

Magnus Ivarsson – A Wennström Cousin Living in Sweden

by Burks Oakley II
24 January 2019

Introduction

I am a Swedish-American. All four of my mother's grandparents were Swedish immigrants, who came to America in the 1880's. One of my mother's immigrant grandmothers was Bernhardine Wennström (1855-1932), who was born in Våxtorp, in southern Halland County. She and her husband Paulus Brorström immigrated to America in 1882.

Berhardine's father was Nils Wennström (1815-1914) – this makes him my 2nd-great grandfather. In May 2017 and again in May 2018, I visited the house that Nils lived in at Menlösa, less than 5 km west of Våxtorp.



Selfie taken in front of Nils Wennström's house in Menlösa
May 2018

Extending Nils Wennström's Family Tree into the Past

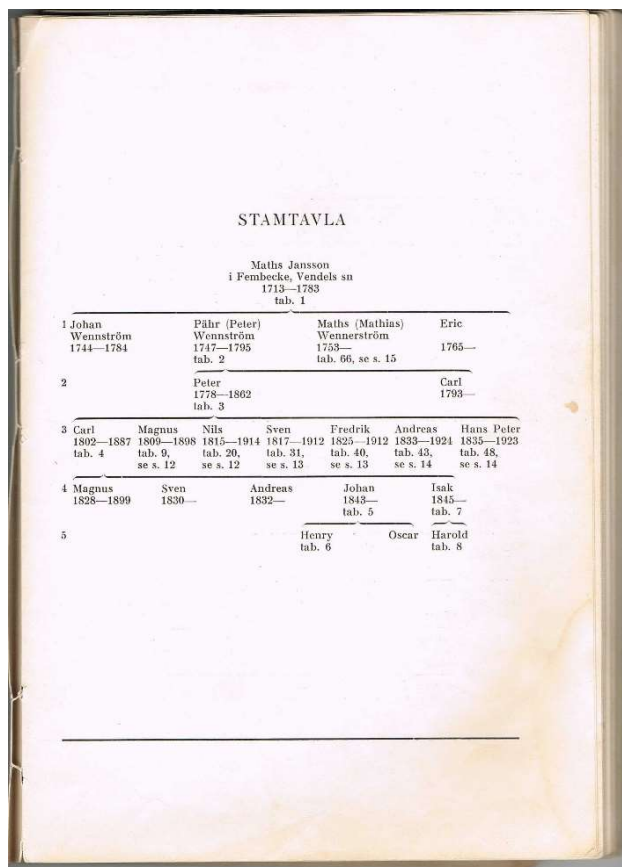
For a number of years now, I have been using the Ancestry.com website to broaden my knowledge of my Swedish family tree. In December 2017, I was looking on the Ancestry.com website to learn more about Nils Wennström, hoping to extend his family tree additional generations into the past. I found that Nils appears in the Olofsson Släkträd (Olofsson Family Tree) on the Ancestry.com website, which is maintained by Anita Gustavsson.

Olofsson Släkträd ▾ AnitaGustavsson

Nils Wennström
 BIRTH 7 JAN 1815 • Tåssjö (L)
 DEATH 19 JAN 1914 • Hasslöv, Halland, Sverige

Search Tools ▾

Anita's family tree shows that Nils' father was Johan Petter Wennström (1778-1862), his grandfather was Pähr/Peter Mattsson Wennström (1747-1795), and his great-grandfather was Mats (or Maths) Jansson (1713-1783). The webpage containing the information for Mats Jansson had the following image:



This image shows a family tree taken from a book, and the tree begins with Mats Jansson and includes Nils Wennström. The title of this page is “Stamtavla”, which translates from Swedish as “Pedigree”. The entry next to this image on the Ancestry.com website stated:

Släktbok om Släkten Wennström
Magnus Ivarsson originally shared this on 16 Aug 2011

