

# Susan's New DNA Match with Kjell Zachrisson – Going Back on Our Ancestral Lines to Fjärås, Sweden

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I am interested in genetic genealogy; that is, the use of DNA to confirm and to extend my family tree. My pedigree is fairly complete, at least back to the level of my fifth-great grandparents. Most of the new DNA matches I find provide confirmation that the direct ancestors in my existing family tree are correct. Of course, my new DNA matches would also extend my family tree, if I were to add the lines connecting to these matches (something that I hardly ever do).

My mother's four grandparents were all Swedish immigrants. I have written extensively about my DNA matches, both in Sweden and in the USA:

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

I recently looked at the DNA matches that my first-cousin Susan Baker (née Brorström) has on the Ancestry.com website. Susan's father, Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001) was the older brother of my mother, Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000). I have always reasoned that any relative of Susan on her father's side of the family will also be one of my relatives. And due to the random way that autosomal DNA is inherited, Susan will have DNA matches with distant cousins that I don't have (and vice versa). This means that I can learn something new about MY distant relatives by examining Susan's DNA matches, as well as those of my Brorström cousins.


I filtered Susan's DNA matches so that I only viewed new DNA matches that I had not seen previously. I then applied a second filter, so that I only viewed those new matches where software on the Ancestry.com website was able to identify a common ancestor (or ancestors). One of the DNA matches on the resulting list was a man named Kjell Zachrisson:


**Susan Baker's DNA Matches**


All matches By parent By ancestor By location

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

**Extended Family**

 **Kjell Zachrisson** 4th - 6th Cousin  
23 cM | < 1% shared DNA  
Paternal side

 Public linked tree  
284 People

 Common ancestor

Susan and Kjell share 23 cM of DNA, and they could be anything from a fourth-cousin to a sixth-cousin.

As an aside, the Wikipedia entry for Kjell includes “*Kjell* is a Scandinavian (usually male) given name. The name comes from the Old Norse word *kętill*, which means *kettle* and probably also *helmet* or perhaps *cauldron*. In 2007, there were 59,011 men in Sweden with *Kjell* as their first name, making it the 42nd most common masculine name in Sweden.”<sup>1</sup>

If you are wondering how to pronounce “Kjell”, there is a humorous YouTube video about this at: <https://youtu.be/tP2PWQoSdN0>

But I digress...

I next looked at the ancestors that Susan and Kjell have in common:

How are Susan Baker and Kjell Zachrisson related?

### Common Ancestors

According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect Susan Baker and Kjell Zachrisson. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects them.

**Susan Baker and Kjell Zachrisson could be 6th cousin through:**

- Erik Jonsson**  
5th great-grandfather  
1702–1760  
[View Relationship](#)
- Elin Nilsson**  
5th great-grandmother  
1708–1762  
[View Relationship](#)

Based on family trees on Ancestry.com, Susan and Kjell are both descended from Erik Jonsson (1702-1760) and his wife Elin Nilsson (1708-1762). Both Erik and Elin appear in my family tree:

Burks Oakley II ▾ Find in tree

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

Burks Oakley II ▾ Find in tree

**Elin Nilsson**  
BIRTH 8 JAN 1708 • Tom, Fjärås, Halland, Sweden  
DEATH 13 FEB 1762 • Allatorp, Fjärås, Halland, Sweden

<sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kjell>

It appears that Erik and Elin lived their entire lives in Fjärås, Sweden. Fjärås is located on the west coast of Sweden, about 40 km south of Göteborg (Gothenburg), as shown in the following Google Map:



I have visited Fjärås three times since 2016. Here is a photo of the church in Fjärås that I took during my last visit in July 2023:



But I digress....

Software on Ancestry.com automatically produced a chart showing how Susan and Kjell are likely related:



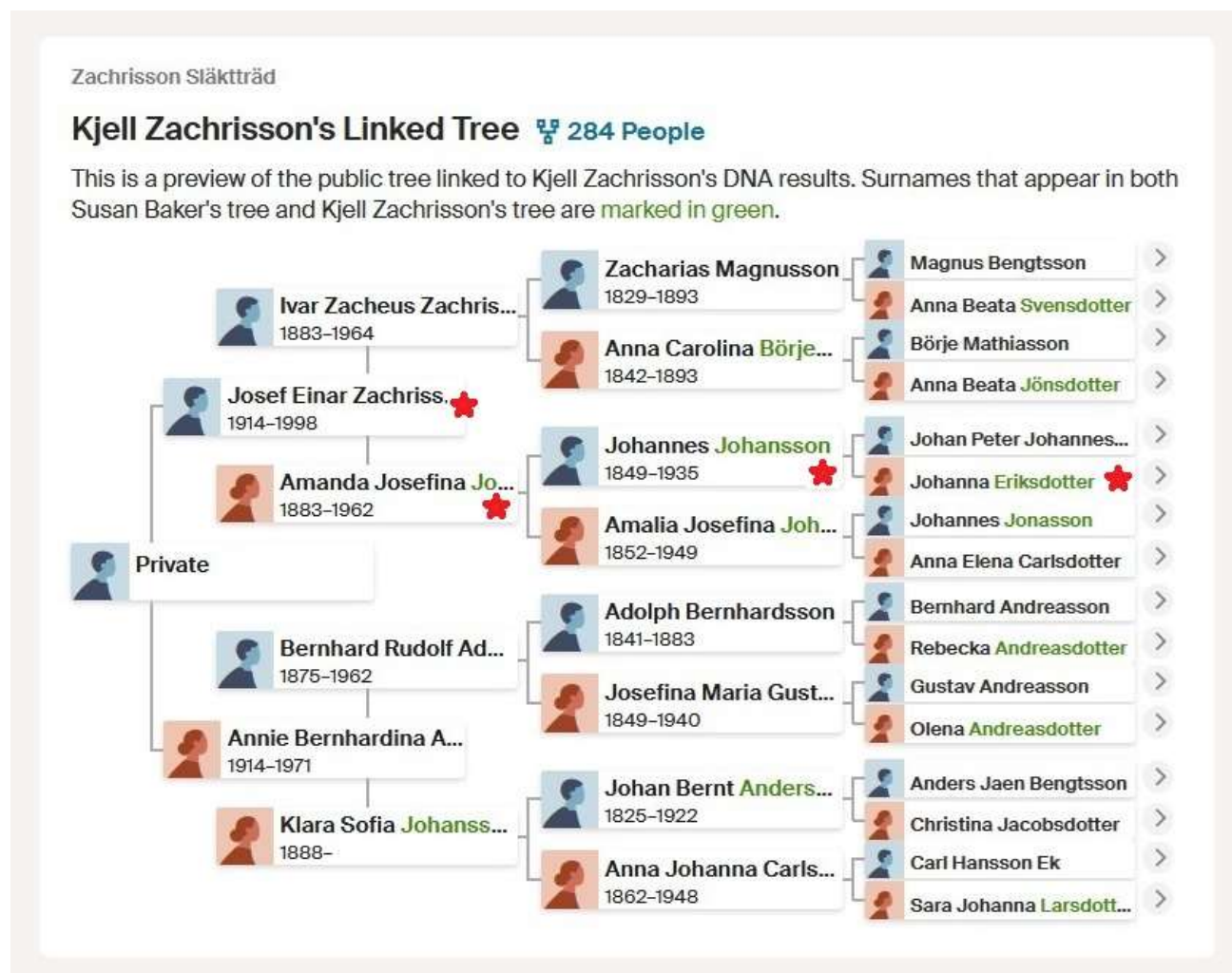
Susan’s ancestral line goes back to Erik Jonsson and his wife Elin Nilsson through their daughter Svenborg Eriksdotter (1749-1841), while Kjell’s ancestral line goes back to this couple through their daughter Anna Eriksdotter (1746-1809). Based on this chart, Susan and Kjell are sixth-cousins.

In this relationship chart, the people in the solid white boxes are already in my family tree, while the people in the dotted boxes are not in my family tree. Clicking on the “Evaluate” button in the upper-right of any dotted box brings up a panel listing a number of family trees that show where this information originated.

I note that Susan’s fifth-great grandfather, Erik Jonsson, was born in 1702. This was about 3.5 years before Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Susan’s fifth-great grandmother, Elin Nilsson, was born in 1708, just two years after Benjamin Franklin was born. And Susan still has a 23 cM segment of autosomal DNA in one of her chromosomes that was in either Erik or Elin around the time that Benjamin Franklin was born. When you think about this, it’s really quite amazing.

But I digress...

I next decided to check Kjell's ancestral line shown in the relationship chart (on the previous page). I looked first at Kjell's pedigree:



Kjell's ancestral line to the Jonsson-Nilsdotter couple goes back through Johanna Eriksdotter (1824-1893), at the right of this chart. I found a number of family trees on Ancestry.com that had Erik Andersson (1775-1842) as being Johanna Eriksdotter's father:



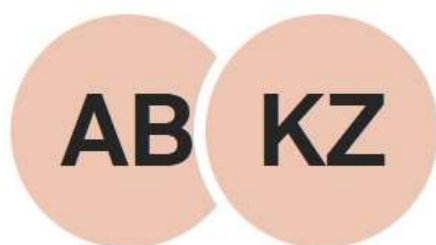
And I found a number of family trees that had Anna Eriksdotter (a daughter of Erik Jonsson and his wife Elin Nilsdotter) as being Erik Andersson's mother. So I'm pretty sure that the relationship chart shown on the previous page is correct.

Kjell's family tree includes his late father, Josef Einar Zachrisson:





I went on to see if any of Susan's siblings had DNA matches with Kjell. Out of Peter, Beth, Annmarie, and Stuart, only Annmarie has a DNA match with Kjell:



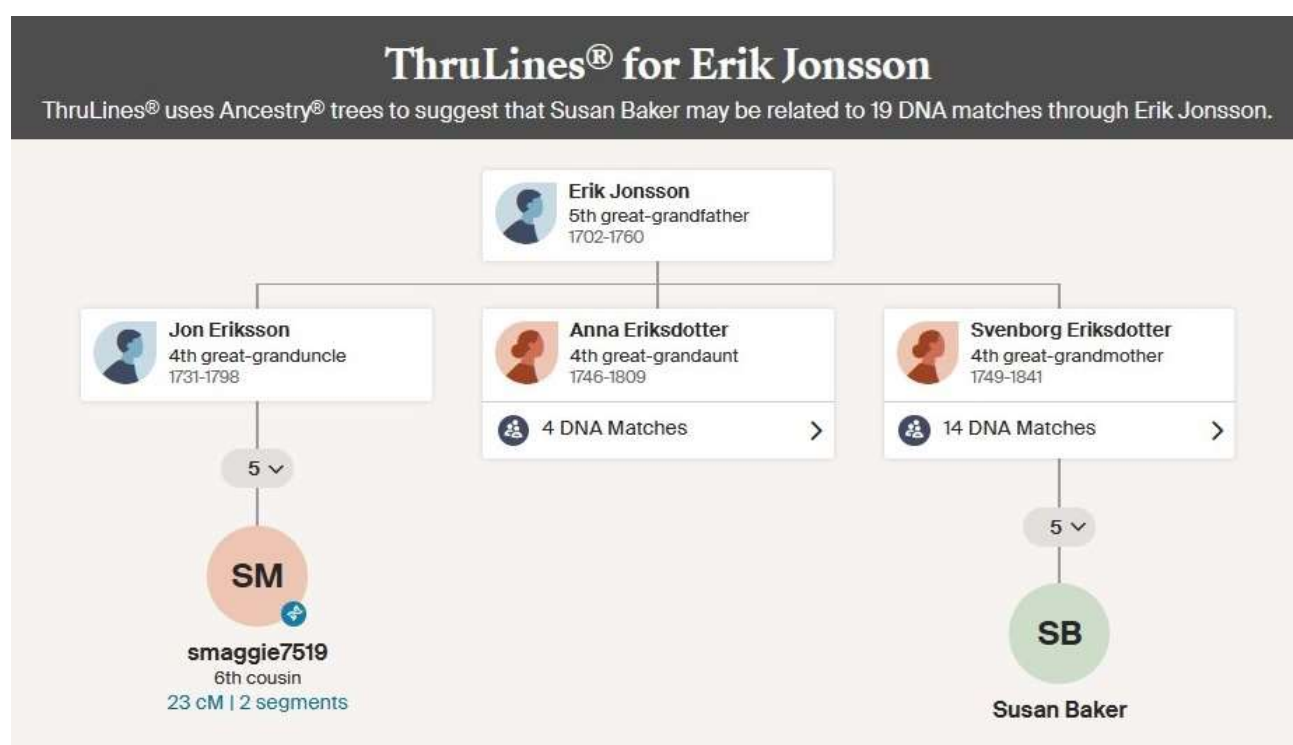
## Annmarie Brorström and Kjell Zachrisson

5th - 8th Cousin | Paternal side

< 1% shared DNA: 10 cM across 1 segments

Annmarie and Kjell have just a 10 cM match (rather small). And in case you are wondering, I do NOT have a DNA match with Kjell.

I next went on to look at our ThruLines® charts going back to Erik Jonsson and his wife Elin Nilsson (remember, they are the ancestors that Susan and Kjell have in common). Here is Susan's ThruLines® chart for Erik Jonsson:



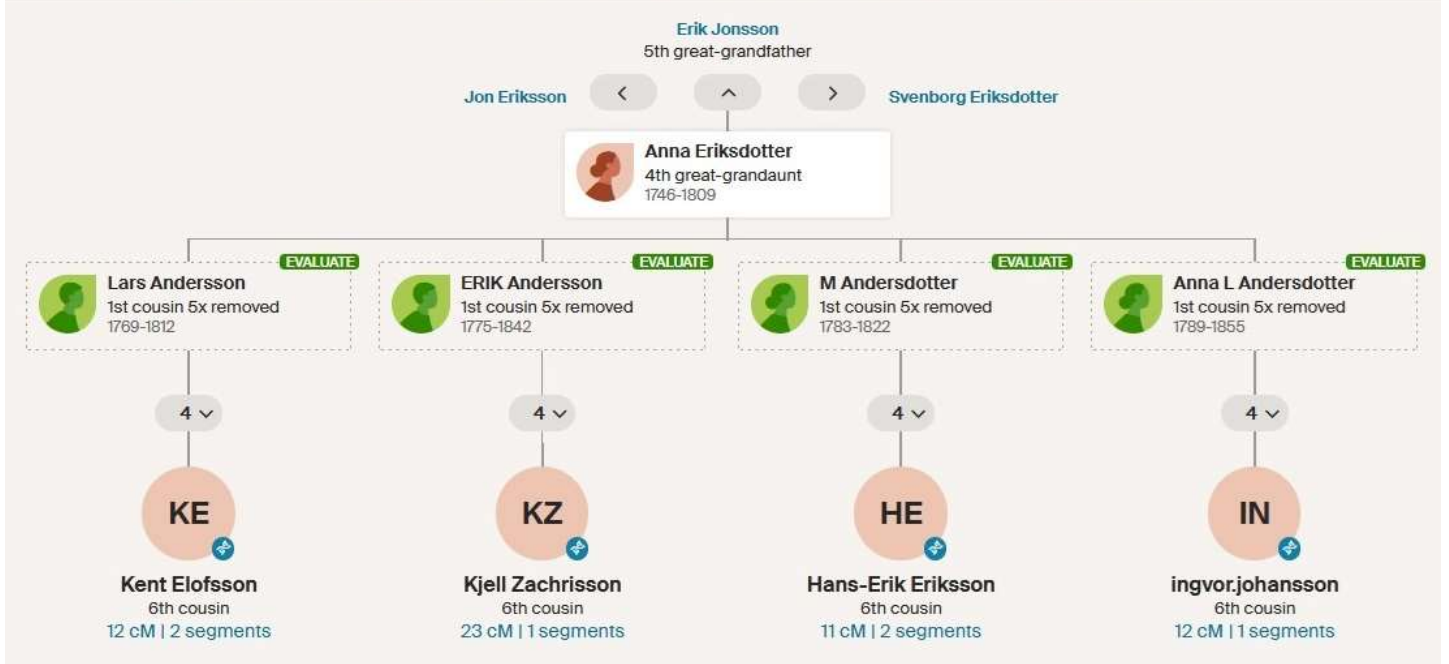
Susan has DNA matches with nineteen descendants of Erik Jonsson. One DNA match goes back through Erik's son Jon Eriksson, four DNA matches go back through Erik's daughter Anna Eriksdotter, and fourteen DNA matches go back through Erik's daughter Svenborg Eriksdotter. I should add that the ThruLines® chart for Erik's wife Elin looks identical to this chart, with Elin substituted for Erik at the top of the chart. In fact, all of the ThruLines® charts that I will show below for Erik Jonsson look the same as the charts for Elin, so I'll only show the Erik charts from hereon.

