

New Additions to the ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson and his wife Anna Börjesdotter

By Burks Oakley II
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This narrative includes DNA connections with:

- Dan Baumann
- Michael Baumann
- ***Bunkers93*** – Dan and Michael Baumann’s sibling
- Marilyn Britain
- Jennifer Engels
- Martin Engels
- Debby Erickson Golightly
- Cory Johnson
- Molly McDonald
- Gail Thackaberry

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.

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.

I previously wrote about my ThruLines™ for one of my 3rd-great grandfathers – a Swedish man named Lars Hansson (born in 1788):

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

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/LarsHansson-AnnaBörjesdotter.pdf>

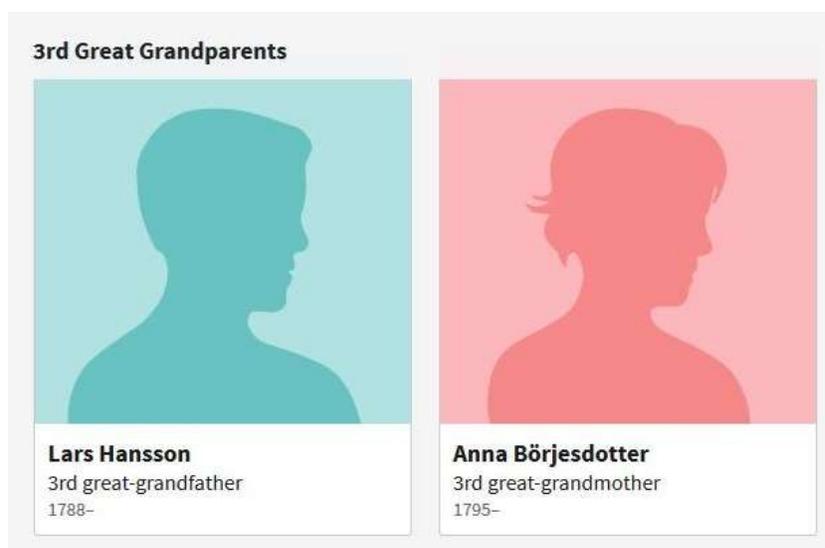
Lars Hansson was the paternal grandfather (*farfar* in Swedish) of my immigrant ancestor Lars Emil Larsson (1864-1945).

Since the number of people with DNA profiles on Ancestry.com is growing rapidly, it turns out that it is productive to revisit each of my ThruLines™ regularly, as well as those of my Swedish-American cousins who have their DNA on Ancestry.com – Peter, Annmarie, Susan, and Stuart. These cousins have DNA matches with distant cousins that I don't have, due to the way that autosomal DNA is inherited.

This narrative addresses new additions to our ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson (and his wife Anna Börjesdotter). This research helps to confirm our Larsson family roots in Fjärås, Sweden.

ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson & Anna Börjesdotter

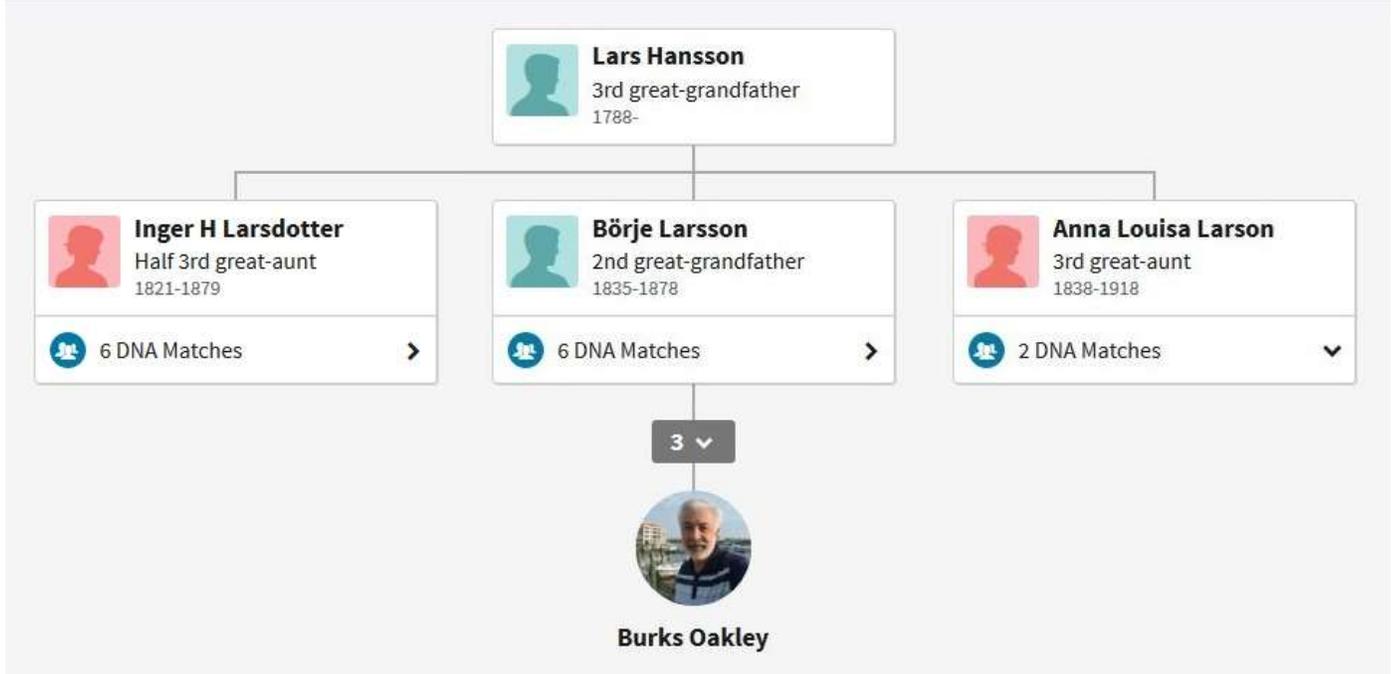
The ThruLines™ on Ancestry.com are organized in a hierarchical manner, starting with a person's two parents and going all the way to the person's one hundred twenty-eight 5th-great grandparents. Lars Hansson and his wife Anna Börjesdotter appear in the section with my thirty-two 3rd-great grandparents:



