

# **Our Family's ThruLines™ for Per Månsson and Gundel Åkesdotter**

By Burks Oakley II  
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This narrative includes DNA connections with:

- Denis Sullivan
- Susan Sullivan LeDeuc
- Lise-Lotte Kolmberger
- Eva Josefsson
- Pia Carlsson
- Björn Ewenfält
- Gary Kenna Brown

## ***Introduction***

In February 2019, Ancestry.com released a beta version of its ThruLines™ software. Briefly, the ThruLines™ software starts with a DNA match between two people and then attempts to construct family trees linking the two people genealogically. The software searches for connections by examining all the family trees on the Ancestry.com website (even those marked Private, provided that they are searchable), and often constructs new family trees using information taken from multiple trees. In this process, the software suggests ancestors if they are not already in a person's family tree.

My mother was Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000), and all four of her grandparents were Swedes who immigrated to America in the 1880's. I have been systematically working my way through my ThruLines™ for my Swedish ancestors, and I finally got to Per Månsson (1705-1788) and his wife Gundel Åkesdotter (1710-1785), who were my fifth-great grandparents:



This couple lived in the town of Hasslöv, in southwest Halland County, Sweden.



The church in Hasslöv (*Hasslövs kyrka* in Swedish)<sup>1</sup>  
Photo taken by Burks on 14 May 2018

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.svenskakyrkanhoks.se/index.php/korkor-hv/hasslovs-kyrka>

Per Månsson and Gundel Åkesdotter were the great-grandparents of Kristina Olsdotter (1821-1892), who married Nils Wennström (1815-1914). In turn, this couple were the 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandparents of Kristina's daughter Bernhardine Wennström, and Bernhardine was one of my mother's four Swedish immigrant grandparents. Nils and Kristina are buried in the church cemetery in Hasslöv (shown on the previous page).

When I looked at my ThruLines™ for Gundel Åkesdotter, I saw that it had two lines going back to her – through her daughters Johanna Persdotter and Elna Persdotter:



I opened up my line going back to Gundel:

# ThruLines™ for Gundel Åkesdotter BETA

ThruLines uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 6 DNA matches through Gundel Åkesdotter.