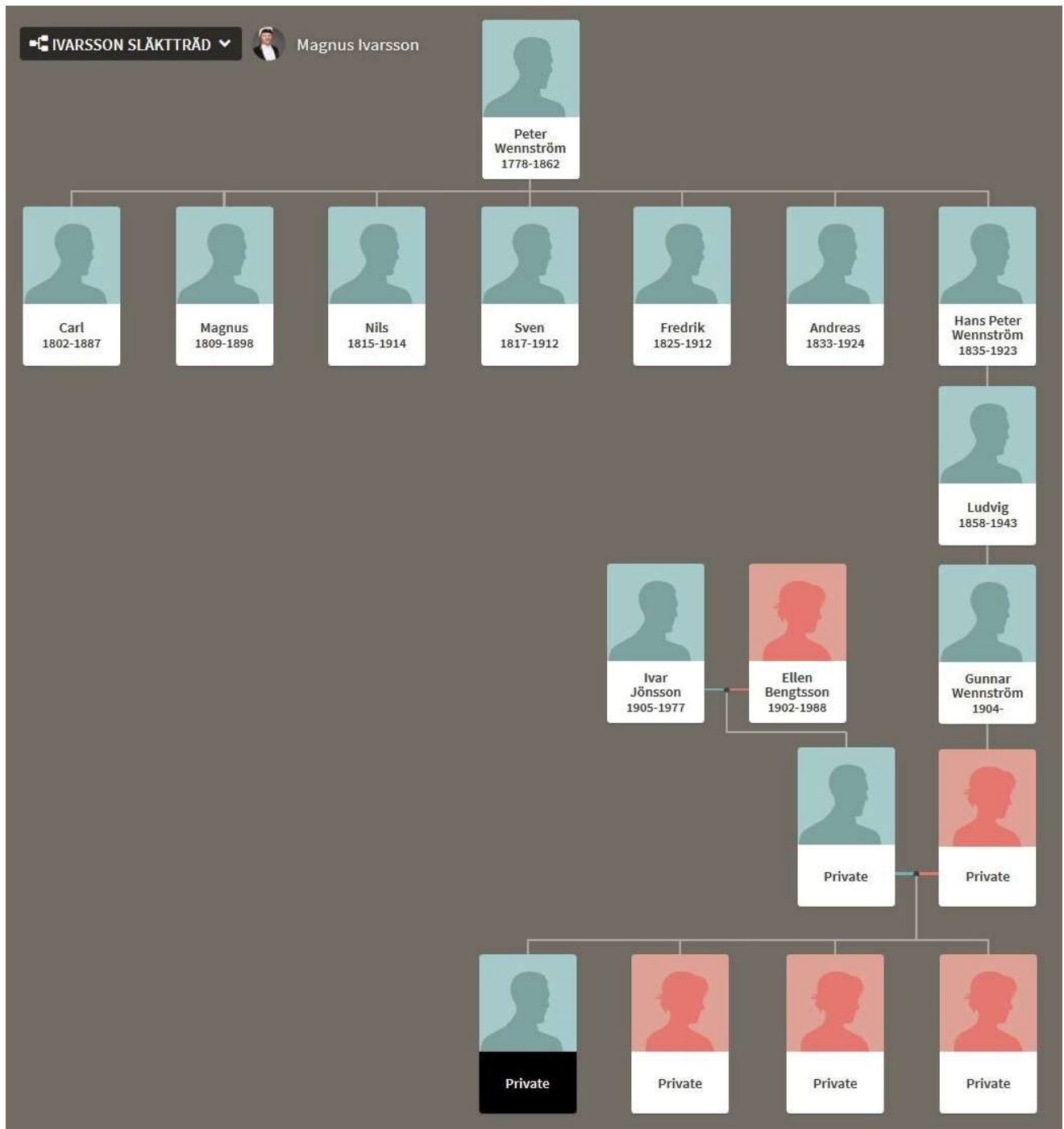
“Släktbok om Släkten Wennström” translates into English as “Genealogical Book for the Family Wennström”. It appears that an individual named Magnus Ivarsson posted this image to the Ancestry.com website in 2011. What is his connection to the Wennström family?

I clicked on the link to Magnus Ivarsson, and it took me to his home page on Ancestry.com – he is a Swede living in Hjärnarp, in northern Skåne County. Interestingly, Hjärnarp is less than nine miles straight west of Tåssjö, Sweden, where Nils Wennström was born in 1815.

