

My DNA Match with Karen E. Jenson – Going Back to the Early 1700's in Hasslöv, Sweden

By Burks Oakley II
24 February 2023

Introduction

I am interested in genetic genealogy; that is, using DNA to confirm and to extend my family tree. I have my DNA profile and my family tree on the Ancestry.com website, and I regularly check this site for new DNA matches. As careful as I am to look at all my new matches, I invariably miss a few. I recently figured out that I could filter all of my DNA matches and only look at my “Unviewed” matches. I really am only interested in a DNA match when the software on the Ancestry.com website can identify one or more ancestors that I have in common with that DNA match.

A few days ago, I filtered my DNA matches to only view those that were previously “Unviewed” and where we share “Common ancestors”. One of the handful of matches that turned up in this search was with a woman having the username of *kejenson*:

Burks Oakley's DNA Matches

All matches By parent **BETA** By ancestor By location

Filter by: Unviewed Common ancestors [Search](#) | [Sort](#) ▼

Distant Family

	kejenson	5th – 8th Cousin 9 cM < 1% shared DNA Maternal side	Public linked tree 4,455 People Common ancestor
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This woman and I share just 9 cM of DNA, so based only on the small size of this match, it is likely that we are rather distant cousins. But I always say that these small DNA matches are often the most interesting, since they go the farthest back into the past. And this one was no different.

The rest of this narrative is all about my DNA match with *kejenson*. And what an interesting woman she turned out to be!!!

All About My DNA Match with *kejenson*

After seeing my new DNA match with *kejenson*, I then navigated to the “profile” page showing some details about her:

The screenshot shows a DNA match profile for 'kejenson'. On the left, there is a circular profile picture with the initials 'KE' and the name 'kejenson'. Below the name is a 'Message' button and a 'More' menu icon. The profile shows 'Joined 30 Jul 2011' and 'Last active Over a year ago'. The main content area displays the DNA relationship to 'Burks Oakley (you)' as '5th-8th Cousin | Maternal' with 'Shared DNA: 9 cM across 1 segments'. Below this is a 'Family History' section featuring a 'PRIVATE SEARCHABLE TREE' for 'Karen Elizabeth Jenson family tree'. To the right of the tree name, it lists 'People: 6', 'Records: 0', and 'Media: 0'.

I learned that she has a “private searchable tree” that is named “Karen Elizabeth Jenson family tree”. So it would appear that *kejenson* is really Karen Elizabeth Jenson.

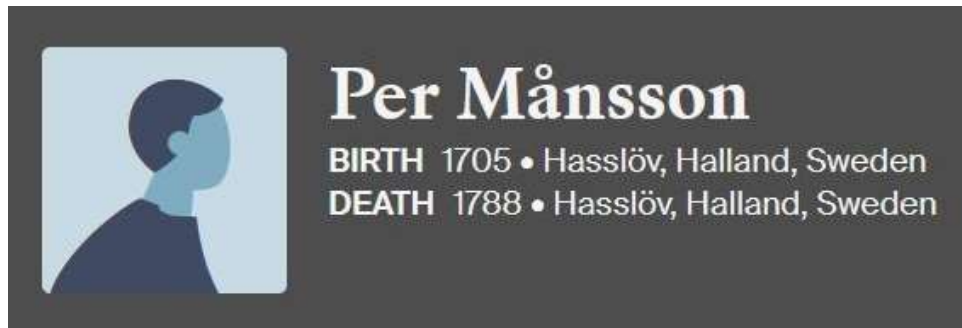
I next went to the page showing details about my DNA match with Karen. I learned that Karen and I are both descended from Per Månsson (1705-1788) and his wife Gundel Åkesdotter (1710-1785):

The screenshot shows a 'Common Ancestors' page titled 'How are you and kejenson related?'. It lists two common ancestors: 'Per Månsson' (5th great-grandfather, 1705-1788) and 'Gundel Åkesdotter' (5th great-grandmother, 1710-1785). Each entry includes a profile picture icon and a 'View Relationship' link.

This couple were my fifth-great grandparents, and I have written about them previously:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/PerMånsson-GundelÅkesdotter.pdf>

