

My ThruLines™ for Paulus Laurentius Billing

By Burks Oakley II
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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.



Street scene in Simrishamn, Skåne, Sweden

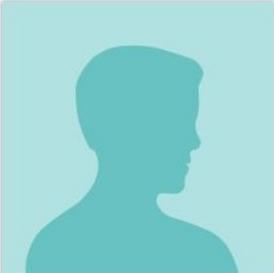
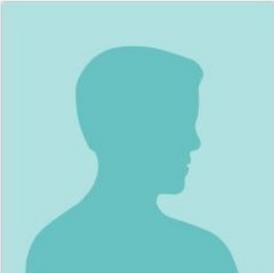
In February 2019, Ancestry.com released the beta version of software that they have named ThruLines™. This software first identifies my DNA matches (that is, the individuals with whom I have matching segments of DNA, indicating a common ancestor) and then examines my family tree and theirs, seeking to 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. Interestingly, the software also searches family trees that are marked “Private”, which I otherwise would not be able to view.

My ThruLines™ for Paulus Laurentius Billing

Since the ThruLines™ software was released, I have been working my way through the ThruLines™ for my Swedish Ancestors. Ancestry.com presents the ThruLines™ in a standardized order, beginning with my parents, then my grandparents, my great-grandparents, etc.

I finally got to my third-great grandfather Paulus Laurentius Billing (1788-1837).

The screenshot shows the ThruLines™ interface for Burks Oakley. It displays a grid of 3rd Great Grandparents. The central figure, Paulus Laurentius Billing, is highlighted with a red box. The grid consists of two rows of four silhouettes each, alternating between teal and pink backgrounds. The names and relationships are listed below each silhouette.

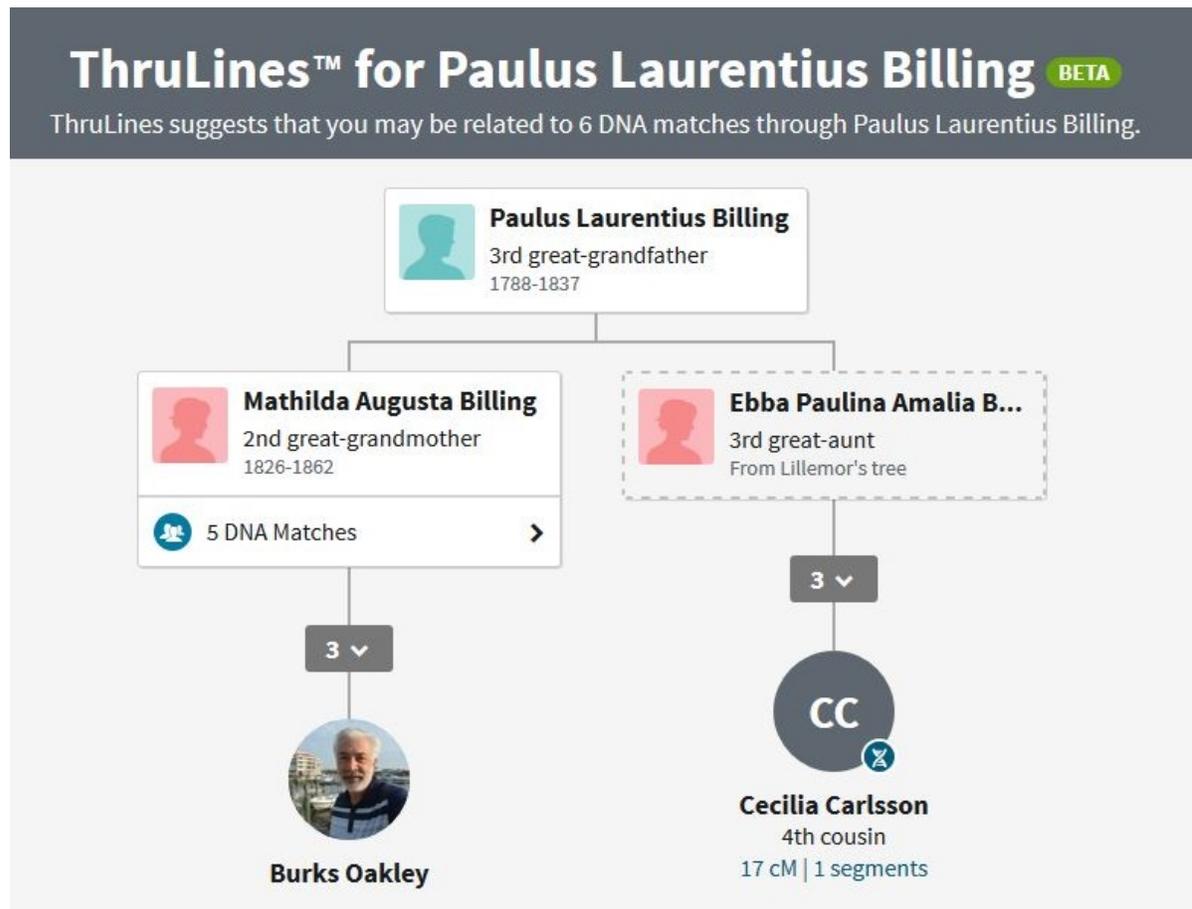
3rd Great Grandparents			
 Thure Petter Brorström 3rd great-grandfather 1768-1855	 Beata Christina Hultman 3rd great-grandmother 1787-1826	 Paulus Laurentius Billing 3rd great-grandfather 1788-1837	 Kristina Maria Fick 3rd great-grandmother 1790-1862
 Petter Venström 3rd great-grandfather 1778-1862	 Maria Nilsdotter 3rd great-grandmother 1776-1819	 Ola Nilsson 3rd great-grandfather 1775-1826	 Sissa Jönsdotter 3rd great-grandmother 1782-1853

