

# The Lipots – Another Branch of the Wennström Family in the United States of America

by Burks Oakley II  
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## Introduction

In the past few years, I have become very interested in my Swedish roots. My mother's four grandparents all immigrated to America from Sweden in the early 1880's, so her ethnicity was 100% Swedish. In turn, this means that I am 50% Swedish, and therefore I can proudly claim that I am a Swedish-American.



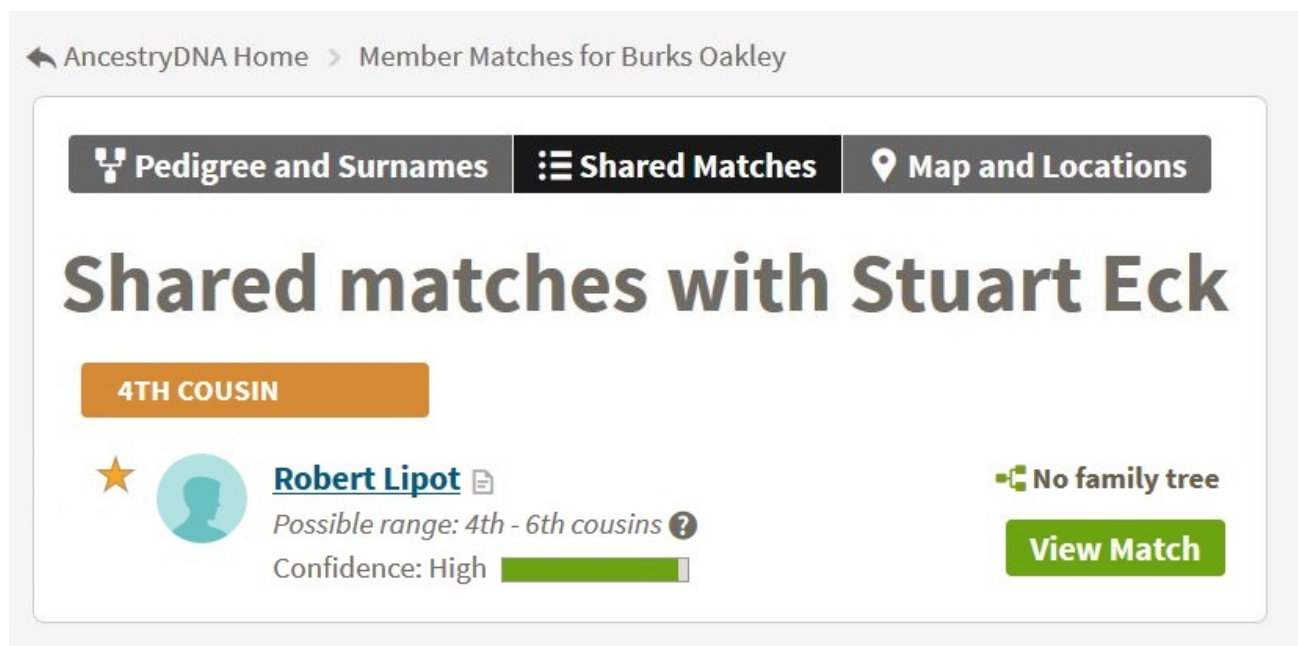
I have been using the Ancestry.com website to search for new Swedish relatives, and as part of this search process, I have focused on DNA matches that I share with distant Swedish cousins. One very tangible benefit of my interest in genetic genealogy is that I have visited Sweden in each of the past three years, and I have greatly enjoyed getting to know my newly-found Swedish cousins.

One of the tools on the Ancestry.com website that has been especially useful in my search for distant relatives is called "Shared DNA Matches". Basically, if person A has a DNA match with person B, that means that they share a common ancestor. And if persons A and B share this DNA match with persons C, D, and E, then all five of these individuals share the same common ancestor. And if they each have a family tree pointing to the same common ancestor, then the DNA evidence becomes strong support of the genealogical record.

