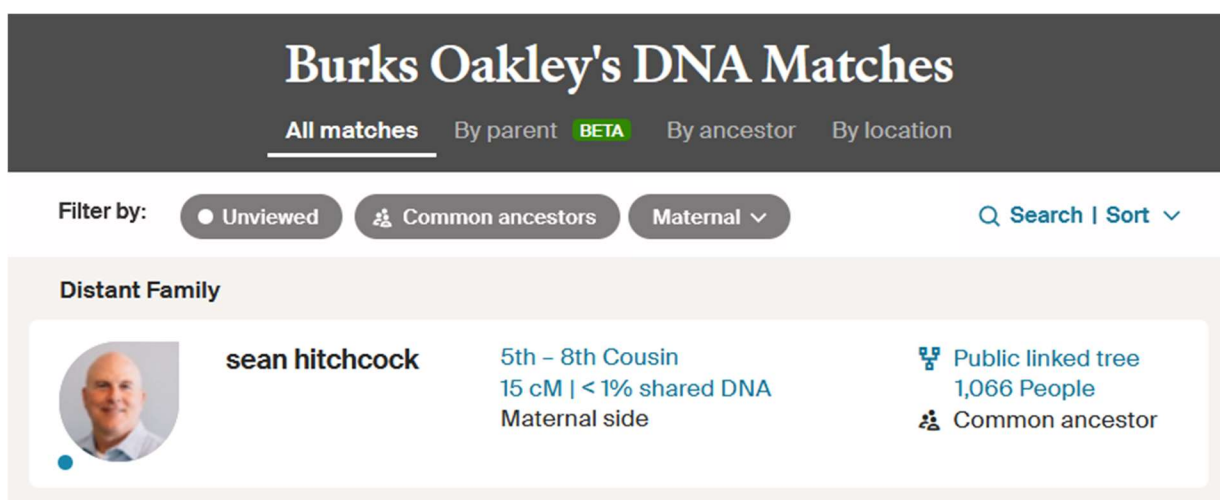


# My New DNA Match with Sean Hitchcock

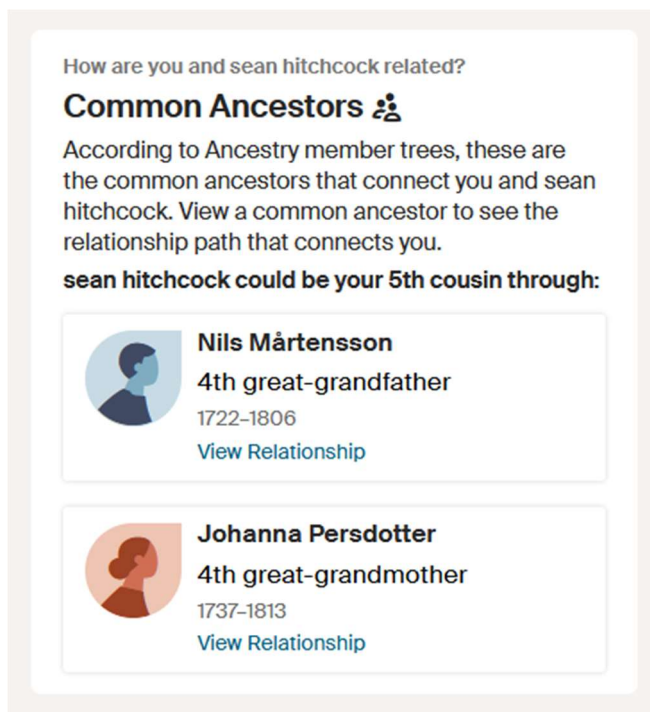
By Burks Oakley II  
28 August 2023

Several days ago, I looked at my new DNA matches on the Ancestry.com website. I filtered the matches so that I only would see those matches on my mother's side of the family that I had not viewed previously, where the software on the site was able to identify common ancestors. One of the DNA matches on the resulting list was Sean Hitchcock:



The screenshot shows the 'Burks Oakley's DNA Matches' interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'All matches', 'By parent', 'BETA', 'By ancestor', and 'By location'. Below this, a 'Filter by:' section includes 'Unviewed', 'Common ancestors', and 'Maternal'. A search bar with 'Search | Sort' is also visible. The main content area is titled 'Distant Family' and features a match for 'sean hitchcock'. The match details include a profile picture, the name 'sean hitchcock', a relationship of '5th - 8th Cousin', '15 cM | < 1% shared DNA', and 'Maternal side'. To the right, there are links for 'Public linked tree' (1,066 People) and 'Common ancestor'.