## Relationships List

**Gundel Åkesdotter**

5th great-grandmother

**Johanna Persdotter**

4th great-grandmother

**Ola Nilsson**

3rd great-grandfather

**Kristina Olsdotter**

2nd great-grandmother

**Bernhardine Wennström**

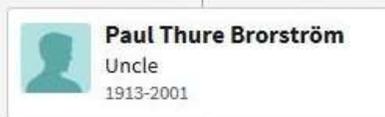
Great-grandmother

**Paul Thure Brorström**

Maternal grandfather



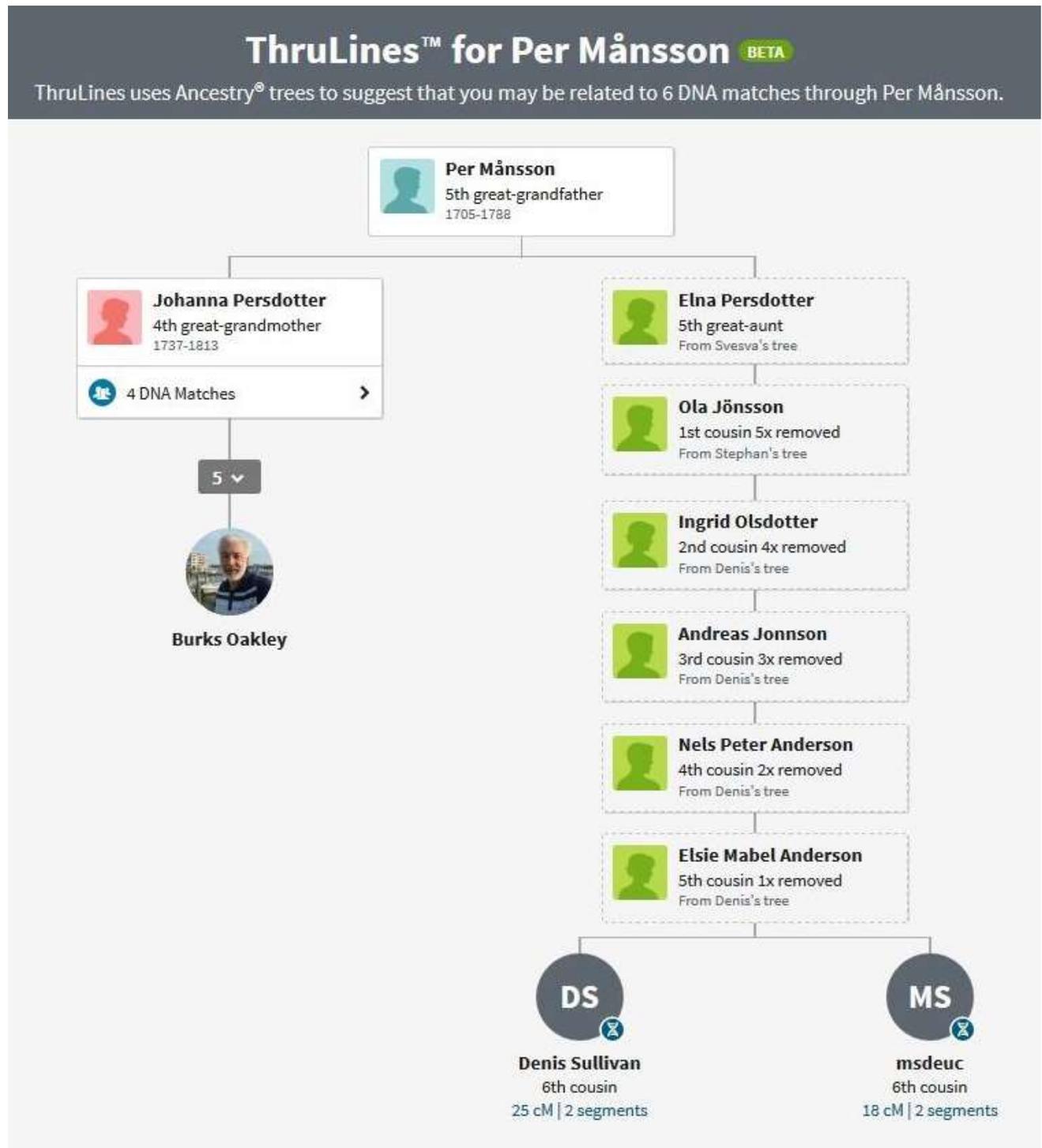
Grace Florence Brorström



[Note that my ThruLines™ for Gundel's husband, Per Månsson, looks identical to this one.] On my line going back to Gundel, I have DNA matches with four people: my first-cousins Peter Larson, Annmarie Brorström, Susan Brorström Baker, and Stuart Eck. No surprises here. My line back to Gundel Åkesdotter goes through her daughter Johanna Persdotter (1737-1813). Since Gundel was married to Per Månsson, their daughter Johanna had the surname of Persdotter.

There is a second branch of the ThruLines™ in the upper-right of the chart shown on the previous page – connecting me with two DNA matches through another daughter of Gundel Åkesdotter (and her husband Per Månsson), namely Elna Persdotter (1745-1821).

When I opened this line (here I am using the ThruLines™ for Gundel's husband, Per Månsson), I found that I have DNA matches with Denis Sullivan and a woman having the username *msdeuc*, who I later learned is Susan Sullivan LeDeuc.



From this chart, it is obvious that Denis Sullivan and Susan Sullivan LeDeuc (*msdeuc*) are brother and sister.