Three of my Swedish-American first-cousins have had their DNA tested by Ancestry.com – Annmarie Brorström DeMattia, Susan Brorström Baker, and Stuart Eck (a Brorström descendant, and a half-brother to Annmarie and Susan). I know that if I have a DNA match with a certain individual, and if I share this DNA match with Annmarie, Susan, and Stuart, then this individual has to be related to me on my mother’s side of my family.

## Connecting to the Lipot Family

I recently searched through the Shared DNA Matches that I have with my first-cousin, Stuart Eck; Ancestry.com lists all of the people that match both Stuart and me. One of the individuals in this group was Robert Lipot (which I found is pronounced Lee-Poe):



The screenshot shows the AncestryDNA interface for "Member Matches for Burks Oakley". At the top, there are three navigation tabs: "Pedigree and Surnames", "Shared Matches" (which is selected), and "Map and Locations". Below the tabs, the main heading is "Shared matches with Stuart Eck". Underneath this, there is an orange badge that says "4TH COUSIN". To the left, there is a star icon, a profile picture placeholder, and the name "Robert Lipot" with a document icon. Below the name, it says "Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins" with a question mark icon. Underneath that, it says "Confidence: High" followed by a green progress bar. To the right of the name, there is a green icon and the text "No family tree". At the bottom right of the match card, there is a green button that says "View Match".

Unfortunately, Robert Lipot doesn’t have a family tree on the Ancestry.com website. When I looked to see the details about Stuart’s DNA match with Robert, I found that they have a large DNA match – 167 cM shared across 5 DNA segments:



**Robert Lipot**

Member since 2018, last logged in Jun 8, 2018



**Predicted relationship: 3rd Cousins**

Possible range: 3rd - 4th cousins ([What does this mean?](#))



Confidence: Extremely High

**Amount of Shared DNA**

167 centimorgans shared across 5 DNA segments


The size of this DNA match indicates that Robert and Stuart could be as close as third-cousins. Robert also has large DNA matches with Stuart's half-sisters (and my first-cousins) Annmarie Brorström DeMattia (137 centimorgans shared across 7 DNA segments) and Susan Brorström Baker (166 cM shared across 9 DNA segments).

I next looked at my Shared DNA Matches with Robert Lipot – and I found that he and I share our DNA match with a number of my Swedish-American cousins:

- Stuart Eck
- Susan Brorström Baker
- Annmarie Brorström DeMattia
- Jessica Lynn Eck – Stuart's daughter
- Robert Baker – Susan's son
- Lauren Meier – Annmarie's daughter
- David Eck – Stuart's son
- Kendall Perks – a 2<sup>nd</sup> great-granddaughter of my Swedish ancestors who immigrated to America in 1882

But I also found that Robert Lipot and I share our DNA match with a woman named Trisha Gable:

 Pedigree and Surnames

 Shared Matches

 Map and Locations

## Shared matches with Robert Lipot


4TH COUSIN



[Trisha Gable](#) 

Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 

Confidence: High 

 243 people

[View Match](#)

As shown in the screenshot above, Trisha Gable has a family tree on Ancestry.com with 243 people in it. When I looked at the details of my DNA match with her, I learned that we have eight Swedish surnames in common in our family trees, including Olsdotter and Wennström:

### Trisha Gable's tree

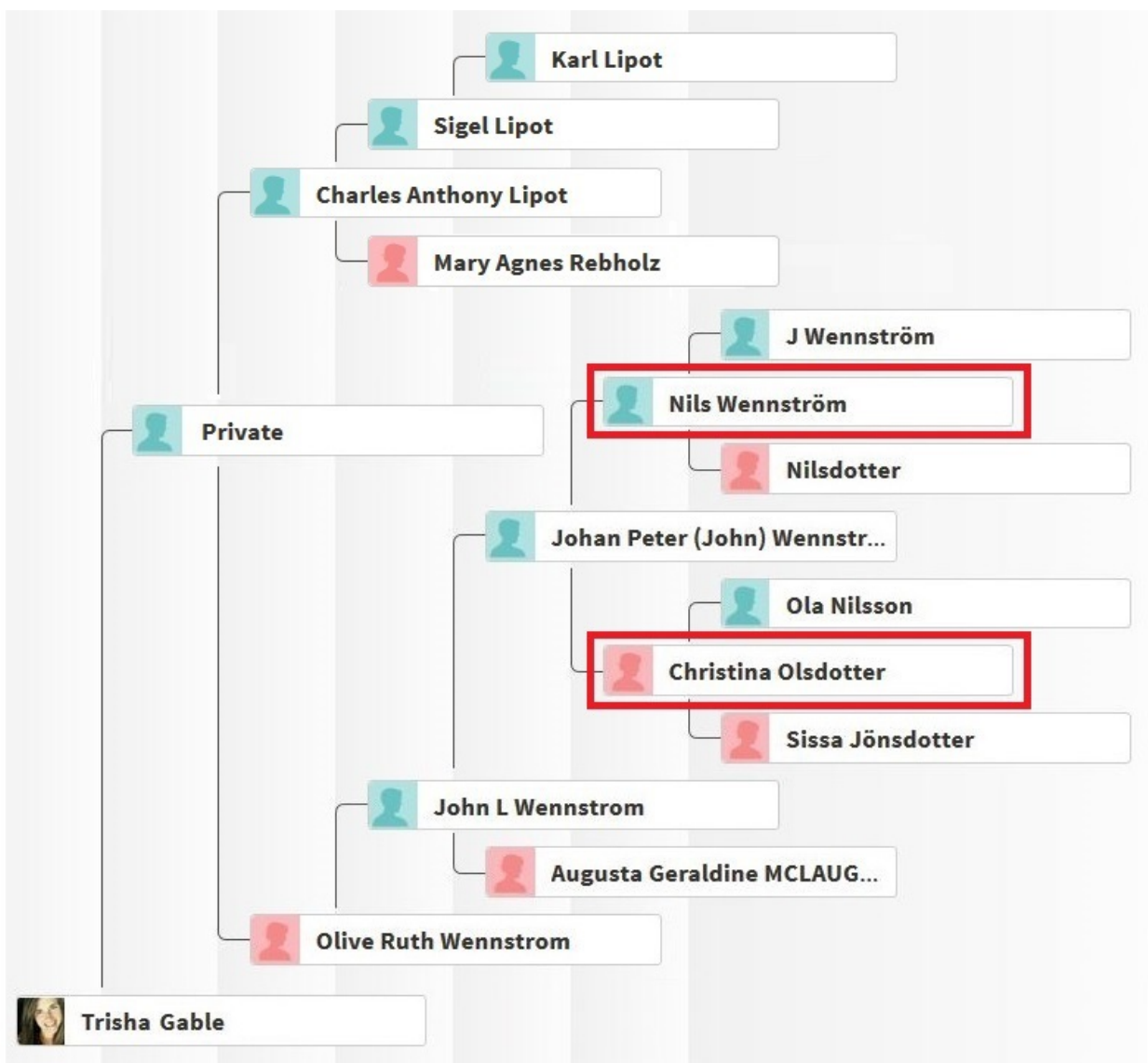
243 people

#### SHARED SURNAMES

Direct ancestor surnames that appear in both **Trisha Gable's** tree and **Burks Oakley's** tree

Jönsdotter	Månsson
Mårtensson	Nilsdotter
Nilsson	Olsdotter
Persdotter	Robinson
Smith	Wennström

My second-great grandparents were Nils Wennström (1815-1914) and his wife Christina (or Kristina) Olsdotter (1821-1892). I looked at Trisha's family tree, and OMG, she also is descended from this couple (marked in the red boxes in the following screenshot):



Trisha's family tree shows that her paternal grandmother was Olive Ruth Wennström (1923-2008). In addition, this tree shows that her paternal grandfather was Charles Anthony Lipot (1918-1983), which makes it a slam dunk to conclude that Trisha's father's surname was Lipot, and therefore he most likely is Robert Lipot.

