual has to have DNA matches with both Stuart and Joel that are at least 20 cM in size. This size requirement limits the number of “Shared DNA Matches”.


Here is the single person on the list of DNA matches shared by Stuart and Joel:



The screenshot shows a shared DNA match profile for 'Stuart Eck and Joel Johnson'. On the left is a circular profile picture of a man in a suit and red tie. To its right is a pink circle containing the letters 'JJ'. The text to the right of the circles reads: 'Stuart Eck and Joel Johnson' in a large blue font, '5th - 8th Cousin | Parent 1's side' in a smaller black font, and '< 1% shared DNA: 18 cM across 2 segments' in a light blue font. Below this is a navigation bar with 'Trees', 'Ethnicity', and 'Shared Matches' (which is underlined). Below the navigation bar is a 'Filter by:' section with 'Unviewed' (selected) and 'Common ancestors' buttons, and a 'Search | Sort' dropdown. Below the filters is a 'Distant Family' section containing a match for 'Matthew Bulow'. The match entry includes a profile picture icon, the name 'Matthew Bulow', the relationship '4th - 6th Cousin', the match details '46 cM | < 1% shared DNA', and the side 'Parent 1's side'. There is also a link to an 'Unlinked Tree'.

They both have DNA matches with Matthew Bulow. The good news is that Stuart’s DNA match with Matthew is 46 cM (rather large). The bad news is that Matthew does not have his DNA profile linked to his family tree – and his family tree consists only of one person – Matthew himself.

Amazingly, Stuart and Matthew have a large number of shared DNA matches. The individuals on this list include Stuart’s daughter Jessica, Peter Larson, myself and my daughter Amy, and eight other people. Of those eight other people, four of them are listed as having an ancestor in common with Stuart:







Stuart Eck and Matthew Bulow

4th – 6th Cousin | Parent 1's side
 < 1% shared DNA: 46 cM across 2 segments

Trees Ethnicity **Shared Matches**

Filter by: Unviewed Common ancestors Search | Sort ▾

Distant Family

	Diana langston	4th – 6th Cousin 28 cM < 1% shared DNA Parent 1's side	Public linked tree 25 People Common ancestor
	Rebecca Clevenger Managed by Jennifer Hamilton	4th – 6th Cousin 28 cM < 1% shared DNA Parent 1's side	Public linked tree 135 People Common ancestor
	tessa langston	4th – 6th Cousin 27 cM < 1% shared DNA Parent 1's side	Public linked tree 1,402 People Common ancestor
	pdrpam1	4th – 6th Cousin 21 cM < 1% shared DNA Parent 1's side	Public linked tree 1,359 People Common ancestor

For all four of these individuals, the common ancestors were found going back on Stuart's Larsson line in Fjärås.