Here is the initial view of my ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson:

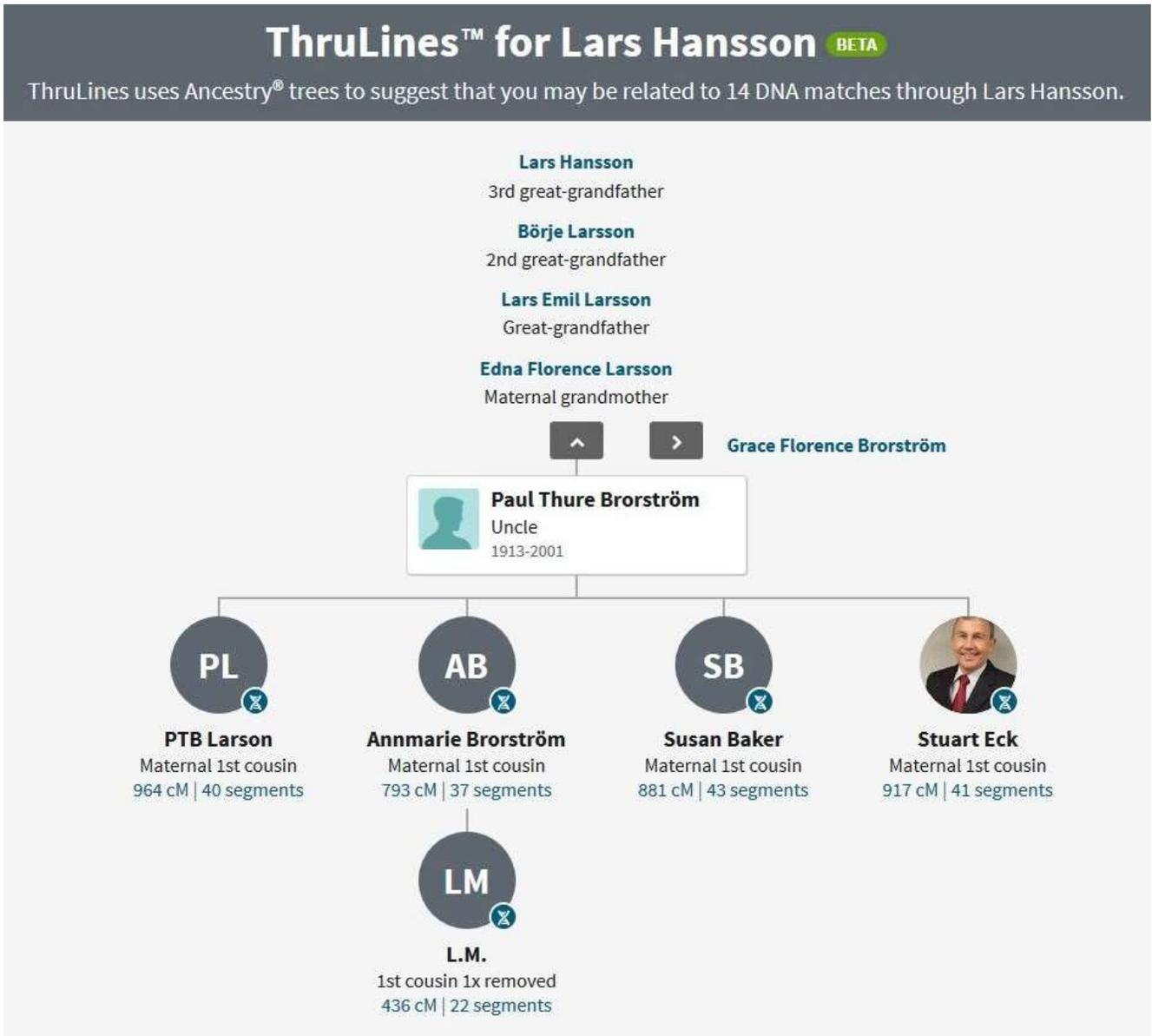
ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson BETA

ThruLines uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 14 DNA matches through Lars Hansson.