Making the Connection with Magnus Ivarsson

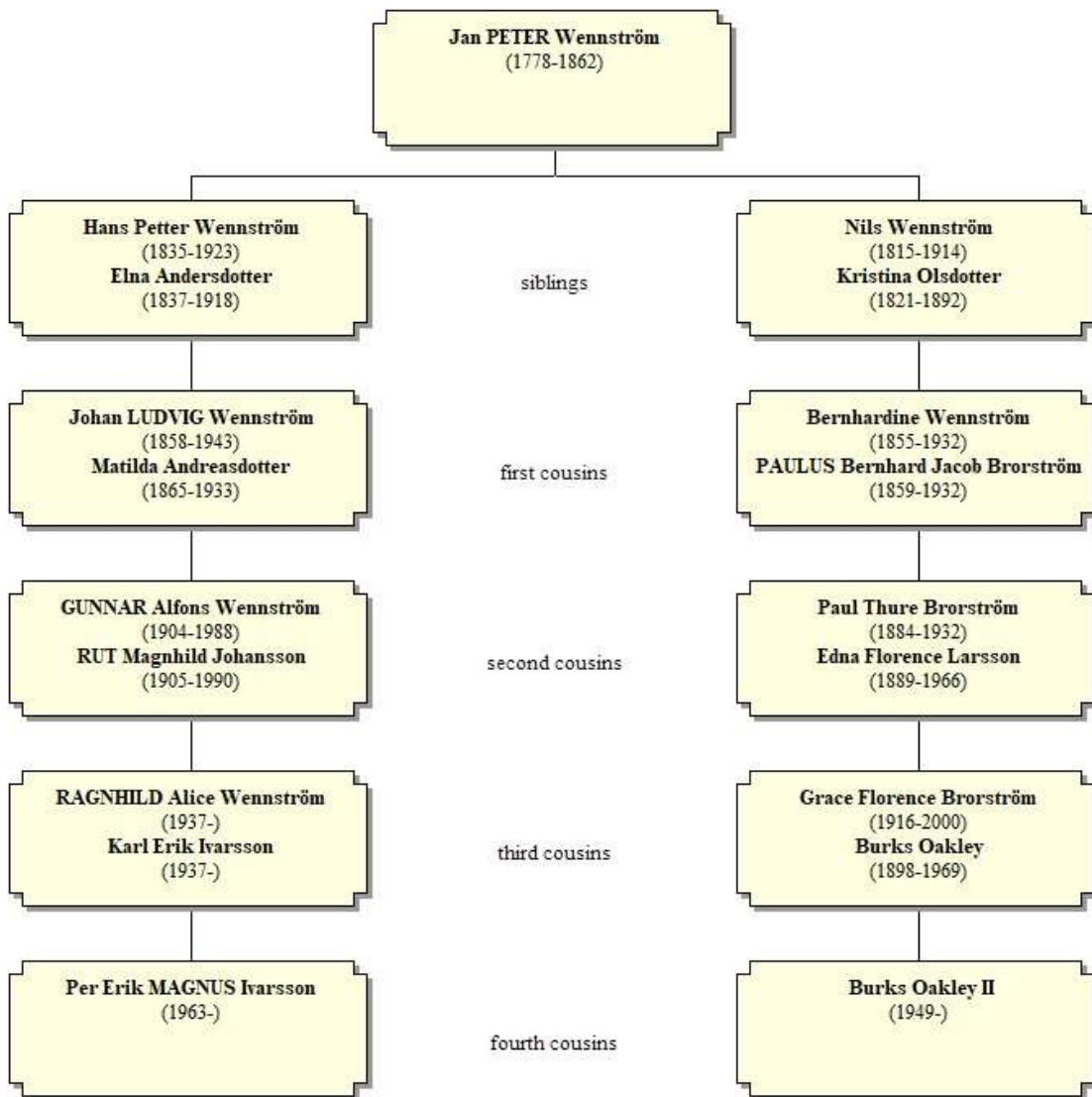
Magnus Ivarsson has a family tree on the Ancestry.com website, and this tree is called “Ivarsson Släktträd”, which translates into English as “Ivarsson Family Tree”. I was initially disappointed to see that this family tree only had 40 entries. But lo and behold, it showed the Wennström family tree going back to Mats Jansson, and it included my 2nd-great grandfather Nils Wennström. And best of all, it showed that Magnus Ivarsson is a direct descendant of Jon Peter Wennström (1778-1862), who was my 3rd-great grandfather. This means that Magnus is my fourth-cousin.

