

Jonas Hammar and Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck – My Fifth-Great Grandparents

Another Link to our Family's Roots in Fjärås, Sweden

By Burks Oakley II
17 April 2019 [Revised 6 June 2019]

This narrative includes DNA connections with:

- Josephine Andersson

as well as genealogical connections with:

- Jenny Andersson Nielsen
- Staffan Börjeson

Introduction

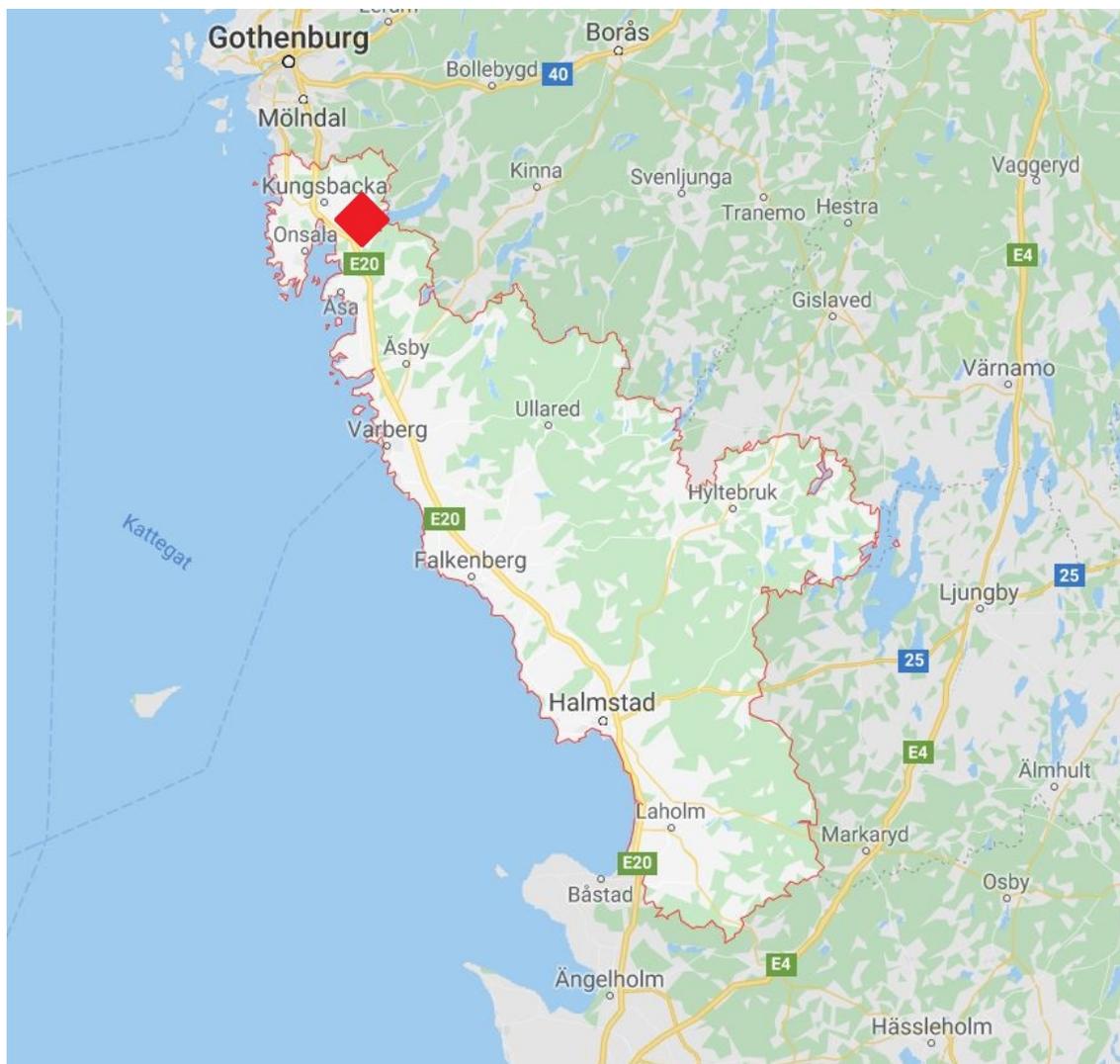
I am using DNA testing to expand and to confirm my family tree. In the past few years, I have become quite interested in learning more about my Swedish ancestry. My mother was Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000), and all four of her grandparents were Swedes who immigrated to America in the 1880's. Her ethnicity was 100% Swedish, making me 50% Swedish.

In February 2019, Ancestry.com released a beta version of its ThruLines™ software. This software first identifies my DNA matches (that is, the individuals with whom I have matching segments of DNA, indicating a common ancestor) and then examines my family tree and theirs, seeking to discover how we are related. An important feature of this software is that it also examines all of the family trees on Ancestry.com as it seeks to discover these connections. It even searches family trees that are marked "Private", to which I would normally not have access.

I have four Swedish-American first-cousins who have their DNA profiles ("DNA tests") on Ancestry.com – Peter, Annmarie, Susan, and Stuart. Their father, Paul

Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001), was my mother's older brother. These cousins have DNA matches with my distant cousins that I don't have, due to the way that autosomal DNA is inherited. So I regularly scan their DNA matches on Ancestry.com, as well as my own, since THEIR Swedish relatives are MY Swedish relatives.

This narrative addresses our ThruLines™ for Jonas Hammar (1714-1784) and his wife Ingeborg Persdotter Bläck (1720-1773). This research turned up some interesting information about our family's Swedish roots in Fjärås, which is in far northwest Halland County, and I was extremely fortunate to be able to follow-up on all this during my visit to Sweden in May 2019.



Map of Halland County, showing the location of Fjärås (red diamond).



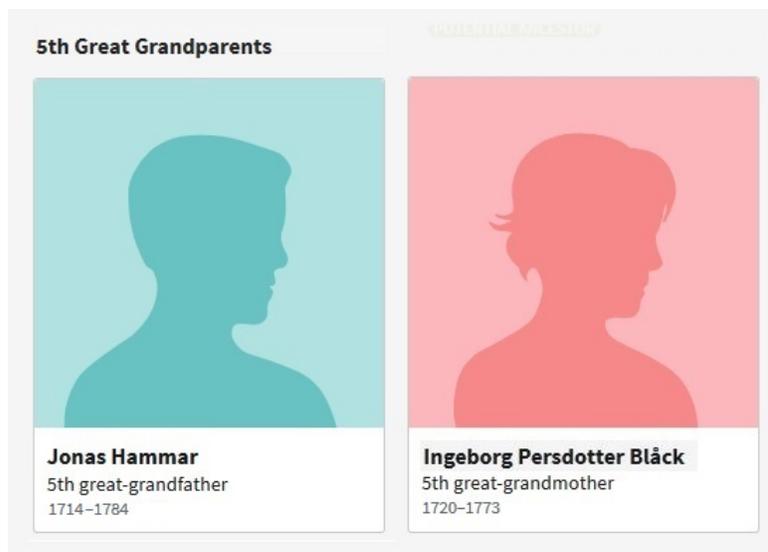
The Church in Fjärås, Halland County, Sweden
Photo taken by Burks on 11 May 2019.



