

My Brorström First-Cousins in America

by Burks Oakley II
25 January 2019

Introduction

My mother was a Swedish-American named Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000). Her four grandparents were all Swedes who immigrated to America in the 1880's. Her parents, Paul Thure Brorström Sr. (1884-1932) and Edna Florence Larsson (1889-1966), were the first generation of their families to be born in America.

My mother had an older brother, Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001), and he had six children, who were born and raised in southeast Florida. These children are my first-cousins, and this narrative is about my DNA matches with them.

Paul Thure Brorström Jr.'s Family

Paul (PTB Jr.) married Harriet Marie Buyck (1923-1984) on 15 June 1946 in Pleasantville, New York. Almost one year to the date, they had their first child – Peter Thure Brorström, born on 12 June 1947. They then had four more children:

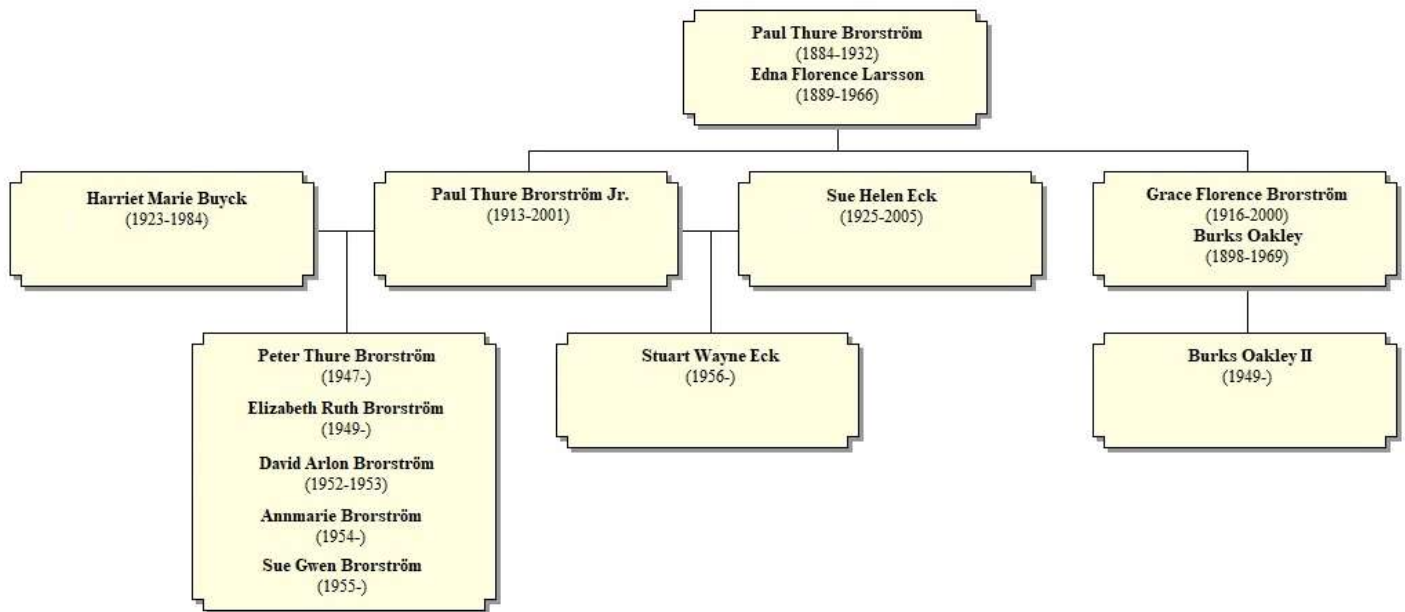
- Elizabeth Ruth Brorström, born 23 March 1949
- David Arlon Brorström, born 8 May 1952
- Annmarie Brorström, born 8 September 1954
- Sue Gwen Brorström, born 8 September 1955

I should note that as adults, Peter changed his name to Peter Larson and Sue changed her name to Susan Baker.

Tragically, David Arlon Brorström drowned on 16 August 1953, while just a toddler.

Paul also fathered a son, Stuart Wayne Eck, through an extramarital affair in the summer of 1955. Stuart was born on 9 April 1956, and it is doubtful that Paul knew that he was Stuart's father. I only discovered my relationship with Stuart when I looked into a DNA match on the Ancestry.com website in January 2017.

