

# New Connections with the Cederholm Family

By Burks Oakley II  
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## Introduction

I am interested in genetic genealogy – that is, using DNA to confirm and to extend my family tree. One of my more interesting discoveries in the past few years has been finding a DNA connection between the Brorström family and the Cederholm family, which led me to hypothesize about how these two Swedish families are connected.

My mother was Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000), and her paternal grandfather was a Swede named Paulus Brorström (1859-1932), who immigrated to America on his honeymoon in 1882. I have Brorström cousins in the USA, as well as in Sweden.

In 2018, I learned that I had a large DNA match (193 cM) with a man named Walter Cederholm, and to make a long story short, I concluded that the only way we could be related is if my second-great grandfather Malte Brorström (1816-1877) was the biological father of Gustav Göran Cederholm (1841-1901), who we know was born out of wedlock. I wrote a lengthy narrative about my hypothesized Brorström-Cederholm connection in 2019 – it is online at:

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

During the course of this research, I contacted Annie Kenneday Cederholm<sup>1</sup>, who has an extensive Cederholm family tree on the Ancestry.com website. Annie is a second-great granddaughter of Gustaf Göran Cederholm. Here is the relevant part of her pedigree (Annie is the person in the black rectangle in the lower-left of the chart – marked “Private”):



<sup>1</sup> Annie has ancestors with the surname Kenneday; in fact, the name Annie Kenneday appears in several of her relatives' family trees on the Ancestry.com website.

At this point, I need to re-emphasize that Gustaf Göran was born out-of-wedlock. Shortly after his birth, his mother married a man named Pål Jeppesson, and her young son was given the name Gustaf Göran Pålsson. At some point (perhaps when he married), Gustaf Göran dropped the Pålsson name and adopted the Swedish ornamental name of Cederholm,<sup>2</sup> becoming Gustaf Göran Cederholm. In some of his profiles on Ancestry.com, his name is listed as Gustaf Göran Pålsson-Cederholm.

In addition to contacting Annie K. Cederholm in 2018 about my Cederholm research, I recently contacted her about some ceramic plates that I have that were crafted by the Swedish potter August Cederholm. Here is a photo of the bottom of one of these plates.



The inscription reads “Aug Cederholm – Varberg 1936”. Varberg is a small town on the west coast of Sweden, located between Göteborg and Halmstad, where August Cederholm worked as a potter. My uncle, Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001), brought this set of plates and a bowl home with him on the *S.S. Drottningholm* after he visited Sweden in 1939.

But I digress....

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<sup>2</sup> From Wikipedia: “Starting in the 17th and gaining widespread popularity in the 18th century, people of the Swedish middle classes, particularly artisans and town dwellers, adopted family names in imitation of the gentry. Ornamental family names joining two elements from birthplace or nature, such as Bergman (“mountain man”), Holmberg (“island mountain”), Lindgren (“linden branch”), Sandström (“sand stream”) and Åkerlund (“field grove”), were quite frequent and remain common today.” Holm is derived from the Old Norse word *holm*r meaning a small island; Cederholm translates as “cedar island”.

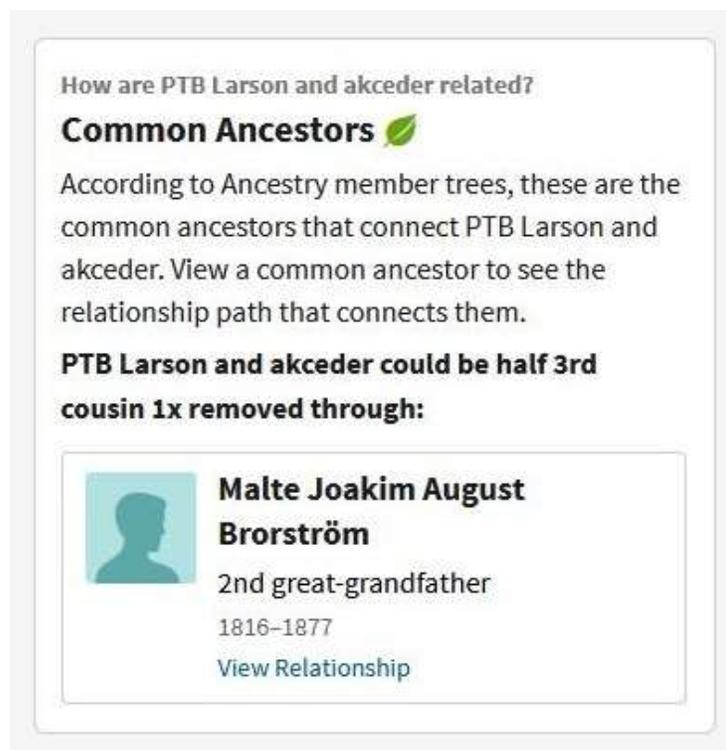
## New DNA Match with Annie K. Cederholm

Four of my Uncle Paul's children (my Swedish-American Brorström cousins) have their DNA profiles on the Ancestry.com website. Due to the way that autosomal DNA is inherited, they have DNA matches with some of our distant Swedish relatives that I don't have. When I find a DNA match on their Swedish line, it is as good as me having that match. From time-to-time, I look at new DNA matches that my cousins have on Ancestry.com. Imagine my surprise when I recently learned that my cousin Peter Larson (born Peter Thure Brorström) has a DNA match with Annie K. Cederholm (her username on Ancestry.com is **akceder**) and they both share a common ancestor:



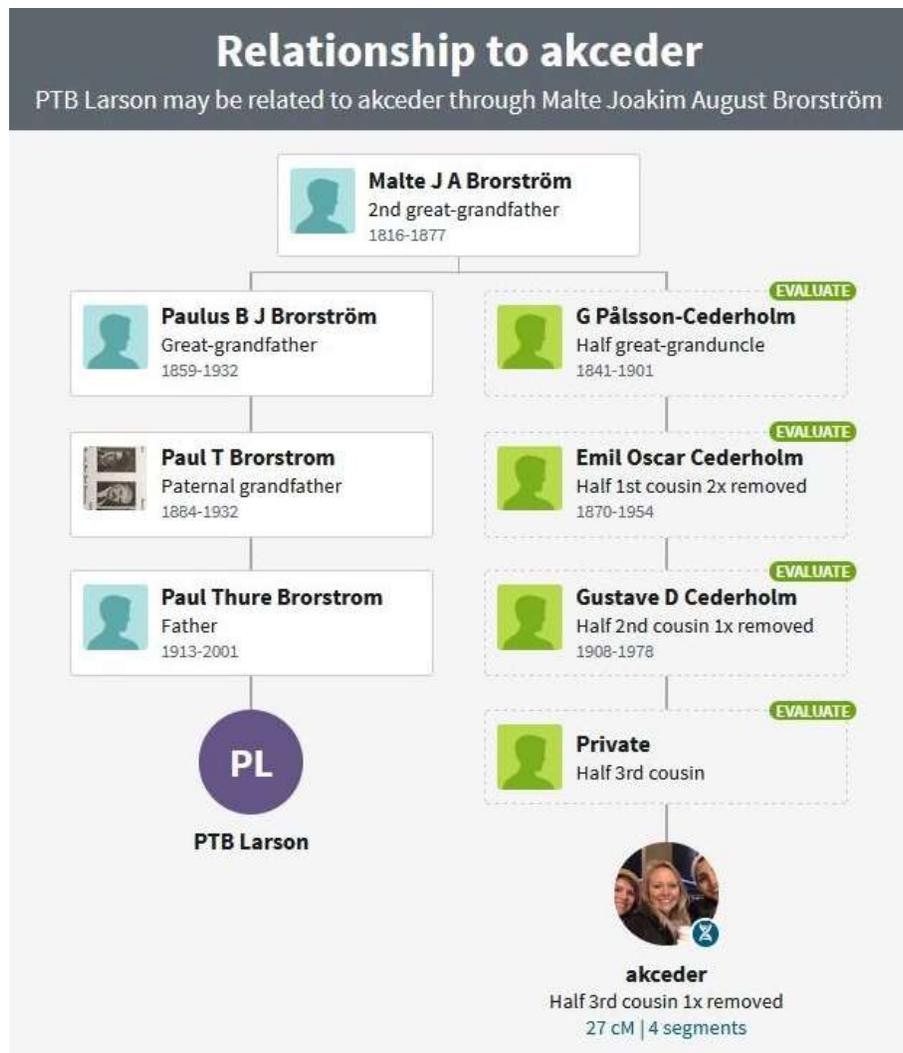
The screenshot shows the 'PTB Larson's DNA Matches' page on Ancestry.com. At the top, there are tabs for 'List' and 'Map'. Below that, there are filter buttons for 'Unviewed' and 'Common ancestors', along with a search and sort dropdown. A section titled 'One month ago' contains a match card for user 'akceder'. The match card shows a profile picture, the name 'akceder', and the relationship '4th - 6th Cousin' with '27 cM | < 1% shared DNA'. To the right of the match card, there are details about the match: 'Private linked tree' with '1,096 People' and a 'Common ancestor' icon.