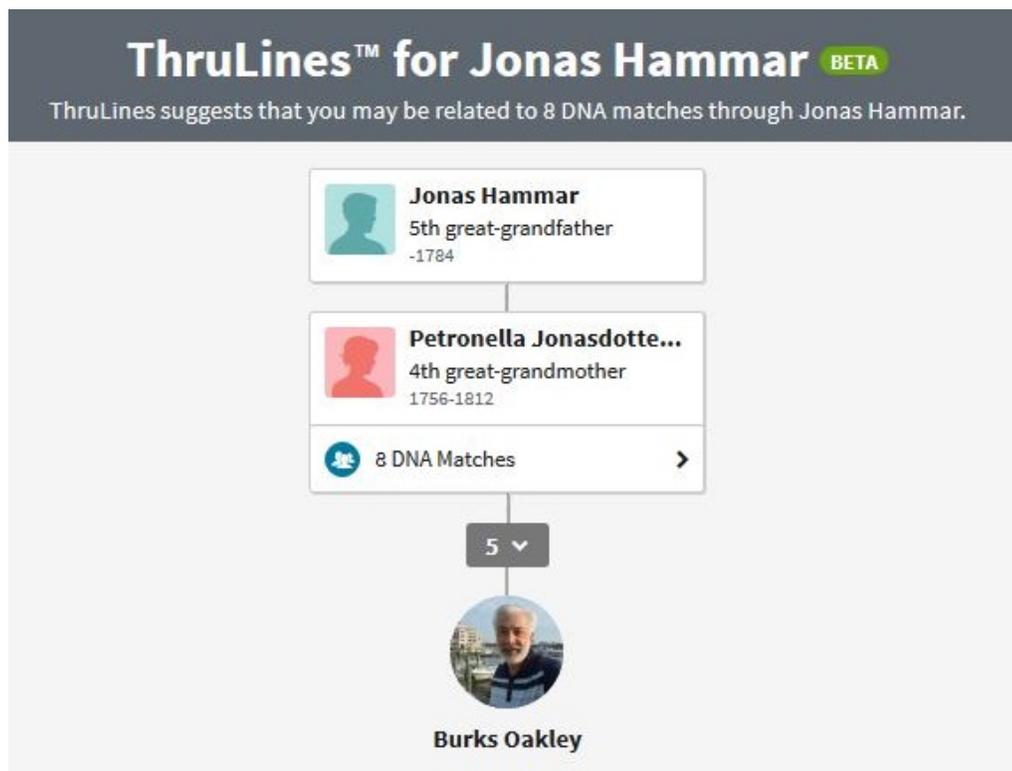
Selfie taken in a field outside of Fjärås, 11 May 2019.

ThruLines™ for Jonas Hammar and Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck

The ThruLines™ on Ancestry.com are organized in a hierarchical order, starting with a person's two parents and going all the way to his/her 128 5th-great grandparents. As of mid-April 2019, I had 95 of my 5th-great grandparents in my family tree on the Ancestry.com website, and I have been systematically working my way through all of them. I finally got to Jonas Hammar and his wife Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck.

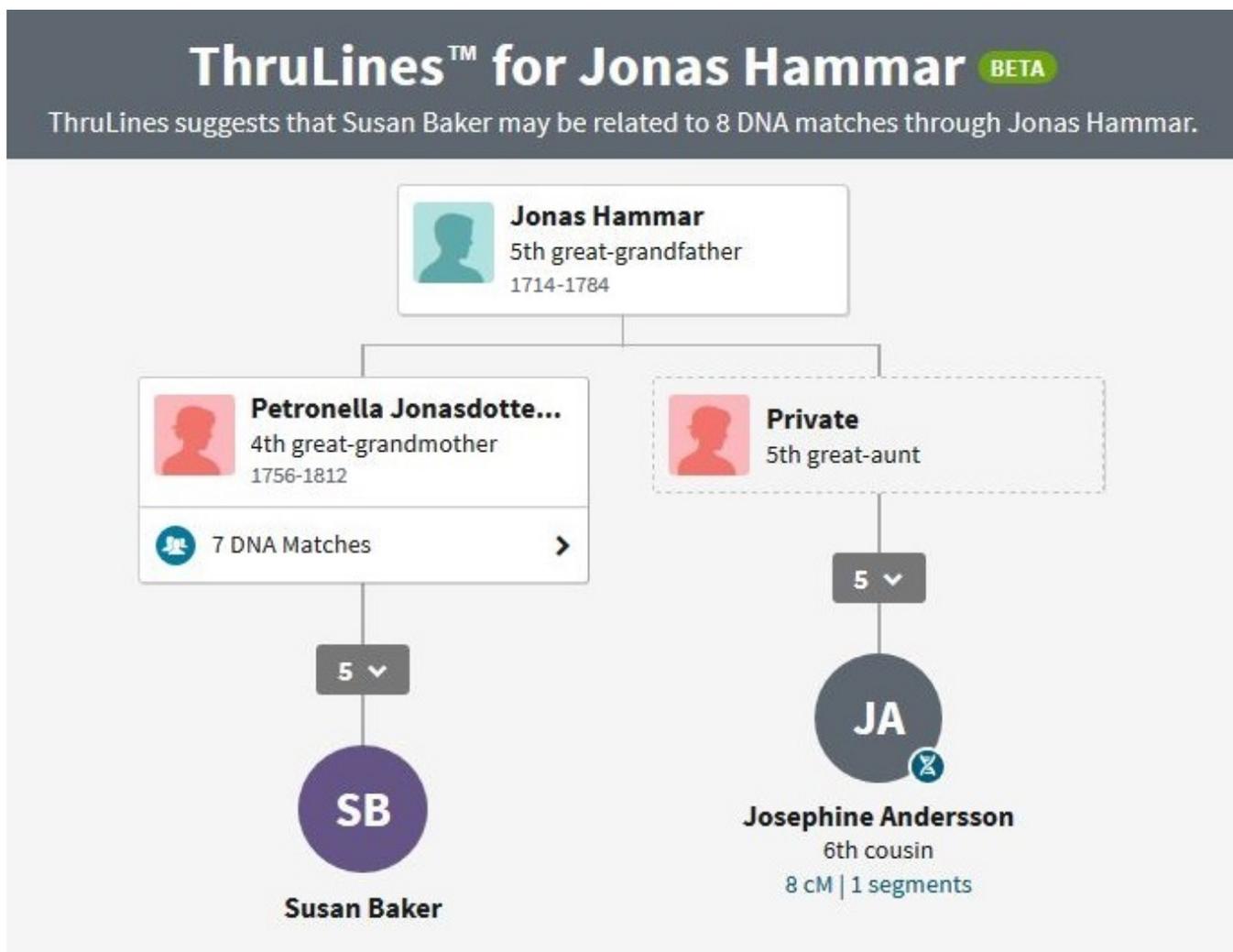


I first looked at my ThruLines™ for Jonas Hammar:



This ThruLines™ shows that I am descended from Jonas Hammar through his daughter Petronella Jonasdatter Hammar. And while I have eight DNA matches with descendants of Jonas Hammar, they all come from more recent ancestors.