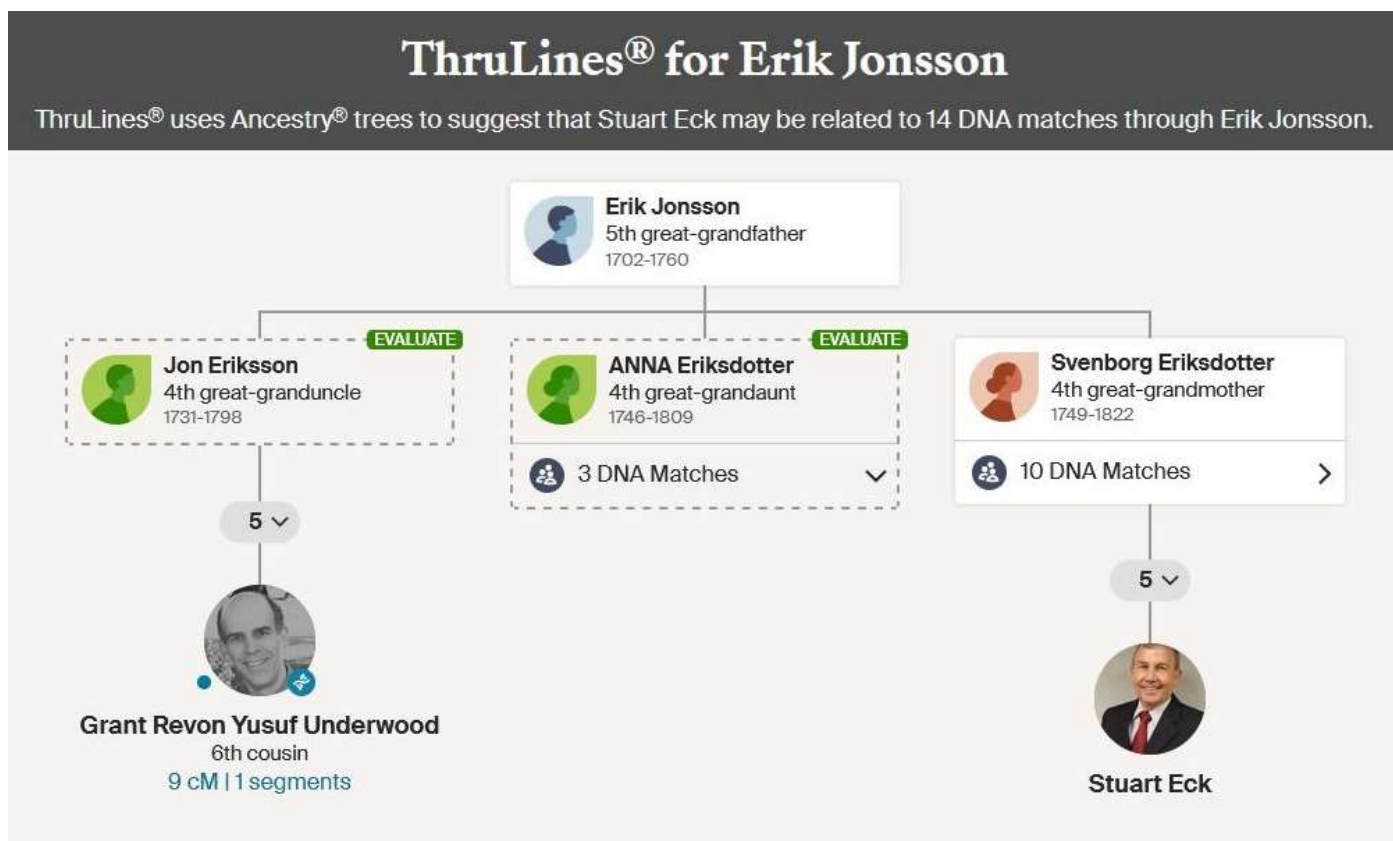
I should note that on this list, Rebecca Clevenger is Diana Langston's daughter, and Tessa Langston is Rebecca Clevenger's daughter.

I'm sure that I could keep going with this for quite some time. Stuart and Diana Langston have a number of shared DNA matches, and one of them is with Gail Thackaberry Cocagne, who also is a Larsson relative with roots in Fjärås:

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

But I'll stop with the "Shared DNA Matches" at this point.

For completeness, I looked at the ThruLines™ charts for Erik Jonsson. Here is Stuart's ThruLines™ chart:

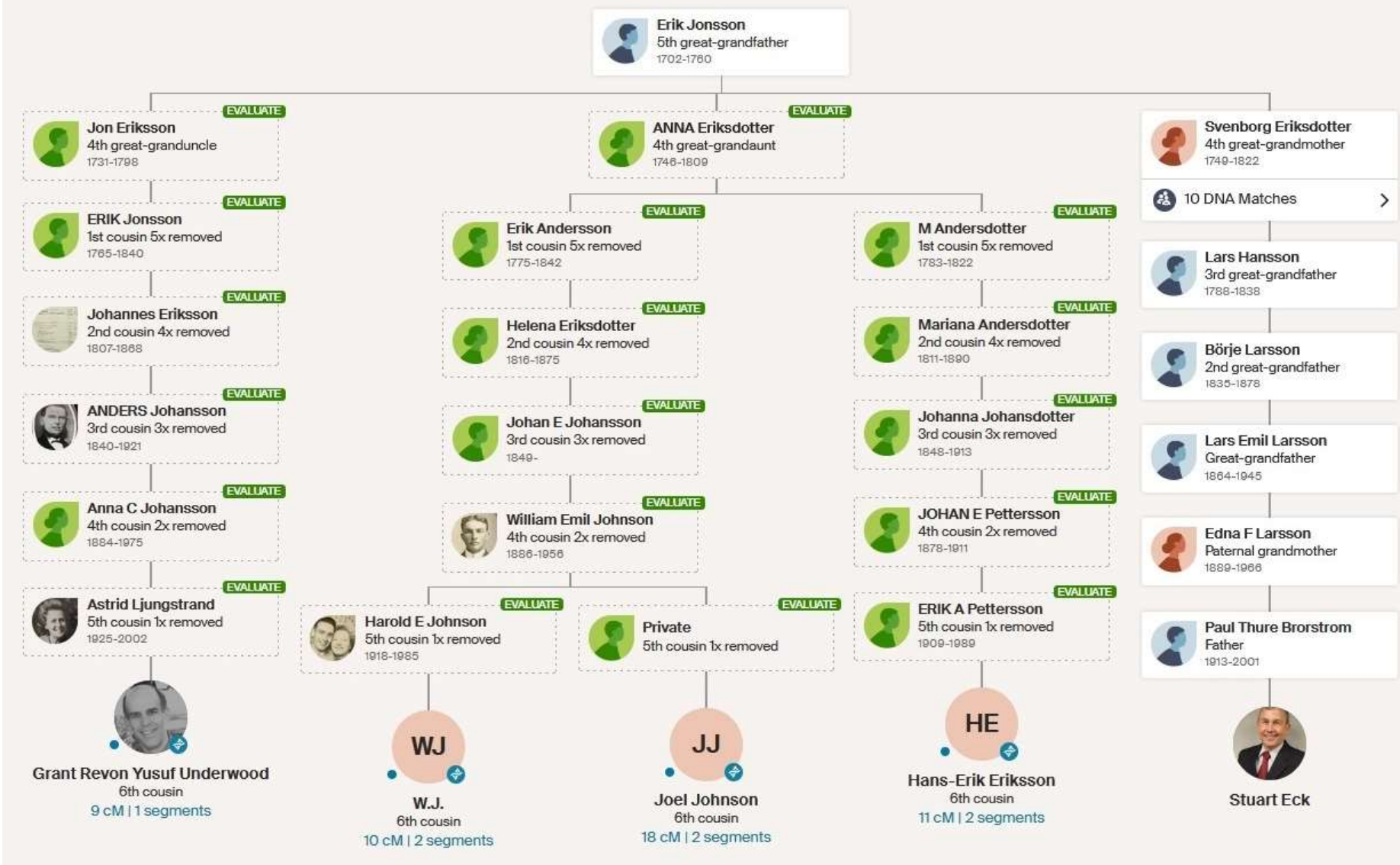


This chart shows that Stuart has DNA matches with fourteen descendants of Erik Jonsson. The ancestral lines connect back to Erik through three of his children: Jon Eriksson, Anna Eriksdotter, and Svenborg Eriksdotter.

Here is the line through Anna Eriksdotter:

ThruLines[®] for Erik Jonsson

ThruLines[®] uses Ancestry[®] trees to suggest that Stuart Eck may be related to 14 DNA matches through Erik Jonsson.