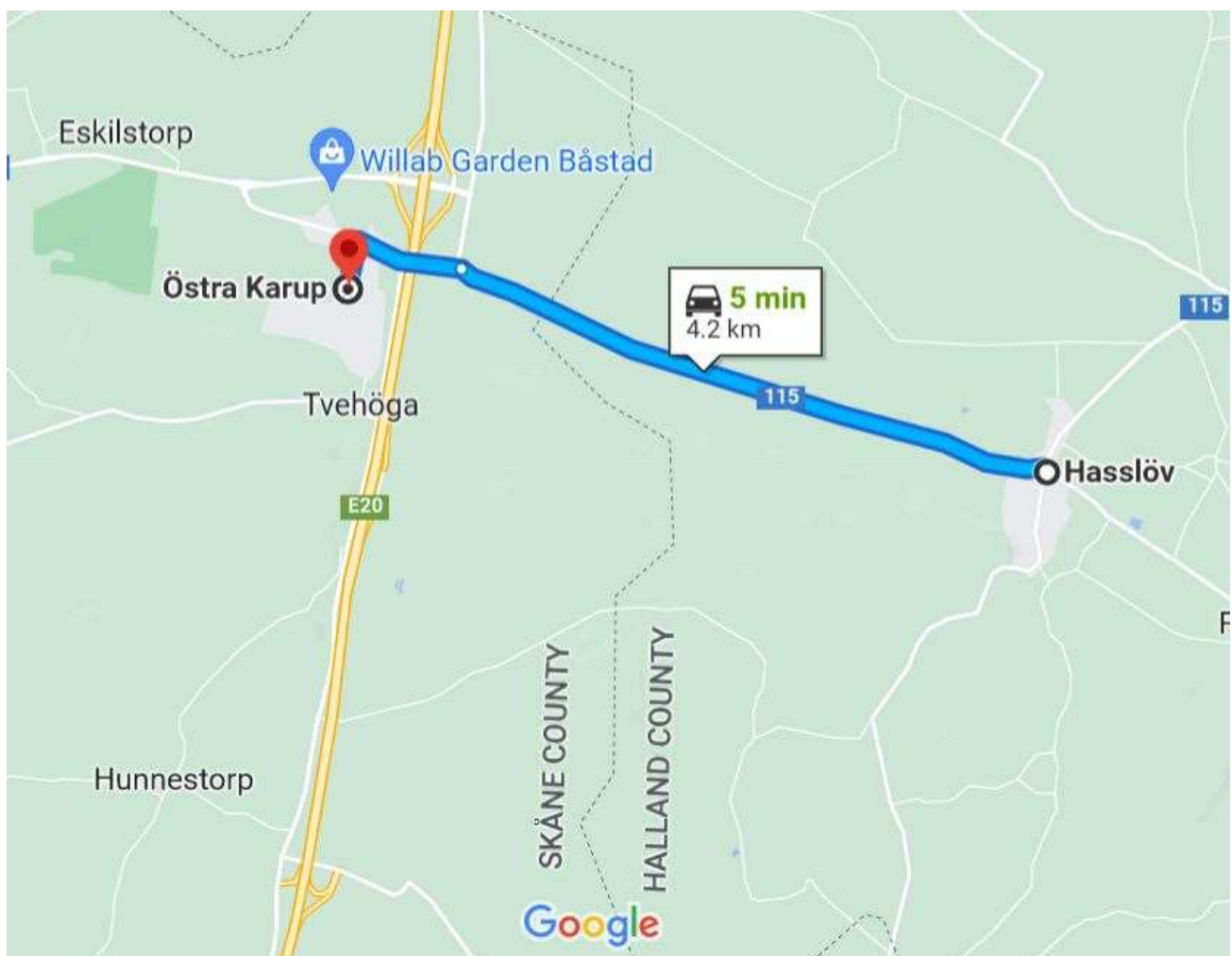
Per Månsson lived his entire life in Hasslöv, Sweden, which is a small village in southwest Halland County:



Gundel Åkesdotter was born in Östra Karup and died in Hasslöv:



Östra Karup is a small locality situated in Båstad Municipality, in far northwest Skåne County. Östra Karup is just 4 km from Hasslöv, as shown in the following Google Map:



Although Skåne County is located to the south of Halland County, due to the vagaries of the border between the two counties near Hasslöv, Östra Karup (in Skåne) is actually slightly north of Hasslöv (in Halland). And Östra Karup is

located in a part of Skåne that is NORTH of the Hallandsås, which seems strange to me. If you don't know what the Hallandsås is, please read my narrative at:

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

Many of my Swedish ancestors on the Wennström side of my family lived in Hasslöv. My second-great grandparents (Nils Wennström and Kristina Olsdotter) are buried in the church cemetery in Hasslöv, and I have visited Hasslöv at least three different times on my trips to Sweden.



The church in Hasslöv. I took this photo during my visit to Hasslöv on May 14, 2018.

One of my Swedish cousins lives in Hasslöv and has her art studio there, where she sells the beautiful ceramics and pottery that she creates.

But I digress...

I next went on to see the exact ancestral lines that Karen and I have back to the Månsson-Åkesdotter couple:



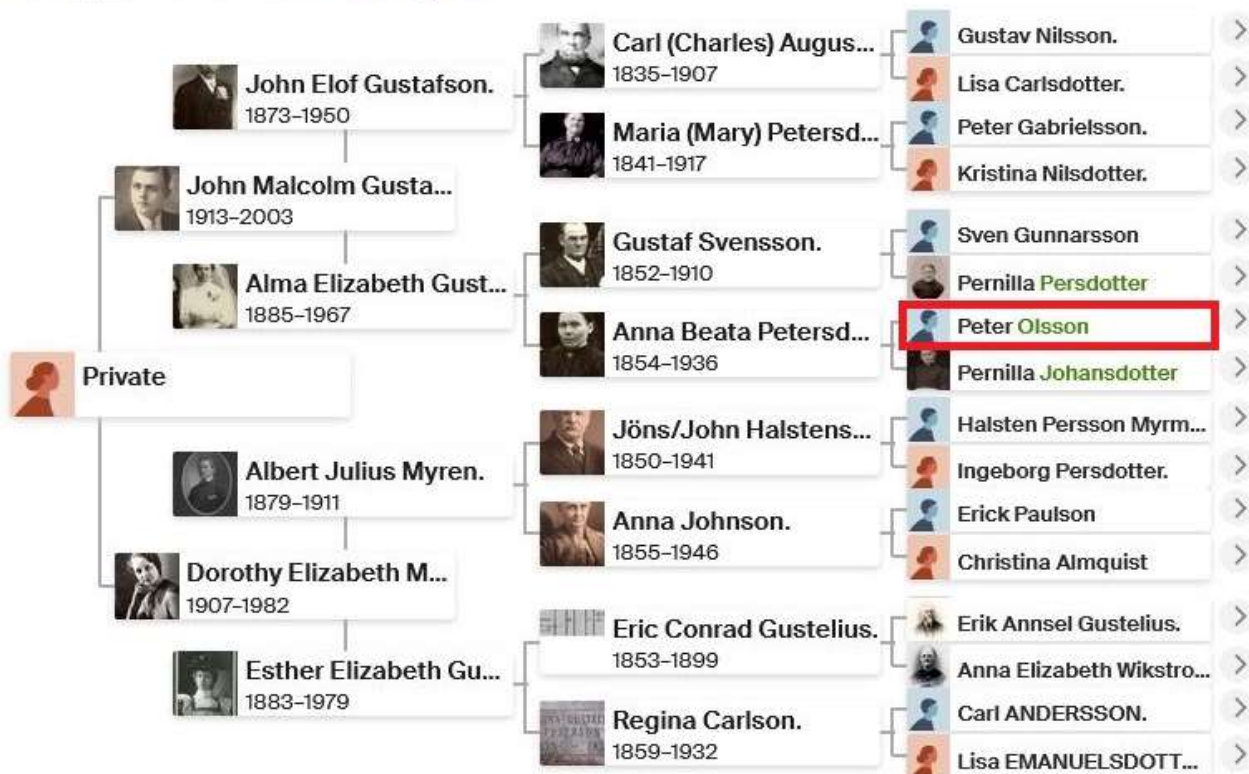
Karen is descended from this couple through their daughter Elna Persdotter (1745-1821), while I am descended from this couple through their daughter Johanna Persdotter (1737-1813). Based on this relationship chart, Karen and I are sixth-cousins.