Paulus Laurentius was born in Stoby, Skåne, Sweden, in 1788, and he died in Simrishamn, Skåne, Sweden, in 1837:

The profile card features a teal silhouette of a man on the left. To the right, the name "Paulus Laurentius Billing" is displayed in large white text. Below the name, the birth and death information is provided in white text on a dark grey background.

Paulus Laurentius Billing
BIRTH 1788 • Stoby, Skåne, Sweden
DEATH 1837 • Simrishamn, Skåne, Sweden

When I looked at my ThruLines™ for Paulus Laurentius, I learned that I have a connection with a woman named Cecilia Carlsson (CC in the chart shown below):

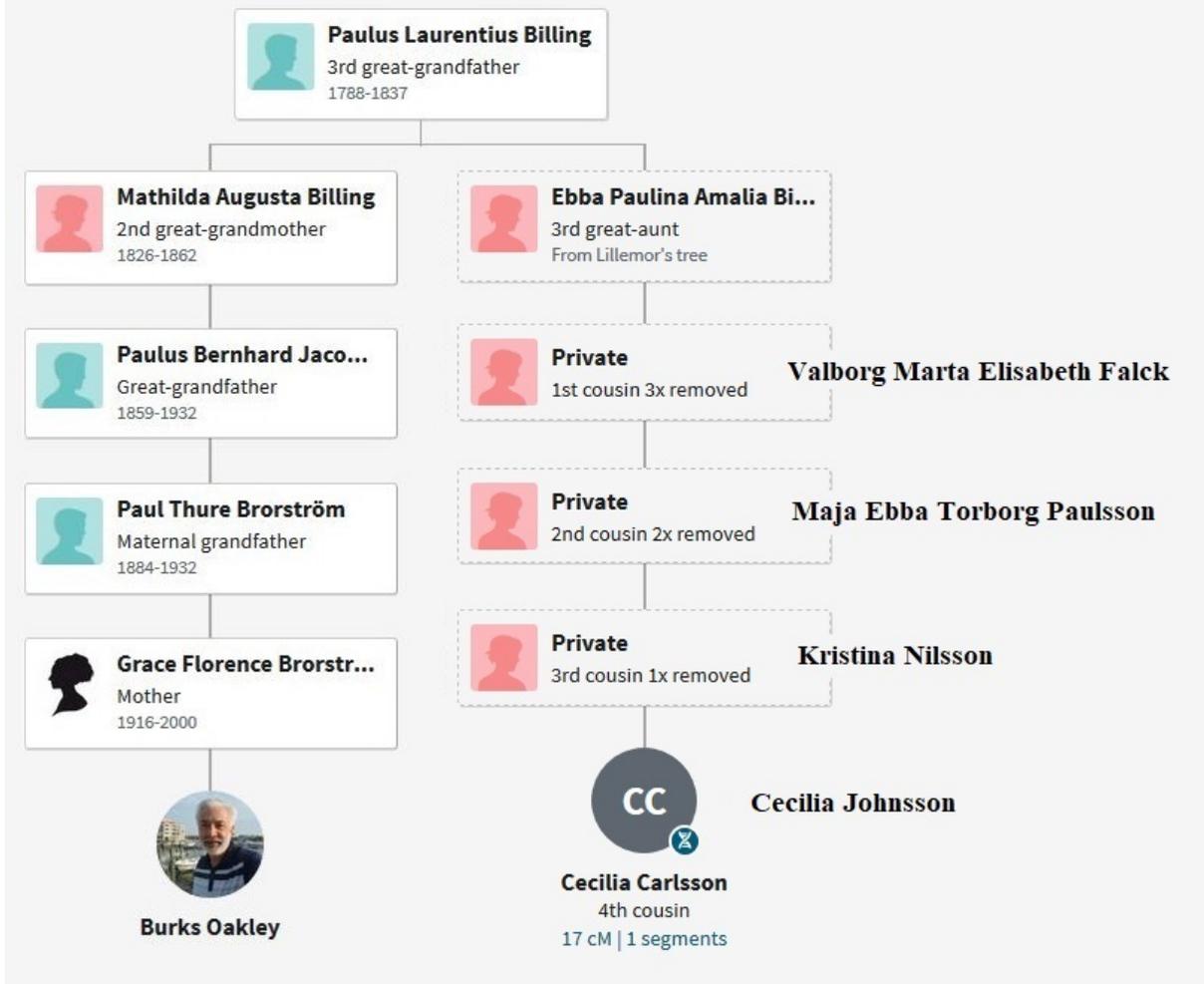


It appears that Paulus Laurentius had (at least) two daughters. One was my second-great grandmother, Mathilda Augusta Billing (1826-1862), and the other was her younger sister Ebba Paulina Amalia Billing (1831-??). I have a DNA match with Cecilia Carlsson, who is descended from Ebba. Cecilia is my fourth-cousin and we share 17 cM of DNA on a single segment.

I next expanded each of the lines in the ThruLines™ shown above. This gave me the details of each of our lines going back to Paulus Laurentius, as shown in the chart on the next page:

ThruLines™ for Paulus Laurentius Billing BETA

ThruLines suggests that you may be related to 6 DNA matches through Paulus Laurentius Billing.



I contacted Cecilia via the Ancestry.com message system, and she replied:

Hello Burks, Apologies for my delayed reply. I saw your message but received it at a time when I couldn't read it and then I completely forgot about it. Yes, I know for certain that I am a descendant of Ebba Billing. She is my great-great grandmother on my mother's side. Her daughter was Marta Falk, and her daughter was Maja Paulsson (my maternal grandmother), and her daughter is my mother, Kristina Johnsson (née Nilsson). I live in Hong Kong with my family since 2003 and my mother, Kristina (born 1942, the youngest of Maja's children), is in Sweden, well and healthy :).

It is interesting to note that Cecilia's line back to Paulus Laurentius is entirely made up of women.

Other DNA Matches with Cecilia Carlsson

In looking at my family's DNA matches with Cecilia Carlsson, I found that Annmarie, Stuart, Birgit, Lisen, and Clara all have DNA matches with her.