It turns out that the ancestral lines going back through Anna Eriksdotter are the most interesting, so to keep this document a reasonable length, I'll just focus on those lines.

Here is Susan's ThruLines® chart showing her four DNA matches going back to Erik Jonsson through his daughter Anna:

## ThruLines® for Erik Jonsson

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that Susan Baker may be related to 19 DNA matches through Erik Jonsson.



Susan's four DNA matches in this part of the ThruLines® chart are with Kent Elofsson, Kjell Zachrisson, Hans-Erik Eriksson, and Ingvor Johansson.

I actually wrote about my DNA match with Hans-Erik Eriksson in 2019:

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

At that time, he was the only DNA match I had with a descendant of Anna Eriksdotter.

Interestingly, Kent Elofsson's DNA profile on Ancestry.com is managed by his wife, Carina Sahlqvist Elofsson, and they live in Fjärås. And Hans-Erik Eriksson's DNA profile on Ancestry.com is managed by his wife, Rose-Marie Eriksson, and they also live in Fjärås. Ingvor Johansson's DNA profile is managed by Madeleine Wunsch Rudén, and she lives in Göteborg (Gothenburg). I mentioned (above) that Kjell Zachrisson lives in near Fjärås in Kungsbacka. Wow, this branch of the family sure hasn't gotten very far from its roots in Fjärås!

I'll continue now by examining all my Brorström cousins' ThruLines® charts (as well as mine) for Erik Jonsson. Here is Peter's ThruLines® chart for Erik Jonsson, with all the lines "closed":

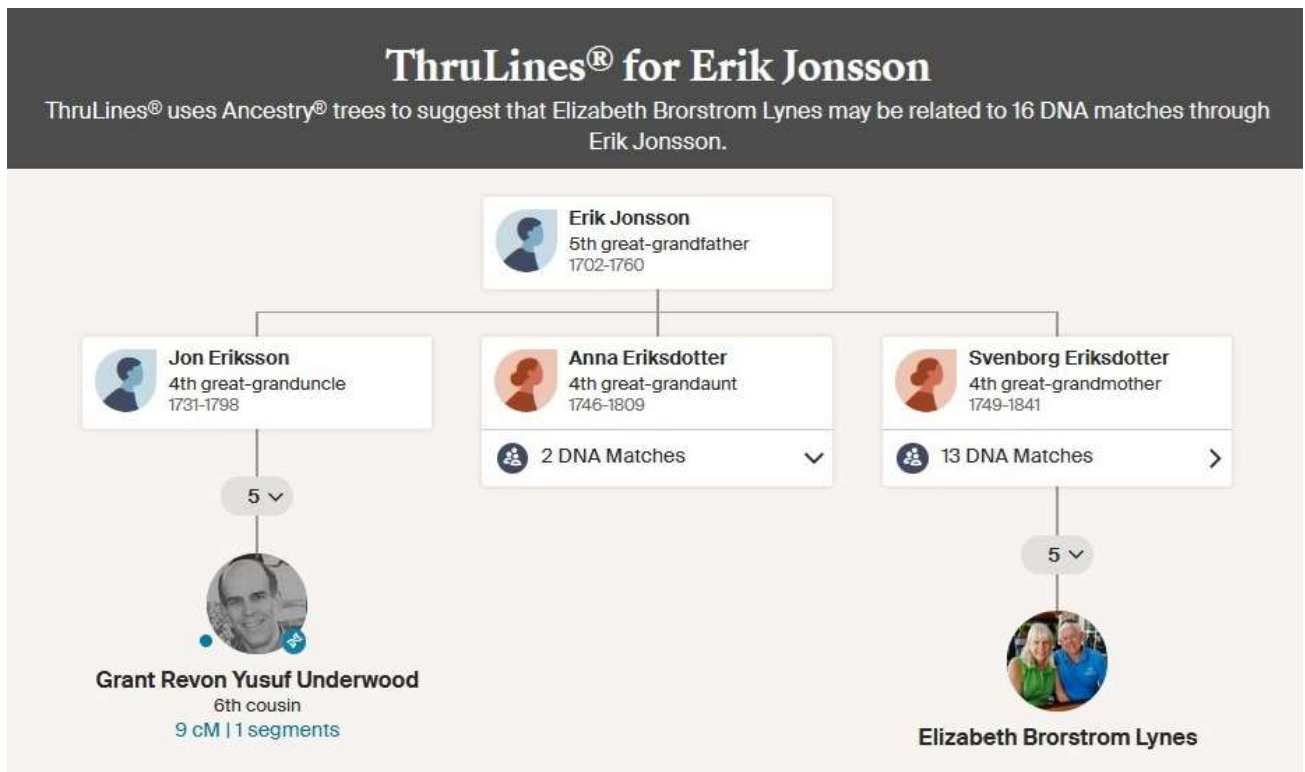


And here is Peter's ThruLines® chart showing multiple lines:

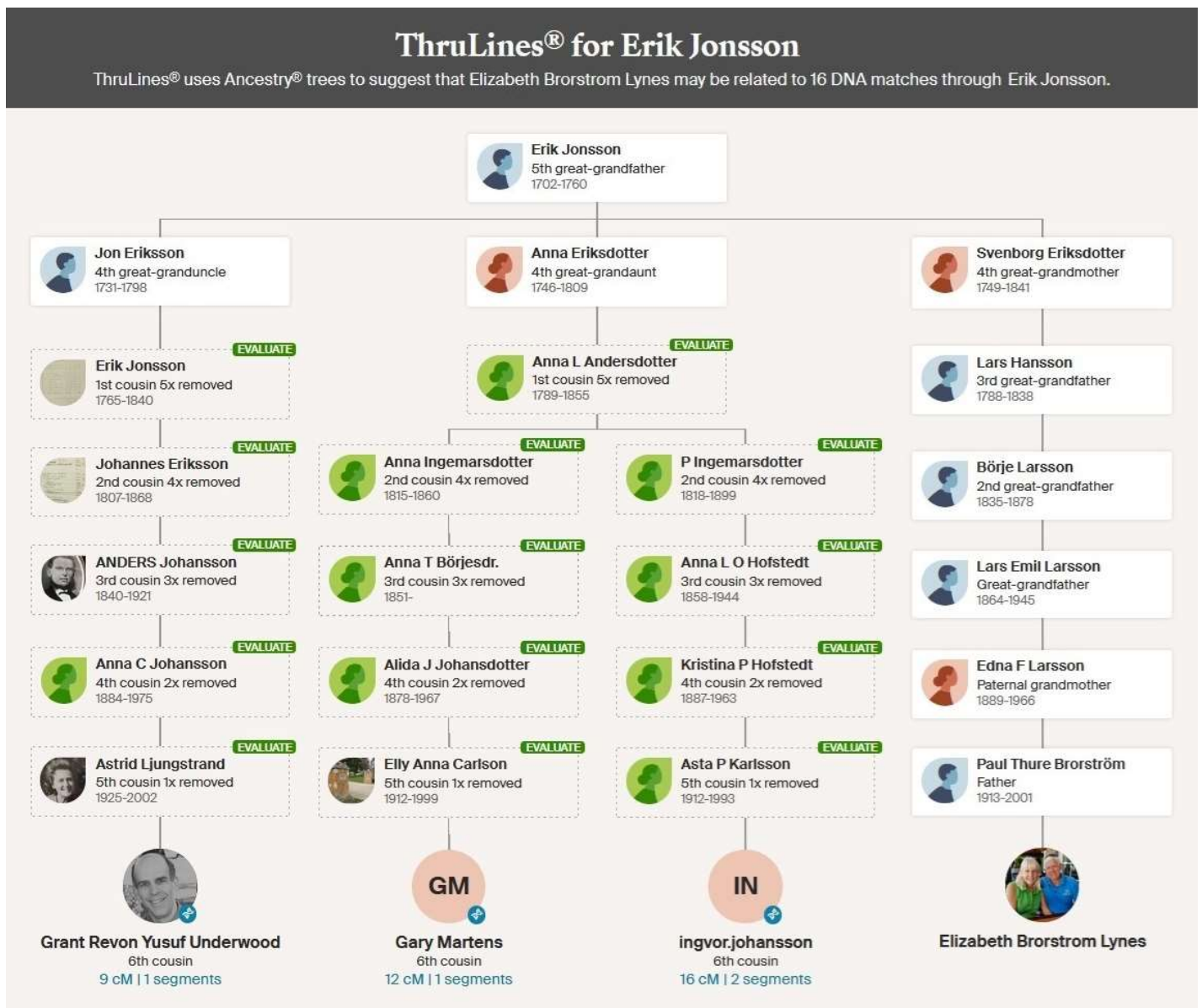


Peter has DNA matches with two descendants of Anna Eriksdotter, namely **W.J.** and Joel Johnson. These two matches are completely different than the three that Susan has.

Here is Beth's ThruLines® chart for Erik Jonsson with all the lines "closed":



And here is the same ThruLines® chart with the lines at the left and center “open”:

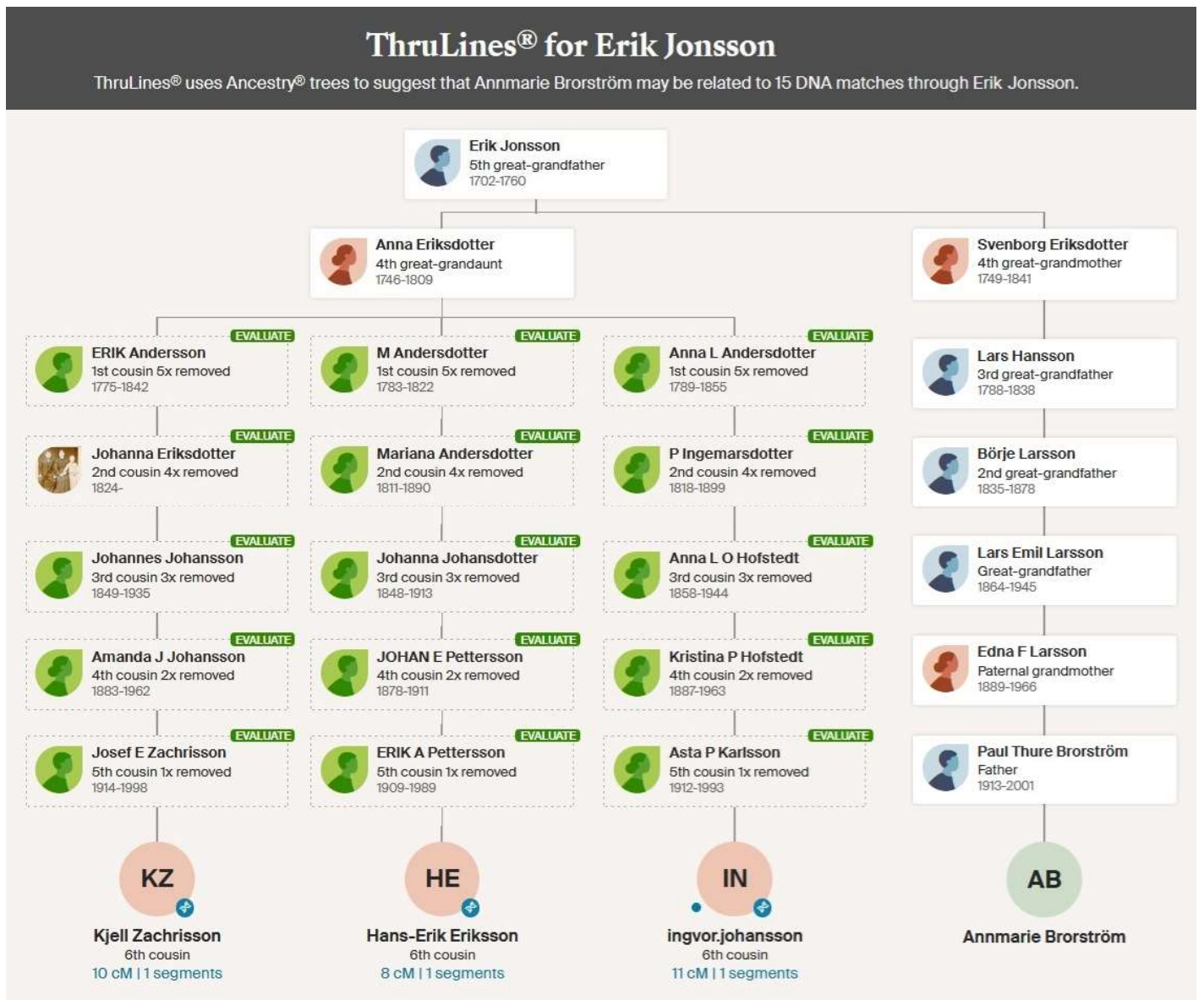


Beth’s two DNA matches going back through Anna Eriksdotter are with Gary Martens and Ingvor Johansson. Recall that Susan has a DNA match with Ingvor Johansson, but the match with Gary Martens is new.

Next is Annmarie. Here is her ThruLines® chart for Erik Jonsson with all the lines “closed”:



And here it is with the lines at the left open:

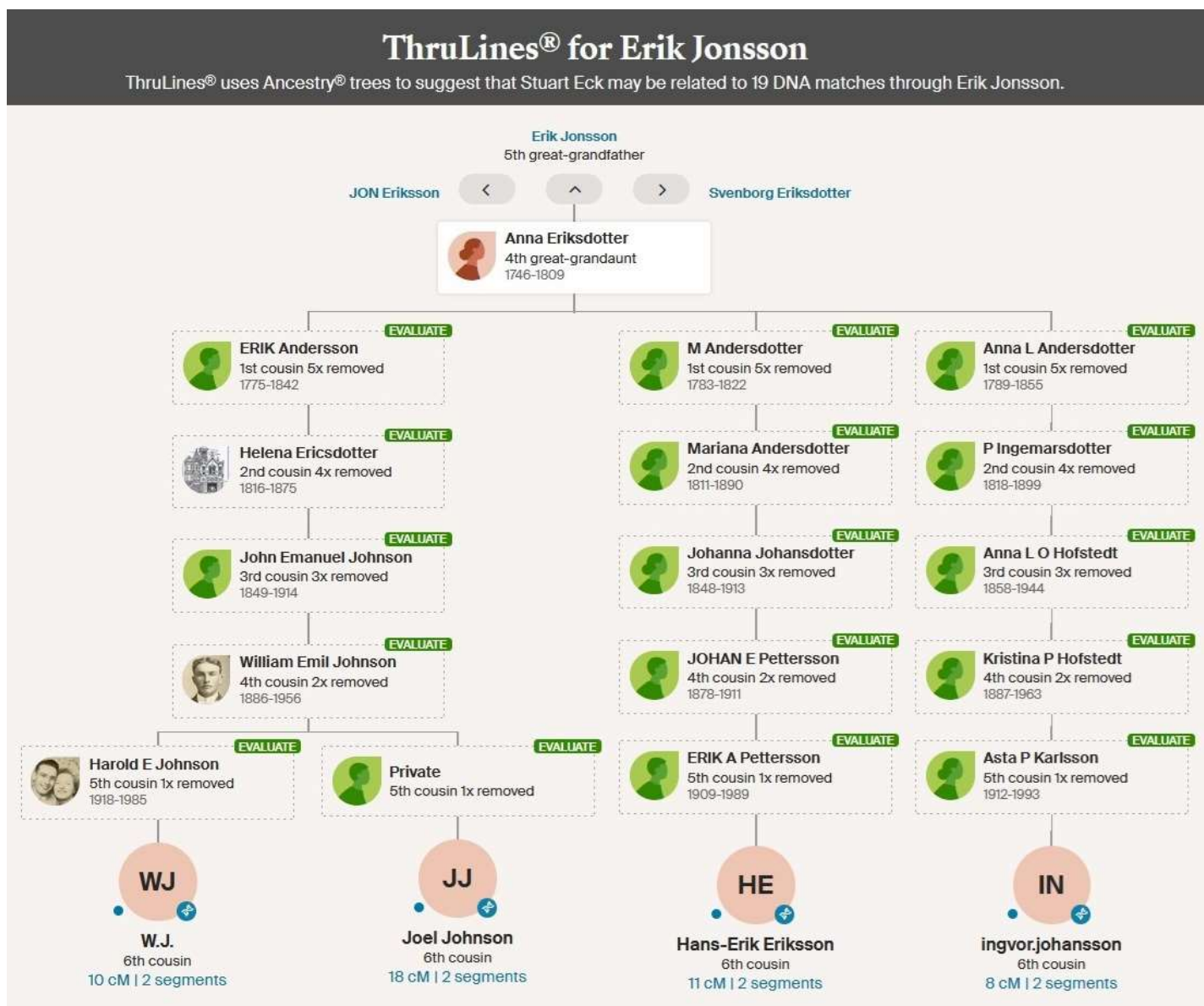


Unfortunately, there is nothing new here – Annmarië has DNA matches with Kjell Zachrisson, Hans-Erik Eriksson, and Ingvor Johansson.

Next is Stuart. Here is his ThruLines® chart for Erik Jonsson with all the lines “closed”:



And here is the part of Stuart's ThruLines® chart going back through Anna Eriksdotter:



Unfortunately, there is nothing new here. Stuart has DNA matches with **W.J.**, Joel Johnson, Hans-Erik Eriksson, and Ingvor Johansson.

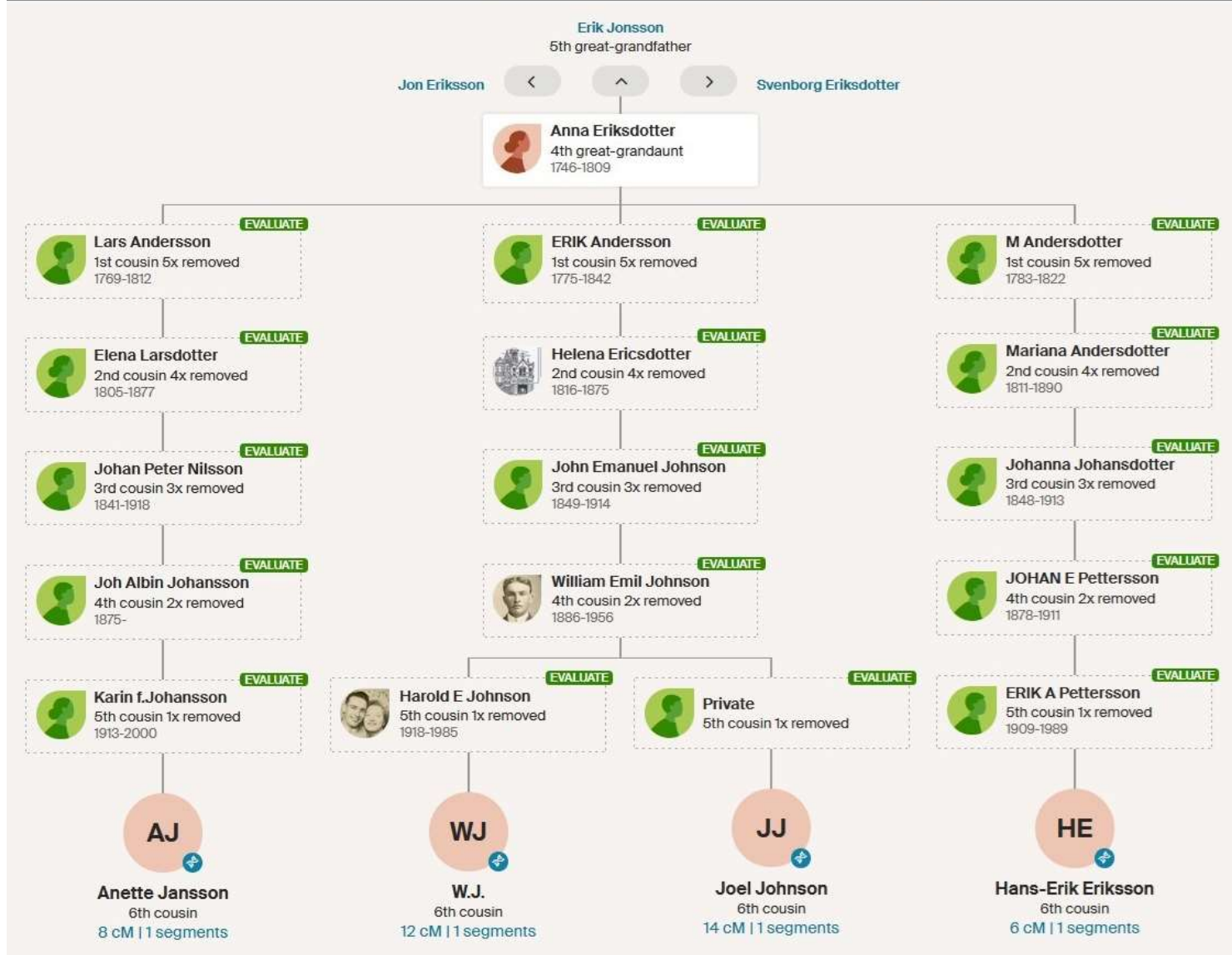
I'll now look at MY ThruLines® chart for Erik Jonsson; first with all lines "closed":



I have 23 DNA matches with descendants of Erik Jonsson. And four of them go back through his daughter Anna Eriksdotter:

## ThruLines® for Erik Jonsson

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 23 DNA matches through Erik Jonsson.