Karen's line goes back through her father, John Malcolm Gustafson (1913-2003). This means that Karen's maiden name most likely was Gustafson, and Jenson most likely is her married name.

Karen has a very complete pedigree on Ancestry.com:

kejenson's Linked Tree 4,455 People

This is a preview of the public tree linked to kejenson's DNA results. Surnames that appear in both your tree and kejenson's tree are **marked in green**.



Look at all the Swedes in her pedigree!!

Karen's line back to the Månsson-Åkesdotter couple goes back through her 2nd-great grandfather, Peter Olsson, who is outlined in the red box in the pedigree chart shown above. Here is his profile from Karen's tree:

Peter Olsson
Jenson/Herbst Family Tree

Birth
6 Sept 1814 • Hasslöv, Halland, Sweden

Death
24 Mar 1859 • Hishult Halland, Sweden

Parents

- Ola Hansson** 1782-1848
- Karin Jönsdotter** 1777-1860

Peter was born in Hasslöv in 1814.

On the line going from Peter down to Karen, Peter's granddaughter was Alma Elizabeth Gustafsdotter (Svenson):

Alma Elizabeth Gustafsdotter (Svenson).
Jenson/Herbst Family Tree

Birth
30 Aug 1885 • Högaholma, Hishult, Halland, Sweden

Death
15 July 1967 • Big Stone County, Minnesota, USA

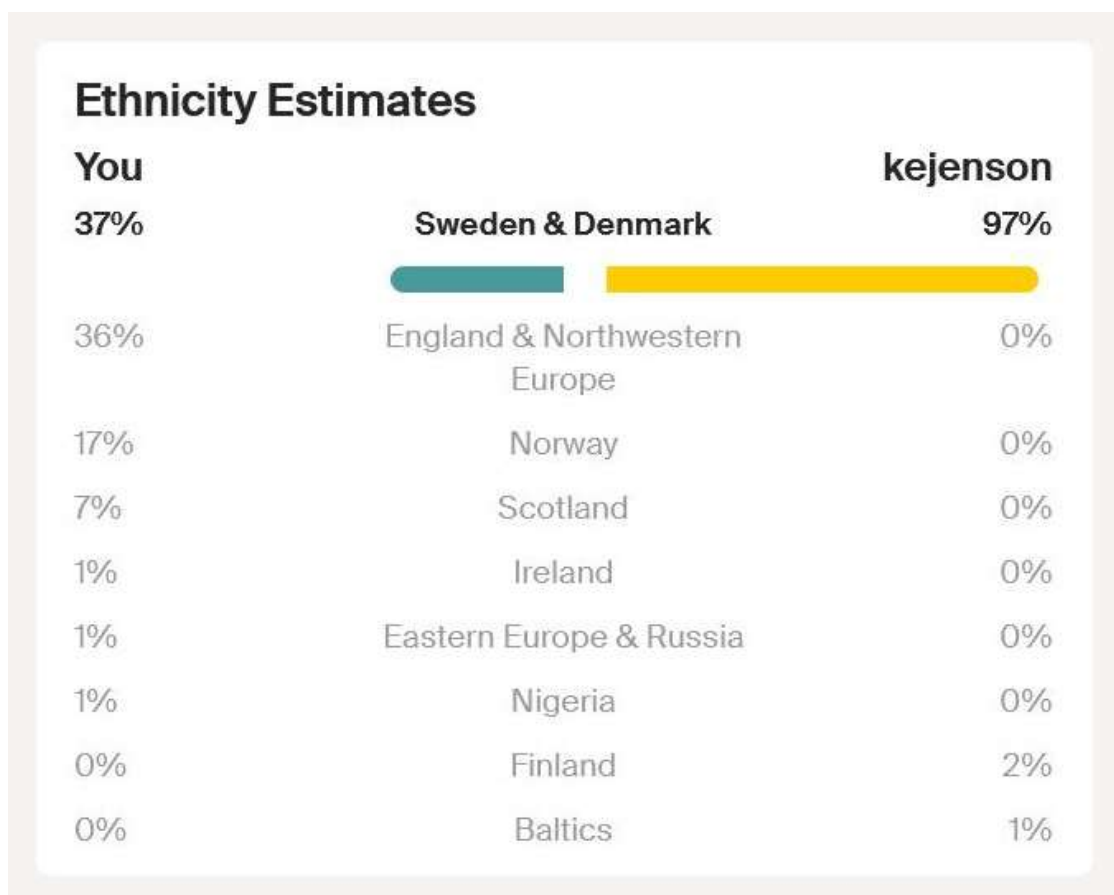
Parents

Gustaf Svensson.
1852-1910

Anna Beata Petersdotter.
1854-1936

Based on the information in Karen’s tree, Alma Elizabeth immigrated to America in the summer of 1903. She lived in Big Stone County, Minnesota (in far western Minnesota), and she married John Elof Gustafson in 1908. Their son John Malcolm Gustafson (Karen’s father) was born in 1913.