The following diagram from the Ivarsson Släktträd on Ancestry.com shows some of Magnus Ivarsson’s family tree:



I believe that Magnus is shown in the bottom-center of this diagram (male marked “Private”). His father was the son of Ivar Jönsson (1905-1977), which is why his father’s surname is Ivarsson. Magnus’ mother is a Wennström – the daughter of Gunnar Wennström (1904-). And it would appear that Magnus has three living sisters (the women in the bottom row – all marked “Private”).

I added his family tree to my RootsMagic database, and then produced the following chart, showing how Magnus and I are related as fourth-cousins:



Jon Peter Wennström was married twice. With his first wife, he had six children. And after she died in 1819, he married a woman less than a year older than his oldest child – and then he had seven more children with her. This part of the family tree can be viewed on Eva Josefsson’s family tree on the Ancestry.com website:



Jan Petter Wennström

BIRTH 20 AUG 1778 • Tåssjö, Skåne, Sverige

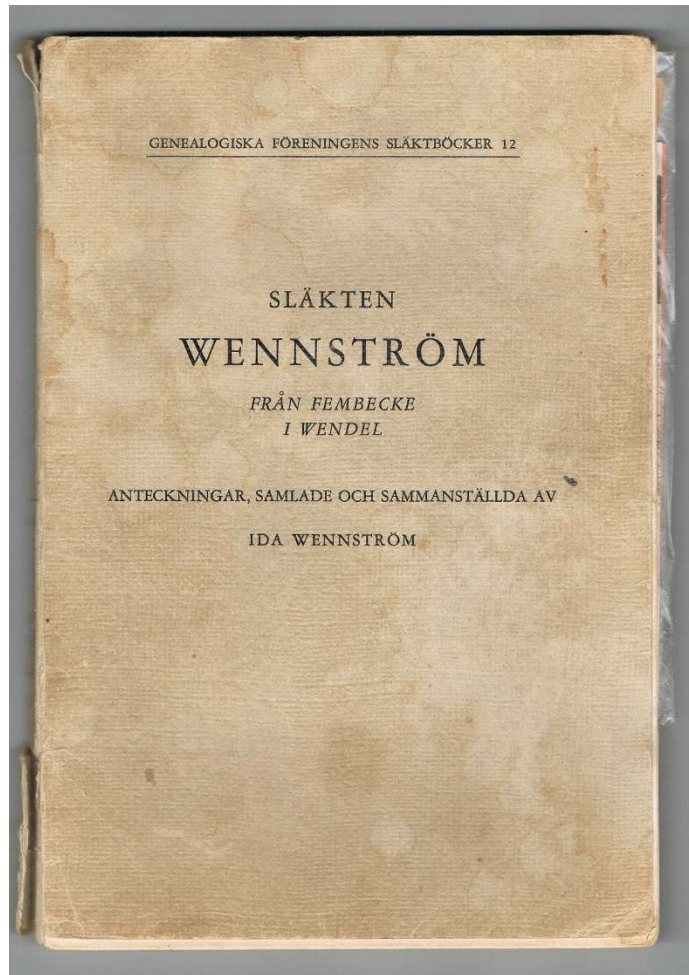
DEATH 6 JUL 1862 • Hålshult, Tåssjö (L)

Spouse and Children

<div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Maja Nilsson</p> <p>1776 - 26 jul 1819</p> </div> </div> <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Karl Petter Wennström</p> <p>4 okt 1802 - ?</p> </div> </div> <div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Anna Stina Wennström</p> <p>14 nov 1806 - ?</p> </div> </div> <div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Magnus Wennström</p> <p>10 sep 1809 - ?</p> </div> </div> <div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Sissela Wennström</p> <p>23 jan 1812 - ?</p> </div> </div> <div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Nils Wennström</p> <p>7 jan 1815 - ?</p> </div> </div> <div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Sven Wennström</p> <p>28 dec 1817 - ?</p> </div> </div> </div>	<div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Johanna Persdotter</p> <p>12 nov 1801 - 12 apr 1888</p> </div> </div> <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Måns Wennström</p> <p>6 sep 1821 - 20 sep 1821</p> </div> </div> <div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Andreas Wennström</p> <p>9 okt 1823 - 11 dec 1831</p> </div> </div> <div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Fredrik Wennström</p> <p>20 sep 1825 - ?</p> </div> </div> <div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Maria Wennström</p> <p>22 nov 1827 - ?</p> </div> </div> <div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Johannes Wennström</p> <p>13 dec 1829 - ?</p> </div> </div> <div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Andreas Wennström</p> <p>4 jan 1833 - ?</p> </div> </div> <div style="background-color: #f9f9f9; padding: 5px;">  <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Hans Petter Wennström</p> <p>5 sep 1835 - 3 maj 1923</p> </div> </div> </div>
---	---

I am descended from Nils Wennström, who was born in 1815 from Jan Peter's marriage to his first wife, Maja Nilsson. Magnus Ivarsson is descended from Hans Petter Wennström, who was born in 1835 from Jan Peter's marriage to his second wife, Johanna Persdotter. These two sons were born more than 20 years apart.