According to Ancestry.com, Peter and Annie are both descended from Malte Brorström:



The screenshot shows a relationship explanation box. It starts with the question 'How are PTB Larson and akceder related?' followed by the heading 'Common Ancestors' with a green leaf icon. The text explains that according to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect PTB Larson and akceder. It then states 'PTB Larson and akceder could be half 3rd cousin 1x removed through:' and lists a common ancestor: 'Malte Joakim August Brorström', '2nd great-grandfather', '1816-1877', with a 'View Relationship' link.

I went on to look at their relationship:



As expected, Annie is descended from Malte Brorström through his son Gustaf Göran Cederholm, while Peter is descended from Malte through his son Paulus Brorström. Note that in this relationship chart, people appearing in the solid white boxes are in Peter’s family tree on Ancestry.com, while people appearing in the dotted boxes are not in Peter’s tree, but do appear in other trees on the Ancestry.com website. Since all of the boxes in Annie’s ancestral line are dotted, this means that none of these people are currently in Peter’s family tree.

I wondered where the software found the connection between Gustaf Göran Cederholm and Malte Brorström – I thought that I was the only one who had hypothesized this relationship. I clicked on the green “Evaluate” button for his entry, which brought up the following panel:

### Gustaf Göran Pålsson-Cederholm

Gustaf Göran Pålsson-Cederholm may be the son of Malte Joakim August Brorström. Below is some of the information used to suggest this relationship:

**Trees Linked to DNA Matches** 1

- Private Tree linked to akceder 0 Records

**Ancestry Member Trees** 3

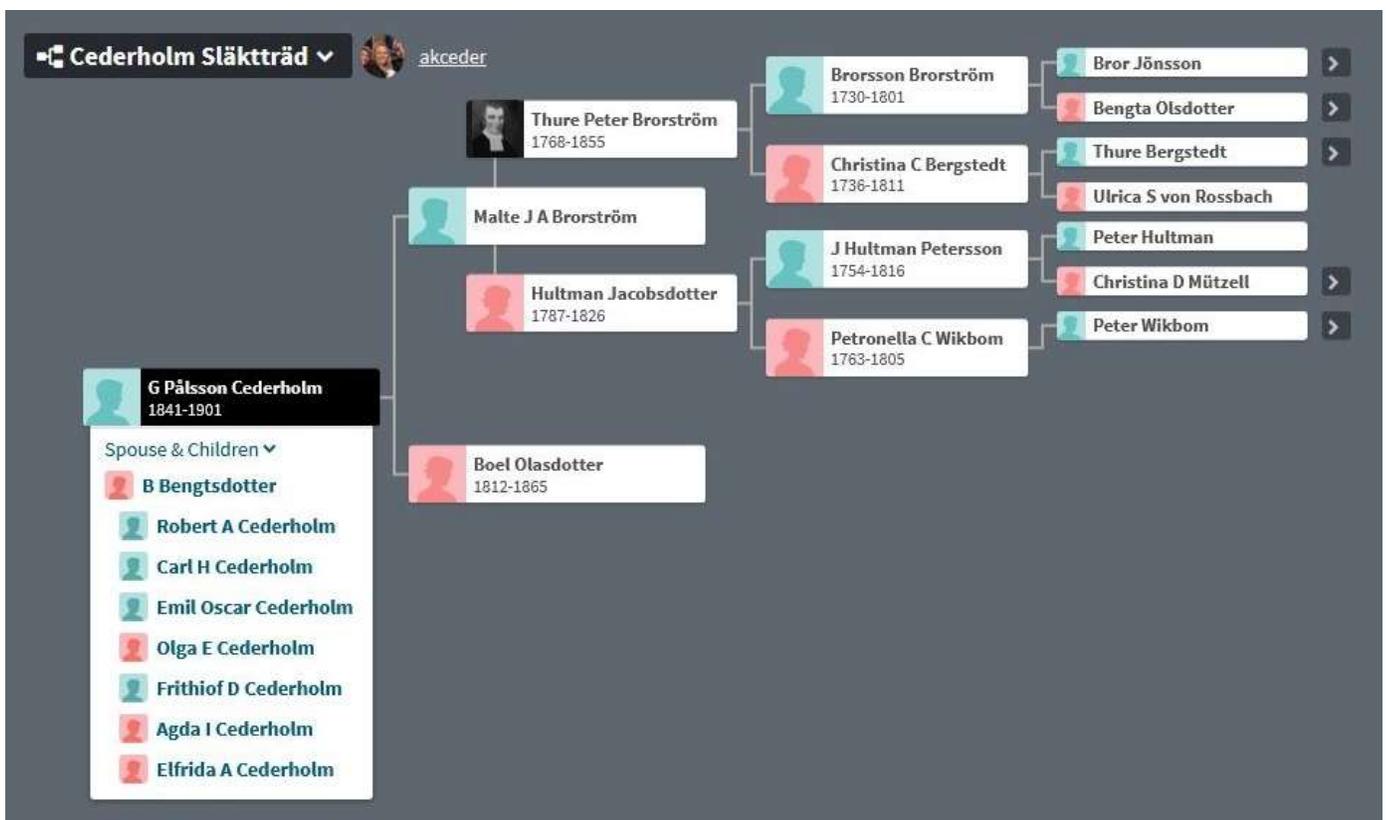
- Cederholm – släkträd by lars elmberg 9 Records
- Cederholm Släkträd by akceder 5 Records

This panel indicates that the *Cederholm Släkträd*, owned by Annie K. Cederholm (*akceder*), has Gustaf Göran Cederholm as the son of Malte Brorström [*Släkträd* is Swedish for family tree]. This means that Annie has edited her tree to show the Brorström-Cederholm connection I hypothesized in my earlier research.