I went on to look at our common ancestors:



The screenshot shows the 'Common Ancestors' section on Ancestry.com. It starts with the question 'How are you and sean hitchcock related?' followed by the heading 'Common Ancestors'. The text explains that these are common ancestors connecting the user and Sean Hitchcock. Below this, it states 'sean hitchcock could be your 5th cousin through:' and lists two common ancestors: 'Nils Mårtensson' (4th great-grandfather, 1722-1806) and 'Johanna Persdotter' (4th great-grandmother, 1737-1813). Each entry includes a 'View Relationship' link.

Sean and I both are descended from Nils Mårtensson (1722-1806) and his wife Johanna Persdotter (1737-1813). This couple were my fourth-great grandparents, and I have written about them previously:

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

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

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

If those links don't work, try:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/NilsM%C3%A5rtensson-PartI.pdf>

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/NilsM%C3%A5rtensson-PartII.pdf>

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/NilsM%C3%A5rtensson-PartIII.pdf>

Software on the Ancestry.com website automatically created a chart showing how Sean and I are related:



I am descended from the Mårtensson-Persdotter couple through their son Ola Nilsson (1775-1826), while Sean is descended from this couple through their son Måns Nilsson (1767-1835). Based on this chart, Sean and I are fifth-cousins.

Sean's line continues down from Måns Nilsson through Måns' son, Sven Månsson (1802-1863). This is a great example of the Swedish patronymic naming convention, where Måns' son was given the surname Månsson. And in the previous generation, Nils' son was given the surname Nilsson. As I have written previously, this makes it very difficult for me to follow a Swedish family over many generations.

In the chart shown above, Måns Nilsson appears inside a solid white box, indicating that he already is in my family tree. But Måns' son, Sven Månsson, appears inside a dotted box, indicating that he is not in my family tree. I wanted to check that the genealogy is correct here, so I looked more into Sven Månsson.

Sven Månsson appears in the “Ekelund” family tree that is owned by Margareta Borgman:

The screenshot shows a family tree profile for Sven Månsson. At the top, there is a search bar with "Ekelund" selected and a "Tree search" button. To the right, a profile icon for "Margareta Borgman" is visible. Below the search bar is a profile card for Sven Månsson, featuring a silhouette icon, his name "Sven Månsson", and his birth and death information: "BIRTH 3 OKTOBER 1802 • Menlösa, Våxtorp, Halland, Sverige" and "DEATH 6 JULI 1863 • Menlösa, Våxtorp, Halland, Sverige".

Below the profile card, there are two sections: "Family" and "Spouse and children".

**Family**

**Parents**

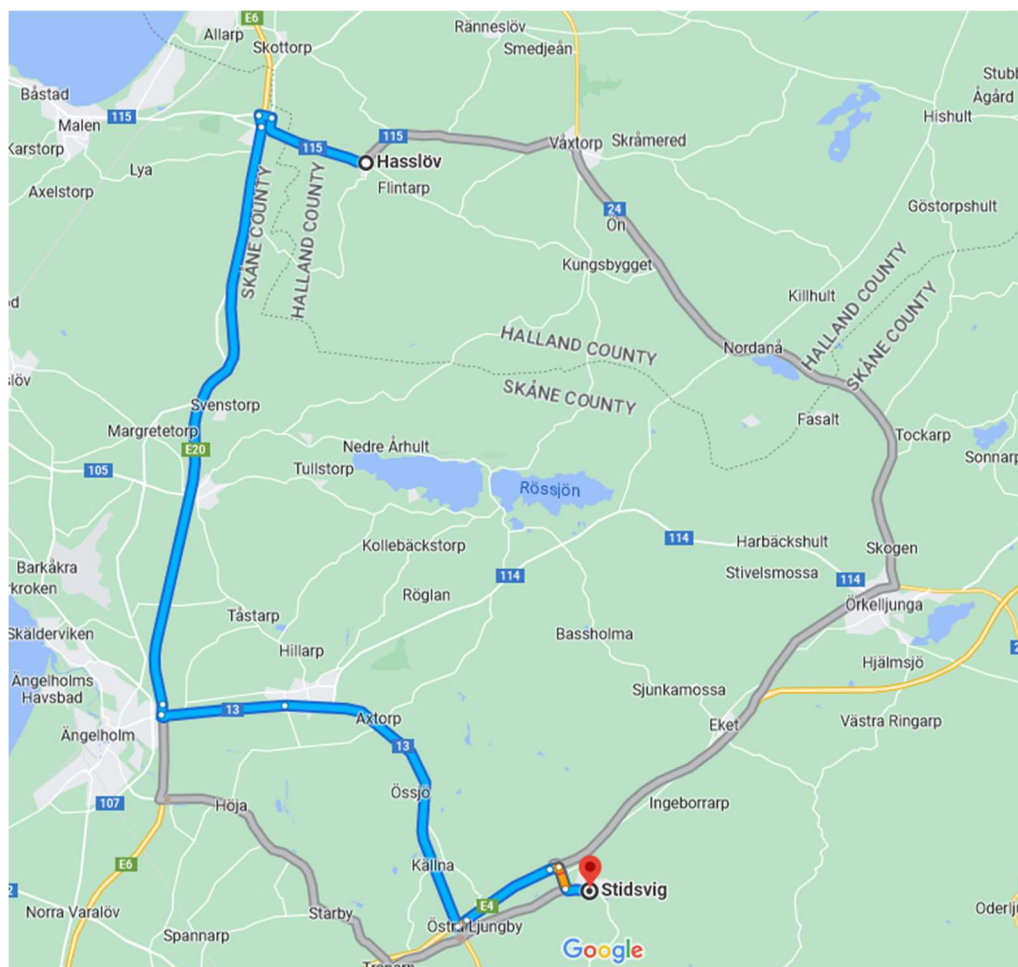
- Måns Nilsson 1767-1835
- Boel Svensdotter 1774-1844