Annmarie Brorström is a daughter of my mother's brother Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001).

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Annmarie Brorström

★ **Cecilia Carlsson**
Member since 2016, last logged in 2 days ago

Predicted relationship: 4th Cousins
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins ([What does this mean?](#))
Confidence: Good

Amount of Shared DNA
23.9 centimorgans shared across
2 DNA segments

Annmarie and Cecilia share 23.9 cM of DNA on two segments. Fourth-cousins (4C) on average share 35 cM, with a range of 0 – 127 cM, so the size of their match is about what one would expect given their 4C relationship. Cecilia also has a DNA match with PTB Jr.'s son Stuart Eck; they share 12.9 cM on a single DNA segment.

Birgit Tesch (nee Brorström) and her two daughters Lisen Tesch and Clara Tesch Thunberg are Swedes who also are descended from Mathilda Augusta Billing and her husband Malte Brorström (1816-1877). And all three of them have DNA matches with Cecilia.

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Birgit Tesch

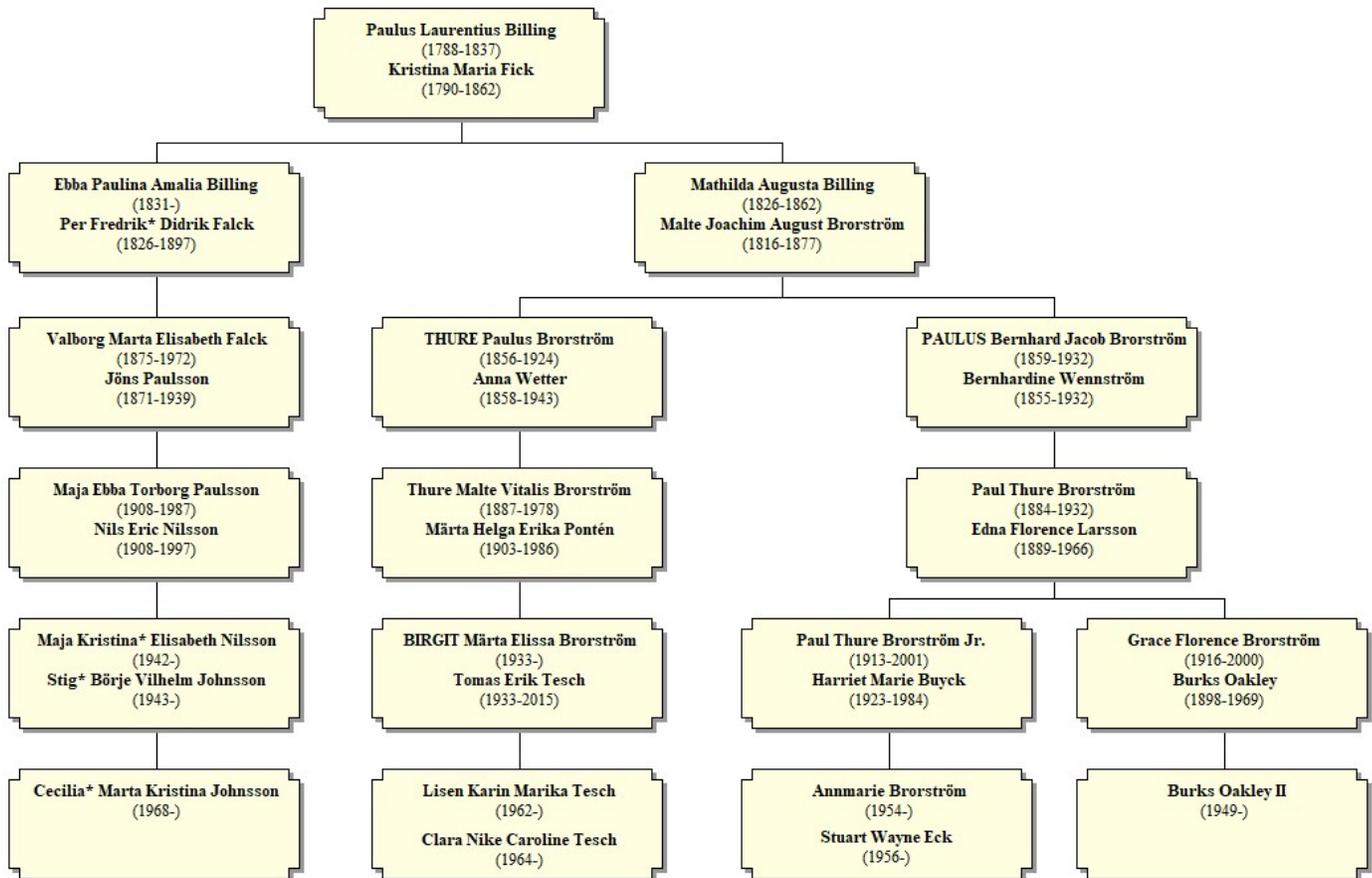
★ **Cecilia Carlsson**
Member since 2016, last logged in today