I next examined Annie's pedigree chart in more detail:

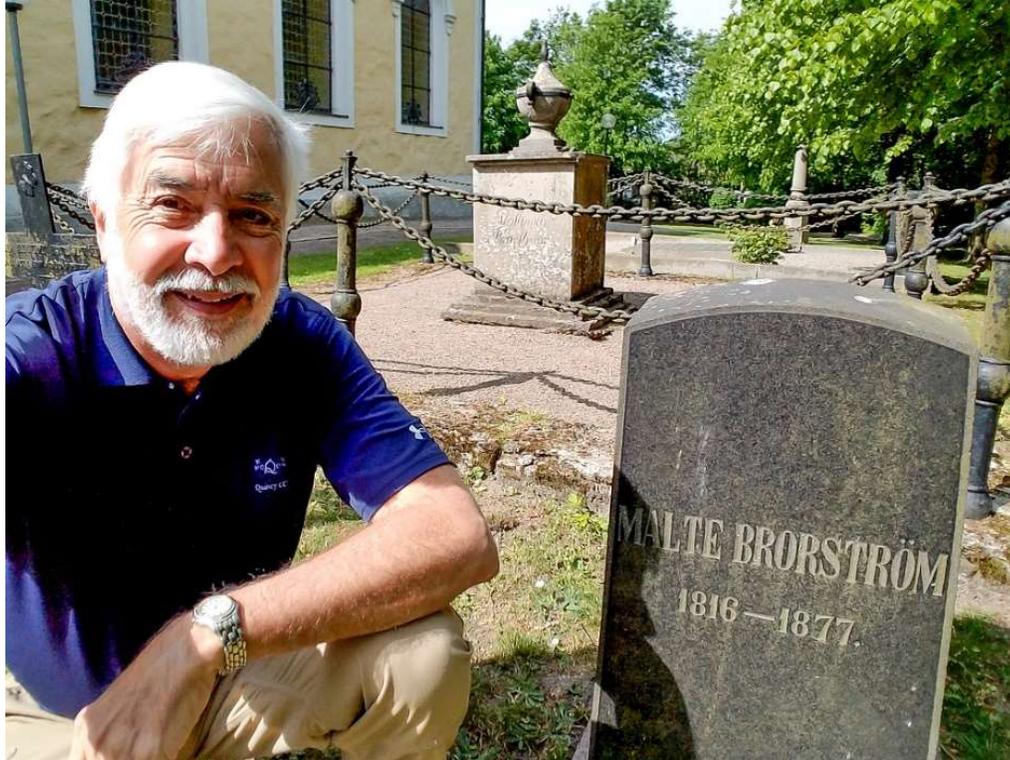


The first part of this pedigree, which I showed earlier, goes from Annie in the lower-left back to Gustaf Göran Cederholm in the upper-right. The next part of her pedigree continues back with the Brorström line:



Wow! Annie has added Malte Brorström as the father of Gustaf Göran Cederholm, and also has added the entire Brorström line going back from Malte! In addition, she has seven children of Gustaf Göran Cederholm and his wife Bengta Bengtsdotter (1840-?) at the lower-left.

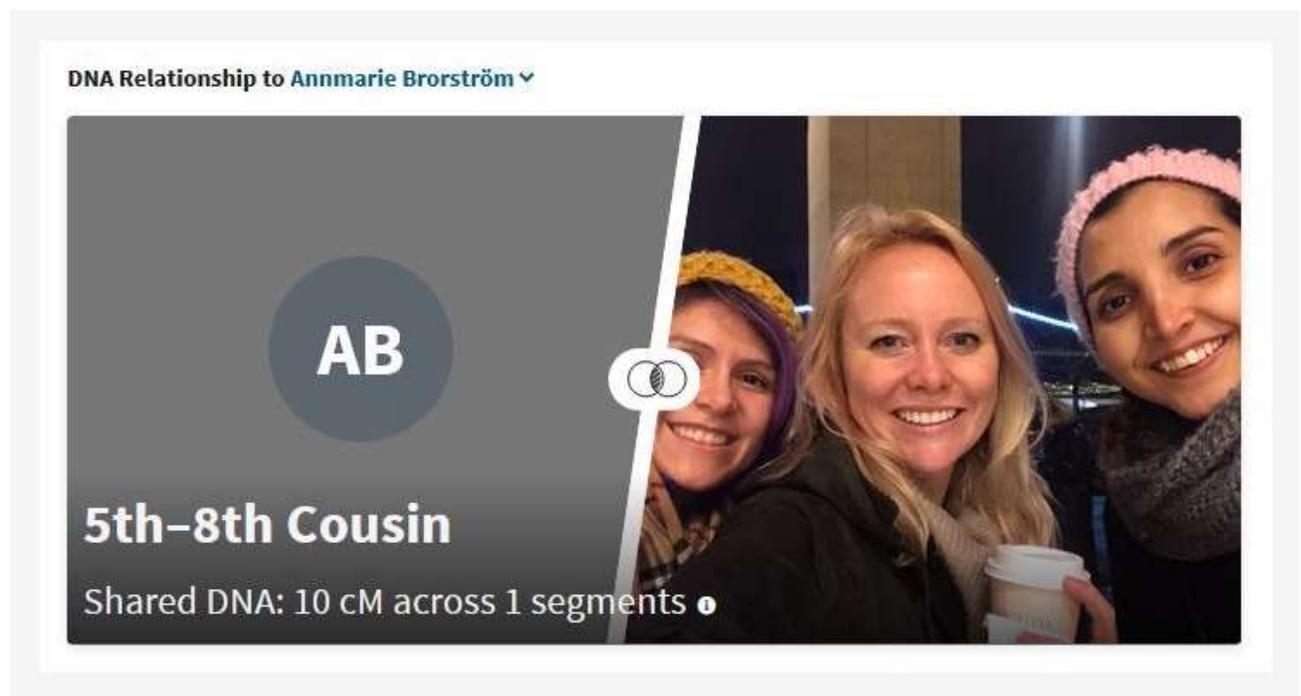
Recall that I visited Borrby, Sweden, in the southeastern part of Skåne County, in May 2019, and saw where Malte and his second wife Mathilda Billing (my ancestor) are buried, along with Malte's parents Thure Petter Brorstrom and Beata Christina Hultman.



Selfie taken next to Malte Brorström's gravestone in the churchyard in Borrby. His parents' gravestone is the large marker inside the chain fence.

But I digress once again....

I should add that Peter's sister Annmarie Brorström also has a DNA match with Annie Cederholm:



But their other siblings Susan and Stuart don't have a match with Annie - nor do I.

Up to this point, I have described Peter's DNA match with Annie Cederholm, and how it appears that she now also believes (based on the DNA evidence) that Malte Brorström was the biological father of Gustaf Göran Cederholm.