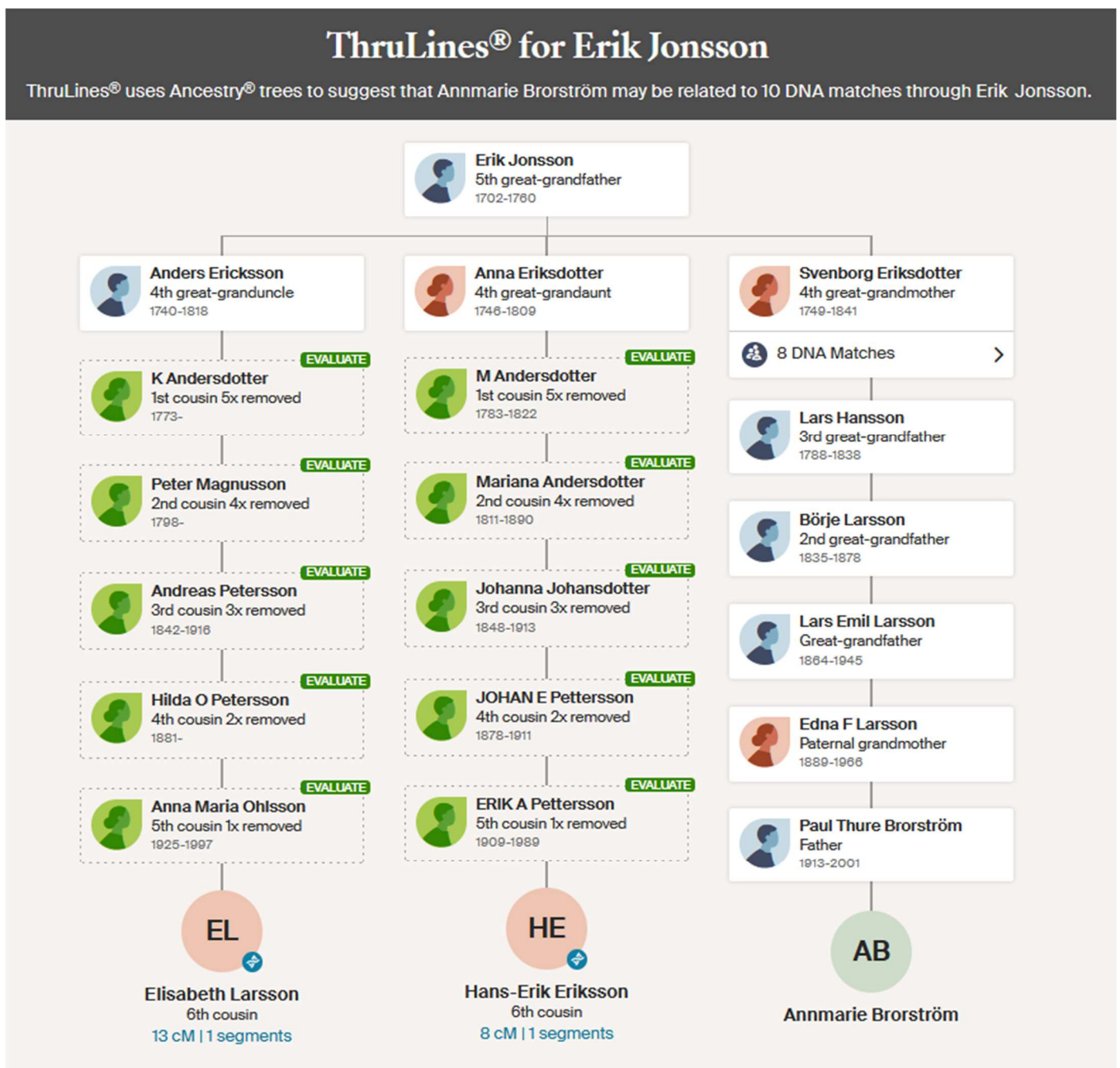


This section of Stuart's ThruLines™ chart for Erik Jonsson shows Stuart's DNA match with Joel Johnson in the bottom-center of the chart. It also shows that Stuart has a DNA match with Joel's first cousin, **W.J.** (his last name also must be Johnson). It also shows Stuart's DNA match with Hans-Erik Eriksson. I also have a match with Hans-Erik, which I mentioned in an earlier narrative about our common ancestor Erik Jonsson:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/ErikJonsson-ThruLines.pdf>

I should add that Stuart's ThruLines™ chart for Elin Nilsdotter (Erik Jonsson's wife) is essentially identical to his chart for Erik, but it is missing my DNA match!

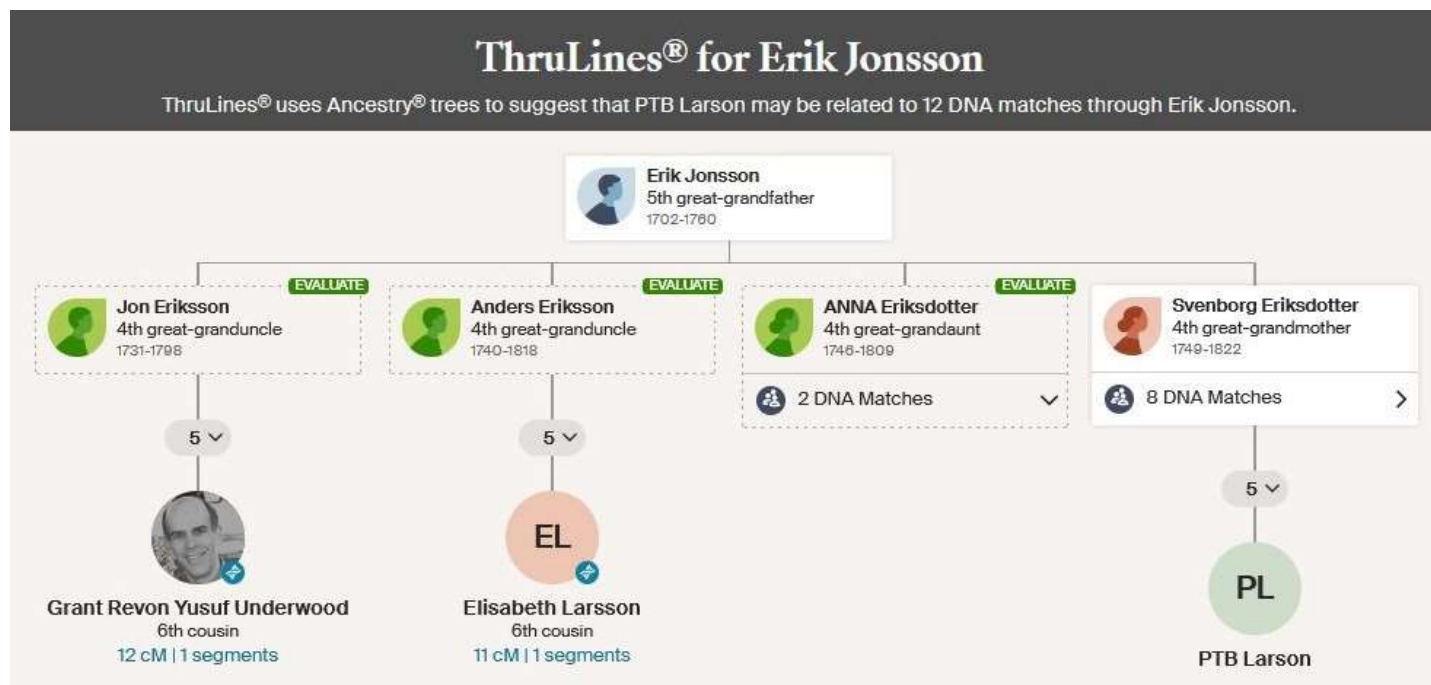
I went on to look at Annmari's ThruLines™ chart for Erik Jonsson:



Annmari's chart is very different than Stuart's. She is missing the line to Joel Johnson and his cousin **W.J.**, and she has a new line to Elisabeth Larsson, which connects back to Erik Jonsson through his son Anders Ericksson. Of course, these differences are to be expected, given the way that autosomal DNA is inherited – especially going back to fifth-great grandparents.

And once again, Annmari's ThruLines™ chart for Elin Nilsdotter is missing the DNA connection with me. No idea why....

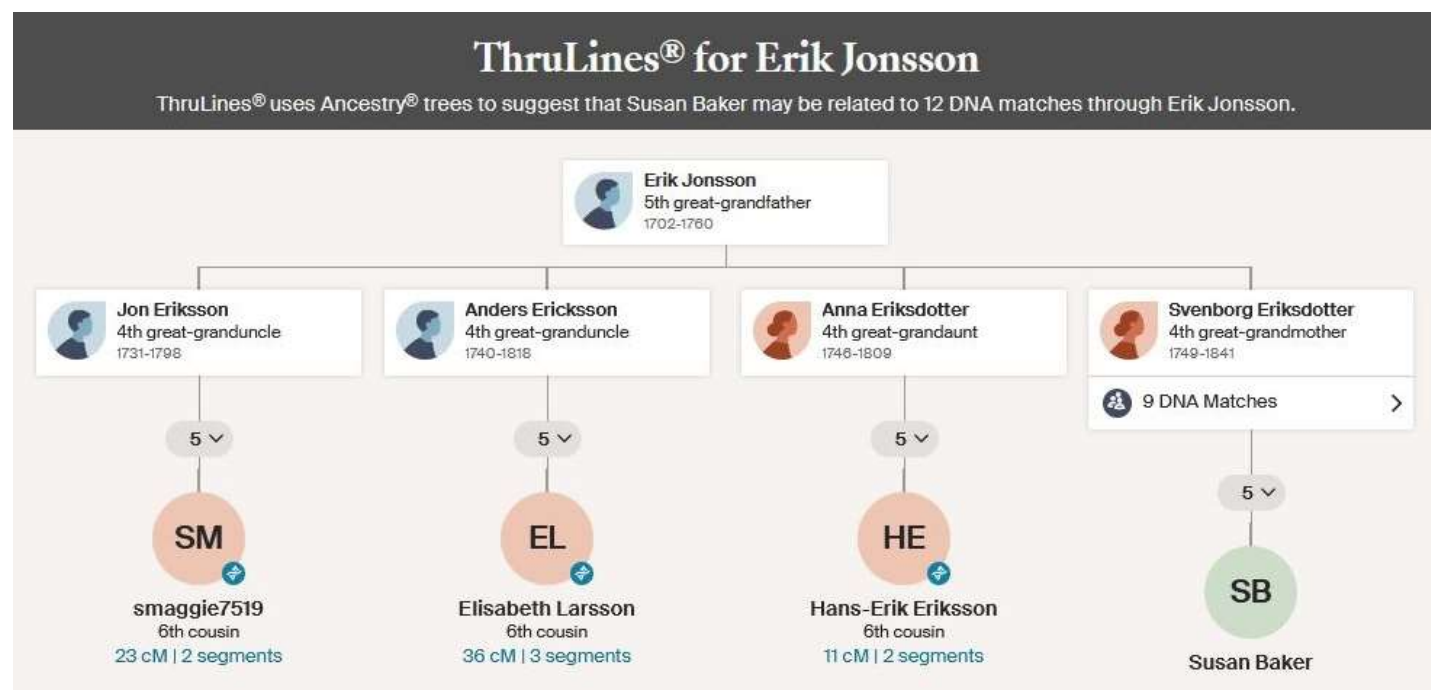
Moving on, here is Peter's ThruLines™ chart for Erik Jonsson:



Peter has DNA matches with twelve descendants of Erik Jonsson, and interestingly, his matches connect back through four of Erik Jonsson's children (compared with three for Stuart and Annmarie). The line going back through Erik's daughter Anna Eriksdotter connects to Joel Johnson and his cousin *W.J.* (not shown).

Once again, Peter's ThruLines™ chart for Elin Nilsson is the same as his chart for Erik Jonsson, except that it is missing the DNA connection with me.

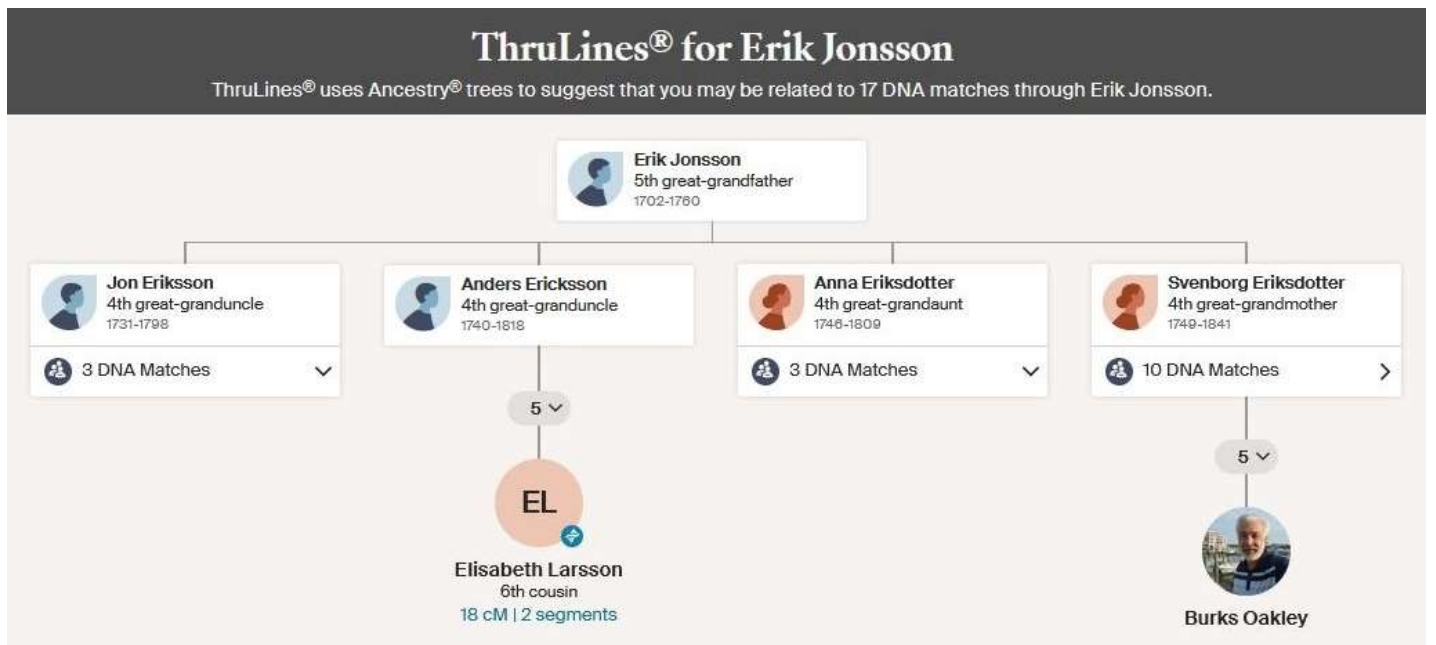
Here is Susan's ThruLines™ chart for Erik Jonsson:



Susan has DNA matches with twelve descendants of Erik Jonsson. Like Peter, these matches connect back to Erik Jonsson through four of his children. But Susan's has DNA matches with several different people than Peter does. Again, this comes from the variable way in which autosomal DNA is inherited.