I also looked at Karen’s ethnicity estimates:



Wow! Her ethnicity is 97% Sweden & Denmark. I guess this isn’t surprising, given all the Swedish ancestors shown in her pedigree chart. As an aside, I don’t usually see Swedes living in Sweden who have such a large “Sweden & Demark” ethnicity estimate. So this is really something to see.

Finally, I’m getting to the fun part about my DNA match with Karen, and that deals with our “Shared DNA Matches”. In order to qualify as a shared match, a person has to have DNA matches with both Karen and me that are at least 20 cM in size (so this relatively-large size eliminates a number of smaller DNA matches).

Here are my shared matches with Karen:



You and **kejenson**

5th – 8th Cousin | Maternal side

< 1% shared DNA: 9 cM across 1 segments

Trees Ethnicity Shared Matches

Distant Family



Eva Josefsson

Managed by
Sternr.Josefsson

4th – 6th Cousin
25 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Maternal side

Public linked tree
1,345 People
 Common ancestor



Jeffrey Koldoff

4th – 6th Cousin
22 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Maternal side

No Trees


There are just two people on this list. I don't know Jeffrey Koldoff, and he doesn't have a family tree on Ancestry. So I'll skip over him. But the other person on this list is Eva Josefsson – and I know Eva very well! I have visited Eva and her husband Sterner where they live in Halmstad, Sweden. They have taken me to Hasslöv several times. I've met Eva's five siblings and her mother (all my relatives). One of Eva's sisters is the person who has the ceramics studio in Hasslöv. How cool to see Eva's name on the list of my shared matches with Karen.

I next looked at my DNA match with Eva. Here are our common ancestors:

Common Ancestors ✕


You are possibly related to Eva Josefsson through multiple common ancestors. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects you.

Eva Josefsson could be your half 4th cousin through:




Jan Petter Wennström
3rd great-grandfather
1778–1862
[View Relationship](#)

Eva Josefsson could be your 5th cousin 1x removed through:



Nils Mårtensson
4th great-grandfather
1722–1806
[View Relationship](#)



Johanna Persdotter
4th great-grandmother
1737–1813
[View Relationship](#)

Eva and I actually have two sets of common ancestors, and I have written about my DNA match with Eva previously:

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

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/PerMånsson-GundelÅkesdotter.pdf>

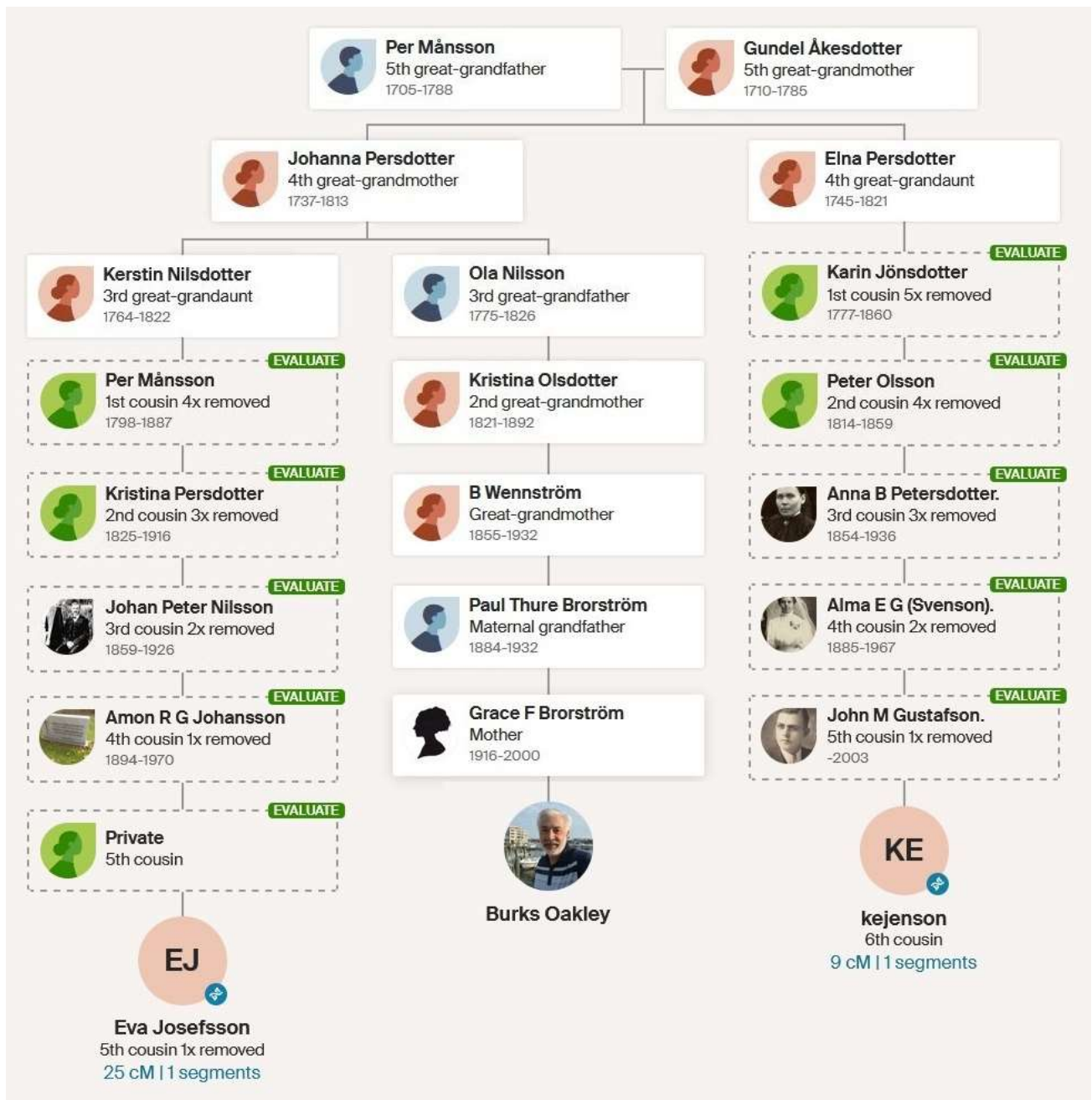
<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/ErikGunnarsson-Månsson-Åkesdotter.pdf>