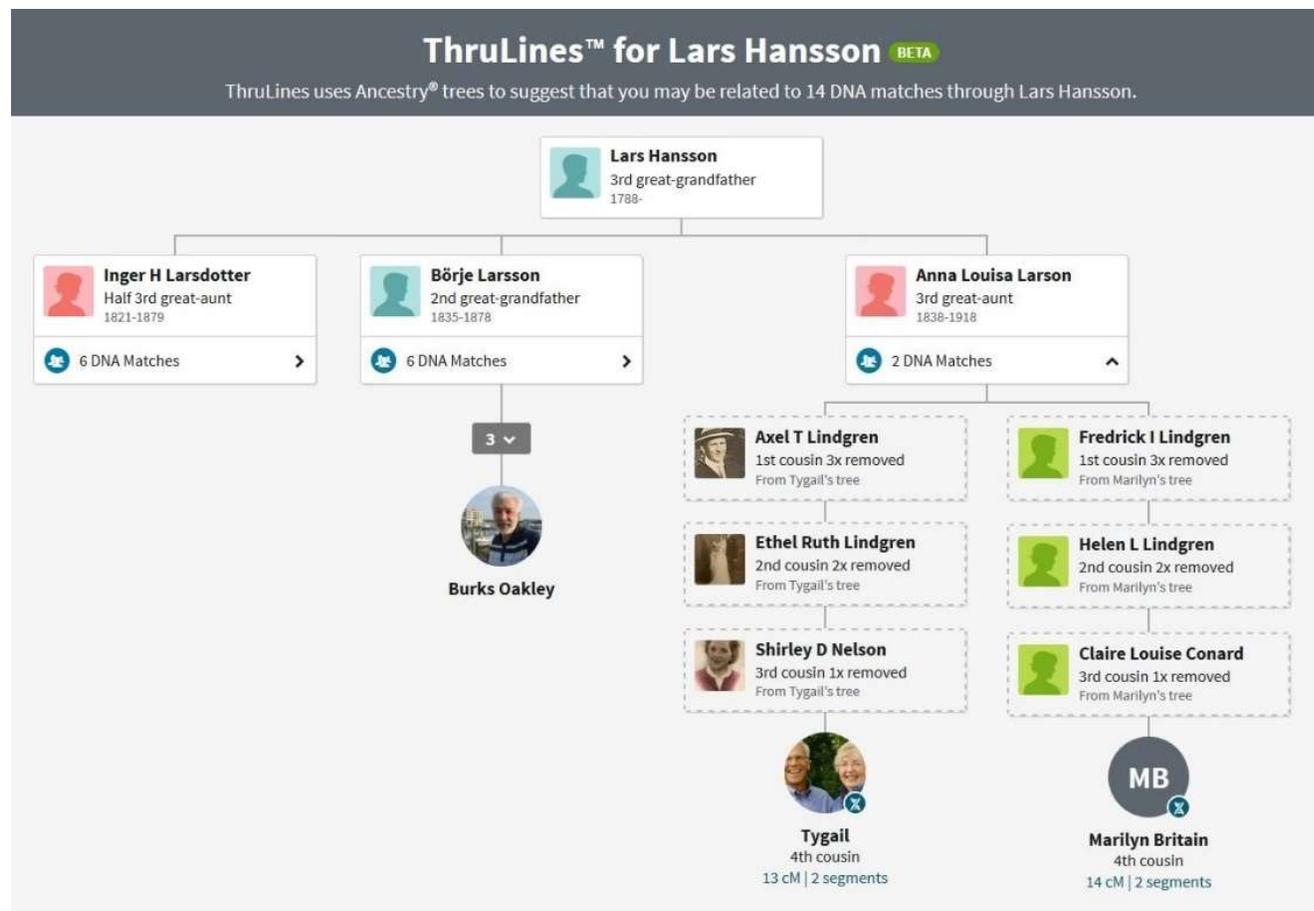
This chart shows that I have a total of 14 DNA matches with the descendants of Lars Hansson. There are lines that go back to Lars Hansson through three of his children: Inger Helena Larsdotter (1821-1879), Börje Larsson (1835-1878), and Anna Louisa Larson (1838-1918).

It is easiest to look at my line first, which goes back to Lars Hansson through his son Börje Larsson. This line shows my DNA matches with my Brorström first-cousins: Peter, Annmarie, Susan, and Stuart; it also shows my DNA match with Annmarie's daughter Lauren.



Not shown is my DNA match with my daughter Amy. That match is in my line, which connects through Grace Florence Brorström.

I next looked at my DNA matches that go back through Anna Louisa Larson (her name at birth was Anna Lovisa Larsdotter, but she changed it when she immigrated to America). On this line, I have DNA matches with **Tygail** (Gail Thackaberry) and Marilyn Britain:



This isn't new information – I have written about this in the past.