Since PTB Jr. and my mother were siblings, his children are my first-cousins. Here is a chart showing my relationship to Paul's children:












DNA Matches with my Brorström Cousins

I have been using DNA on Ancestry.com and 23andme.com to learn more about my family tree.

Fortunately, most of my Brorström first-cousins have submitted their DNA to one or both of these sites. My largest DNA match on the Ancestry.com website is with my daughter Amy. And then my next three largest DNA matches (in descending order) are with my Brorström first-cousins Stuart, Susan, and Annmarie:

AncestryDNA Results for Burks Oakley

1ST COUSIN

 	Stuart Eck <i>Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins</i> Confidence: Extremely High	 9 people View Match
 	Susan Baker <i>Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins</i> Confidence: Extremely High	 No family tree View Match
 	Annmarie Brorström <i>Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins</i> Confidence: Extremely High	 277 people View Match

Ancestry.com tagged all three of these people as my first-cousins, based on the size of the DNA matches we have.

My largest DNA match is with Stuart; we share 917 cM of DNA across 41 segments:

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley




Stuart Eck
Member since 2016, last logged in 6 days ago

 **Predicted relationship: 1st Cousins**
Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins (What does this mean?)
Confidence: Extremely High

Amount of Shared DNA
917 centimorgans shared across
41 DNA segments

Susan and I share 881 cM of DNA across 43 segments:



← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley

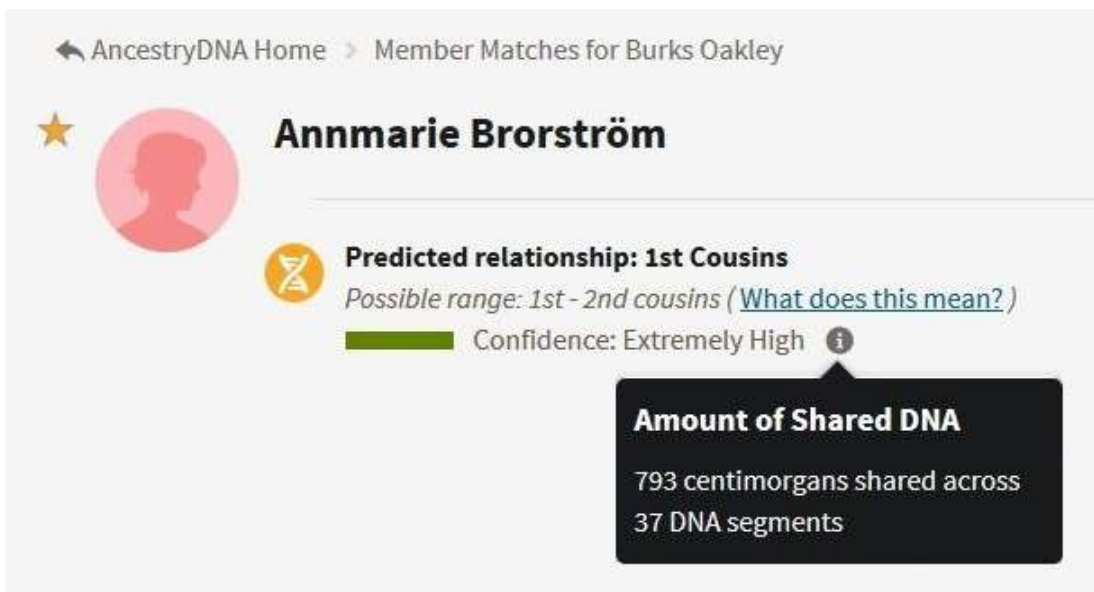
★  **Stuart Eck**
Member since 2016, last logged in 6 days ago

 **Predicted relationship: 1st Cousins**
Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins ([What does this mean?](#))


 Confidence: Extremely High 


Amount of Shared DNA
917 centimorgans shared across
41 DNA segments



Annmarie and I share 793 cM of DNA across 37 segments:



← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley

★  **Annmarie Brorström**

 **Predicted relationship: 1st Cousins**
Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins ([What does this mean?](#))