I next looked at my first-cousin Susan's ThruLines™ for Jonas Hammar:



It is immediately apparent that Susan's ThruLines™ is different than mine. She has a DNA match with Josephine Andersson, who is descended from a different daughter of Jonas Hammar (marked "Private" in this ThruLines™). So obviously Susan has a DNA segment inherited from Jonas Hammar (or his wife) that I don't have. Based on this ThruLines™, Josephine Andersson is Susan's sixth-cousin.

I next looked at Stuart's ThruLines™ for Jonas Hammar, and it was identical to Susan's, showing a DNA match with Josephine Andersson. Recall that Jonas Hammar was married to Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck, so for completeness I looked at Stuart's ThruLines™ for Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck:



Not surprising, this ThruLines™ looks like Susan's ThruLines™ for Jonas Hammar (after all, Jonas and Ingeborg were husband and wife).

I also learned that my first-cousin Peter has a DNA match with Josephine Andersson. But neither my first-cousin Annmarie nor I have this match with Josephine. Overall, the DNA matches my first-cousins have with Josephine Andersson are:

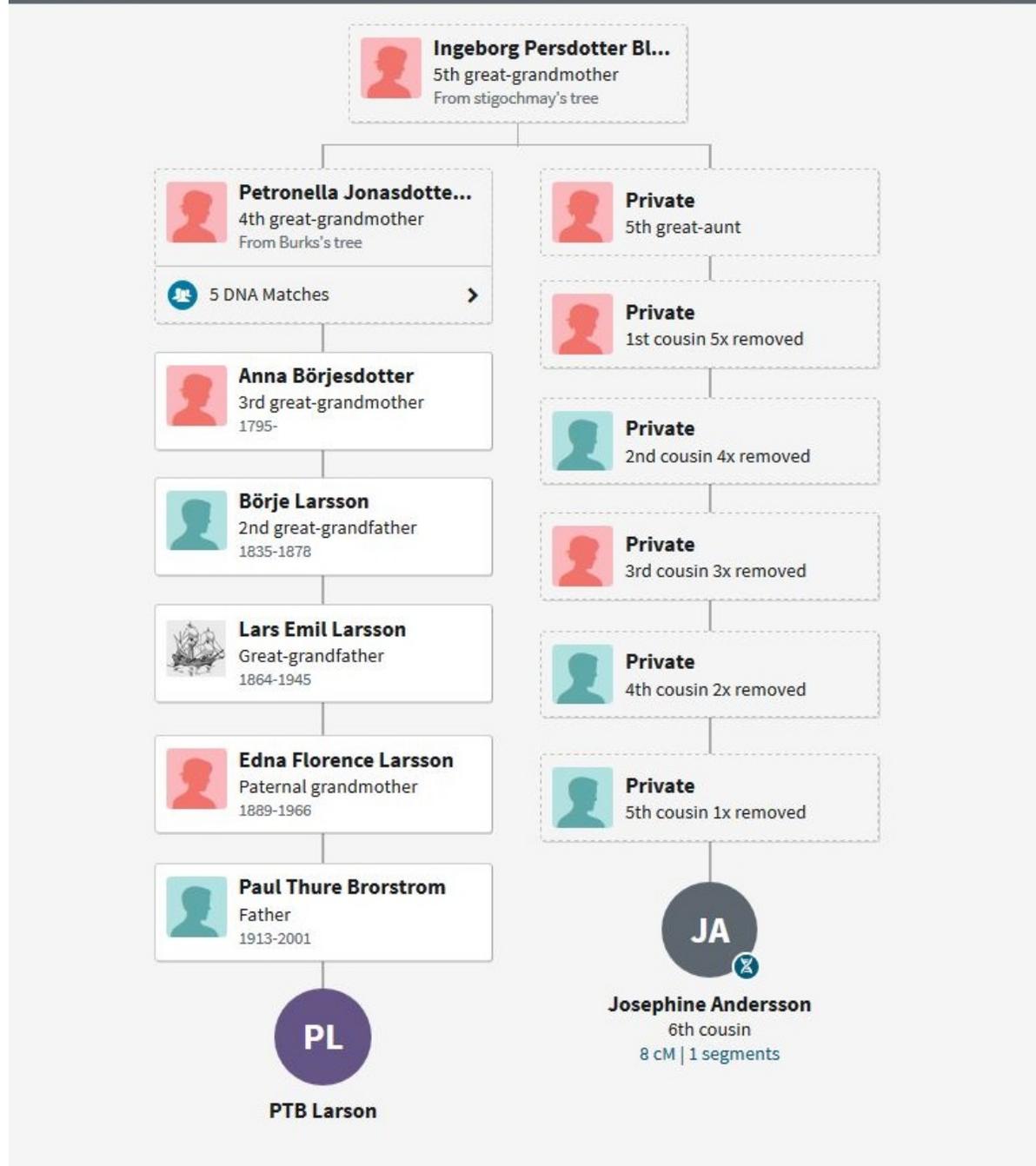
- Susan - 7.8 centimorgans shared across 1 DNA segment
- Peter - 8.3 centimorgans shared across 1 DNA segment
- Stuart - 7.3 centimorgans shared across 1 DNA segment

These are very small DNA matches, but consistent with the sixth-cousin relationship shown in the ThruLines™.

I went to Peter's ThruLines™ for Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck, and opened up the two lines from Peter and Josephine going back to Ingeborg:

ThruLines™ for Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck BETA

ThruLines suggests that PTB Larson may be related to 6 DNA matches through Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck.



Note that Josephine Andersson's line back to Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck (on the right side of the ThruLines™) is all marked "Private". But clicking on each box gives information about the person. For example, at the upper-right, Peter's 5th-great aunt is Anna Christina Jonasdatter Hammar, who was born in 1760 in Fjärås:

 [Josephine Andersson](#) has chosen to not make this tree publicly viewable. Click the "Contact Andersson_Josephine" button below to contact the tree owner using Ancestry's anonymous Connection Service.

This private tree contains information about:

Anna Christina Jonasdotter Hammar

Born: 1760 in Fjärås, Halland, Sverige

You will also find attached to this person

1 attached records

1 sources

1736 people in this member tree

[Contact Andersson_Josephine](#)

It turns out that the entire line back to Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck is in the family tree owned by Josephine Andersson. I can see who the people are in this line, even though her tree is "Private".

Anna Christina's daughter was Börta Börjesdotter, who was born in 1788 in Fjärås:

 [Josephine Andersson](#) has chosen to not make this tree publicly viewable. Click the "Contact Andersson_Josephine" button below to contact the tree owner using Ancestry's anonymous Connection Service.