The noted genetic genealogist Arthur Sissman warns about using ThruLines™ as anything more than a starting point for research.<sup>2</sup> The genealogical connections shown in ThruLines™ definitely should not be taken as fact. Note that the line from Denis and Susan Sullivan has three people from Denis' tree (Elsie Mabel Anderson, Nels Peter Andersen, and Andreas Jonnson), then two people from Stephan's tree (Ingrid Olsdotter and Ola Jönsson), and then one person from Svesva's tree (Elna Persdotter). So the ThruLines™ software connected the Sullivan siblings to Gundel Åkesdotter by finding information in multiple family trees – and this type of information is notorious for having errors. So let's look into this. I'll start with Denis' tree:



My guess is that Denis has the name Nels Peter Anderson incorrect – it should be Nils, rather than Nels. And my guess is that he has the name Andreas Jonnson incorrect – it should be Jönsson. Denis has the birth year of Andreas Jonnson as 1831. Indeed, Stephan's tree (which also was used in constructing this line) has Andreas Jönsson (1831-1918), then his mother Ingrid Olsdotter (1808-1890), and then her father Ola Jönsson (1774-1841):

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<sup>2</sup> Mr. Sissman is the Chair of the DNA SIG for the Collier County Genealogical Society in Florida.

Palmgren ▾ Tree Search Stephan Palmgren

**Ingrid Olsdotter** ★  
 BIRTH 31 JAN 1808 • Troedsfälle, Hasslöv, Halland, Sverige  
 DEATH 7 AUG 1890 • Troedsfälle 3, Hasslöv, Halland, Sverige

**Family**

Parents

- Ola Jönsson** ★  
1774-1841
- Elsa Månsdotter**  
1776-1850

**Spouse & Children**

- Jöns Nilsson**  
1807-1890
- Andreas Jönsson** ★  
1831-1918
- Elna Jönsdotter**  
1833-
- Nils Peter Jönsson**  
1836-1924
- Kristina Jönsdotter**  
1840-1840
- Kristina Jönsdotter**  
1841-1923
- Olof Jönsson**  
1845-1928
- Botilla Jönsdotter**  
1848-1935

And Stephan's tree seems very well documented (not shown here). As an aside, Stephan Palmgren is a Swede living in Stockholm.

Here is the next generation from Stephan's tree, going back to Elna Persdotter (1745-1821):

Palmgren ▾ Tree Search Stephan Palmgren

**Ola Jönsson** ★  
 BIRTH 1 JUN 1774 • Troedsfälle, Hasslöv, Halland, Sverige  
 DEATH 8 JUN 1841 • Troedsfälle, Hasslöv, Halland, Sverige

**Family**

Parents

- Jöns Persson**  
1744-1815
- Elna Persdotter** ★  
1745-1821

**Spouse & Children**

- Elsa Månsdotter**  
1776-1850
- Per Olsson**  
1800-1807
- Bengta Olsdotter**  
1803-1864
- Ingrid Olsdotter** ★  
1808-1890

Finally, Stephan's tree shows that Elna was a daughter of Gundel Åkesdotter!

The screenshot shows a genealogy profile for Elna Persdotter. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Palmgren' and 'Tree Search' buttons, and a user profile for 'Stephan Palmgren'. The profile for Elna Persdotter includes a silhouette icon, her name, birth date (13 DEC 1745) and location (Troedsfälle, Hasslöv, Halland, Sverige), and death date (23 JUL 1821) and location (Troedsfälle, Hasslöv, Halland, Sverige). Below the profile, there are two sections: 'Family' and 'Spouse & Children'. The 'Family' section lists 'Parents' as Pär Månsson (1706-1788) and Gundel Åkesdotter (1710-1885). The 'Spouse & Children' section lists 'Jöns Persson' (1744-1815) and 'Ola Jönsson' (1774-1841).

Note that Stephan's tree would have been sufficient here to connect the line back to Gundel Åkesdotter – but the connection to Elna Persdotter actually came from Svesva's *E-A Svantesson* family tree. Svesva is a Swede who lives in Laholm, Halland County, Sweden (just north of Våxtorp and Hasslöv). His tree has over 7500 people and shows the exact same line down from Gundel Åkesdotter to Andreas Jönsson (1831-1918) as is found in Stephan's tree.

After looking into all of this, I'm convinced that my ThruLines™ for Gundel Åkesdotter has identified a correct line that could indeed account for my DNA match with the Sullivan siblings.