## ThruLines™ for Malte Brorström

ThruLines™ are charts that are automatically created by software on the Ancestry.com website; these charts show how an individual is related to multiple descendants of a particular ancestor. Here is Peter's ThruLines™ chart for Malte Brorström:

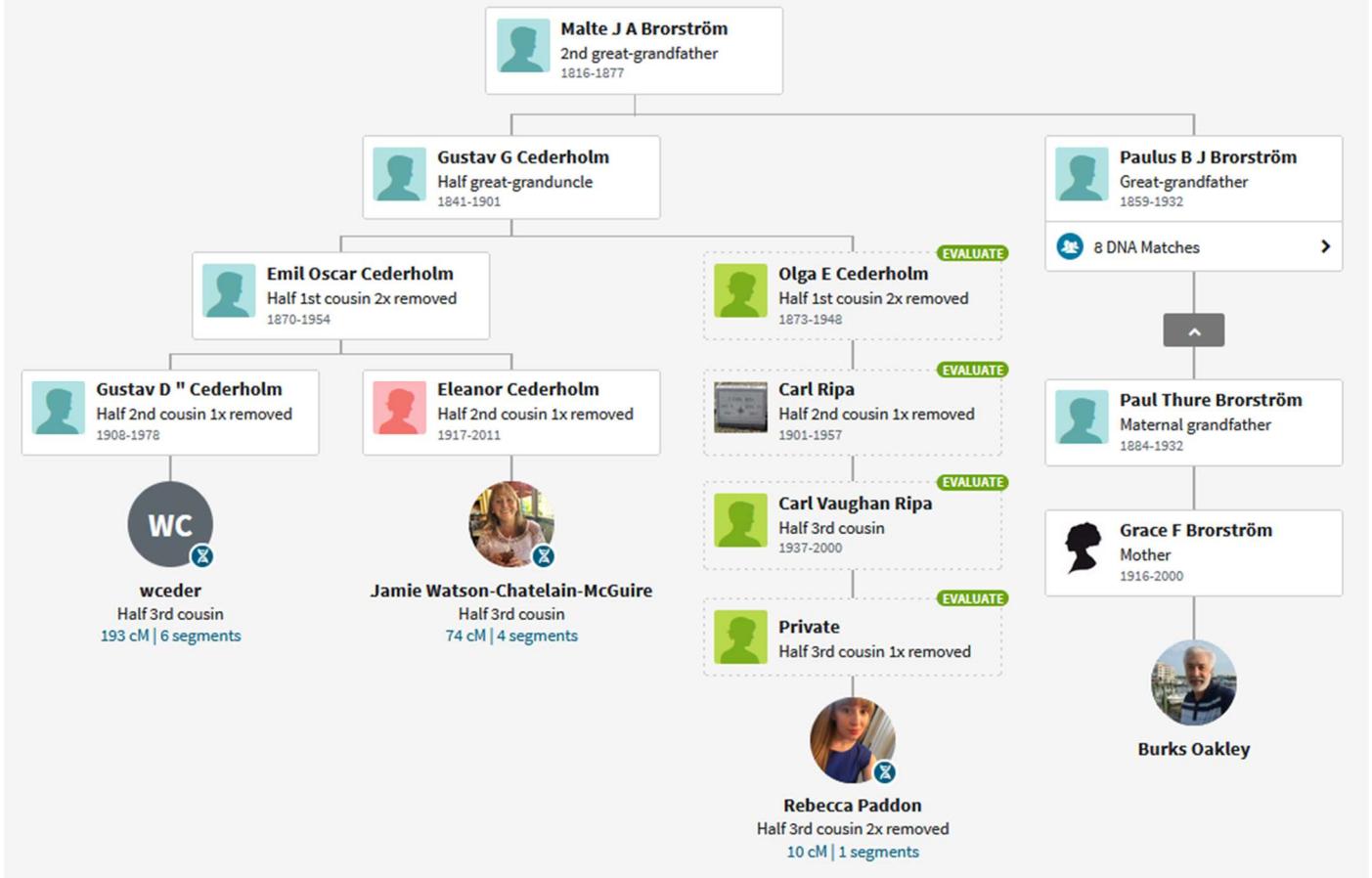


This chart shows Peter's DNA matches with descendants of Malte's (biological) son Gustaf Göran Cederholm. There are just two of Peter's DNA matches in this chart – with Walter Cederholm (**wceder**) and Walter's niece Annie K. Cederholm (**akceder**).

Since I am a curious person, I wondered what my ThruLines™ for Malte Brorström looked like – here it is:

# ThruLines™ for Malte Joachim August Brorström

ThruLines uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 11 DNA matches through Malte Joachim August Brorström.



OMG! This chart shows a new DNA match with a woman named Rebecca Paddon. Her line connects back to Gustaf Göran Cederholm through his daughter Olga Eleanora Cederholm (1873-1948). Note that Olga's name appears inside a dotted box, since she isn't in my family tree. Based on this chart, Olga was a (biological) grandchild of Malte Brorström, and thus she was in the same generation as my grandfather Paul Thure Brorström.

Here is a profile of Olga Eleanora Cederholm from the Ancestry.com website:

CHERIE HEMBERGER E... Tree Search cherieeckel

## Olga Eleanora Cederholm

BIRTH 25 JAN 1873 • Helsingborg (M)

DEATH 4 DEC 1948 • Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

### Facts

- 1873 (AGE)

**Birth**

25 JAN 1873 • Helsingborg (M)

17 Sources
- 1891 18

**Departure**

23 Sep 1891 • Liverpool, England

Age: 18  
2 Sources
- 1891 18

**Arrival**

1891

1 Source
- 1900 27

**Marriage**

26 Oct 1900 • Manhattan, New York, USA

1 Source
- 1900 27

**Residence**

1900 • Oyster Bay Township, Nassau, New York

1 Source

### Family

Parents

**Gustaf Göran Pålsson-Cederholm**

1841-1901

**Betty bengson-cederholm**

1840-1907

Spouse & Children

**john peter ripa**

1872-1929

**Carl Ripa**

1901-1957

**Olga Ripa**

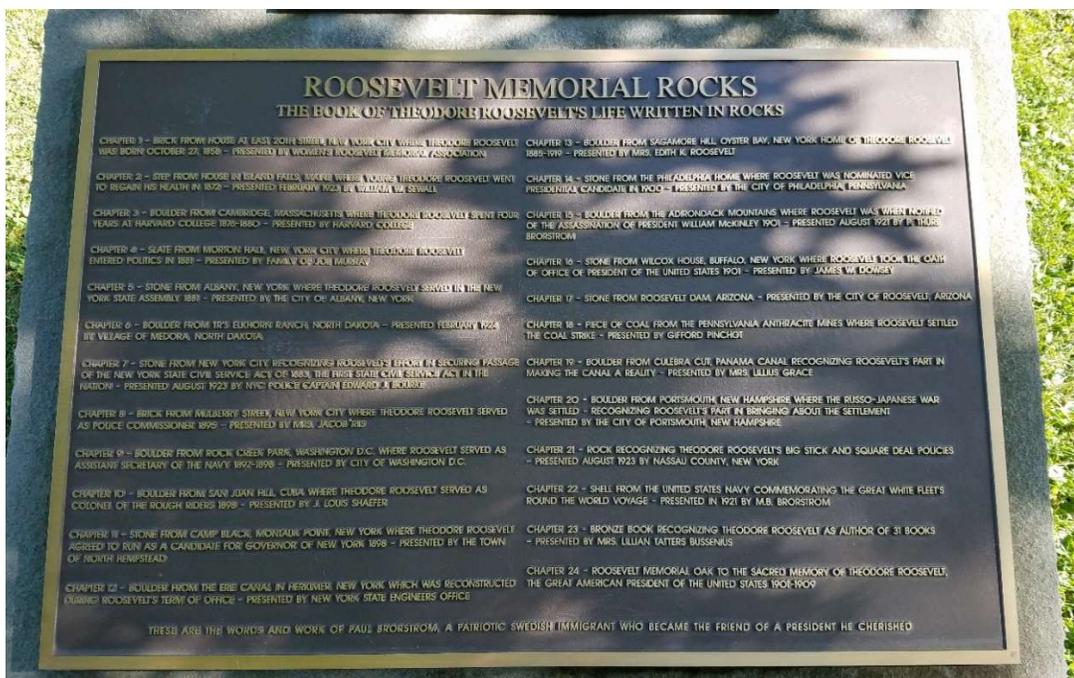
1909-1992

This profile shows Olga's parents, her husband, and two children. This is consistent with the relationship chart showing Rebecca's line back to Malte Brorström.