Predicted relationship: Distant Cousins
Possible range: 5th - 8th cousins ([What does this mean?](#))
Confidence: Good

Amount of Shared DNA
17.2 centimorgans shared across
2 DNA segments

Birgit's match with Cecilia is 17.2 cM, while Lisen's match is 8.5 cM and Clara's match is 15.6 cM.

The following chart shows how we all are related:



How cool to see this! Another Swedish family surname – Billing – leading to DNA matches. The genetics confirming the genealogy.

Going back on the Billing Line

I next looked at Paulus Laurentius Billings paternal line; this line includes:

- Paulus Laurentius Billing (1788-1837)
- Kasten (or Casten) Billing (1738-1910)
- Lars Billing (1700-1742)
- Pål Johansson Billing (1660-1732)

Pål Johansson Billing was born in Billinge, Eslöv Municipality, Skåne County, Sweden.

A family tree¹ on Ancestry.com has Pål's father as Johan Hansson Billingensis (1602-1669). This sounds to me like a name that they created, based on living in Billinge.



Now let me digress and discuss inheritable family names (surnames) in Sweden. For many centuries in Sweden, patronymic names were used, ending in -son or -dotter; for example, the children of a man having the first name of Lars would take the last name of Larsson if male and Larsdotter if female. In my family tree, I have the great example of Måns Hansson having a son named Hans Månsson. In the late 1800's, families in Sweden were required to adopt inheritable family names.

Inheritable family names, however, actually began in the 15th century in Sweden, where they were first used by priests and nobles. The names of these were usually in Swedish, Latin, German or Greek. As an example, the Latinized form of Lars Petersson would be Laurentius Petri. Starting from the time of the Reformation, the Latinized form of their birthplace became a common naming practice for the clergy. So we had Laurentius Petri Gothus, the second Swedish Lutheran Archbishop of Uppsala, Sweden, serving from 1575 to 1579. He was born in the province of Östergötland, from which his name Gothus was derived. The Swedish family Benzelius was derived from Bentseby, the birthplace of Ericus Henrici Benzelius Bothniensis, who was the first to adopt the family name.

An example of these Latinized names appears to be the man who is the central figure in this narrative: Paulus Laurentius Billing. My Swedish cousin Göran Grotting is confident that this means that "Paulus Laurentius is a Latinised name and he must for sure be a priest."

¹ <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/70744191/person/32223661511/facts>

I searched for Paulus Laurentius Billing on the Ancestry.com website. I found him in the family tree owned by Lillemor Tellander. His entry in her tree shows his parents, his wife and nine children, and his occupation:

The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com profile for Paulus Laurentius Billing. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Alla 1207", "Tree Search", and a user profile for "Lillemor Tellander". The profile header includes a teal silhouette icon, the name "Paulus Laurentius Billing", and his birth and death information: "BIRTH 24 JUL 1788 • Stoby (L)" and "DEATH 27 MAY 1837 • Simrishamn (L)".