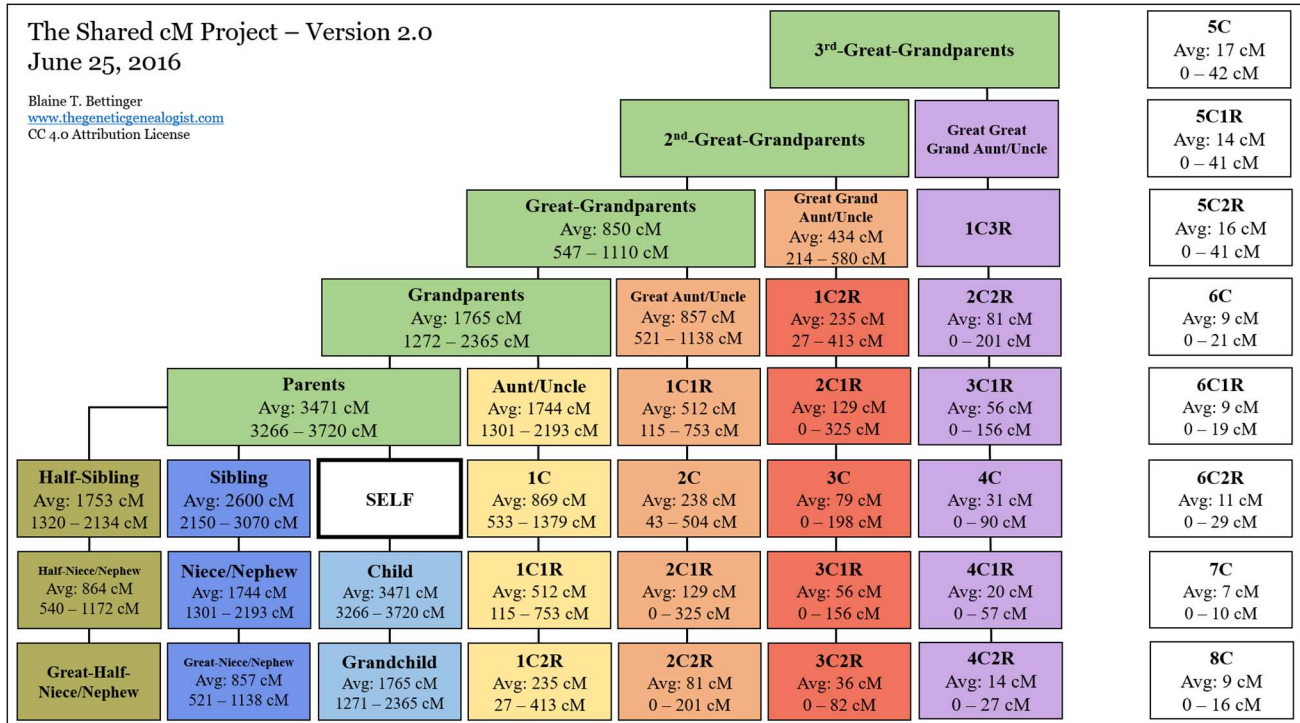
 Confidence: Extremely High 

Amount of Shared DNA
793 centimorgans shared across
37 DNA segments

The difference in the size of these matches is due to random inheritance of DNA from two parents. The noted genetic genealogist Blaine T. Bettinger found that first-cousins (1C) average 869 cM of shared DNA, with a range of 533 – 1379 cM, as shown in the following chart:

The Shared cM Project – Version 2.0
June 25, 2016

Blaine T. Bettinger
www.thegeneticgenealogist.com
CC 4.0 Attribution License
























My DNA matches with Stuart (917 cM), Susan (881 cM), and Annmarie (793 cM) are exactly what would be expected for our 1C relationships.

My First-Cousins Once-Removed

I also have large DNA matches with the children of my first-cousins who have had their DNA tested on Ancestry.com. These individuals are one-generation removed from being my first-cousins, so they are my first-cousins once-removed (1C1R).

AncestryDNA Results for Burks Oakley

2ND COUSIN

★ 	jessicalynn_eck  <i>Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins</i>  Confidence: Extremely High 	 No family tree View Match
★ 	Robert Baker  <i>Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins</i>  Confidence: Extremely High 	 No family tree View Match
★ 	L.M. (managed by Kmeier59)  <i>Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins</i>  Confidence: Extremely High 	 15,589 people  View Match
★ 	David Eck  <i>Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins</i>  Confidence: Extremely High 	 No family tree View Match

I have DNA matches with Stuart's daughter Jessica (571 cM shared across 30 DNA segments) and his son David (364 cM shared across 21 DNA segments), with Susan's son Robert (440 cM shared across 27 DNA segments), and Annmarie's daughter Lauren (436 cM shared across 22 DNA segments).