Trisha and her father Robert are descended from Nils Wennström and Christina Olsdotter through their son Johan Peter Wennström (1853-1939), who went by the name John Wennström. I looked up Johan Peter in the Wennström Family book that was written by Ida Wennström in 1965:

SLÄKTEN  
WENNSTRÖM

FRÅN FEMBECKE  
I WENDEL

ANTECKNINGAR, SAMLADE OCH SAMMANSTÄLLDA AV

IDA WENNSTRÖM

Tabell 26.

*Johan Peter (John)* (son av Nils, f. 1815, tab. 20), f. 1853 30/3 i Växtorps sn, † 1939 30/6 i Suffern, U.S.A. Fl. från Markaryd till N. Amerika 1869 12/4. Innehavare av diamantsliperi.

G. 1873 30/4 i Newark, N.J., m. *Augusta Geraldine McLaughlin*, † 1920 18/7.

Barn:

*Victor J.*, f. 1874 17/8 i Waltham, Mass. Har arbetat hos fadern i dennes diamantsliperi. G. m. *Lena Schultz*.

*John Lewis*, f. 1876, †. Arbetade hos fadern i dennes diamantsliperi. Se tab. 27.

*Geraldine Teresa*, f. 1879 20/11 i Newark, N.J., † 1960 10/5. G. 1901 23/11 i Brooklyn, N.Y., m. private secretary *Arthur Hollis Bachman*, †, son av Hollis William Bachman och Caroline Molinda Sayles.

*Helene*, f. 1882 14/8 i Brooklyn, N.Y., †. G. 1:o 1902 i New York City m. interior decorator *Frank Arthur Clark*, son av John Clark och lady Janet Gildersville. G. 2:o 1918 i Suffern, N.Y., m. mason (murare) *Walter O. Wanamaker*, son av Winifield Wanamaker och Mary Kraft.

*Clarisse*, f. 1884 23/6 i Brooklyn, N.Y. G. m. *James Blauvelt*.

*Bertram Roland*, f. 1888 10/6, † som barn.

*Gustav Frank (Frank Arthur)*, f. 1890, † 1954. Arbetade hos fadern i dennes diamantsliperi. Se tab. 28.

Tabell 27.

*John Lewis* [son av Johan Peter (*John*), f. 1853, tab. 26], f. 1876 9/6 i Newark, N.J., †. Arbetade hos fadern i dennes diamantsliperi.

G. m. *Carrie Walsh*.

Barn:

*Ebba*. Gift.

*Olive Ruth*, f. 1923 29/7. Yrke (före giftermålet): secretary. G. 1942 14/2 i Washington, D.C., m. *Charles Anthony Lipot*, Lt. Colonel United States Marine Corps, f. i Augusta, Georgia, son av köpmannen Sigel Lipot och Mary Rebholz.

Johan Peter (or John) appears on page 40 of the Wennström family book. He was born on 30 March 1853 in Våxtorp, Sweden. According to the 1920 US Census and the Wennström family book, he immigrated to America in 1869.

The Wennström family book has more information about this branch of the Wennström family on page 41. One of John's sons was John LEWIS Wennström (1876-1929), and one of LEWIS's daughters was OLIVE Ruth Wennström (1923-2008). OLIVE married Charles Anthony Lipot (1918-1983), who was the son of Sigel Lipot and Mary Rebholz. Gosh, exactly like Trisha has in her family tree!

As an aside, Charles Anthony Lipot was an incredibly interesting man; his obituary is included in Appendix B.

As the astute reader will undoubtedly have realized by now, in the above narrative I jumped to the conclusion that Trisha Gable is the daughter of Robert Lipot. The family tree and the size of our DNA matches support this conclusion. But the real proof of this relationship was found on Facebook – here is a screenshot from Trisha's wall:



There you have it – it is FBO – Facebook Official! Trisha Gable is the former Trisha Lipot.