Olga was born in Helsingborg, Sweden, and immigrated to American in 1891. I find it interesting that in 1900, Olga lived with her husband in Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York. The Paul Brorström memorial to President Theodore Roosevelt is in a park by the shore in Oyster Bay<sup>3</sup>:



Selfie taken at the memorial in July 2018.



The bottom line on this plaque reads "These are the words and work of Paul Brorström, a patriotic Swedish immigrant who became the friend of a president he cherished."

Small world!

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore\\_Roosevelt\\_Memorial\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt_Memorial_Park)

## My New DNA Match with Rebecca Paddon

I went back to look more closely at my new DNA match with Rebecca Paddon:

The screenshot shows the 'Burks Oakley's DNA Matches' interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'List' and 'Map'. Below that, a 'Filter by:' section includes 'Unviewed' and 'Common ancestors'. A search bar and 'Sort' dropdown are also visible. A filter for 'More than 3 months ago' is applied. The match entry for Rebecca Paddon is shown with a profile picture, name, relationship '5th - 8th Cousin', shared DNA '10 cM | < 1% shared DNA', and a 'Public linked tree' with '25 People' and a 'Common ancestor' icon.

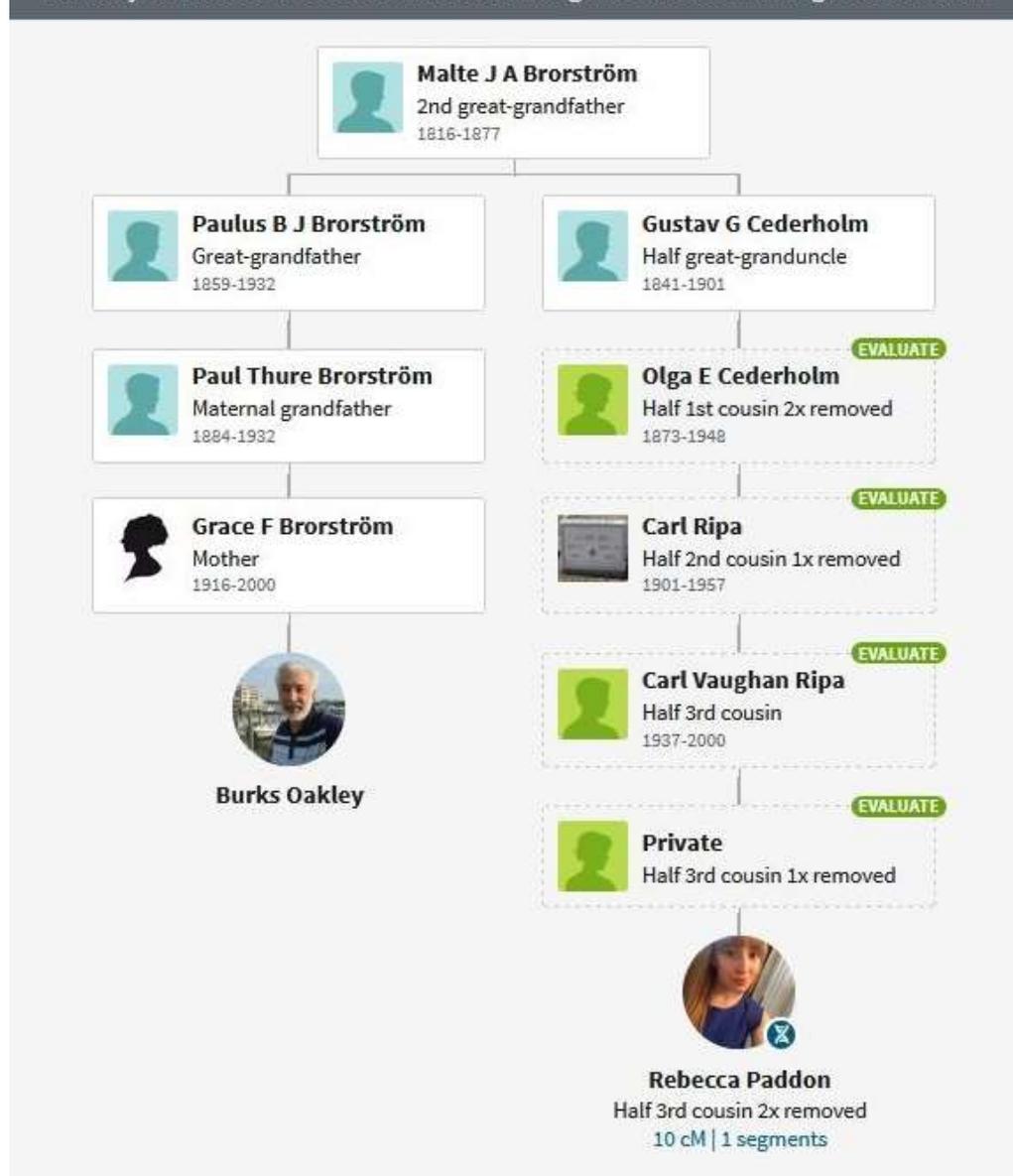
Well, I guess it isn't really a "new" DNA match – it is now is more than three months old – I don't know why I didn't see it earlier. Again, the software indicates that we both are descended from Malte Brorström:

The screenshot shows the relationship information for Rebecca Paddon. It asks 'How are you and Rebecca Paddon related?' and identifies 'Common Ancestors'. It states: 'According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect you and Rebecca Paddon. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects you.' It then suggests 'Rebecca Paddon could be your half 3rd cousin 2x removed through:' and lists 'Malte Joachim August Brorström' as the common ancestor, with the relationship '2nd great-grandfather' and dates '1816-1877'. A 'View Relationship' link is provided.

And here is our relationship chart:

## Relationship to Rebecca Paddon

You may be related to Rebecca Paddon through Malte Joachim August Brorström



In this chart, the software used the entry for Gustaf Göran Cederholm from my tree, since his name appears in a solid white box. According to this chart, I was a “half” third-cousin of Rebecca’s maternal grandfather, Carl Vaughn Ripa (1937-2000). This means that Rebecca and I are third-cousins twice-removed. [An obituary of Carl Vaughn Ripa is in the Appendix – he was an exceptional person!]