The profile is divided into several sections:

- Family**
 - Parents**
 - Casten Christian Billing (1738-1810)
 - Maria Katarina Lundström (1755-1811)
 - Spouse & Children**
 - Christina Maria Fick (1790-1862)
 - Casten Oscar Billing (1813-)
 - Casten Christian Billing (1814-)
 - Maria Catharina Billing (1816-1894)
- Children**
 - Ulrika (Ulla) Sophia Billing (1818-1848)
 - Samuel Johan Billing (1820-)
 - Gustaf* Erik Billing (1821-)
 - Nils Johan Christian Billing (1824-1827)
 - Matilda Augusta Billing (1826-1862)
 - Ebba Paulina Amalia Billing (1831-)
- Occupation**
 - Prost och kyrkoherde i Simrishamn

His occupation is listed as “Prost och kyrkoherde i Simrishamn”, which translates into English as “Prost and vicar in Simrishamn”. According to Wikipedia, “Swedish *prost* is the leader of a *provsti*, an administrative territorial unit within the Lutheran national churches which comprises several parishes. The provost is the immediate superior of the ‘parish priest’ but is normally also a parish priest in one of the local parishes.”²

² [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provost_\(religion\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provost_(religion))

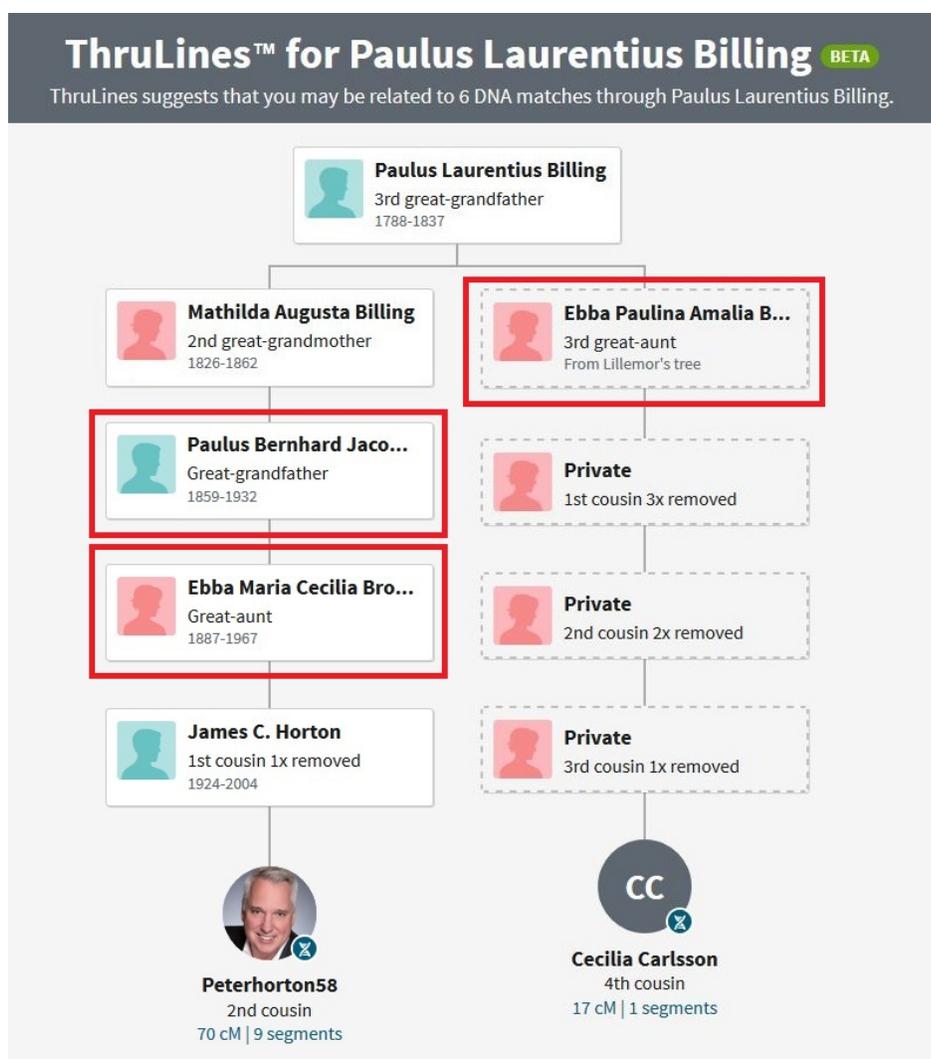
Göran was correct! Paulus Laurentius Billing was indeed a priest!