Oh my! This chart shows that I have a DNA match with Anette Jansson – none of my Brorström cousins have this match. I also have matches with **W.J.**, Joel Johnson, and Hans-Erik Eriksson.

Overall, my Brorström cousins and I have DNA matches with eight people descended from Erik Jonsson and his wife Elin Nilsdotter through their daughter Anna Eriksdotter. These matches are with:

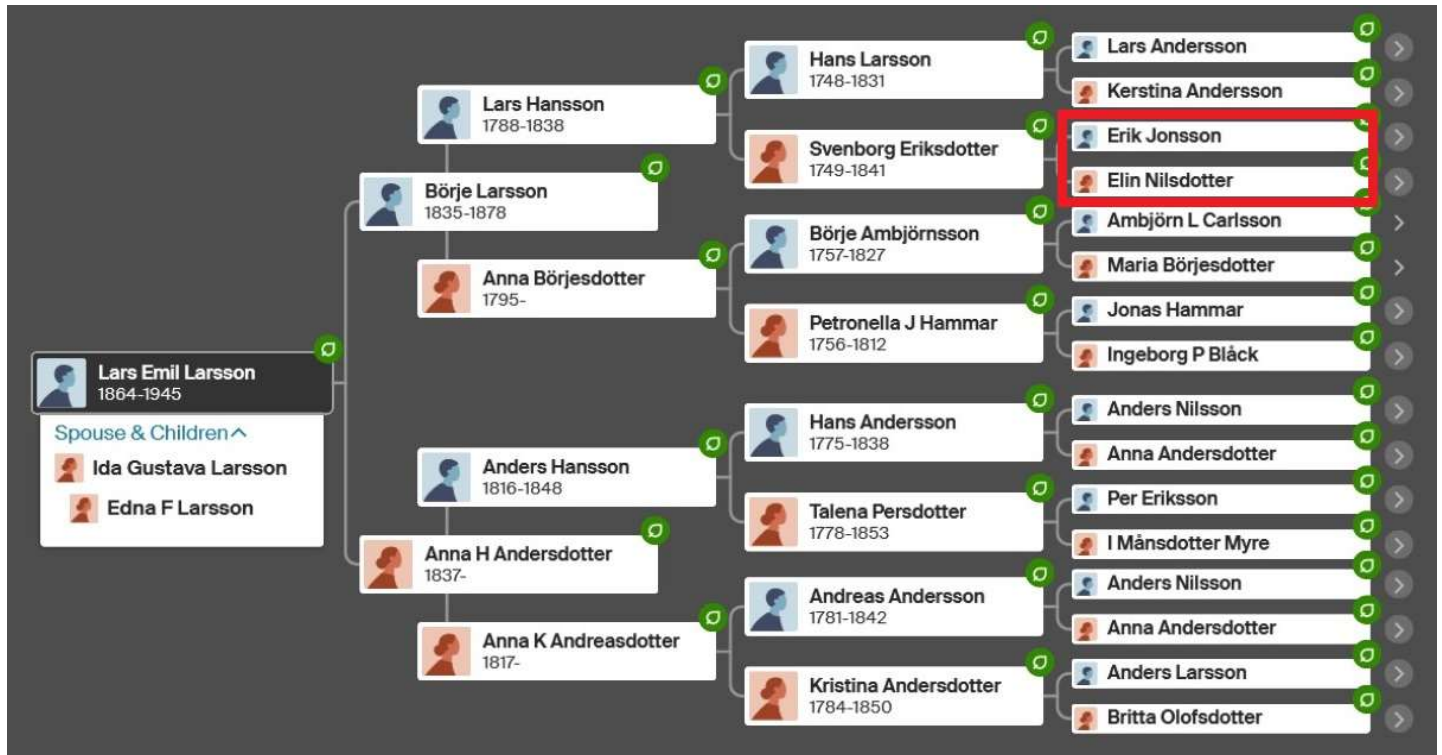
- Kent Elofsson
- Han-Erik Eriksson
- Anette Jansson
- Ingvor Johansson
- Joel Johnson
- **W.J.** (last name Johnson)
- Gary Martens
- Kjell Zachrisson

I'm always amazed at the random way that autosomal DNA is inherited, especially with small DNA matches going back to fifth-great grandparents. As a family, we have DNA matches with eight descendants of Anna Eriksdotter. But none of us have matches with more than four of these people. And three of these people have DNA matches with just a single member of our family:

- Kent Elofsson – Susan
- Anette Jansson – Burks
- Gary Martens – Beth

All of this provides strong support for our family’s roots in Fjärås. Our immigrant great-grandfather, Lars Emil Larsson, was the last member of our family to live in Fjärås. But a number of HIS ancestors, such as the one described in this narrative, go back for multiple generations in Fjärås.

Here is a pedigree chart for Lars Emil Larsson going back through his second-great grandparents – the Jonsson-Nilsdotter couple are outlined in the red rectangle:



Most of the families in the pedigree chart on the previous page lived for generations in Fjärås. I have to admit that I think of these folks as my **Larsson** ancestors, but I always have to keep in mind that there were many families other than **Larsson** involved in our roots in Fjärås.

And with that, I’ll end this rambling narrative.