I next looked at some of the shared DNA matches that I have with Rebecca:



## You and Rebecca Paddon

5th – 8th Cousin

< 1% shared DNA: 10 cM across 1 segments

Trees Ethnicity Shared Matches

Filter by:  Unviewed  Common ancestors  Search | Sort

### Extended Family

	<b>wceder</b>	2nd – 3rd Cousin 193 cM   3% shared DNA	Public linked tree 6 People Common ancestor
	<b>Stanley Church</b>	2nd – 3rd Cousin 100 cM   1% shared DNA	Unlinked Tree
	<b>Jamie Watson-Chatelain-McGu...</b>	3rd – 4th Cousin 74 cM   1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 9 People Common ancestor
	<b>Rochelle Abrah...</b>	4th – 6th Cousin 38 cM   < 1% shared DNA	Unlinked Tree
	<b>Brian Abraham</b>	4th – 6th Cousin 24 cM   < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 4 People
	<b>Jason Abraham</b>	4th – 6th Cousin 23 cM   < 1% shared DNA	No Trees

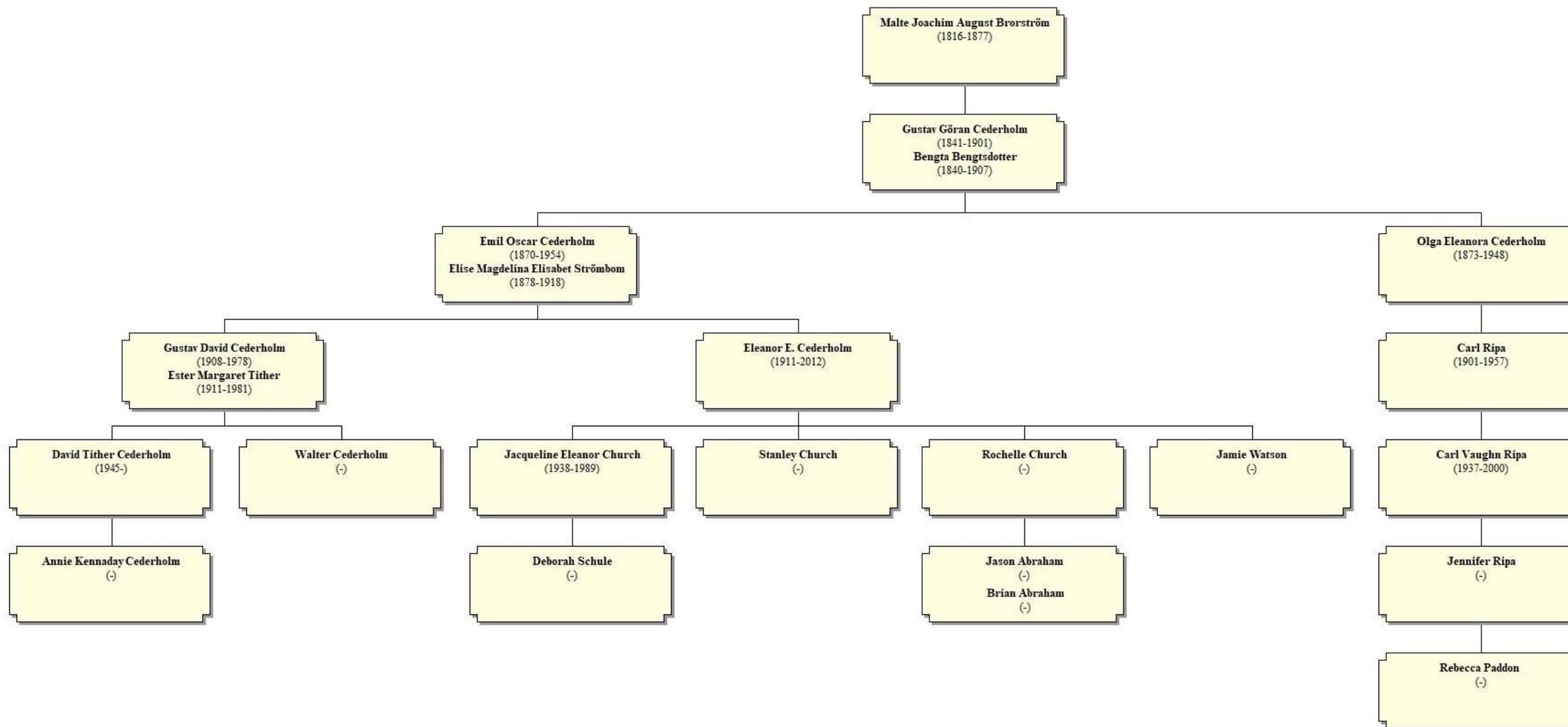
We both have DNA matches with a number of people from the Cederholm family I already knew about – these people are all mentioned in my earlier Cederholm narrative:

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

In addition to the people listed in the panel above, I have a DNA match with Deborah Schule, who is a granddaughter of Eleanor Cederholm. And, of course, Peter and Annmarie have DNA matches with Annie Cederholm.

Here is a chart in landscape mode showing how all of these people are related:

Cederholm descendants of Malte Brorström:



Brorström descendants in my branch of the family have DNA matches with nine Cederholm descendants in the chart on the previous page. Specifically, we have DNA matches with:

Annie K. Cederholm  
Walter Cederholm  
Deborah Schule  
Stanley Church  
Rochelle Abraham (née Church)  
Jason Abraham  
Brian Abraham  
Jamie Watson-Chatelain-McGuire  
Rebecca Paddon

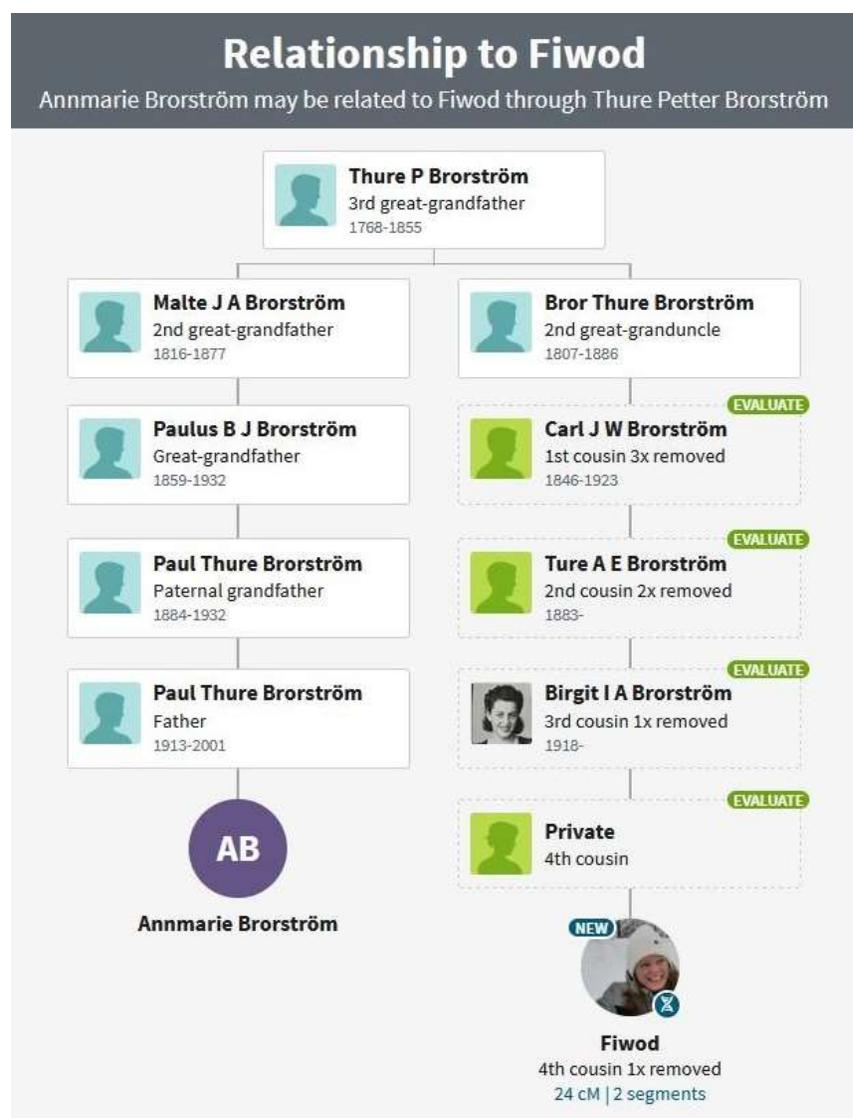
My match with Rebecca provides strong evidence in support of the hypothesis that Malte Brorström was the biological father of Gustaf Göran Cederholm.