This private tree contains information about:

Börta Börjesdotter

Born: 1788 in Fjärås, Halland

You will also find attached to this person

2 attached records

2 sources

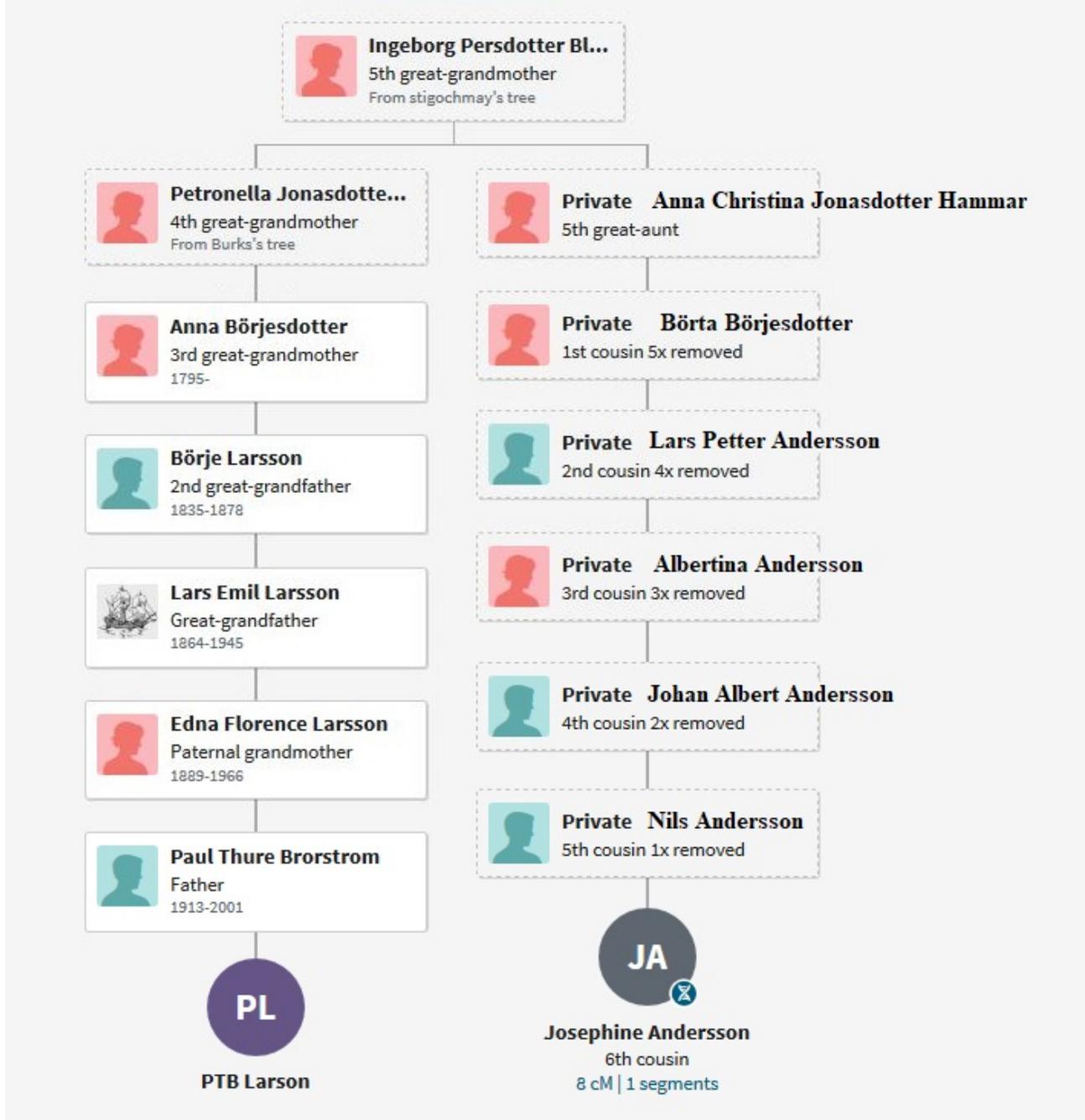
1736 people in this member tree

[Contact Andersson_Josephine](#)

And on and on down the line to Josephine Andersson. Putting all the names on the ThruLines™ gives the following chart:

ThruLines™ for Ingeborg Persdotter Bläck BETA

ThruLines suggests that PTB Larson may be related to 6 DNA matches through Ingeborg Persdotter Bläck.



This ThruLines™ suggests that Peter's DNA match with Josephine Andersson is because they both are descended from Ingeborg Persdotter Bläck (and her husband Jonas Hammar). Peter is descended from Ingeborg's daughter Petronella Jonasdotter Hammar, while Josephine is descended from her other daughter, Anna Christina Jonasdotter Hammar.

The noted genetic genealogist Arthur Sissman warns about using ThruLines™ as anything more than a starting point for research.¹ The genealogical connections shown in ThruLines™ definitely should not be taken as fact. So the big question here for me is: Did Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck and her husband Jonas Hammar really have two daughters named Anna Christina and Petronella?

Well, several different family trees on the Ancestry.com website show this relationship. Here is the information from a family tree owned by someone having the username of *stigochmay* (which I guess is Stig och May – Stig and May in Swedish):

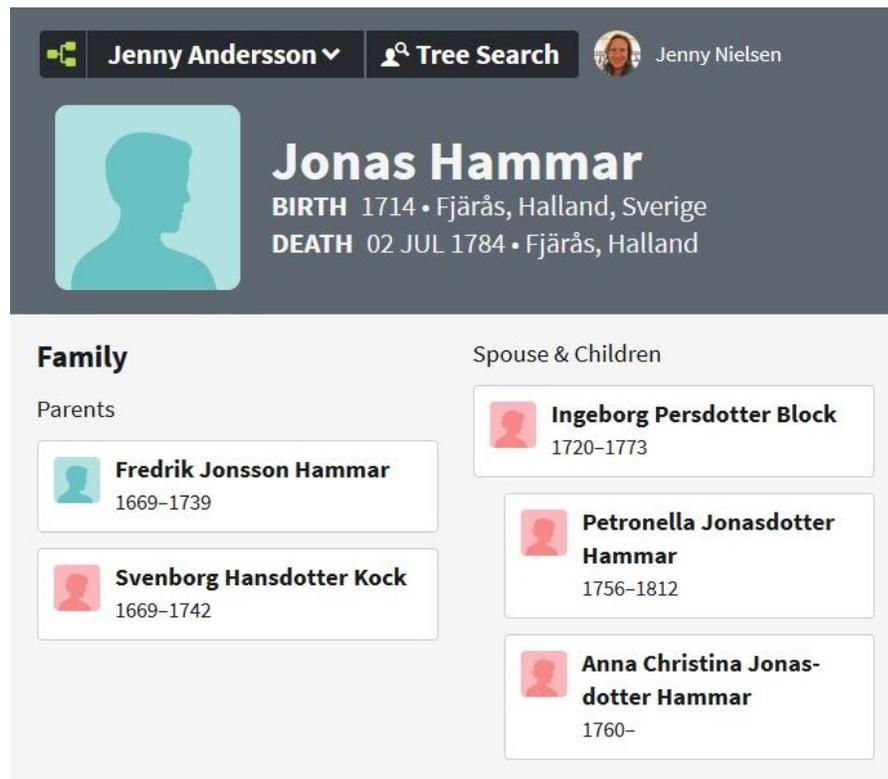
The screenshot shows a family tree profile for Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the user's name 'Dis stigochmay20190209', a 'Tree Search' button, and a profile icon for 'stigochmay'. Below this is a profile card for Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck, featuring a red silhouette icon, her name in large white text, and her birth and death information: 'BIRTH 15 JUL 1720 • Fjärås (N)' and 'DEATH 1773 • Fjärås (N)'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled 'Family' and contains a 'Parents' section with two entries: 'Per Persson Blåck' (1679-1742) and 'Anna Persdotter' (1683-1746). The right column is titled 'Siblings' and contains a 'Spouse & Children' section with three entries: 'Jonas Hammar' (1714-1784), 'Anna Christina Jonasdotter Hammar' (1753-1819), and 'Petronella Jonasdatter' (1756-).