Just for completeness, I looked to see that all of my Swedish-American cousins have the same matches with Robert Lipot and his daughter Trisha Gable (nee Lipot). And they do – here is Annmarie; her DNA match with Robert Lipot is shared with her daughter Lauren (L.M.), her sister Susan, her half-brother Stuart, AND Trisha Gable:

## Shared matches with Robert Lipot

### PARENT/CHILD

★  **L.M. (managed by Kmeier59)** 15,465 people  
*Possible range: Parent, Child - immediate family member ?*  
Confidence: Extremely High  [View Match](#)

### IMMEDIATE FAMILY

★  **Susan Baker** No family tree  
*Possible range: Immediate family - close family ?*  
Confidence: Extremely High  [View Match](#)

### CLOSE FAMILY

★  **Stuart Eck** 9 people  
*Possible range: Close family - 1st cousins ?*  
Confidence: Extremely High  [View Match](#)

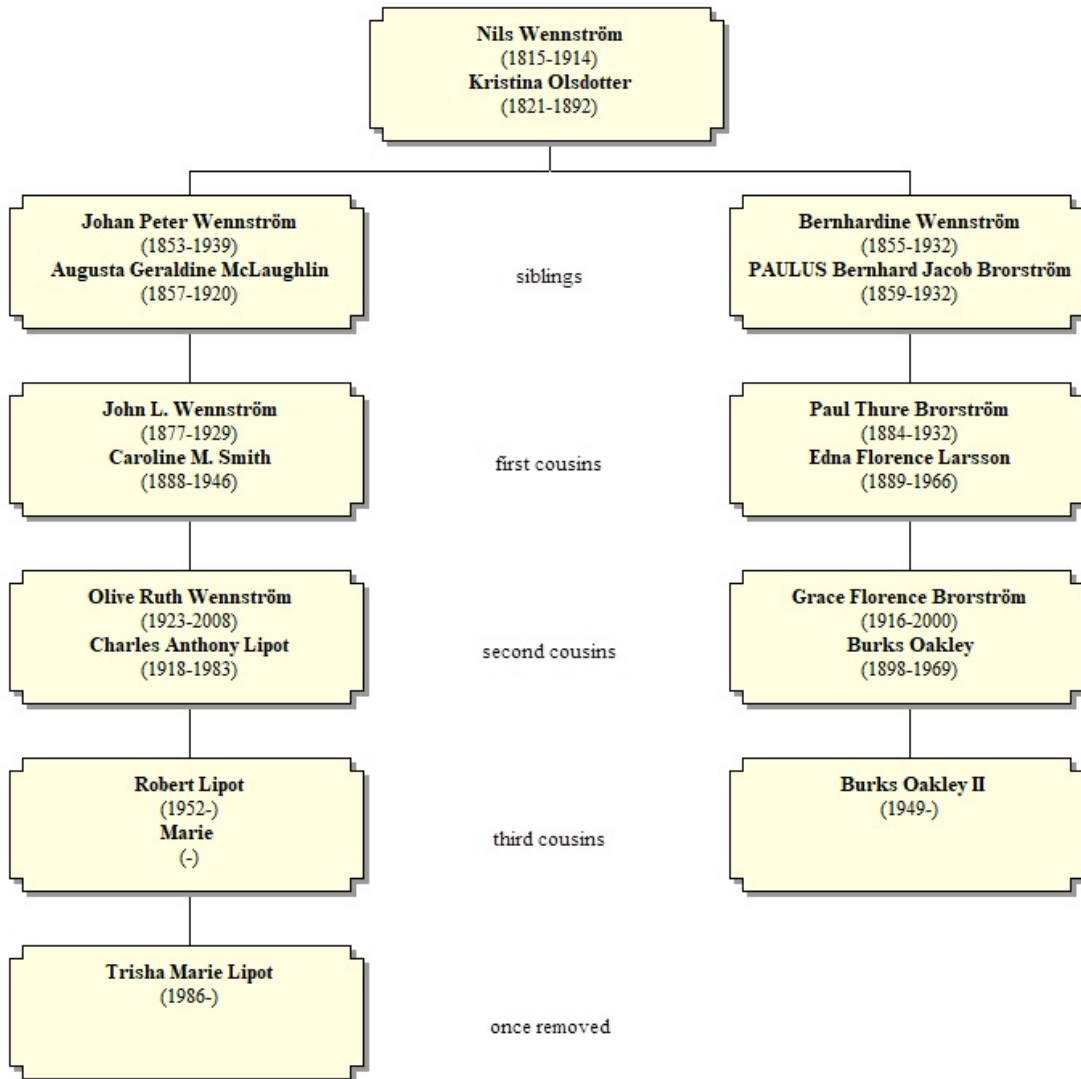
### 4TH COUSIN

★  **Trisha Gable** 243 people  
*Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins ?*  
Confidence: Good  [View Match](#)

I've omitted a number of people from the screenshot shown above (including myself).