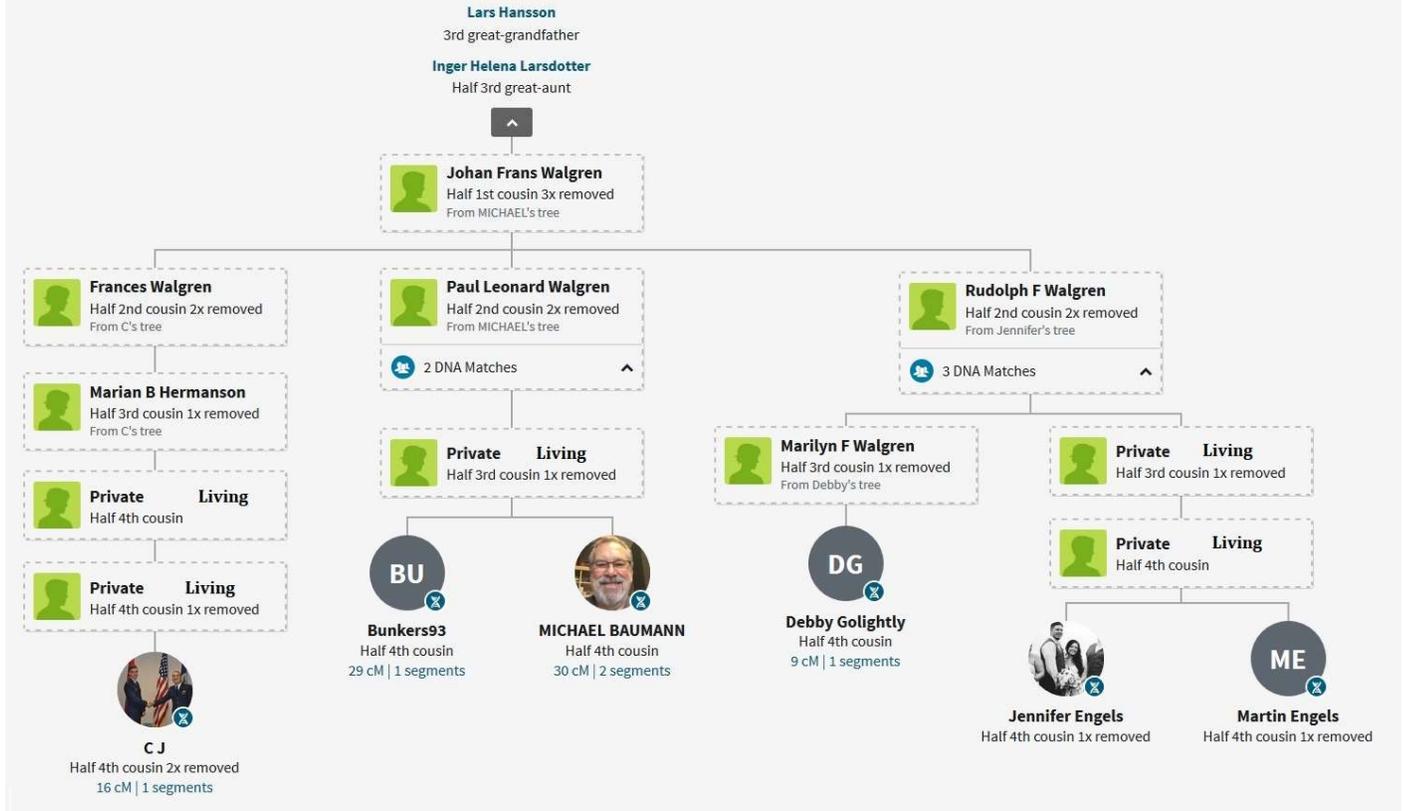
<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/ThackaberryLarssonConnection.pdf>

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/LarsHansson-AnnaBörjesdotter.pdf>

I next opened the line going back to Lars Hansson through his daughter Inger Helena Larsdotter:

ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson BETA

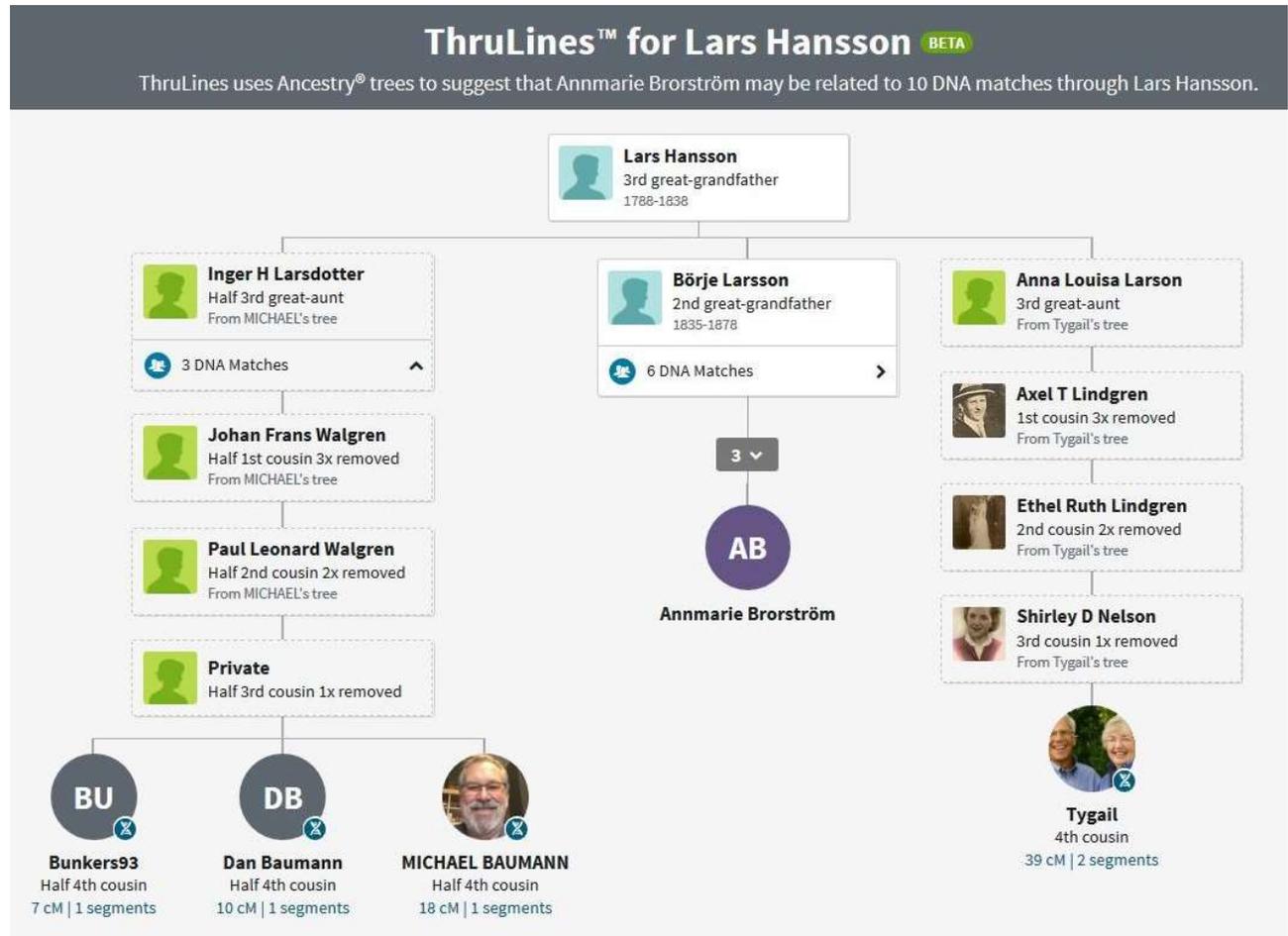
ThruLines uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 14 DNA matches through Lars Hansson.



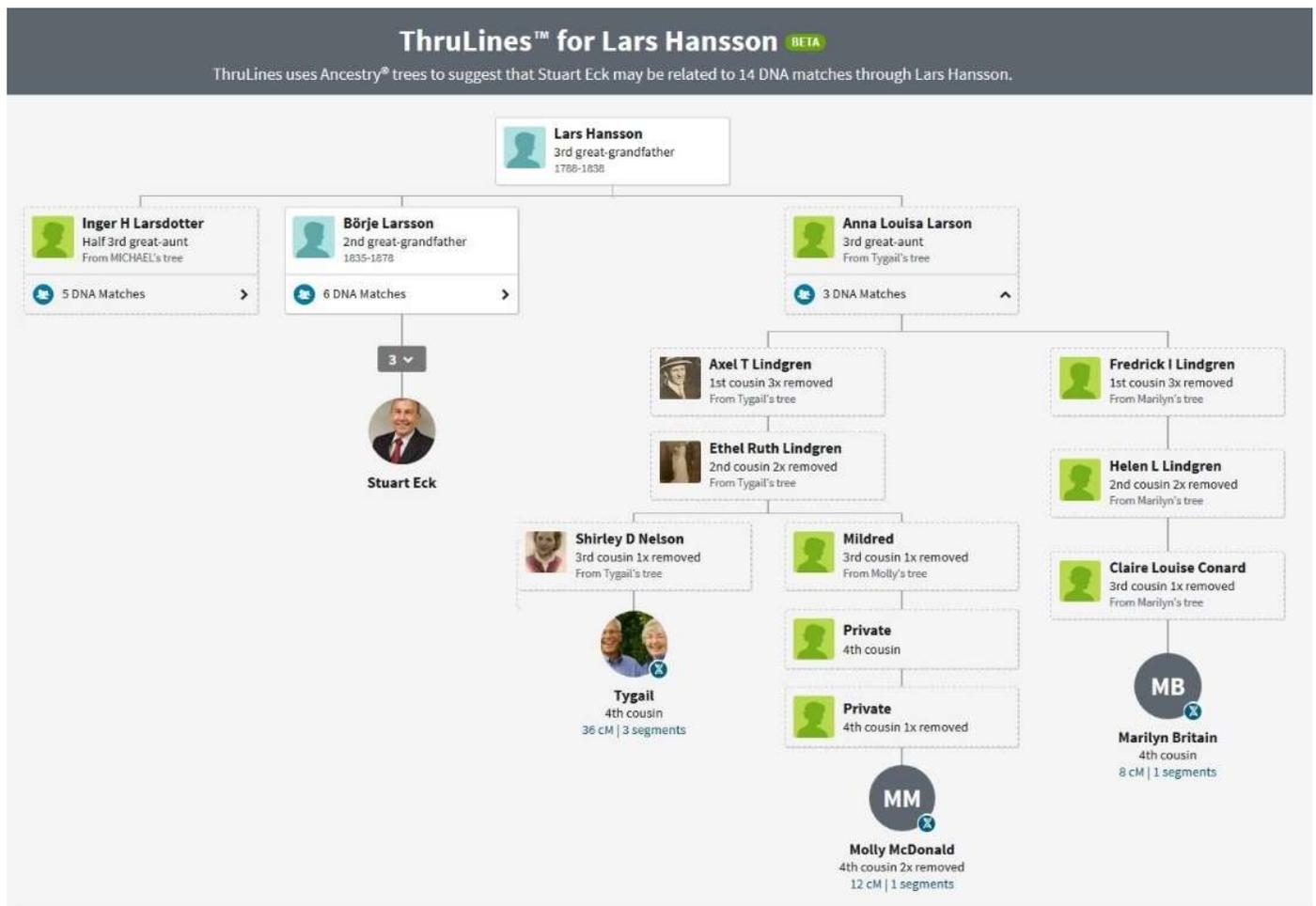
Wow! All this is new to me. Inger had a son Johan Frans Walgren. Actually, his name at birth was Johan Frans Andreasson (he was the son of Andreas Olsson), and he changed his name to Frank John Walgren when he immigrated to Chicago in 1880. He had a daughter and two sons. Through daughter Francis Walgren I have a DNA match with **CJ** (Cory Johnson). Through son Paul Leonard Walgren, I have matches with Michael Baumann and his sibling **Bunkers93**. And through his son Rudolph F. Walgren, I have DNA matches with Debby Golightly (the former Debra Ann Erickson), Jennifer Engels, and Martin Engels.