In looking at Magnus' family tree on the Ancestry.com website, I found that Magnus uploaded scans of a number of pages from the book *Släktbok om Släkten Wennström* ["Genealogical Book for the Family Wennström"]. For example, here is the book's cover:

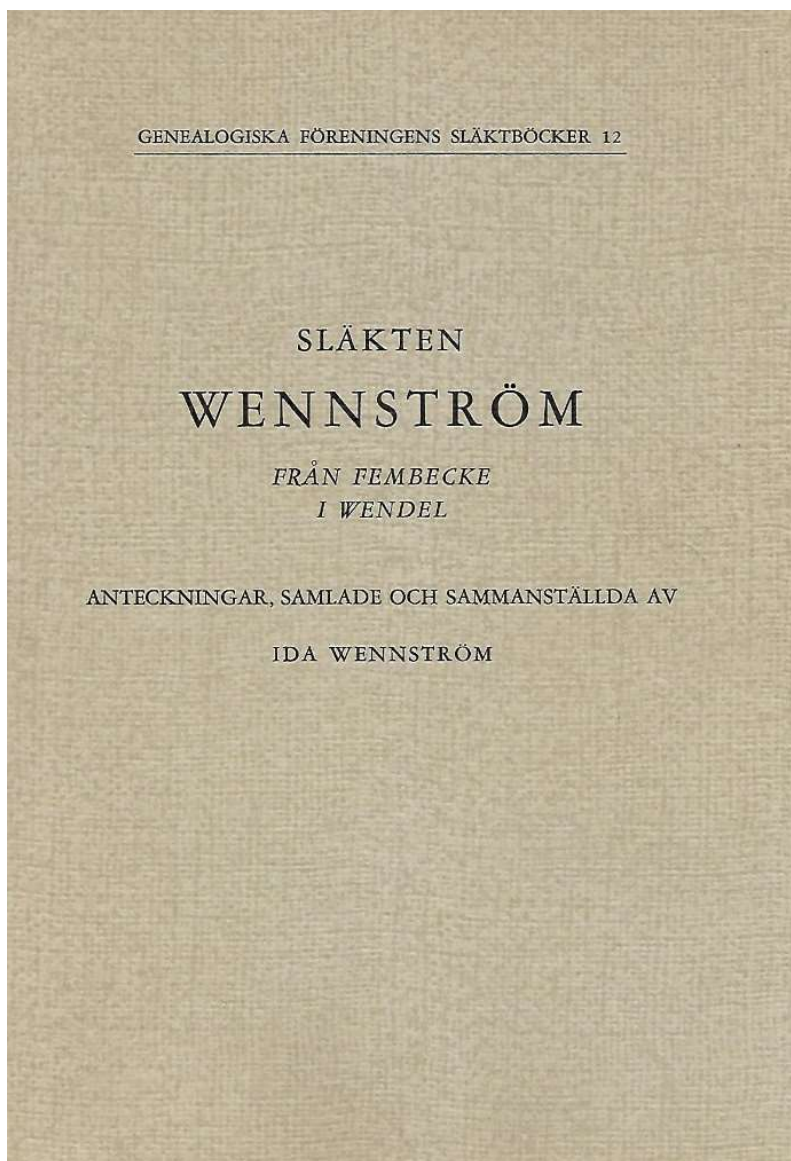


Finally, here is a formal photo of Magnus Ivarsson that I found on the web:



Släktbok om Släkten Wennström

In discussing my Wennström family connections with my Swedish Wennström cousin Lena Wennström Kannesten, I mentioned the Wennström book scans that Magnus had posted to Ancestry.com. Lena then told me that her Aunt Ida Wennström had written this book, which was published in 1965. She then sent me a brand-new copy in the spring of 2018.