My relationship with Robert Lipot and his daughter Trisha Gable (nee Lipot) is shown in the following chart:





This chart shows that Robert and I are third-cousins, while Trisha and I are third-cousins once-removed.

I also looked at my Shared DNA Matches with Trisha Gable (nee Lipot), and I was amazed by what I found:

Pedigree and Surnames

Shared Matches

Map and Locations

## Shared matches with Trisha Gable

### 1ST COUSIN

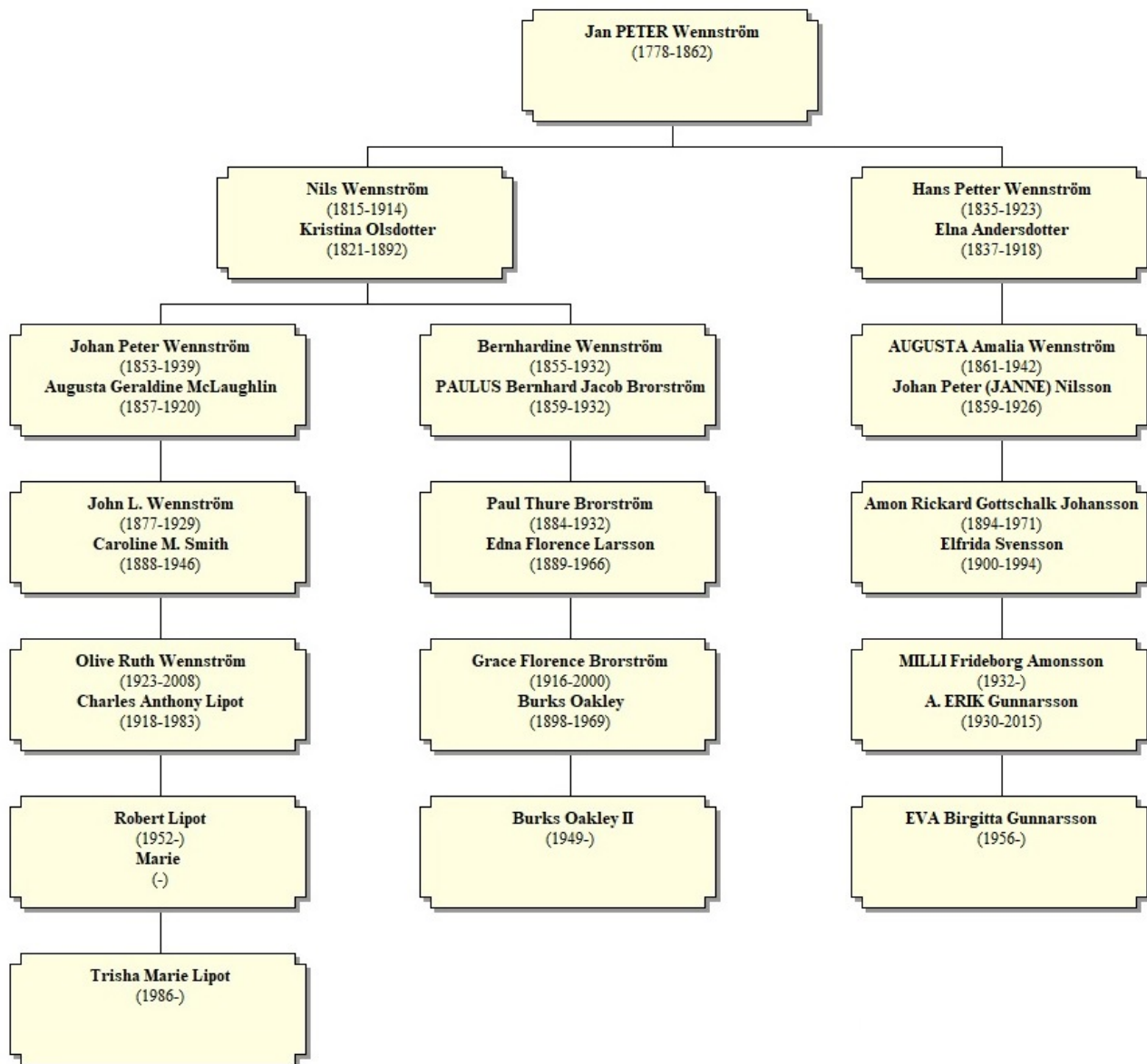
- Stuart Eck**   
Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins  
Confidence: Extremely High   
 9 people
- Susan Baker**  
Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins  
Confidence: Extremely High   
 No Trees
- Annmarie Brorström**   
Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins  
Confidence: Extremely High   
 277 people