According to this tree (and others), Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck and her husband Jonas Hammar did have two daughters, Anna Christina and Petronella.

As an aside, I note that *stigochmay* is a woman from Västerås, Västmanland, Sweden, and she has over 20,000 people in her family tree.

¹ Mr. Sissman is the Chair of the DNA SIG for the Collier County Genealogical Society in Florida.

I also looked for Jonas Hammar in family trees on the Ancestry.com website, and I found him in the “Jenny Andersson” family tree, owned by Jenny Nielsen:



The screenshot shows the profile for Jonas Hammar on Ancestry.com. At the top, the user 'Jenny Andersson' is logged in, and a 'Tree Search' button is visible. The profile for Jonas Hammar includes a silhouette icon, his name, birth date (1714) in Fjärås, Halland, Sverige, and death date (02 JUL 1784) in Fjärås, Halland. Below the profile, there are two columns: 'Family' and 'Spouse & Children'. The 'Family' column lists two parents: Fredrik Jonsson Hammar (1669-1739) and Svenborg Hansdotter Kock (1669-1742). The 'Spouse & Children' column lists three individuals: Ingeborg Persdotter Block (1720-1773), Petronella Jonasdatter Hammar (1756-1812), and Anna Christina Jonasdatter Hammar (1760-).

This tree also shows their two daughters Petronella and Anna Christina.

At this point, I’m ready to accept that this ThruLines™ could indeed account for the DNA match that Susan, Stuart, and Peter have with our sixth-cousin Josephine Andersson.

Josephine Andersson has limited information about herself on Ancestry.com:



The screenshot shows the profile for Josephine Andersson on Ancestry.com. It includes a silhouette icon, her name, birth location (Göteborg, Västra Götaland, Sverige, Sweden), and a note that she was born in Släp, Kungsbacka and grew up in Lindome. Below the profile, there is an 'AncestryDNA' section. It features two silhouette icons: one for Josephine Andersson and one for PTB. The text states: 'Josephine Andersson is on PTB's DNA match list'. Below this, it specifies the 'Relationship: 5th - 8th cousins' and 'Confidence: Moderate' with an information icon. A green 'View match' button is located to the right of the relationship information. A 'Select DNA Test' dropdown menu is visible in the top right corner of the DNA section.

According to this profile, Josephine lives in Göteborg (Gothenburg). In addition, she includes “Born in Trail, Kungsbacka and raised in Lindome.” Lindome is 10 km north of Kungsbacka, approximately half-way between Gothenburg and Fjärås.

Origin of name Blåck

As I was learning about my fifth-great grandmother Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck, I became curious about the origin of the family name of Blåck.

Let me digress and address the letter å in the Swedish language. I should note that in Swedish, the letter å is a separate letter – not just an “a” with an “overring”. Å is sorted after Z, as the third letter from the end of the Swedish alphabet; the final sequence after Z is Å, Ä, Ö.

I read online that “The Swedish o-sound can often sound a lot like the å-sound”, and to my English-speaking ear, Blåck sound much like Block.

But I digress....

To learn more about the family name of Blåck, I Googled the word Blåck – just the single word, nothing else. I was amazed that at the bottom of the first page of results, I got a hit for Pehr Pehrsson Blåck on the Geni genealogical site:

The image shows a Google search interface. The search bar contains the text "Blåck". Below the search bar, there are tabs for "All", "Images", "News", "Videos", "Shopping", "More", "Settings", and "Tools". The "All" tab is selected. Below the tabs, a search result is displayed for "Pehr Pehrsson Blåck (1679 - 1742) - Genealogy - Geni". The result includes a URL: <https://www.geni.com/people/Pehr-Blåck/6000000047129164875> and a description: "Jul 10, 2018 - Genealogy for Pehr Pehrsson Blåck (1679 - 1742) family tree on Geni, with over 190 million profiles of ancestors and living relatives." Below the search result, there is a large, colorful "Goooooooooooooogle" logo with a right-pointing arrow, and a pagination bar with numbers 1 through 10, and a "Next" button.

Here is part of the entry for Pehr Pehrsson Blåck on the Geni.com website:



Pehr Pehrsson Blåck

Gender: Male

Birth: February 26, 1679
Inlag, Hanhals, Halland, Sweden, Hanhals, Kungsbacka, Halland County, Sweden

Death: October 02, 1742 (63)
Össlöf, Fjärås, Halland, Sweden, Fjärås, Kungsbacka, Halland County, Sweden

Immediate Family: Son of [Per Björnsson](#) and [Ingeborg Persdotter](#)
Husband of [Anna Persdotter](#)
Father of [Peter Blåck](#); [Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck](#) and [Hans Pehrsson Blåck](#)
Brother of [Marit Persdotter](#); [Kerstin Persdotter](#) and [Björn Persson](#)

Added by: [Paula Block Philipsen](#) on September 18, 2016

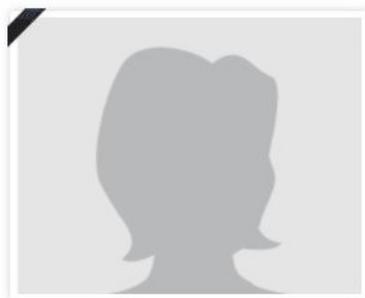
Managed by: [Paula Block Philipsen](#)

OMG – Pehr Pehrsson Blåck (1679-1742) was the father of our Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck (see the red arrow). Therefore, he is my 6th-great grandfather. And he showed up on the *first* page of a Google search for the name Blåck. This is way cool!