I also searched all of my DNA matches for people with the surname of Engels, and that search turned up Michael Engels and David ENGels. Presumably they are related to Jennifer and Martin, but neither of them has a family tree on the Ancestry.com website.

When I looked at Annmarie's ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson, I learned that she also has a DNA match with another one of Michael Baumann's brothers, Dan Baumann:



And when I looked at my cousin Stuart's ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson, I saw that he has a DNA match with Molly McDonald:



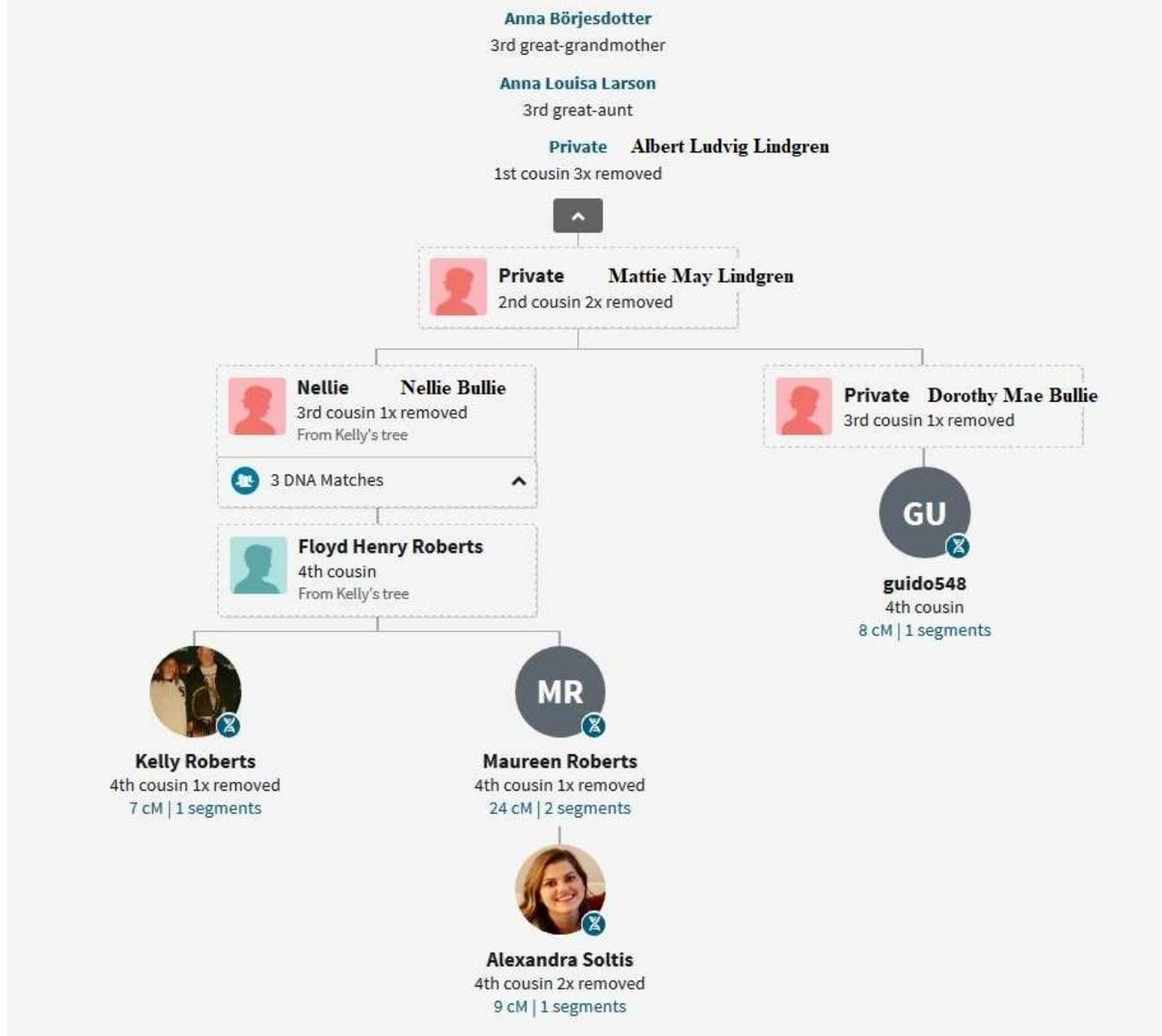
How amazing to see all of these DNA matches that go back to our Swedish ancestors who lived the small village of Fjärås in the late 1700's.