The set of common ancestors that is relevant here is Nils Mårtensson (1722-1826) and his wife Johanna Persdotter (1737-1813). Here is a chart showing how Eva and I are both descended from this couple:



Recall that Johanna Persdotter (at the upper-right of the chart shown above) was a daughter of the Månsson-Åkesdotter couple from which Karen and I are both descended.

I combined my relationship chart with Karen with my relationship chart with Eva:



All three of us go back to the Månsson-Åkesdotter couple who were born in Sweden in the early 1700's.

Another DNA Match with Karen Jenson

I looked at the DNA profiles for all four of my Brorström first-cousins who are on Ancestry.com, but none of them had a DNA match with Karen. I was pleasantly surprised when I looked at my daughter Amy's DNA profile, since she did indeed have a DNA match with Karen:

Amy Oakley's DNA Matches


[All matches](#)
 [By parent](#)
 [By ancestor](#)
 [By location](#)

Match name

Surname in matches' trees

Birth location in matches' trees

Distant Family




kejenson

5th – 8th Cousin

8 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Paternal side

 Public linked tree

4,455 People


Amy and Karen share 8 cM, which is just slightly smaller than my 9 cM match with Karen. Since Karen and I are sixth-cousins, Amy and Karen are sixth-cousins once-removed. Interestingly, Ancestry.com only shows common ancestors going back to a person's fifth-great grandparents, and since the Månsson-Åkesdotter couple were Amy's sixth-great grandparents, Ancestry.com doesn't indicate that Amy and Karen have a set of common ancestors.

ThruLines™ for the Månsson-Åkesdotter Couple


For completeness, I'll now add the ThruLines™ charts for the Månsson-Åkesdotter couple. Here is my ThruLines™ for Per Månsson:

ThruLines® for Per Månsson


ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 12 DNA matches through Per Månsson.