### 4TH COUSIN

- Robert Lipot**   
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins  
Confidence: High   
 No Trees
- Eva Josefsson** (managed by Sterner.Josefsson)   
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins  
Confidence: Good   
 5,359 people

My Shared Matches with Trisha include Eva Josefsson (nee Gunnarsson)! I visited Eva and her husband Sterner in Halmstad, Sweden, in May 2018. Eva is my fourth-cousin, and she is descended from Nils Wennström's younger brother Hans Peter Wennström (1835-1923). Since Eva shares this match with Trisha Gable and me, this means that the DNA match I have with the Lipots goes back another generation, to the parents of Nils and Hans Peter. But wait! Their father was Jan PETER Wennström (1778-1862), but they had different mothers! Nils was a child from Jan PETER's first marriage to Maria (Maija or Maja) Nilsdotter (1776-1819), while Hans Peter was a child from Jan PETER's second marriage to Johanna Persdotter (1801-1888). This means that the DNA in our match had to have come directly from Jan PETER Wennström (1778-1862) himself. Amazing!

The overall relationship that is supported by the DNA matches described in this narrative is shown in the following chart:



This chart shows three separate lines going back to Jan PETER Wennström (1778-1862). Two of these lines go back through Nils Wennström, a son from Jan PETER's first marriage, while the third line goes back through Hans Peter Wennström, a son from Jan PETER's second marriage. And Trisha, Eva, and I all share a DNA match. Of course, this match is shared by my Swedish-American first-cousins (and their children), supporting our connection to this Swedish family that lived in northwest Skåne County and southern Halland County in the late 1700's and early 1800's.

## **Conclusion**

In this short narrative, I have documented the DNA matches that my Swedish-American first-cousins and I have with Robert Lipot and his daughter Trisha Gable (nee Lipot). This DNA match is significant, in that it is yet another piece of evidence connecting my branch of the Wennström family in America back to Jan PETER Wennström (1778-1862) in Sweden. Moreover, this DNA match connects two separate branches of the Wennström family that immigrated to America. How wonderful to make these family connections!

## Appendix A

Wennström family photos from Sweden, taken in May 2018.



Eva & Sterner Josefsson in their backyard in Halmstad, Sweden. Eva is descended from Jan PETER Wennström (1778-1862) through his son Hans Peter Wennström (1835-1923), and we have a DNA match.



Summer lunch with Eva, her sister Marie, and her mother Milli, at Milli's home in Laholm, Sweden.



Eva's sister Iréne, at her pottery shop in Hasslöv, Sweden – very close to the churchyard where Nils Wennström is buried.



Nils Wennström's gravestone in the churchyard in Hasslöv, Sweden



Selfie of Burks in front of Nils Wennström's house in Menlösa, Sweden.



The barn adjacent to Nils Wennström's house in Menlösa, Sweden.  
Note the large iron letters N and W on the side of the building.