This book is a treasure-house of information about the Wennström family genealogy. Here is the pedigree of the first few generations:

STAMTAVLA

Maths Jansson
i Fembecke, Vendels sn
1713—1783
tab. 1

1	Johan Wennström 1744—1784	Pähr (Peter) Wennström 1747—1795 tab. 2	Maths (Mathias) Wennerström 1753— tab. 66, se s. 15	Eric 1765—			
2	Peter 1778—1862 tab. 3			Carl 1793—			
3	Carl 1802—1887 tab. 4	Magnus 1809—1898 tab. 9, se s. 12	Nils 1815—1914 tab. 20, se s. 12	Sven 1817—1912 tab. 31, se s. 13	Fredrik 1825—1912 tab. 40, se s. 13	Andreas 1833—1924 tab. 43, se s. 14	Hans Peter 1835—1923 tab. 48, se s. 14
4	Magnus 1828—1899	Sven 1830—	Andreas 1832—	Johan 1843— tab. 5	Isak 1845— tab. 7		
5			Henry tab. 6	Oscar	Harold tab. 8		

Note that Ida Wennström only included the sons in this chart. Jan Peter Wennström (1778-1862) had sons Carl, Magnus, Nils, Sven, Fredrik, Andreas, and Hans Peter. Again, I am descended from Nils while Magnus Ivarsson is descended from Hans Peter.

Magnus' maternal grandfather **Gunnar** Alfons Wennström (1904-1988) appears in the book in Table 55 on page 59:

Tabell 55.

Gunnar Alfons (son av *Johan Ludvig*, f. 1858, tab. 49), f. 1904 22/1 i Hasslöv 1, Hasslövs sn. Byggmästare, Skummeslöv 2: 36, Skummeslövs sn (Vännersro, Skottorp).

G. 1932 22/10 i Ränneslöv m. *Rut Maghild Johansson*, f. 1905 25/1 i Staffanstorp 2, Ränneslövs sn, dotter av hemmansägaren *Johan August Svensson* och *Emilia Isaksdotter*.

Barn:

Gertrud Maria Elvira, f. 1934 11/3 i Skummeslöv 2, Skummeslövs sn.

Ragnhild Alice Ingeborg, f. 1937 31/10 i Skummeslöv 2, Skummeslövs sn.

Claes Erik Roland, f. 1945 27/12 i Laholms s.f. (skriven Skummeslöv 2, Skummeslövs sn).

This table also has Magnus' mother, **Ragnhild** Alice Ingeborg Wennström (b. 1937).

And even though Magnus Ivarsson was born in 1963, before this book was published, he was not included, since he doesn't carry the Wennström surname.

Summary

Using family trees on the Ancestry.com website, as well as some material that had been uploaded along with these trees, allowed me to find Magnus Ivarsson, a fourth-cousin on the Wennström side of my family. How wonderful to make this connection! And I ended up being given a copy of the "Släktbok om Släkten Wennström", which is really priceless!

Connecting with Magnus Ivarsson

On 1 January 2018, I sent Magnus a message through the Ancestry.com message system. I mentioned that I would be visiting Sweden in the summer of 2018, and that I hoped we could meet at that time. I was pleased that he responded via e-mail right away. My reply included:

"Hej! Great to hear back from you so quickly. Amazing that it is the first day of the year and I already have found a new Swedish cousin!!"

Fast forward a few months – in May 2018, I visited Sweden for several weeks. When I was in Halmstad, I spent a day with Magnus, his fiancée Marlene Nilsson, and their son Eric. We had a nice walk on Tylösand beach, and then we drove to Båstad, where we looked at the boats in the harbor and had an excellent lunch at the Restaurant Sand. We then drove out to the Bjäre peninsula and visited the small town of Torekov. What a great day! I really feel very fortunate to have connected with another Wennström relative and his family. They are really great people!

Here are some photos that I took while visiting with Magnus and his family:



On the beach at Tylösand – Marlene, Eric, and Magnus.



On the beach at Tylösand – selfie with Magnus.



Eric enjoying his lunch in Båstad. He is my fourth-cousin, once-removed.



Magnus overlooking the sea from the Bjäre peninsula.



Magnus and Marlene enjoying fika at the Café Killeröd in Båstad.



Magnus and Eric at the Café Killeröd in Båstad.