### ***Shared DNA Matches with Eva Josefsson & Lise-Lotte Kolmberger***

I also examined the "Shared DNA Matches" that I have with Denis Sullivan and his sister Susan Sullivan LeDeuc (*msdeuc*). Here are my shared matches with Denis:

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley

## Shared matches with Denis Sullivan

**4TH COUSIN**

★  **Lise-Lotte Kolmberger**  Unlinked Tree 

Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins  
Confidence: Good 

**View Match**

★  **Eva Josefsson** (managed by SternerJosefsson)  5,359 people

Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins  
Confidence: Good 

**View Match**

We both have DNA matches with Lise-Lotte Kolmberger and Eva Josefsson. [Susan Sullivan LeDeuc only has the shared DNA match with Eva Josefsson.] Lise-Lotte and Eva are both known to me – in fact, I have visited them in Sweden. They are related to me via my Wennström family ancestors. I have written previously about my DNA matches with each of them:

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

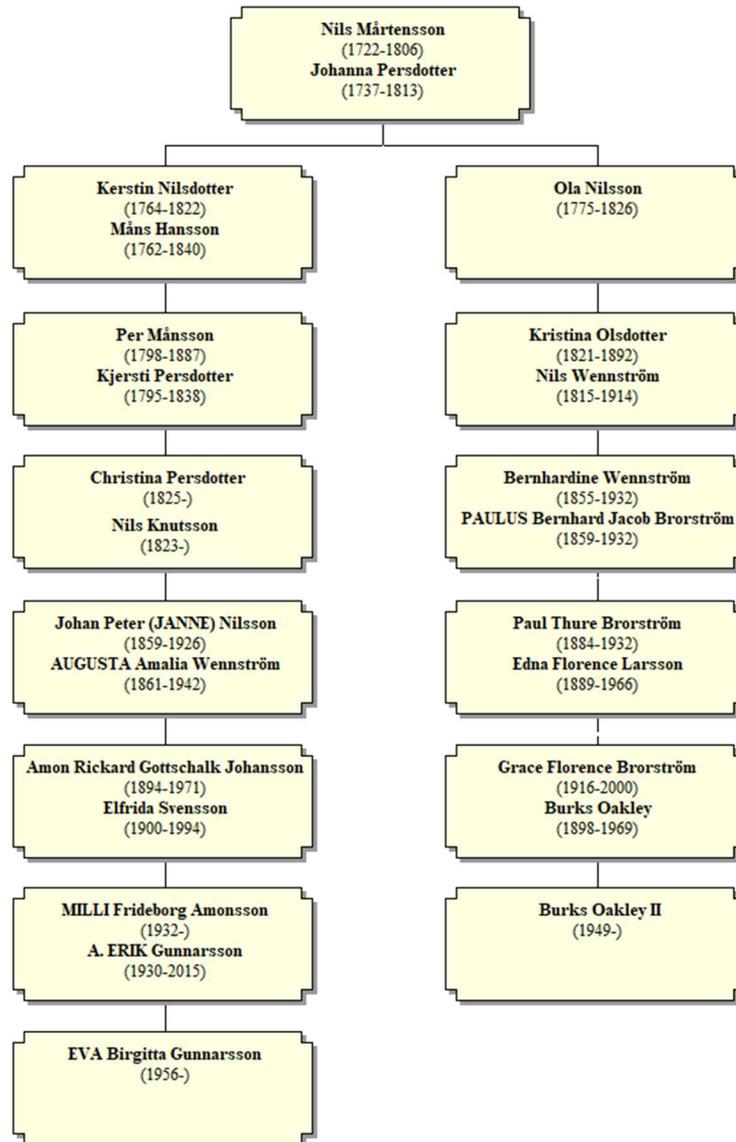
<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/KolmbergerWennströmConnection.pdf>

Lise-Lotte Kolmberger is descended from the parents of Kristina Olsdotter, including her father Ola Nilsson (1775-1826), who appears in the ThruLines™ connecting me to Denis. So our shared DNA match with her fits in just fine.