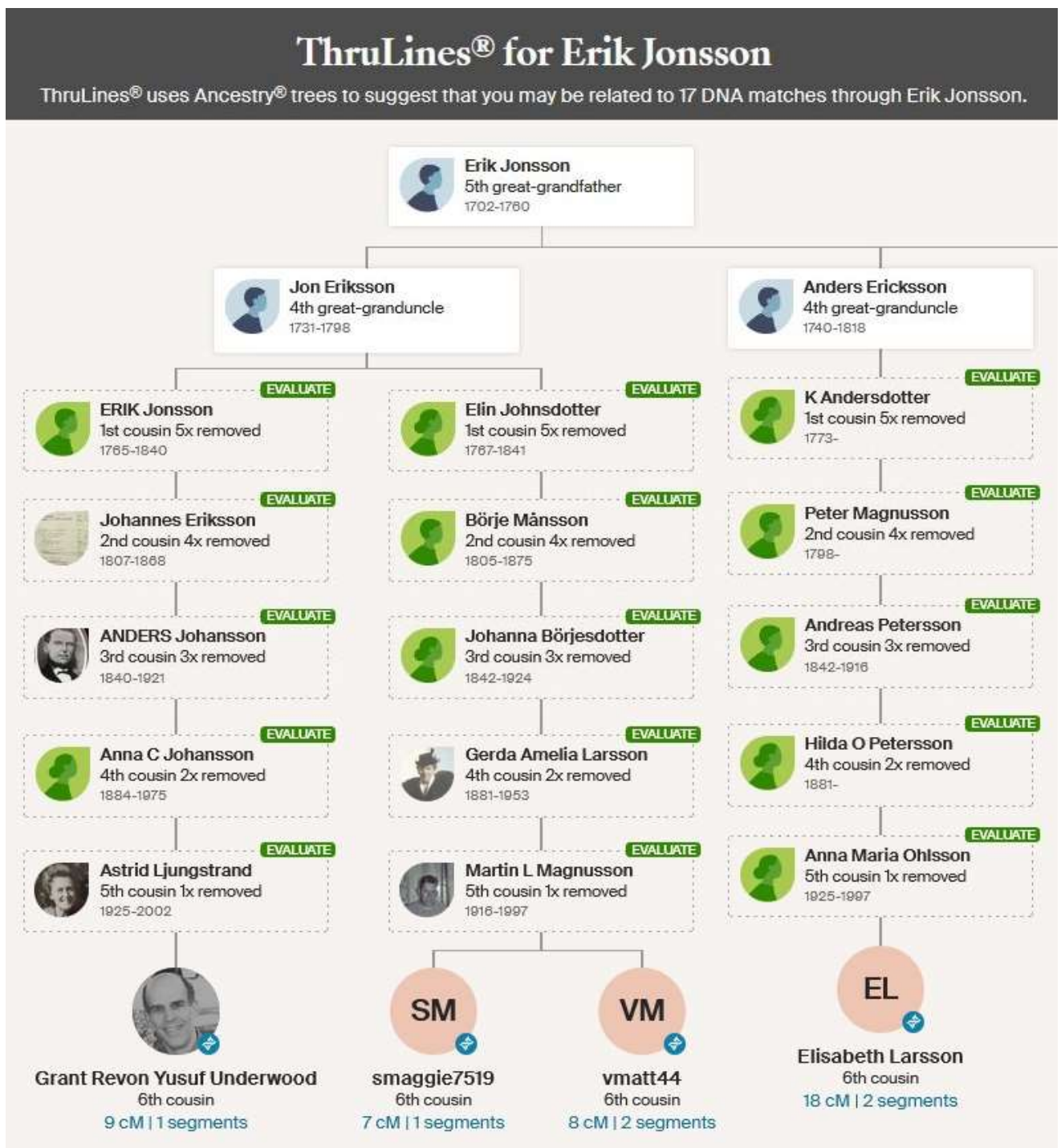
Of course, since the Brorström siblings all inherited these DNA matches from their father, Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001), this means that Paul would have had ALL of these DNA matches on ALL of these lines.