Here is the Geni entry for Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck on the Geni.com website:

Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck

public profile



Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck

Birthdate: July 15, 1720

Birthplace: Fjärås, Halland, Sweden

Death: March 02, 1773 (52)

Immediate Family: Daughter of [Pehr Pehrsson Blåck](#) and [Anna Persdotter](#)
Wife of [Niels Torkelsson-Ubström](#) and [Jonas Hammar](#)
Mother of [Anna Christina Nilsson](#); [Petronella Jonasdatter Hammar](#); [Svenborg Larsson](#) and [Anna Catharina Pettersson](#)
Sister of [Peter Blåck](#) and [Hans Pehrsson Blåck](#)

Managed by: [Paula Block Philipsen](#)

Last Updated: July 10, 2018

This page is managed by a woman named Paula Block Philipsen. Just for fun, I decided to trace her Block pedigree (remember, Blåck sounds like Block to me). Here is what I found:

- Paula Block Philipsen
- Eskil Block² (1932-2013)
- Anders Benjamin Block (1889-1978)
- Anders Herder Block (1837-1919) - took his mother's name
- Mariana Block (1811-1867)
- Hans Peter Pehrsson Block (1789-1839)
- Per Hansson Blåck (1756-1834)
- Hans Pehrsson Blåck (1723-1770)
- Pehr Pehrsson Blåck (1679-1742) - father of Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck
- Per Björnsson (~1645-1706)

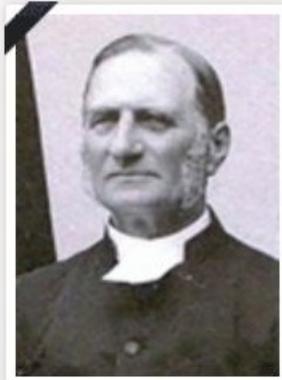
Well, this is indeed interesting. It is just what I thought – the Block name was originally Blåck, and Paula's line goes back to our common ancestor Pehr Pehrsson Blåck (1679-1742). Hans Peter Pehrsson Block (1789-1839) started using Block instead of Blåck. My guess is that these two words are pronounced almost the same way (but that is just a guess).

	<h3>Hans Peter Pehrson Block</h3> <p>Gender: Male</p> <p>Birth: March 02, 1789 Vassbacka, Fjärås, Kungsbacka, Halland County, Sweden</p> <p>Death: 1839 (49)</p> <p>Immediate Family: Son of Per Hansson Blåck and Anna Månsdotter Husband of Eleonora Beata Block Father of Mariana Block Brother of Mariana Pehrsson and Carl Magnus Pehrsson</p> <p>Added by: AnnaLina Hertzberg on February 11, 2007</p> <p>Managed by: AnnaLina Hertzberg and Jenny Karin Annette Nielsen (Andersson)</p>
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Note that Hans Peter's father was a Blåck and he is a Block.

² I should note that Eskil Block was the vicar at the church in the Haga district of Gothenburg, which is a well-known landmark in this city.

It also is interesting to see that Anders Herder Block (1837-1919) took his mother's family name for his last name. No idea why he decided to do this.



Anders Herder Block

Gender: Male

Birth: October 30, 1837
Fjärås, Hallands län, Sverige

Death: May 01, 1919 (81)
Örby, Älvsborgs län, Sverige

Immediate Family: Son of [Peter Andreasson](#) and [Mariana Block](#)
Husband of [Ulfhild Cecilia Ulfsdotter Block](#) and [Charlotta Elisabet Cullberg](#)
Father of [Erik Josef Samuel Block](#) ; [Martin Herder Natanael Block](#) ; [Cecilia Elisabet Mariana](#) ; [Karin Martina Rhedin](#) ; [Henrik Gabriel Block](#) and 8 others
Brother of [Nora Charlotta Block](#) and [Börje Block](#)

Added by: [AnnaLina Hertzberg](#) on February 11, 2007

Managed by: [Martin Rhedin](#) and 7 others

Note that Anders Herder Block had thirteen children!

In looking at this part of the Blåck (Block) line, I see that many generations lived in Fjärås – starting with Pehr Pehrsson Blåck and ending with Anders Herder Block.

Are there any family members in Sweden still using the Blåck spelling? I searched the Ratsit.se website for people in Sweden with the last name of Blåck. I found many people with the family names of Block, Bloch, Blok, and Bloch – but I didn't find any spelled Blåck. Interesting!

What about the Hammar Family Name?

This narrative is also about Jonas Hammar. Again, the inherited family name of Hammar is not the typical patronymic name from Sweden's past. Hammar can mean "hammer" (like you use to pound nails) or cliff (in which case it would be a name taken from nature). It is interesting to see so many of our family names not being the typical patronymic names in Sweden.

Jonas' father was Fredrik Jonsson Hammar:



This information was found in the “Jenny Andersson” family tree owned by Jenny Nielsen. More importantly, I was able to follow this tree all the way to Josephine Andersson’s father. And Jenny also has a “Jens Nielsen” family tree. It looks like Jenny was born an Andersson and her husband is Jens Nielsen. More about Jenny Nielsen below.

Again – Is Hammar a common family name? Recall that Jonas Hammar had two daughters. I wonder if anyone else in Sweden still has this family name. Well, according to Ratsit.se, there appear to be about 400 adults in Sweden with the family name Hammar.

Connecting with Jenny Nielsen

In mid-April 2019, I contacted Jenny Nielsen via the Ancestry.com messaging system. I told her that I was descended from Jonas Hammar (1714-1784) and his parents, Fredrick Jonsson Hammar (1669-1739) and Svenborg Hansdotter Kock (1669-1742), who appear in the “Jenny Andersson” family tree on Ancestry.com. I asked if she knew where the Hammar family name came from. She responded in just a few hours, and we then exchanged several e-mail notes.

She wrote “How nice to hear from a relative ‘over there’. I think we are 6th cousins. I checked with Geni and here is the relation:”

Burks Oakley, II is your 6th cousin.



Amazing that Jenny was able to connect our family lines so quickly. And, of course, her family lines are exactly what I had from the ThruLines™. She also wrote “Josephine Andersson is my first cousin. Our fathers were brothers.”

And regarding the family names, Jenny wrote:

I did some Googling on Jonas Hammar. His father, Fredrik Jonsson Hammar, was a corporal in the cavalry. That makes sense because soldiers and military men often had surnames other than the usual Andersson, Pettersson, Jönsson, etc. Ingeborg Pehrsson Blåck’ s father was Pehr Pehrsson Blåck, who was a bailiff/inspector.