Eva Josefsson is descended from Jan Petter Wennström, and my connection to Denis Sullivan is through Jan Petter's daughter-in-law, Kristina Olsdotter, who was married to Nils Wennström. Oops! Hmmmm... Something isn't right here. And then I remembered – Eva Josefsson and I are connected two different ways!!! See:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/NilsMårtensson-PartI.pdf>

In addition to being descended from Jan Petter Wennström, Eva also is descended from Johanna Persdotter (1737-1813), who we now know was a daughter of Gundel Åkesdotter:



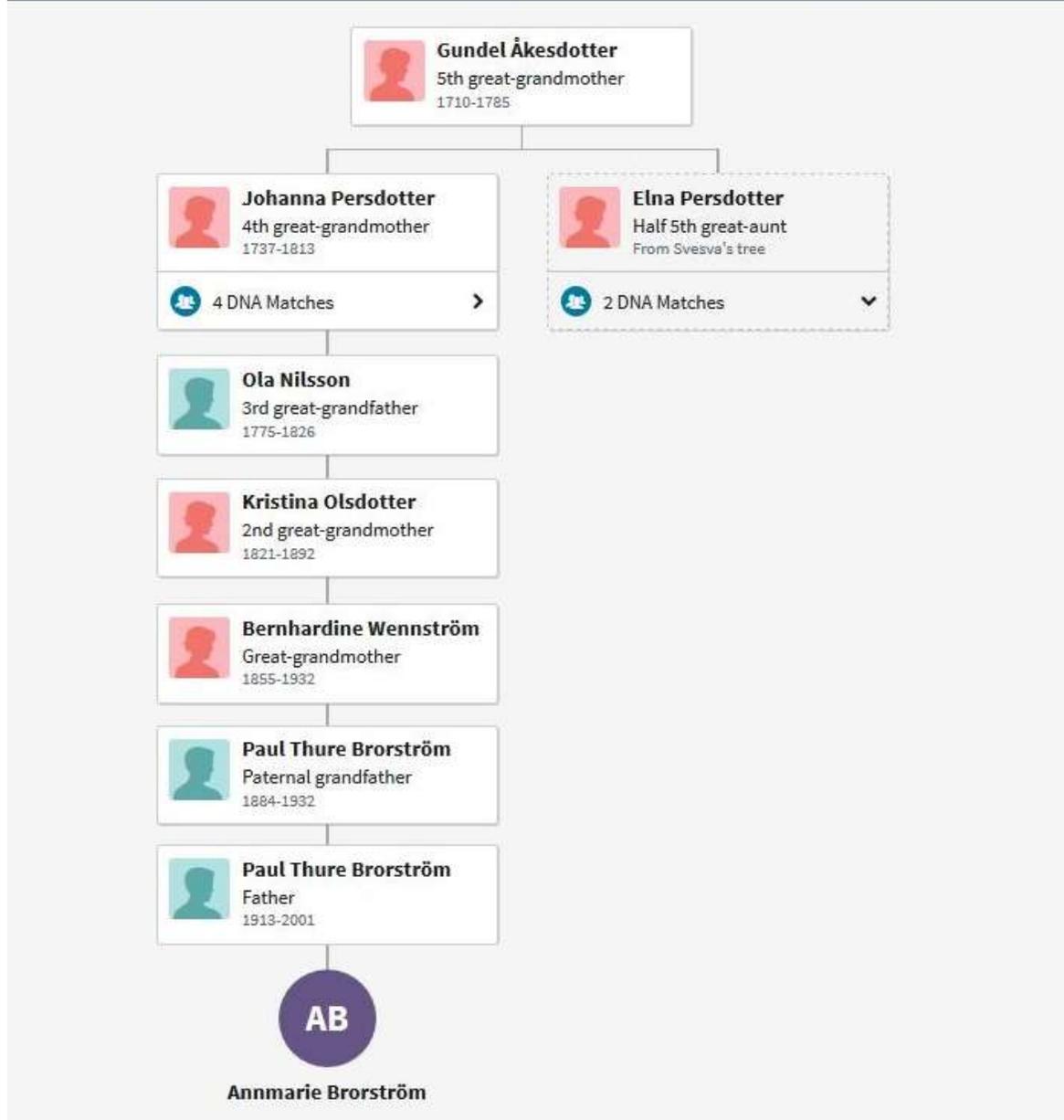
So Eva actually is descended from Gundel Åkesdotter, and that would explain why she has DNA matches with Denis Sullivan and his sister Susan Sullivan LeDeuc. Phew! I was a little worried for a few minutes.