Per Månsson
5th great-grandfather
1705-1788




Johanna Persdotter
4th great-grandmother
1737-1813

 8 DNA Matches >

5 ▾



Burks Oakley




Pernilla Persdotter
Half 4th great-grandaunt
1744-1826


5 ▾

KB

Karl-Gustaf Bengtsson
Half 6th cousin
16 cM | 1 segments

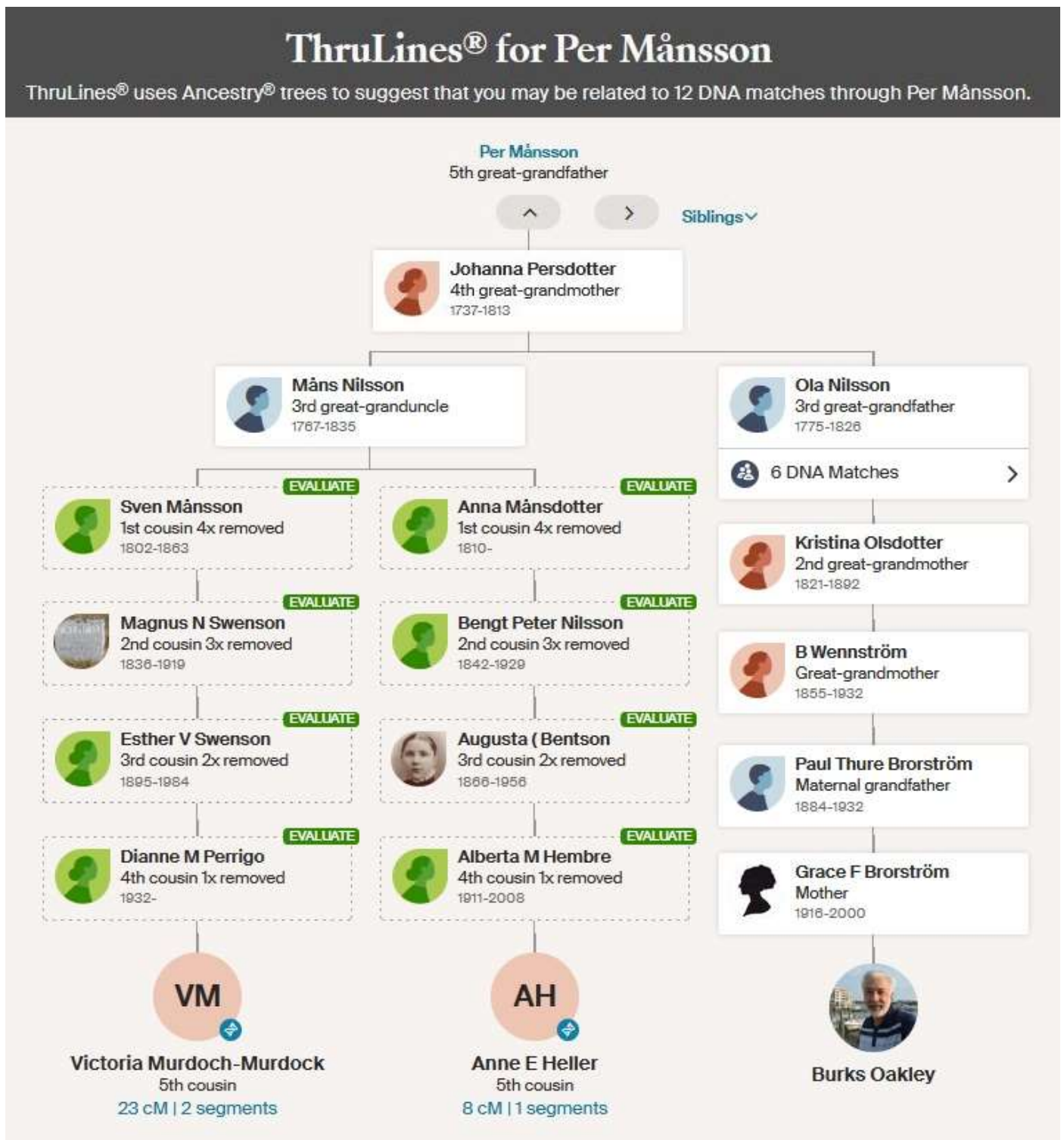


Elna Persdotter
4th great-grandaunt
1745-1821

 3 DNA Matches ▾

According to this chart, I have twelve DNA matches with descendants of Per Månsson. The ThruLines™ chart for Per's wife Gundel Åkesdotter is nearly the same as this chart, but it is missing the line in the middle going back from Karl-Gustaf Bengtsson. After looking into this line, I conclude that it is based on one or more errors in family trees on the Ancestry.com website, so I am going to ignore it.

I next looked at the line at the left, connecting back to Per Månsson through his daughter Johanna:



This chart shows that I have two DNA matches on this line, with Victoria Murdoch-Murdock and Anne E. Heller. They both are descended from Johanna Persdotter's son Måns Nilsson. I also have six DNA matches with descendants of Johanna's son Ola Nilsson, but all those matches are with my Brorström-Wennström first-cousins and second-cousins.

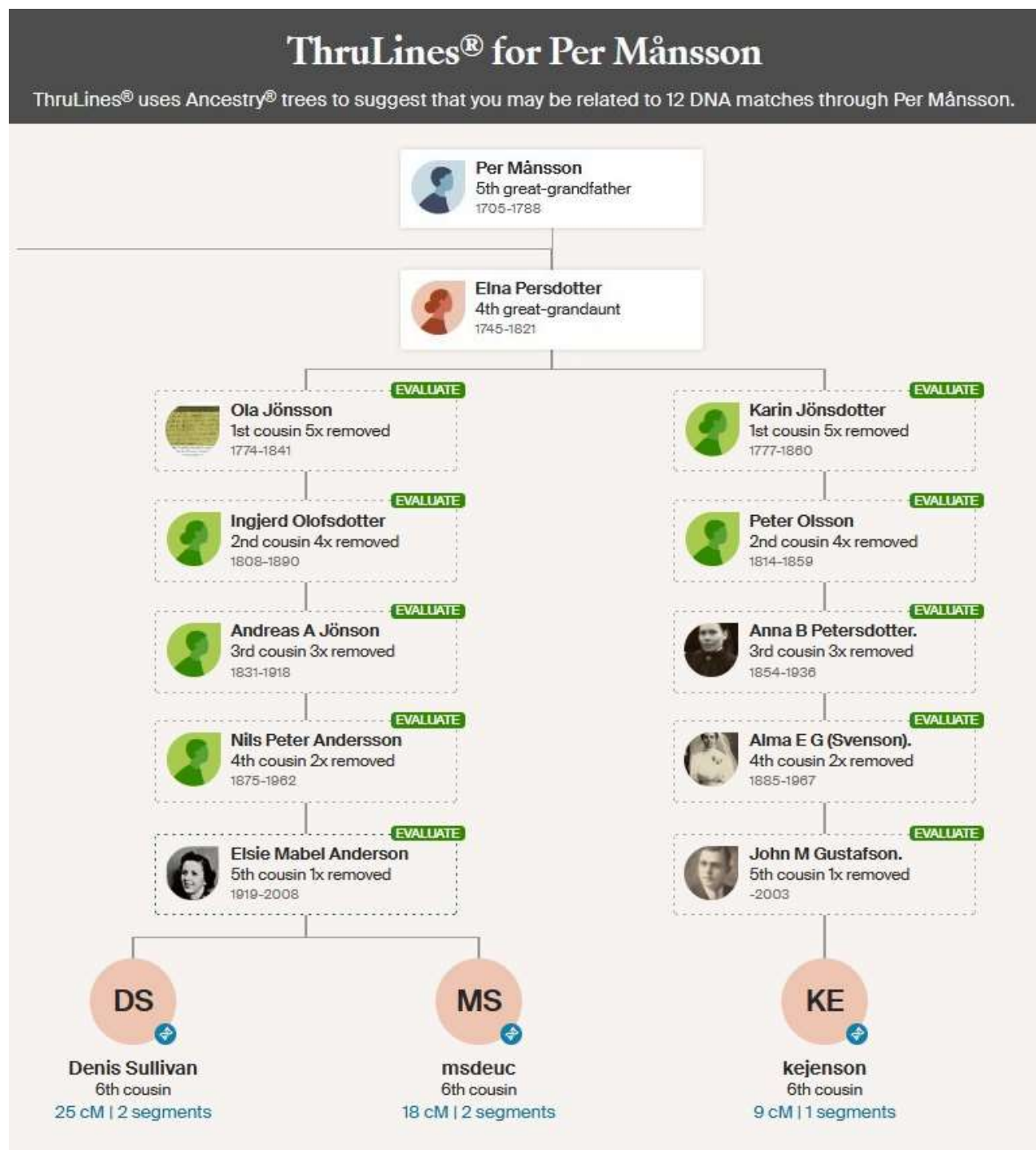
I have written about some of this part of my family tree previously:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/ThruLines-GundelÅkesdotter-Part-II.pdf>