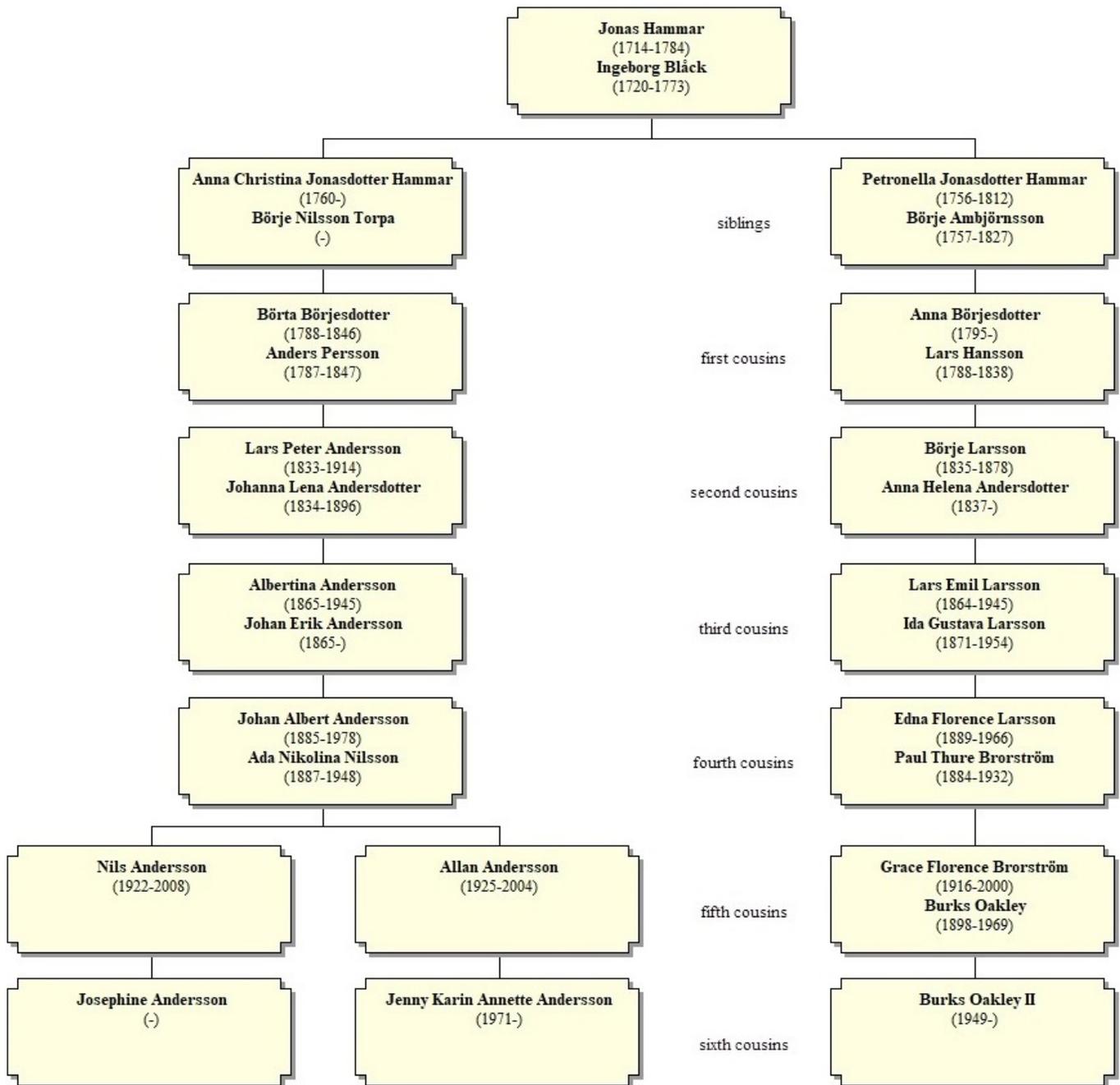
Jonas Hammar was a skipper, by the way.

I think that Fredrik or Friedrich Hammar might have resided right up the hill from where I live today [in Gothenburg]. There is an old fortress called “Skansen Kronan” 200 meters from my apartment.

How wonderful to make this connection with my sixth-cousin in Gothenburg, and to learn more from her about my Swedish ancestors!

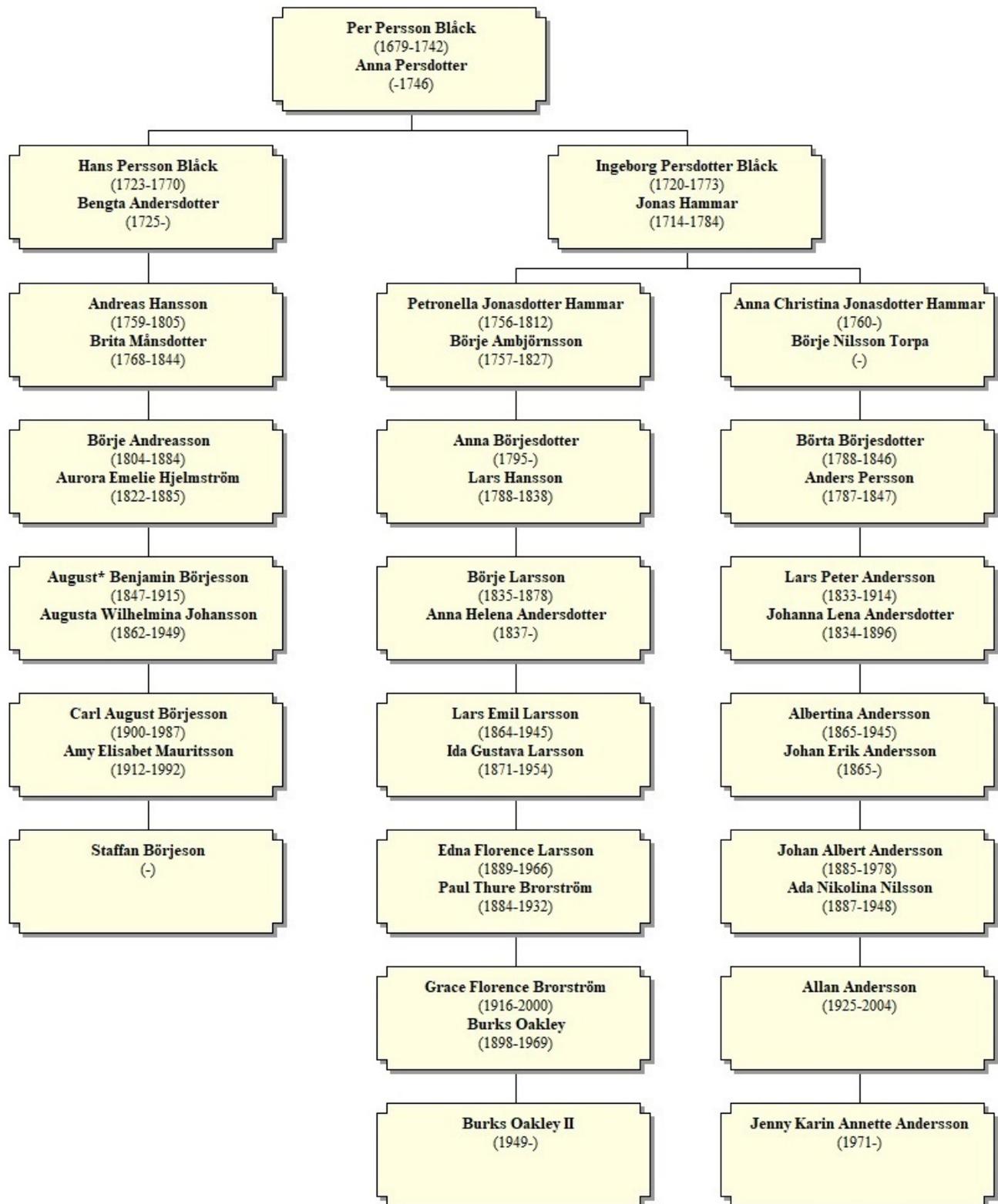
Overall Relationships

Here is a chart showing my relationship with Josephine Andersson and Jenny Nielsen (nee Andersson):