### ***Other Brorström Matches***

Earlier this spring, I found that my Swedish-American cousin Annmarie Brorström has a DNA match with a Swedish woman named Sofia Wodstrup (***Fiwod*** on Ancestry.com). My narrative about this match is at:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/SofiaWodstrup-BrorströmConnection.pdf>

Sofia is descended from Thure Petter Brorström through his son Bror Thure Brorström, as shown in the following relationship chart:



Here is a panel showing the DNA matches shared by Annmarie and Sofia:

**AB**  **Annmarie Brorström and Fiwod**  
 Predicted relationship: 4th-6th Cousin  
 Shared DNA: 24 cM across 2 segments

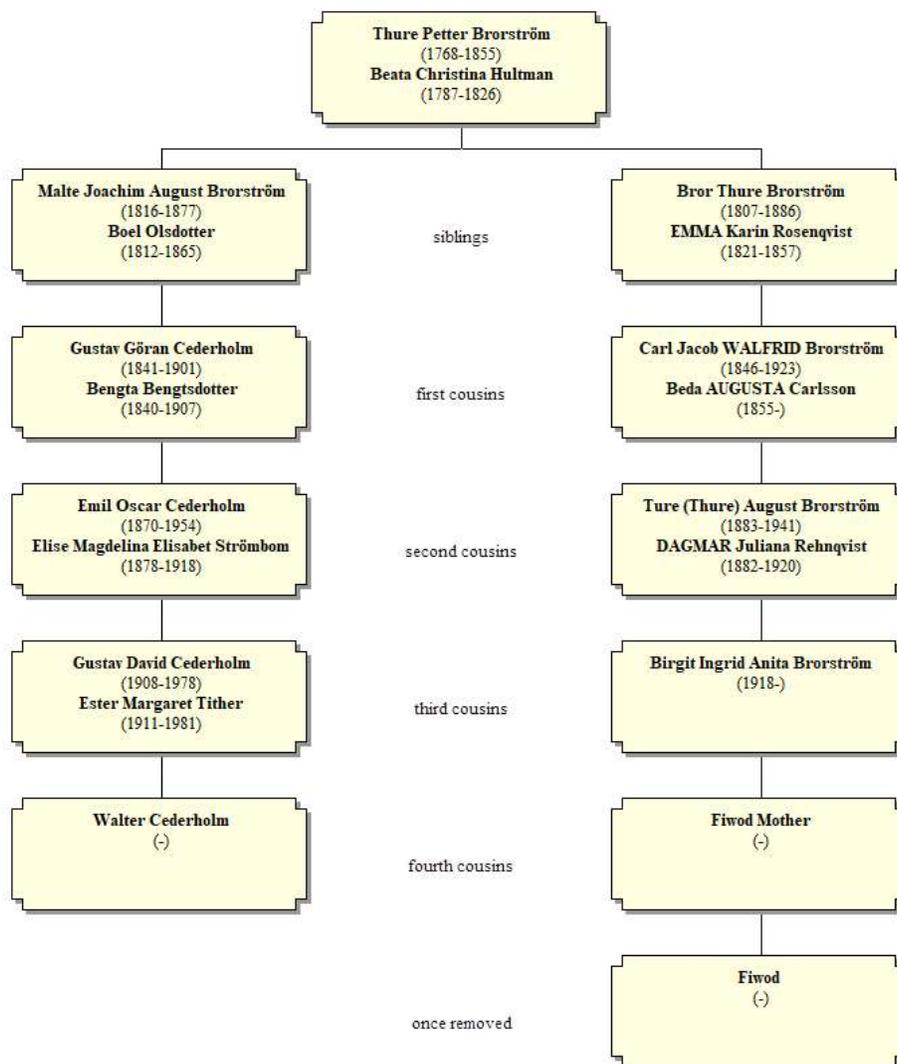
Trees Ethnicity Shared Matches

Filter by:  Unviewed  Common ancestors Search | Sort

Parent/Child		
 <b>L.M.</b> Managed by Kmeier59	<b>Parent/Child</b> Shared DNA: 3,470 cM across 29 segments	 <b>18,083 People</b>  Common ancestor
2nd Cousin		
 <b>Peterhorton58</b>	<b>1st-2nd Cousin</b> Shared DNA: 427 cM across 13 segments	 <b>15 People</b>  Common ancestor
4th Cousin		
 <b>wceder</b>	<b>4th-6th Cousin</b> Shared DNA: 39 cM across 2 segments	 <b>6 People</b>
 <b>Rasmus Wodstrup</b>	<b>4th-6th Cousin</b> Shared DNA: 32 cM across 3 segments	 <b>Unlinked Tree</b>

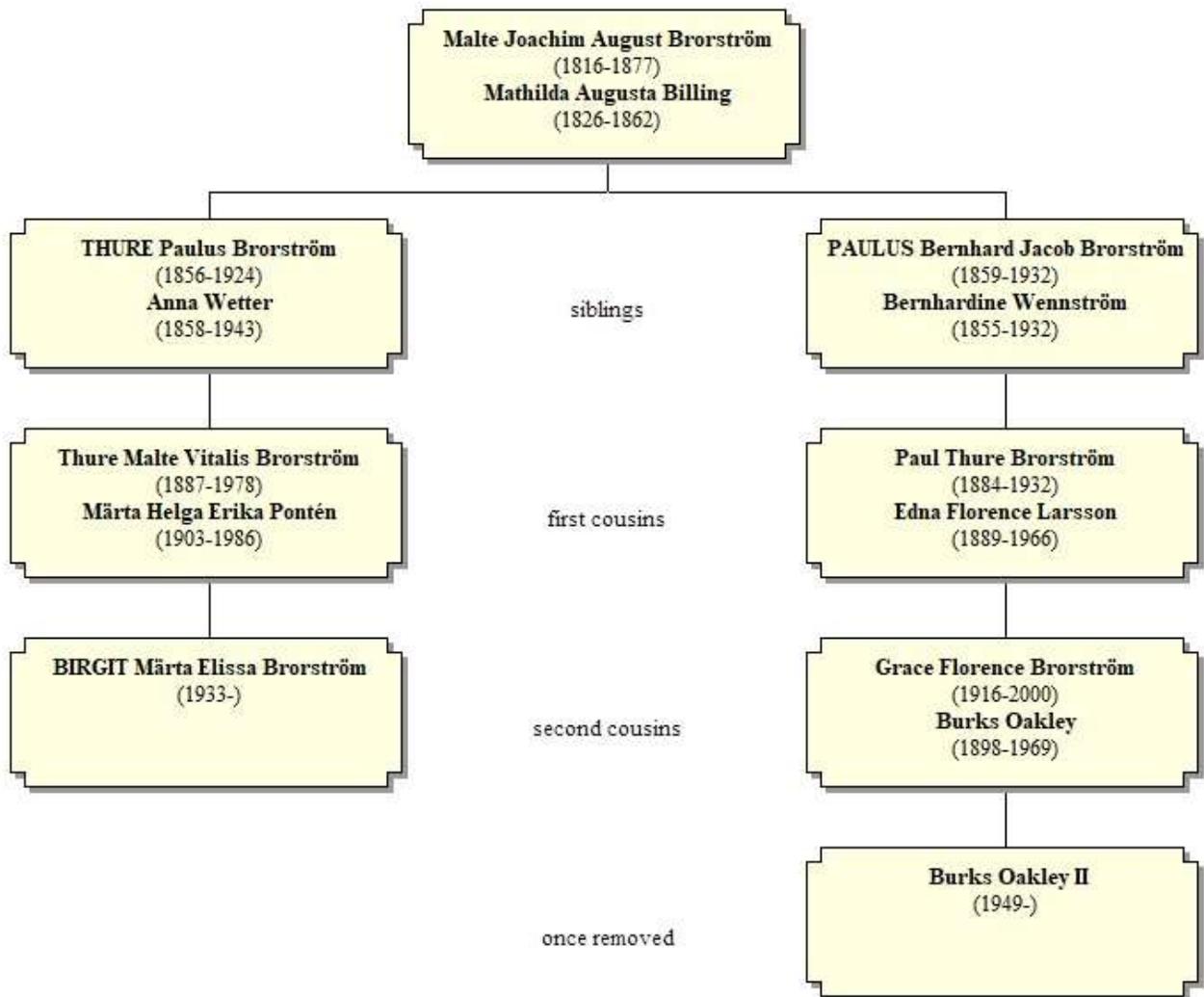
Note that they both have a DNA match with Walter Cederholm (*wceder*).