Blaine Bettinger's study found that 1C1R average 512 cM, with a range of 115 – 753 cM. Again, my matches with these four individuals are exactly what are expected.

Details of our DNA Matches

GEDmatch.com is a free website that has powerful software tools that let users analyze their DNA matches at the chromosome level. After registering on GEDmatch.com, users can download their existing DNA profiles from sites like Ancestry.com and 23andme.com and then upload these profiles to GEDmatch.com. It is interesting to look at my DNA match with Stuart:

Comparing Kit A122463 (Burks Oakley II) and A303490 (*Stu)

Chr	Start Location	End Location	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs
1	742,584	5,526,437	14.4	974
1	56,793,104	81,060,413	25.8	3,442
1	88,189,178	155,693,194	40.7	5,421
2	125,147,717	137,484,018	13.8	1,517
2	173,492,904	192,049,165	14.2	2,055
3	16,076,190	45,686,739	31.3	4,222
3	188,705,920	199,302,161	24.2	1,824
4	64,983	17,074,802	33.2	3,037
4	146,490,198	156,170,959	9.9	1,104
4	181,490,356	191,109,772	28.0	2,144
5	81,630,840	91,129,636	8.1	960
5	123,952,145	141,465,352	14.8	2,084
5	174,701,337	178,760,465	7.3	704
6	148,878	24,017,360	49.2	5,047
6	52,642,328	69,351,122	8.1	1,170
8	11,644,457	58,428,352	50.0	6,346
9	36,587	73,513,969	68.9	8,534
10	125,656	11,399,475	27.0	2,818
10	95,358,506	131,472,086	53.3	6,186
11	192,856	3,621,003	10.3	663
11	6,040,610	18,719,559	17.7	2,347
11	99,343,721	124,328,576	31.1	4,048
12	1,604,854	4,198,409	8.5	663
12	13,420,372	30,997,917	23.5	3,019
12	93,496,421	117,821,548	34.1	3,969
13	107,268,538	114,082,644	18.0	1,389
14	20,549,295	28,592,861	16.7	1,556
14	74,062,553	106,215,123	54.0	5,317
15	25,852,901	57,917,444	43.4	4,635
15	63,447,011	100,198,883	67.4	6,138
16	41,263	6,526,385	17.1	1,268
17	13,546	6,540,407	18.9	1,424
17	6,599,827	25,598,303	35.2	2,888
17	68,421,050	71,265,098	7.4	608
18	5,146,427	13,562,354	27.9	2,015
21	16,664,201	42,018,817	50.1	4,787

Largest segment = 68.9 cM

Total of segments > 7 cM = 1,003.7 cM

36 matching segments

Estimated number of generations to MRCA = 1.9

The GEDmatch.com folks found 1003.7 cM of matching DNA on 36 segments, which is slightly larger than the 917 cM found by Ancestry.com. Based on the size of the DNA match I have with Stuart, the GEDmatch.com software estimated that our Most Recent Common Ancestors (MRCA) were 1.9 generations back. This is amazingly close, since our MRCA are our grandparents, Paul Thure Brorström Sr. and his wife Edna Florence Larsson Brorström. Grandparents are exactly 2 generations back from a person, so 1.9 is a very good estimate.

The GEDmatch.com website also has tools that allow DNA comparisons among multiple individuals. Here is my match with four of my Brorström first-cousins on Chromosome 8:



0-Burks, 1- Beth, 2-Susan, 3-Stuart, 4-Annmarie

The colored bands show where my first-cousins match me on Chromosome 8. Matches like this indicate a close relationship.

Summary

As I have said many times, “The DNA doesn’t lie.” I have large DNA matches with my Swedish-American Brorström cousins, and these matches are the largest I have except for my younger daughter Amy.

Anyone who has a DNA match with me AND also with my Swedish-American cousins must be a descendant of one of our immigrant families: Brorström, Wennström, or Larsson.