Connecting with Jenny Andersson Nielsen

I traveled to Sweden in May 2019. The first day I was in Gothenburg, I met Jenny and we talked about our common ancestors who lived in Fjärås (and Gothenburg). She told me about another relative who is descended from Per Persson Bläck and his wife Anna Persdotter. His name is Staffan Börjeson, and he owns an organic food store in Gothenburg. We ended up walking to his store to meet him. Here is a chart showing how Staffan, Jenny, and I are all related:



Here is a photo of the three of us in Staffan's store (look at all the layers I was wearing – it was a cool and rainy day):



Several days later, Jenny and her husband and young son drove me to Fjärås to see where our ancestors lived. We first went to Blackas (Blåckas), which is the farm where the Blåck family lived for generations. Here is a photo of Jenny and her husband talking with the current owner of the property:



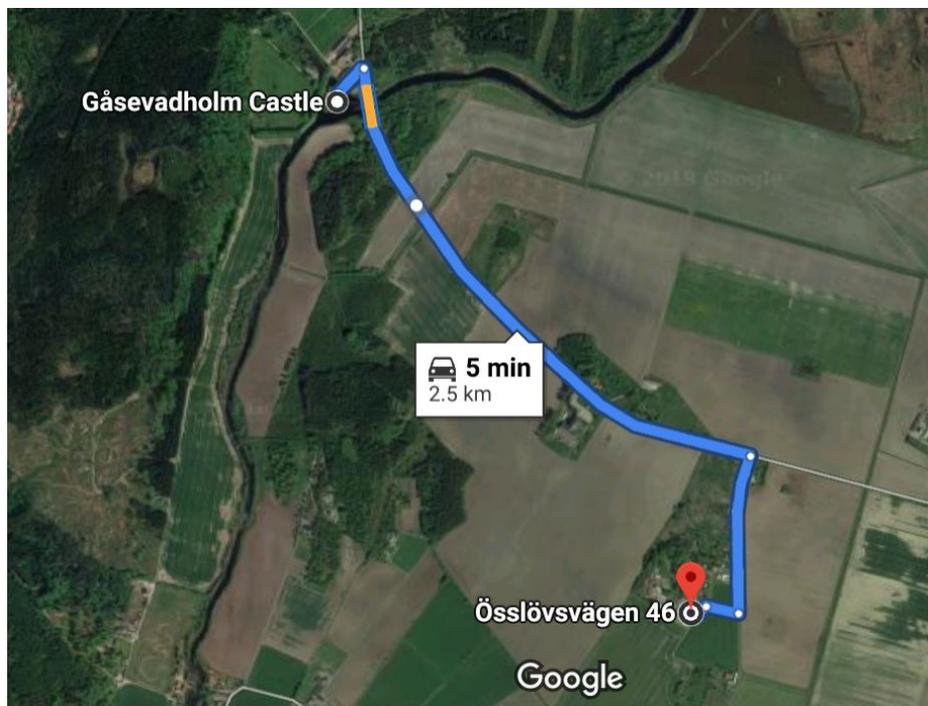
The old house at Blackas was located where his new greenhouse currently is.

We drove by Gåsevadholms Castle on our way to Blackas. This castle has an amazing history, and it currently is owned by Niclas Silverschiöld and his wife Princess Desiree (the sister to the Swedish king). The Blackas farm was part of the Gåsevadholms estate, and since Pehr Pehrsson Blåck was a bailiff/inspector, he most likely worked for the owners of the estate. The Blåck/Block family lived at Blockas from 1710 until 1930, when Anna Wallenstein (nee Block) sold it.



Photo of Gåsevadholms Castle (found on the web)

Here is a satellite image from Google Maps, showing the short drive from Gåsevadholms Castle to Blackas:

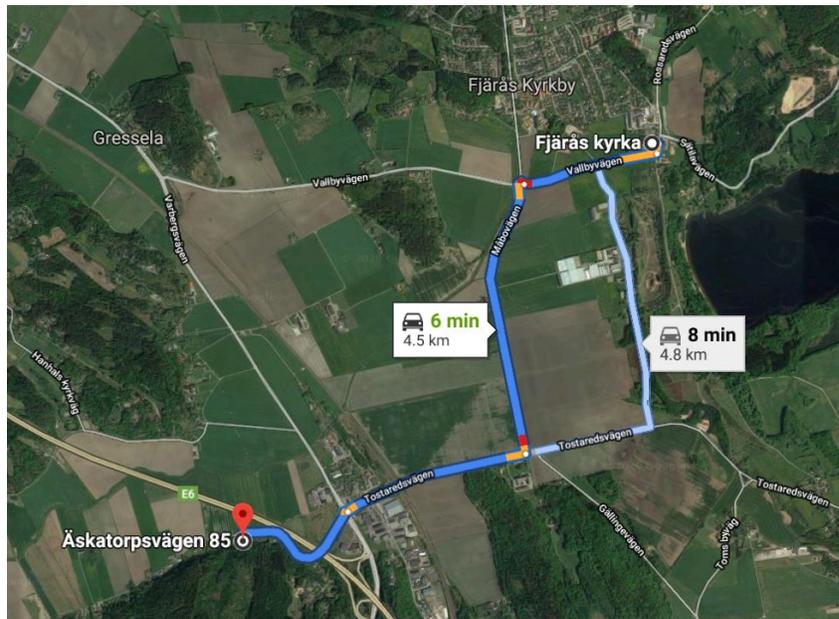


When we were in Fjärås, we also went to Kockagården (Kock's farm), which is where the Kock/Hammar family lived for generations:



Recall that Jonas Hammar's mother was Svenborg Hansdotter Kock (1669-1742). Apparently, Jonas took over the place, which is still called Kockagården to this day. It is located very close to the sea, and one can see the church in Fjärås from the front yard.

Here is a satellite image from Google Maps, showing the drive from Kockagården to the Fjärås church (*kyrka* in Swedish):



I'm really amazed by all that Jenny was able to show me about our common ancestors in Fjärås. What great memories!

I'll end this section with a photo of Jenny and her family on the Fjärås Bracka, with Lake Lygnern in the background.



Conclusion

In this narrative, I have characterized our family's ThruLines™ for Jonas Hammar and his wife Ingeborg Persdotter Blåck. The genealogical relationships shown in these ThruLines™ can account for my family's DNA matches with a Swedish woman named Josephine Andersson, who lives in Gothenburg. ThruLines™ are built both on DNA matches and on family trees. My Swedish-American cousins Susan, Stuart, and Peter have small DNA matches with Josephine, consistent with the sixth-cousin relationship found in our family trees. Annmarie and I do not share this DNA match with Josephine, but that is not surprising, given how distant our relationship is.

I also investigated the inheritable family names of Hammar and Blåck. While the Blåck family name seems to have disappeared in Sweden (or changed into Block), the Hammar family name has survived to this day (but perhaps on totally unrelated lines).

Finally, I connected with Jenny Nielsen, who is Josephine Andersson's first-cousin. Like Josephine, Jenny is my sixth-cousin. Jenny provided some incredible details about my Hammar and Blåck ancestors, and our visit to Fjärås, where we saw where the Hammar and Blåck families lived, was priceless!