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

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/PerMånsson-GundelÅkesdotter.pdf>

I next looked at the line at the right, connecting back to Per Månsson through his daughter Elna:



This branch of my family tree includes my DNA matches with Dennis Sullivan and his sister *msdeuc* (Susan Sullivan LeDeuc), as well as Karen E. Jenson. I have written about the Sullivan branch previously:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/PerMånsson-GundelÅkesdotter.pdf>

I still find it amazing that software on the Ancestry.com website can find these small DNA matches and fit the matches together based on family trees on the site.

More about My Connection with Karen E. Jenson and Her Family

Based on my relationship chart with Karen shown earlier, my relationship with Karen came from her father, John Malcolm Gustafson. I found him on the FindAGrave.com website:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/92622573/j.-malcolm-gustafson>



J. Malcolm Gustafson

BIRTH	1913
DEATH	2003 (aged 89–90)
BURIAL	Clinton Cemetery Clinton, Big Stone County, Minnesota, USA
MEMORIAL ID	92622573 · View Source

It would appear that he went by the name of Malcolm.

The FindAGrave.com entry also included a scan of his obituary:

Malcolm Gustafson

Memorial Services for Malcolm Gustafson, 90, of Clinton, were held Saturday, Sept. 27, 2003 at Elim Lutheran Church in Clinton.

Rev. David Hinrich officiated.

Malcolm Gustafson was born on Jan. 9, 1913 in Prior Township to John E. and Alma (Swenson) Gustafson. He attended grade school in district #3 and high school at Clinton. Upon graduation he attended the Minneapolis School of Business where he met his wife Dorothy Myren of Cokato.



Malcolm and Dorothy were married on Feb. 18, 1934 and were blessed with three children; Karen, Bradley and Jay. When first married they moved to Clinton where Malcolm ran Krooks Dry Goods Store. Due to the drought and depression this venture was not a success and he moved to his parents farm on Big Stone Lake.

Malcolm began farming with horses, then got his first tractor, a Farmall F-12 on steel. Over the years he raised dairy cattle, beef cattle, hogs and chickens. His wife tended a huge garden. They begged friends and neighbors to come and pick strawberries by the milk pail for free.

Farming had its hardships on the rocky soil along Big Stone Lake, but through it all Malcolm never lost his sense of humor and became known for some of his favorite sayings, such as, "Don't stand around like your company." and "Time's a' wasting." Anyone who was younger than him will remember, "You go get it, your so young and quick." This phrase has

been passed down for at least three generations. He would often torment his grand daughters by singing with a gleam in his eye, "...and then she said..." leaving them to wonder and question who "she" really was.

Malcolm would travel far and wide for church lutefisk suppers, which he dearly loved all his life. He was an active member of Elim Lutheran Church, a Mason and on the Coop board for 20 years.

In 1965, the state bought the farm on the lake, which became part of Big Stone State Park. J.M and Dorothy moved 1/2 mile away to the Gustafson homestead. His wife Dorothy died on May 4, 1982, after her death Malcolm married Edna Lindholm. She and Malcolm moved to Clinton. Edna died on Nov. 29, 1991.

In 1997, Malcolm moved to the Good Samaritan Home where he died Sept. 18, 2003.

Preceded Malcolm in death were his parents, John and Alma; his wives, Dorothy (Myers) and Edna (Lindholm); one infant brother, and one great-grandson, Joshua.

Survivors include one daughter, Karen Jenson of Milan; two sons, Bradley (Marilyn) Gustafson of Ortonville and Jay Gustafson of Fargo, ND; two step-daughters, Judy (John) Bauman of St. James, FL and Sherry Waldstien, New Hope; 11 grandchildren, Dawn, John, Kathleen, Charles, Mark, Kim, Kristann, Paula, Lisa, Julie and Jennifer; 21 great-grandchildren, Christopher, Benjamin, Amanda, Elizabeth, John, David, Laura, Matthew, Megan, Douglas, Brianne, Brandon, Jessica, Jon, Lydia, Lindsey, Timothy, Zachary, Victoria and Jacob; and three great-grandchildren.

The Moberg-Larson Funeral Home of Clinton was in charge of the arrangements.

What a great way to be remembered! And yes, he went by Malcolm.

The obituary mentioned his daughter Karen Jenson of Milan, Minnesota. Of course, I had to Google her:



karen jenson milan mn



All

Images

News

Videos

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More

About 2,840,000 results (0.51 seconds)

<https://milanvillageartsschool.org> › karen-jenson-trestuen

The Karen Jenson Trestuen Garden Gallery

Nestled in the heart of the town of **Milan** is a magical place of fantasy, art, color and design. Trestuen is Swedish for “Tree Room” and elements of nature ...

<https://www.wctrib.com> › arts-and-entertainment › mila...

Milan Village Arts School campaigning ... - West Central Tribune

Jan 5, 2022 — The home of rosemaling artist **Karen Jenson** is described as “a masterpiece of design, color and Scandinavian art.” It’s the fruit of more than 50 ...

<https://www.facebook.com> › Facebook Groups

Karen Jenson Trestuen Garden Gallery - Facebook

rosemaling or art in general, the **Karen Jenson** Trestuen Garden Gallery will fill you with wonder. Situated in the small western Minnesotan town of **Milan** ...