Problems with the ThruLines™ Software

The ThruLines™ software has been very valuable to me in discovering the genealogical connections with our family's DNA matches. However, this software is still being beta tested and it seems to me that it still has a number of bugs. I have observed that every few weeks, the software changes slightly as the folks at Ancestry.com try to improve its functionality and usability. And complete lines come and go at random, or so it seems. As an example of this, my previous narrative about the ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson and his wife Anna Börjesdotter had an entire line going back through Anna Louisa Larson's son, Albert Ludvig Lindgren. Here it is in Annmarie's ThruLines™ for Anna Börjesdotter:

ThruLines™ for Anna Börjesdotter BETA

ThruLines uses Ancestry trees to suggest that Anmarie Brorström may be related to 11 DNA matches through Anna Börjesdotter.

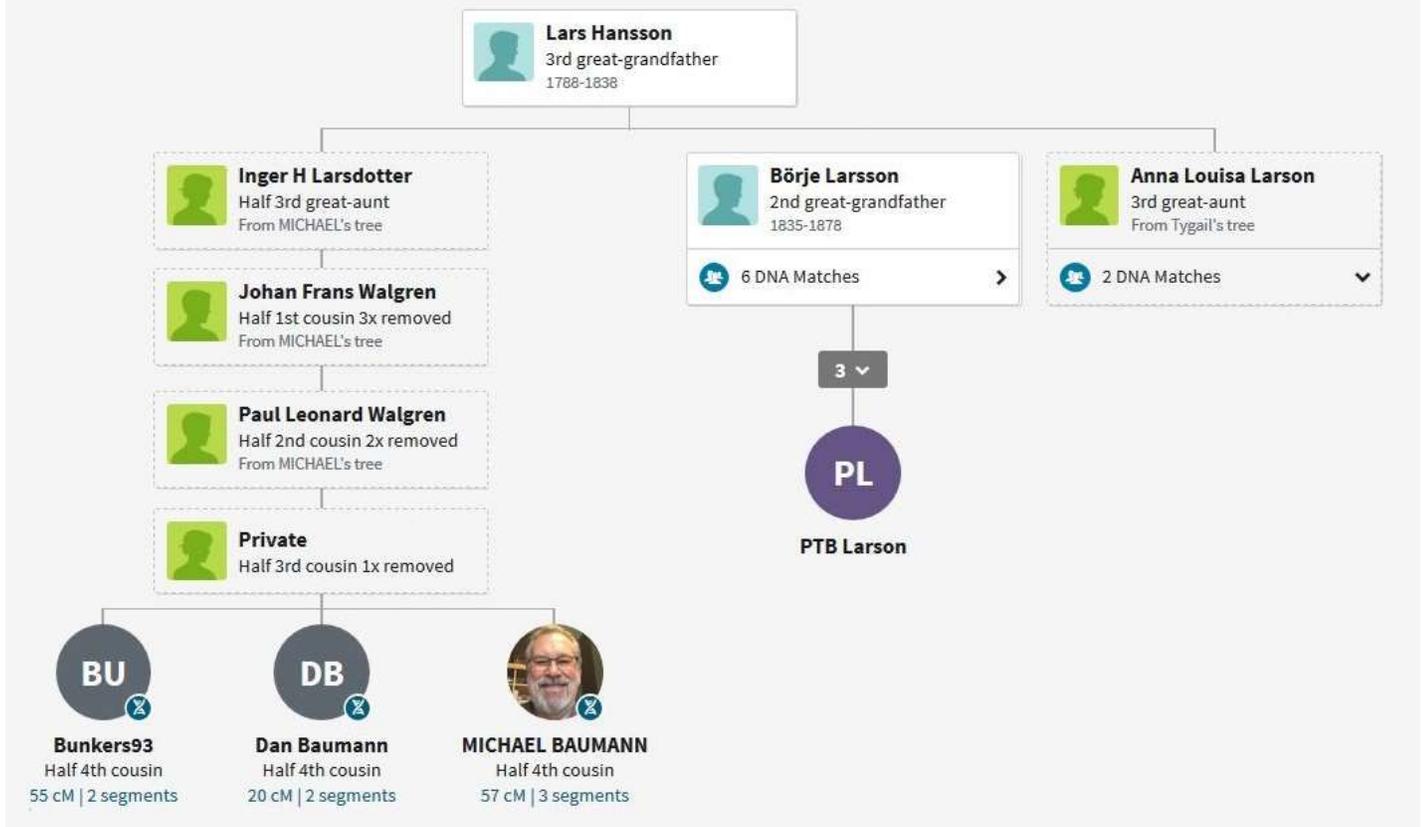


And now this entire line is complete gone!! It doesn't appear in any of our ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson or Anna Börjesdotter. Since the ThruLines™ are based on family trees on Ancestry.com, it is possible that someone edited their family tree and that caused this entire line to vanish.