### ***Annmarie's ThruLines™ for Gundel Åkesdotter***

I next looked at my first-cousin Annmarie's ThruLines™ for Gundel Åkesdotter. Since Annmarie's father and my mother were siblings, Annmarie has the same branch as I do, going back to Gundel Åkesdotter through Bernhardine Wennström.

# ThruLines™ for Gundel Åkesdotter BETA

ThruLines suggests that Annmarie Brorström may be related to 6 DNA matches through Gundel Åkesdotter.



Annmarie has four DNA matches that come from this line – three of them are Susan Brorström Baker, Stuart Eck, and me. I'll come back to the fourth one shortly.

Opening the line going through Elna Persdotter gives two new DNA matches for Annmarie:



One of Annmarie's DNA matches is with Pia Carlsson and one is with Björn Ewenfält. Both of their lines back to Gundel Åkesdotter go through her daughter Elna Persdotter.

Recalling the wisdom of Arthur Sissman, I have to take these lines as starting points – not as proven facts. I'll first look at Björn's line, which goes back to Ola Jönsson (1774–1841), who lived all his life in Hasslöv. In looking at my ThruLines™ for Gundel Åkesdotter, I found the connection from Ola Jönsson to

Gundel Åkesdotter in both Stephan's tree and in Svesva's tree, so I feel pretty confident in this line. I should add that Björn is a Swede living near Stockholm – maybe we can meet for fika when I next visit Sweden.

Looking at Pia's tree – it has her father Erik Gustav Larsson (1915-1969) and his mother Augusta Nilsson (born 18 March 1882). It then has someone marked Private, who I learned is Nils Gudmundsson (born 1839 in Hasslöv) – this information comes from **deanna854's** tree (private but searchable). The rest of the line comes from Svesva's tree. So the big question has to be can I trust the information from **deanna854's** tree? Did the ThruLines™ software make the correct connection between the trees?

Well, the good news is that her entry for Nils Gudmundsson has 11 records and 12 sources, and she has almost 8000 people in her tree. It looks like she may know what she is doing.

Bingo! Svesva's tree has Gudmund Nilsson (1807-1884) having a son Nils Gudmundsson, who was born in 1839 in Hasslöv. So it sure looks like the ThruLines™ software made the correct connection here. And Svesva's tree goes on to have Augusta Nilsson (1882-1960) as Nils Gudmundsson's daughter – born 18 March 1882!

I'm convinced that these lines are correct and could account for Annmarie's DNA matches.