<https://www.pioneer.org> › karen-jenson

Karen Jenson - Pioneer PBS

Every room of **Karen Jenson's** home in **Milan** is a work of art with beautifully painted furniture, fixtures and surfaces. The home is the manifestation of ...

Oh my! I wasn’t expecting this! Karen is an accomplished artist, specializing in “rosemaling”. I found out that “rosemaling” is a type of Scandinavian decorative folk painting. The Wikipedia article about “rosemaling” has:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rose-painting>

Rose-painting, rosemaling, rosemåling or rosmålning is a Scandinavian decorative folk painting that flourished from the 1700s to the mid-19th century, particularly in Norway. In Sweden, rose-painting began to be called dalmålning, c. 1901, for the region where it had been most popular.

One of the links from my Google search was to a Facebook group – the “Karen Jenson Trestuen Garden Gallery”:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KarenJensonTrestuenGallery/>

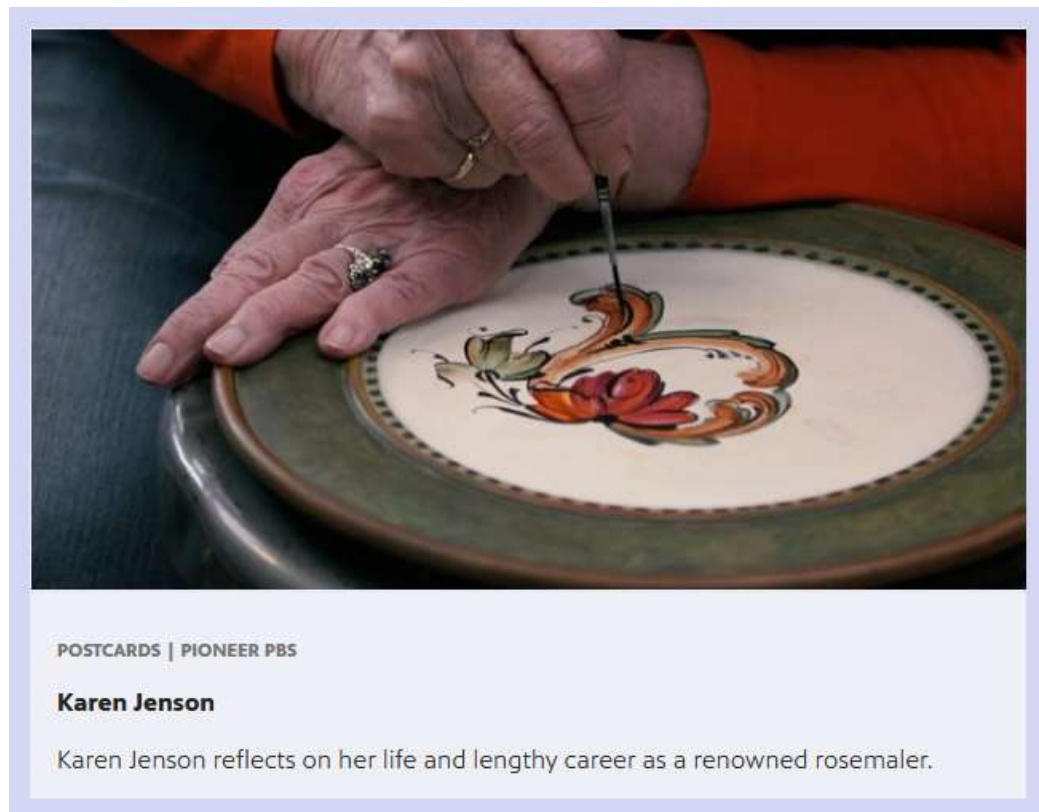
This group is open to anyone – click on the link to view some of Karen’s gorgeous artwork. Among the posts to this group is one from Karen, where she wrote:

I am a Scandinavian decorative painter, trained at Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Iowa; influenced and inspired by Sigmund Aarseth and Dr. Marion Nelson. The objects I paint must feel good in my hand, with a pleasing flow to the form that inspires a creative response in me. My main interest is color and the layers of traditional back-grounding techniques that achieve high standards of finish and beauty. I am a Gold Medalist from Vesterheim Museum and have exhibited in the Minneapolis Institute of Arts,

Smithsonian Museum, the American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, and the New York Museum of Folk Art. I have taught all over the U.S., Canada and the Milan Village Arts School.

Another result from my Google search was to a short video featuring Karen talking about her artwork:

<https://www.pioneer.org/karen-jenson/>



Wow! This is really awesome!! And to think that Karen and I have a DNA match that goes back to our fifth-great grandparents in Hasslöv! And that we have a Shared DNA Match with Eva Josefsson in Halmstad!

Summary

In this narrative, I began with my new DNA match on Ancestry.com with a woman having the username of ***kejenson***. I learned that her name is Karen Elizabeth Jenson. Karen and I have a small 9 cM DNA match, and we both are descended from Per Månsson (1705-1788) and his wife Gundel Åkesdotter (1710-1785), who lived in Hasslöv, Sweden. This couple were my fifth-great grandparents, and based on this relationship, Karen and I are fourth-cousins.

Karen is a second-generation Swedish-American, and her ethnicity estimate on Ancestry.com is an amazing 97%. Karen and I have a shared DNA match with Eva Josefsson, who is a Swede whose family also has its roots in Hasslöv and nearby communities. I have visited Eva several times in Sweden.

Karen lives in western Minnesota, and she is an accomplished Scandinavian decorative painter. Her house in Milan, Minnesota, has wonderful examples of her art that she has collected over more than a fifty-year career. How nice to have her as one of my Swedish-American cousins!