Getting back to the origin of the Billing surname. Johan Hansson was the son of Hans Turesen (1570–1638) – this was the standard patronymic naming convention. My guess, and this is only a guess, is that Johan Hansson chose the surname of Billingensis as a Latinized form of his town of Billinge. And that his son Pål Johansson Billing shortened the family name to Billing. But he still had the name Johansson, since his father was Johan Hansson Billingensis.

Certainly a topic to research at some future time.

Ebba as a Family Name

Recall that Cecilia Carlsson is descended from Ebba Paulina Amalia Billing. This is shown in the excerpt from my ThruLines™ for Paulus Laurentius Billing:



This excerpt shows MY genealogical relationships and MY DNA matches with two branches of the family: Peter Horton and Cecilia Carlsson. This part of the ThruLines™ chart shows that Ebba Billing was an aunt of my great-grandfather Paulus Bernhard Jacob Brorström. Paulus had five daughters born in America, and he named his first daughter Ebba Maria Cecilia Brorström. I never saw this connection before, but it could be that Paulus named his first daughter after his Aunt Ebba.

Mathilda Augusta Billing

Mathilda Augusta Billing (1826-1862) was my second-great grandmother. She was the second wife of Malte Brorström. They were married in Simrishamn in 1854. Malte was the priest at the church in nearby Borrby, and Malte and Mathilda are buried in a small plot right next to the church.

I visited Borrby in May 2018. I took a train from Malmö to Simrishamn, and then a bus to Borrby. Here are some photos I took that day:



The train station in Simrishamn.



The grave marker for Mathilda Augusta Billing.



The grave marker for Mathilda Augusta Billing.



The Brorström family plot next to the church in Borrby.



Selfie taken in the church yard in Borrby.



Selfie taken on the main street in Borrby.

Cecilia's Brother Henrik Johnsson

After writing this narrative, I learned that Cecilia has a brother – Henrik Martin Vilhelm Johnsson (born 1972), who lives on a farm in Norrköping. He has been on a number of television shows in Sweden, and in fact, he was featured in a commercial for Ancestry DNA. See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgjjZMl3V9Y>



Henrik hittade nya släktingar när han gjorde sitt DNA-test hos Ancestry

Screenshot of Henrik's commercial for Ancestry DNA.

Henrik and I have a 17.3 cM DNA match on a single segment. Annmarie and Henrik share 30 cM on two segments. And Stuart and Henrik share 12.9 cM on a single segment.

Henrik is married to Malin Baryard – the Swedish equestrian who competed in show jumping. Malin won a gold medal in the Swedish Championships at the age of just 14, and her greatest success as a rider was as a member of Sweden’s silver medal winning team in the Athens Olympics in 2004.



Malin (obviously).



Cousin Henrik with his wife Malin.

More about Henrik and Malin on Wikipedia:

https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henrik_Johnsson

https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malin_Baryard-Johnsson

Conclusion

In this narrative, I have described the ThruLines™ for my third-great grandfather Paulus Laurentius Billing (1788-1837). This ThruLines™ identified my DNA match with Cecilia Carsson, who is descended from one of Paulus Laurentius' daughters. Several others in my family also have DNA matches with Cecilia. This is yet another example of the genetics (the DNA matches) supporting the genealogy (our family trees).

I also discussed the family name of Billing, which I hypothesize comes from the ancestral home of Billinge.



And finally, I learned that several of my Swedish-American cousins and I also have matches with Cecilia's brother Henrik Johnsson, who is quite famous in Sweden.