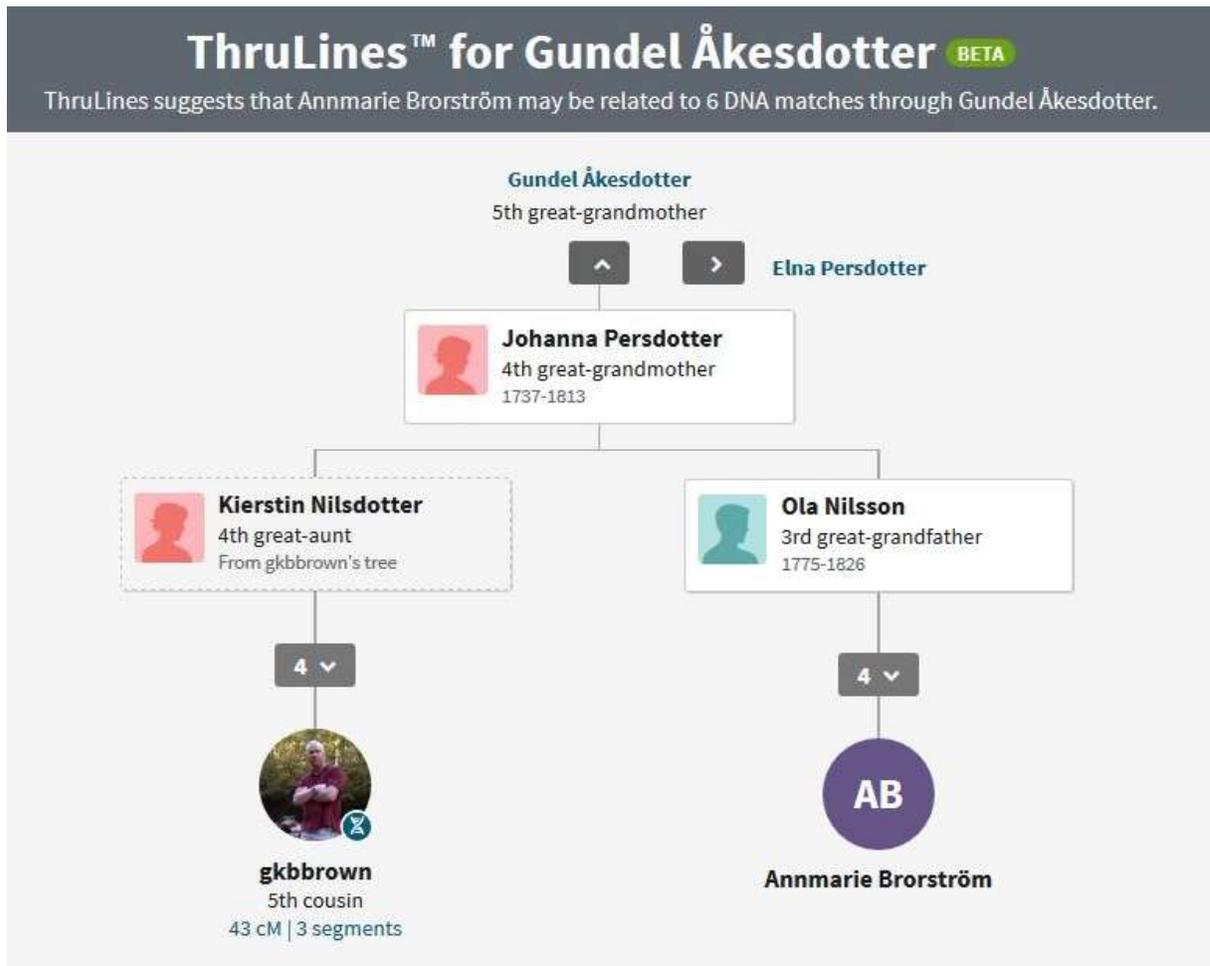
### ***Annmarie's Shared DNA Matches with Pia Carlsson and Björn Ewenfält***

Annmarie and Pia have shared DNA matches with Eva Josefsson and several others, including Anne E. Heller. And Anne and Annmarie have a shared match with Lise-Lotte Kolmberger. So this all fits, and again shows that we have two different genealogical relationships with Eva Josefsson.

Annmarie and Björn Ewenfält have shared DNA matches with Susan Brorström Baker, Anne E. Heller, Eva Josefsson, and Karl-Gustaf Bengtsson. Karl-Gustaf and Susan have a shared DNA match with Eva Josefsson. Again, the matches with Eva Josefsson emphasize the two different lines.

## ***Annmarie's Fourth DNA Match – Gary Kenna Brown***

In the previous section, I mentioned that Annmarie had a fourth DNA match in her line going back through Bernhardine Wennström to Gundel Åkesdotter. That DNA match is with Gary Kenna Brown (*gkbbrown*), as shown in the following chart:



I previously wrote about Annmarie's DNA match with Gary, as well as their common ancestors. See:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/GaryBrown-WennströmConnection.pdf>

## ***Gundel vs. Gunilla***

In looking at all these family trees, I noticed that Svesva's tree has Gundel listed with the name Gunilla:



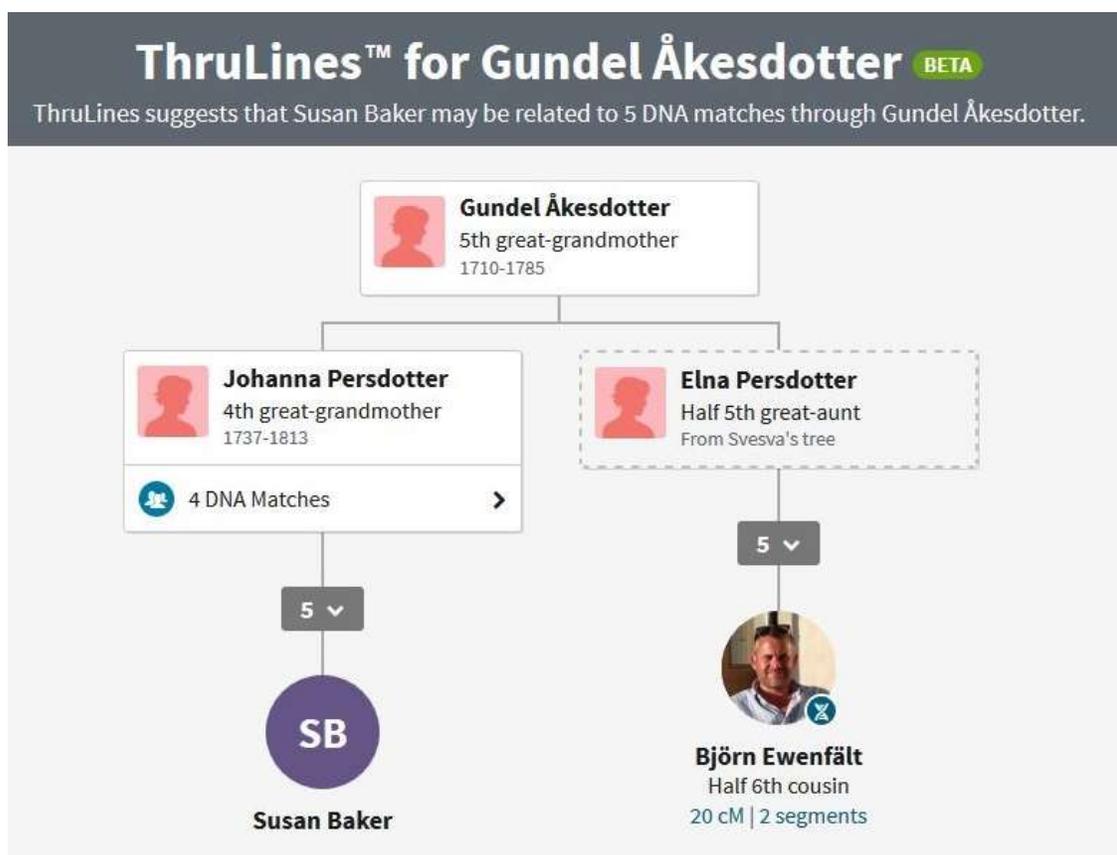
In my family tree, I have her listed as Gundel:



Well, it turns out that these names must have been used interchangeably at that time in Sweden. A Google search on the two variations turns up listings for "Gundel (Gunilla) Nilsdotter" and "Gundel Svendsdotter - Also known as: Gunilla" and "Gunilla (Gundel) Hansson (born Mattsdotter)".

## ***Susan's ThruLines™ for Gundel Åkesdotter***

For completeness, I looked at Susan Brorström Baker's ThruLines™ for Gundel. Susan is my first-cousin, and Annmarie's younger sister.



Like Annmarie, Susan has a DNA match with Björn Ewenfält.

## ***Conclusion***

In this narrative, I have characterized our family's DNA matches with descendants of my fifth-great grandparents, Per Månsson (1705-1788) and Gundel Åkesdotter (1710-1785). My Brorström cousins (Annmarie and Susan) and I have DNA matches with a number of descendants of Per and Gundel, including: Gary Brown, Denis Sullivan and his sister Susan Sullivan LeDeuc (*msdeuc*), Pia Carlsson, and Björn Ewenfält. We also have DNA matches with Eva Josefsson, who doesn't show up in our ThruLines™ for Gundel Åkesdotter [but does show up in our ThruLines™ for Jan Petter Wennström].

Gundel Åkesdotter lived in Hasslöv, in southwestern Halland County (*Hallands län* in Swedish). I still have Wennström relatives living in Hasslöv and the nearby towns of Menlösa and Våxtorp, as well as Laholm, Båstad, and Halmstad.



My family and I have numerous DNA matches that can be traced back to our ancestors who lived in this beautiful region in the 1700's, and that is priceless. Once again, the genetics strongly support the genealogical connections in our family trees.