Lars and Lena Kannesten at Kronborg Castle in Helsingør, Denmark. Lena was born a Wennström, and she is descended from Jan PETER Wennström through his son Magnus Wennström (1809-1898).



Selfie taken with Lena's son Andreas at the Millesgården art museum on the island of Lidingö near Stockholm, Sweden.





Lena and Lars with their daughter Christina and her sons;  
photo taken on the Mölle peninsula in May 2017.



Selfie taken with Barbro Wennström Blomberg in Malmö, Sweden. Barbro is descended from Jan PETER Wennström through his son Andreas Wennström (1833-1924).



Magus Ivarsson and his son Eric at the Café Killeröd in Båstad, Sweden. Magnus is descended from Jan PETER Wennström through his son Hans Peter Wennström (1835-1923).



Selfie taken with Lise-Lotte Kolmberger, in her backyard in Billdal, Sweden. Lise-Lotte is descended from the parents of Nils Wennström's wife, Christina Olsdotter (1821-1892). I have a large DNA match with Lise-Lotte's mother, Ewa-Christine Stenport.

## Appendix B

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/6849861/charles-anthony-lipot>

Dr. Charles Anthony Lipot (1918-1983) – Memorial Tribute from Orange Coast College

Chuck Lipot (pronounced Lee-Poe) has to rank as one of the hardest working employees in Orange Coast College's history.

He was Mr. Dedication!

A man of absolute integrity, Lipot's personal faith and family always came first. Beyond that, education was the most important thing in his life. He subscribed to the theory that education is a necessity for an individual to maximize his or her potential. And, education must be ongoing. One is never too old to learn.

Medicine had been an early goal of Chuck's but, with family funds depleted and World War II on the horizon, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1941. He was awarded his gold bar and commissioned a second lieutenant three months later.

Lipot learned the art of survival in the jungle heat of the South Pacific where he spent 27 months. Several years later he was granted the unsolicited favor of being amongst the "Frozen Chosen" in Korea.

He was both a student and instructor in the military, and, while stationed in Iwakuni, Japan, was a volunteer teacher of English classes to high school students. He also learned to speak Japanese.

Chuck was decorated for combat duty in both World War II and Korea. His decorations included a Bronze Star with a "Combat V" [designating valor in combat] and a Letter of Commendation with a Combat V. He retired from the Marines in 1963 as a Lt. Colonel, following 22 years on active duty.

Chuck returned to school after his military discharge and earned an M.A. degree at California State University at Long Beach. He obtained elementary and secondary credentials. He taught biology at Paramount High School.

Lipot joined OCC's staff in 1969 as an Evening College administrator. The following year, he completed his doctorate at UCLA. It was one of the proudest moments of his life.

Chuck was hired in 1969 as associate dean of OCC's Evening College, working under Evening College director, Dr. Thomas Blakely. Chuck became dean of the Evening College in 1970, and was named dean of Continuing Education in 1977.

Chuck had an amazing work ethic and ran one of the most finely tuned operations on campus. He was also a sweetheart of a guy who always took time to talk to staff members and students regarding their concerns or questions.

He made you feel important.

Lipot was a lifelong supporter of the arts. His father presented Chuck with his personal violin when he was a young man. Chuck, in turn, passed it on to his daughter, Barbara, who was a violinist with OCC's Symphony Orchestra.

He also had an interest in technology. Included amongst his Evening College and Continuing Ed duties was the task of overseeing many OCC technical programs.

Dr. Lipot retired in June of 1982, with plans to travel the globe. Though in seeming good health, he died suddenly of a massive heart attack 18 months later in November of 1983 at the age of 65. At the time of his death, he was enrolled in three Orange Coast College classes. Education was still the overriding interest of his life.

There was a huge funeral service in his honor at Sts. Simon & Jude Catholic Church in Huntington Beach. Many from the college turned out. A devout Christian, Chuck had served as a Eucharistic minister at Sts. Simon & Jude, and administered communion there for more than two decades.

Chuck was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on the 208th birthday of the United States Marine Corps, on November 10, 1983. He was survived by his wife, Ollie, and their eight children and many grandchildren.