Another big problem with the ThruLines™ software is that it comes up with errors that appear as "half" connections. For example, here is Peter's ThruLines™ for Lars Hanson:

ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson BETA

ThruLines uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that PTB Larson may be related to 11 DNA matches through Lars Hansson.



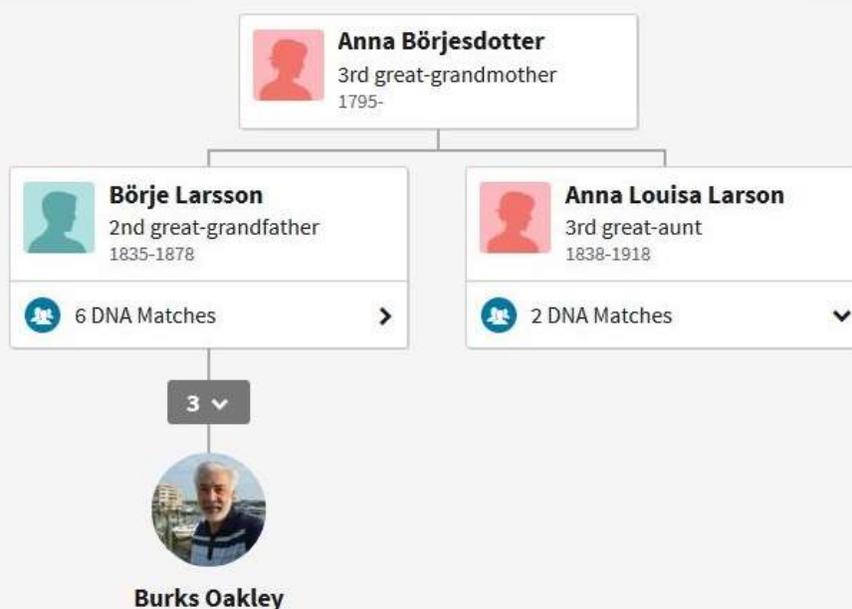
Note that in the line at the left, which goes back to Inger Helena Larsdotter, all of the people are listed as a “half” relationship, such as “Half 3rd great-aunt” and “Half 4th cousin”. Half is only appropriate if there are half siblings that are related by blood to only one parent. But Inger, Börje, and Anna Louisa are all full siblings. So this “half” relationship is in error. Others in the “AncestryDNA ThruLines™” group on Facebook are experiencing the same type of error.

The source of this error could be that someone has a family tree that shows Inger Helena as having a different mother than the other two siblings. Although you would think that the software would default to MY family tree in a situation like this.

I'll just mention one more annoyance with the ThruLines™ software. Anna Börjesdotter should have the identical ThruLines™ as her husband Lars Hansson. But she doesn't. Here is my ThruLines™ for Anna Börjesdotter:

ThruLines™ for Anna Börjesdotter BETA

ThruLines uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 8 DNA matches through Anna Börjesdotter.



Note that this ThruLines™ is missing entirely the line through Inger Helena Larsdotter, which I had in my ThruLines™ for Anna's husband Lars Hansson. Where did my six DNA matches with the descendants of Inger Helena Larsdotter go? Again, it looks like the ThruLines™ software thinks that Inger Helena has a different mother than her other two siblings.

The ThruLines™ software finds the connections by using family trees on the Ancestry.com website. Presumably there is a tree with incorrect information somewhere that is screwing things up. Oh well, the ThruLines™ are not meant to be definitive – they are just a starting point for research. The wording that Ancestry.com uses is that ThruLines™ “suggests” the family trees that could account for the DNA matches.

Conclusion

In this narrative, I have revisited our family's ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson and Anna Börjesdotter. I say “revisited” because I have discussed our ThruLines™ in two previous narratives. These ThruLines™ change as the software is revised and the underlying family trees are edited. The ThruLines™ discussed in this narrative include an entire new line going back through Inger Helena Larsdotter,

which can account for DNA matches with the Baumann siblings – Michael, Dan, and ***Bunkers93***. They also include new lines through children of Inger Helena, which can account for DNA matches with Debby Erickson Golightly, Jennifer Engels, Martin Engels, and Cory Johnson. And finally there is another branch of the tree going back through Anna Louisa Larson, which can account for a DNA match with Molly McDonald.

I also discussed some of the drawbacks of the ThruLines™ software, and how since writing my last narrative about the ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson, an entire line has disappeared.

Taken as a whole, our family’s DNA matches with descendants of Lars Hansson and his wife Anna Börjesdotter provide strong support for the genealogical record connecting us back to this couple, who lived in Fjärås in the late 1700’s and early 1800’s.