Here is a chart showing how Walter and Sofia are most likely related:



They are fourth-cousins once-removed. Of course, their DNA match means that this match comes from one generation earlier than Malte Brorström.

Let me now go back to another Brorström relative, and that is Birgit Tesch (née Brorström). Here is a chart showing how Birgit and I are related:



Birgit is my second-cousin once-removed; we both are descended from Malte Brorström. Birgit's family remained in Sweden, and I have visited her at her home on Lidingö and also at her home on Utö.



Burks and Birgit at her home on Utö in May 2018.

Since Birgit is descended from Malte Brorström, she should have DNA matches with the Cederholm descendants. So I viewed the DNA matches that Birgit and I share – here is the relevant subset of matches:

**You and Birgit Tesch**  
4th – 6th Cousin  
< 1% shared DNA: 30 cM across 3 segments

Trees Ethnicity **Shared Matches**

Filter by:  Unviewed  Common ancestors Search | Sort

**Extended Family**

	<b>wceder</b>	2nd – 3rd Cousin 193 cM   3% shared DNA	Public linked tree 6 People Common ancestor
	<b>Stanley Church</b>	2nd – 3rd Cousin 100 cM   1% shared DNA	Unlinked Tree
	<b>Jamie Watson-Chatelain-McGuire</b>	3rd – 4th Cousin 74 cM   1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 9 People Common ancestor
	<b>Rochelle Abraham</b>	4th – 6th Cousin 38 cM   < 1% shared DNA	Unlinked Tree
	<b>Deborah Schule</b>	4th – 6th Cousin 34 cM   < 1% shared DNA	Unlinked Tree
	<b>Brian Abraham</b>	4th – 6th Cousin 24 cM   < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 4 People

Wow! Birgit has DNA matches with Walter Cederholm, Stanley Church, Jamie Watson-Chatelain-McGuire, Rochelle Abraham, Deborah Schule, and Brian Abraham. Exactly what would be expected if Malte Brorström was the biological father of Gustaf Göran Cederholm. [As an aside, Birgit's daughters Clara and Lisen also both have DNA matches with Walter Cederholm and several others in the Cederholm family.]

### Summary

In this rambling narrative, I started with the new DNA match that my first-cousin Peter Larson (born Brorström) has with Annie K. Cederholm. I have hypothesized that my second-great grandfather Malte Brorström (1816-1877) is the biological father of Gustaf Göran Cederholm (1841-1901), and Peter's DNA match with Annie is one more piece of support for this hypothesis. Peter also has a DNA match with Annie's uncle, Walter Cederholm. These two DNA matches appear in Peter's ThruLines™ chart for Malte Brorström.

When I looked at my ThruLines™ chart for Malte Brorström, I learned that I had a new DNA match with a woman named Rebecca Paddon. Rebecca is descended from Olga E. Cederholm, who was a daughter of Gustaf Göran Cederholm. This DNA match provides additional support for my hypothesis.

Finally, I revisited my family's DNA matches with two Swedish women, Sofia Wodstrup and Birgit Tesch (née Brorström). Birgit is descended from Malte Brorström, while Sofia is descended from Malte's brother, Bror Thure Brorström. Both Sofia and Birgit have DNA matches with a number of Cederholm descendants, which provides even more support for my hypothesis.

As I always say, "the DNA doesn't lie". And in this case, I believe that the totality of the DNA record now provides solid support to let me conclude that indeed Malte Brorström was the biological father of Gustaf Göran Cederholm.

## CARL VAUGHN RIPA (1937-2000)

[Note from Burks – Carl was my “half” third-cousin.]

Carl V. Ripa died of a sudden heart attack on 27 September 2000, the day before he was to leave his home, in North Haledon, NJ, with his wife, Virginia, to attend the Class of 1960 40th class reunion in Annapolis, MD.

Besides his wife, Virginia, whom he married within a week of graduation, he is survived by his children, John and Jennifer; their spouses, Theresa and Steven; and grandchildren, Brendan, Michael, Rebecca and Emily.

He entered the Naval Academy after a year at Union College at Schenectady, NY, and graduated from Teaneck High School in Teaneck, NJ. He was a four-year member of the Fifth Company and graduated in the top 10% of the class. He is remembered for his diplomatic style and willingness to help others with their academic needs.

Upon graduation, Carl was commissioned in the civil engineering corps. After required civil engineering training at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, he was assigned as public works officer at the Navy Supply School in Athens, GA. After leaving Athens in 1965, Carl joined a SeaBee battalion and immediately deployed to the Antarctic to assist National Science Foundation projects.

Upon completion of two later deployments to Vietnam, Carl left the Navy in 1968. He joined the New York Bell Telephone Company as an engineer and obtained an M.B.A. degree from Pace University in New York. More than 20 years later, he retired from New York Bell as vice president of engineering.

He then embarked on a five-year contract assignment as vice president of national security and emergency preparedness for the Bellcore Corporation. Here, he headed a Washington-based project on emergency command and control communications. In this capacity, he served on the President's advisory panel for emergency communication backup systems. Retired for the past three years, Carl had been deeply involved in the administration and maintenance of the Meadowbrook Church in North Haledon, NJ. The memorial service was held at the church and was attended by most of the congregation reflecting the positive impact he had made on the church.

Classmates Duane Beck, Vance Fry, Larry Sarno and their wives left the reunion early to attend the services. At the memorial service, each spoke of his friendship and filled the congregation in with anecdotes about various stages of Carl's life. Many of the parishioners spoke fondly of the leadership he provided the church in its efforts to grow and the impact he had on their personal lives.

Carl was buried at Paramus Memorial Park in Paramus, NJ.

I am proud to have known him, to have roomed with him and to have had him as a friend since graduation. He played no small part in my life or others that he came in touch with during his lifetime. He embodied not only all the qualities of a leader and a Gentleman, but he was a gentle man as well. I, for one, feel a void in my life.

Larry Sarno '60 – Shipmate, April 2001