For completeness, I decided to look at my ThruLines™ chart for Erik Jonsson:



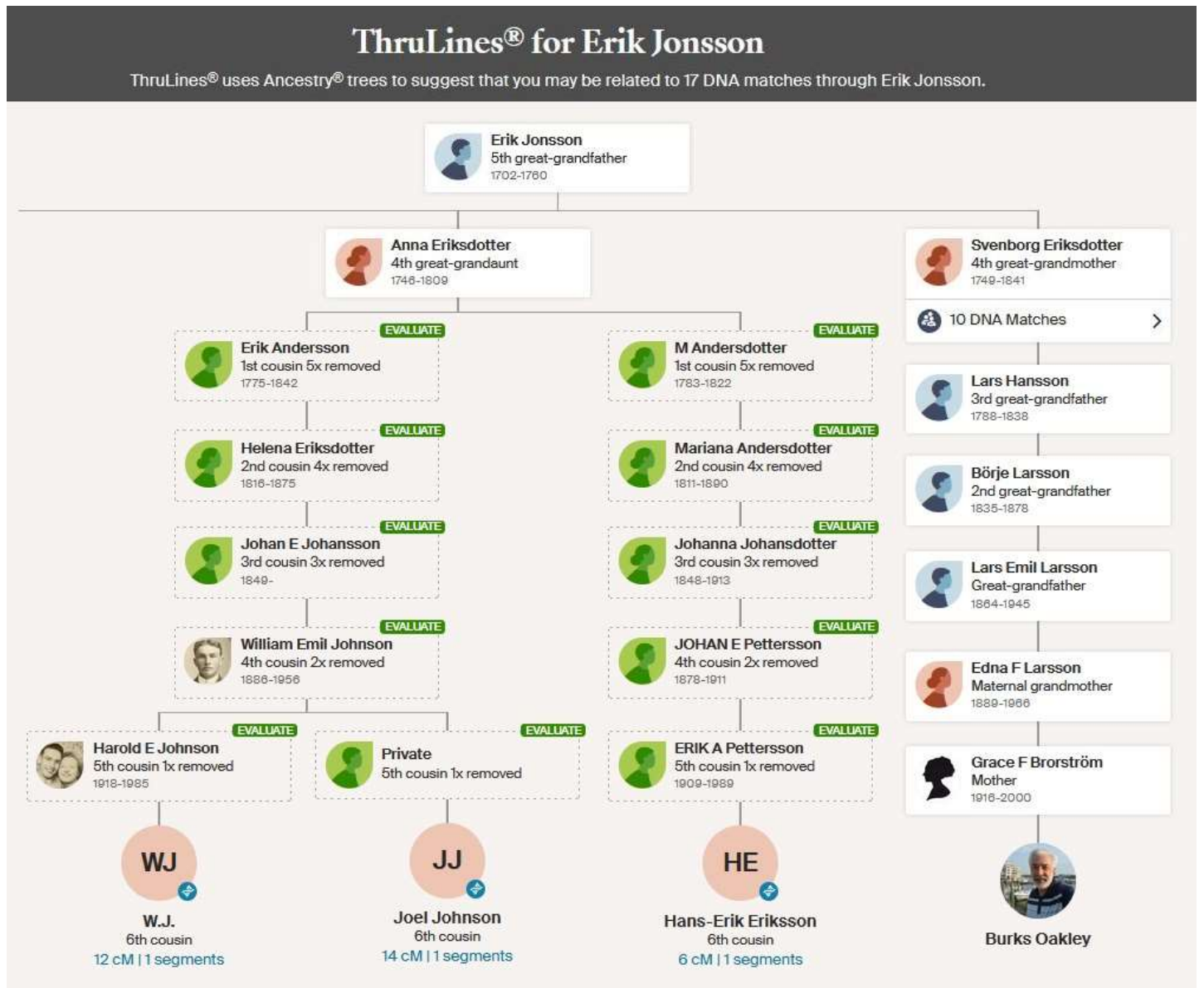
Oh my! I have DNA matches with seventeen descendants of Erik Jonsson.

Here is this ThruLines™ chart with the left two lines open:



This chart shows that I have a new match with **vmatt44**, who is a sister of **smaggie7519**.

Here is my ThruLines™ chart showing the other two lines at the right:



None of this is new or exciting, but it does emphasize the random way that autosomal DNA is inherited within a family.

Overall, the ThruLines™ charts for the five Brorström-Larsson descendants (Peter, Annmarie, Susan, Stuart, and Burks) provide strong support for the genealogical record, tracing a branch of our Larsson family back to Fjärås, Sweden.