**Spouse and children**

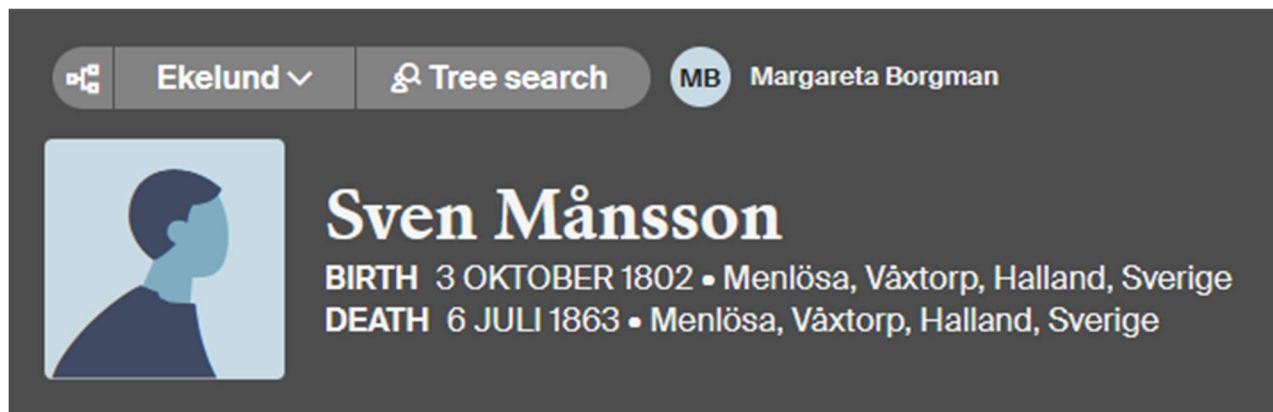
- Pernilla Bengtsdotter 1814-
- Magnus Svensson 1836-1919
- Bengta Svensdotter 1838-1923
- Johanna Svensdotter 1843-
- Nils Svensson 1845-
- Olof Svensson 1851-1851

This profile of Sven Månsson shows that indeed his father was Måns Nilsson and one of his sons was Magnus Svensson, and this is completely consistent with the ancestral line for Sean Hitchcock shown in the relationship chart on the previous page. I should add that Sean’s own family tree goes back to Magnus Svensson, so I am inclined to believe that Sean’s ancestral line in the chart on the previous page is correct.

As an aside, the name “Margareta Borgman” sounds like she must be Swedish. In fact, she lives in Stidsvig, Skåne. This small village is just ~40 km south of Hasslöv, where my Wennström ancestors lived, as shown in the following Google map:



Here is part of the profile for Sven Månsson from Margareta Borgman's family tree:



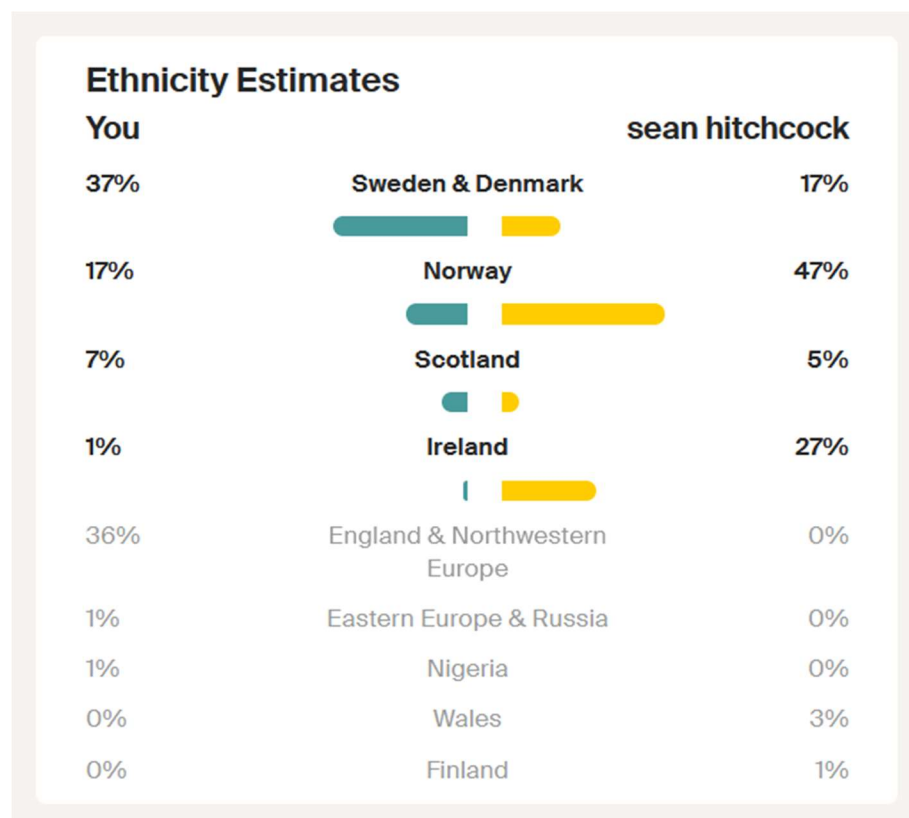
Ekelund ▾ Tree search MB Margareta Borgman

**Sven Månsson**  
BIRTH 3 OKTOBER 1802 • Menlösa, Våxtorp, Halland, Sverige  
DEATH 6 JULI 1863 • Menlösa, Våxtorp, Halland, Sverige

Sven lived in Menlösa, where I have visited many times. Menlösa is where my second-great grandfather Nils Wennström lived, and is located just a few kilometers east of Hasslöv, which was shown in the Google map on the previous page.

Sven Månsson (1802-1863) was a first-cousin of Kristina Olsdotter (1821-1892) – see the chart showing my relationship with Sean a few pages back. Kristina was my second-great grandmother and the wife of Nils Wennstrom. These people all lived in Menlösa at the same time and undoubtedly knew each other. I should add that one of my distant cousins (Anders Gunnarsson) still lives in Menlösa, where he has a sheep farm with a great view of the Hallandsås.

I next looked at Sean Hitchcock's ethnicity estimates:



His ethnicity is primarily Norway and Sweden & Denmark, with a large Ireland component (27%). Nothing surprising or earth-shattering here.

I also looked at the DNA matches that Sean and I share. In order to be on the list of "Shared DNA Matches", an individual has to have DNA matches with both Sean and me that are at least 20 cM in size. This requirement limits the number of individuals on the "Shared Matches" list.

Here is a graphic showing the subset of our “Shared Matches” list where our common ancestors have been identified:

The screenshot shows a DNA match page for 'You and sean hitchcock'. At the top, there are two circular profile pictures: one of an older man with a beard and one of a younger man. To the right, the text reads 'You and sean hitchcock' in a large blue font, followed by '5th - 8th Cousin | Maternal side' and '< 1% shared DNA: 15 cM across 1 segments'. Below this, there are three tabs: 'Trees', 'Ethnicity', and 'Shared Matches' (which is underlined). A 'Filter by:' section shows 'Unviewed' selected and 'Common ancestors' as an option. A search bar with 'Search | Sort' and a dropdown arrow is also present. The main content area is titled 'Extended Family' and lists three matches:

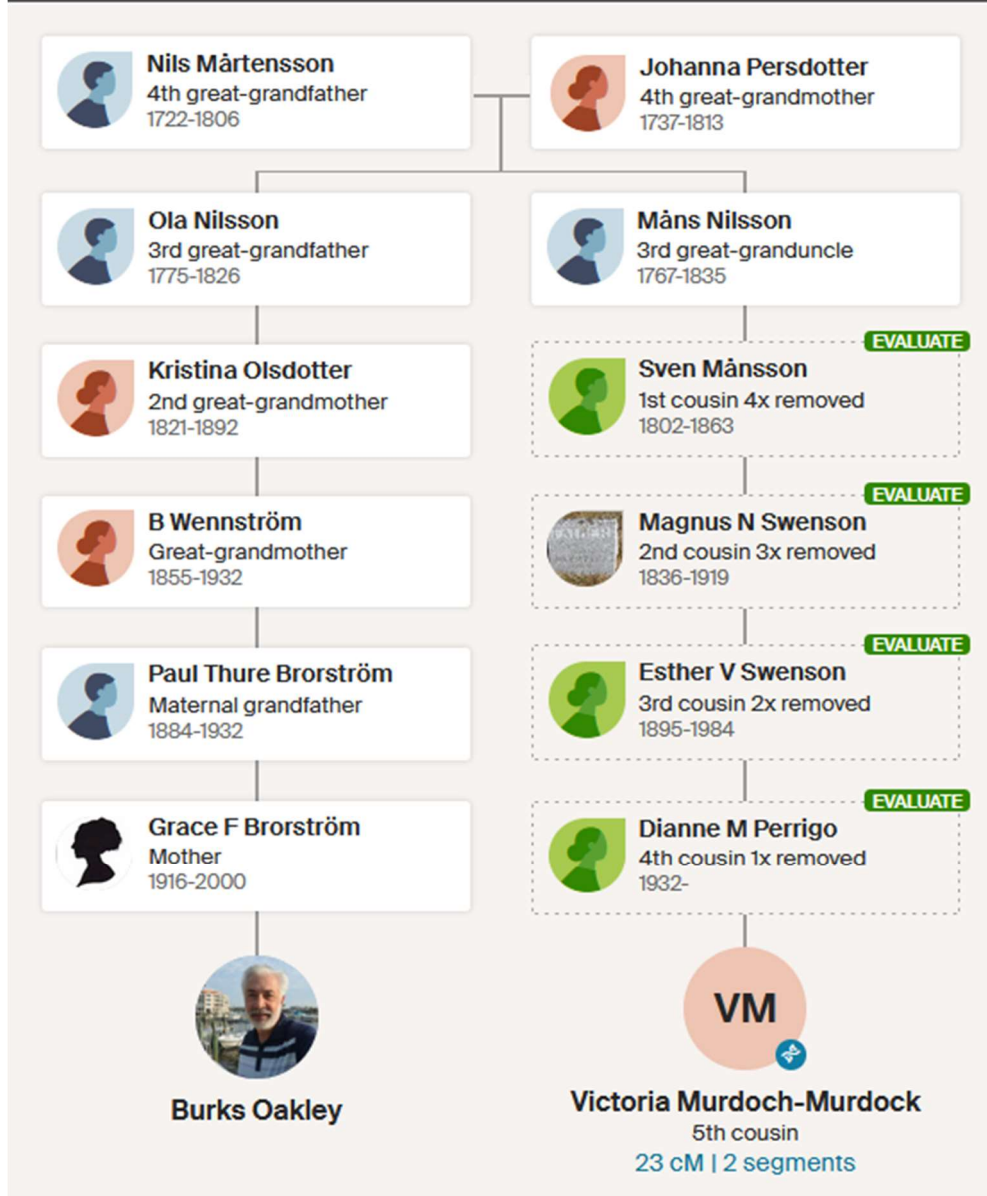
Name	Relationship	Shared DNA	Additional Info
jimhorton311	2nd - 3rd Cousin Maternal side	276 cM   4% shared DNA	Public linked tree 1,530 People Common ancestor
Peterhorton58	3rd - 4th Cousin Maternal side	70 cM   1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 17 People Common ancestor
Victoria Murdoch-Murdock	4th - 6th Cousin Maternal side	23 cM   < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 285 People Common ancestor

This list includes Jim and Peter Horton, who are my second-cousins. They are the grandsons of Ebba Maria Cecilia Brorström, who was a daughter of Bernhardine Wennström. As such, they have exactly the same relationship to Sean as I do. Put another way, Nils Mårtensson and his wife Johanna Persdotter also were their fourth-great grandparents.

The other person on the list of “Shared Matches” is Victoria Murdoch-Murdock. Here is a chart showing how Victoria and I are related:

# Relationship to Victoria Murdoch

You may be related to Victoria Murdoch-Murdock through Nils Mårtensson

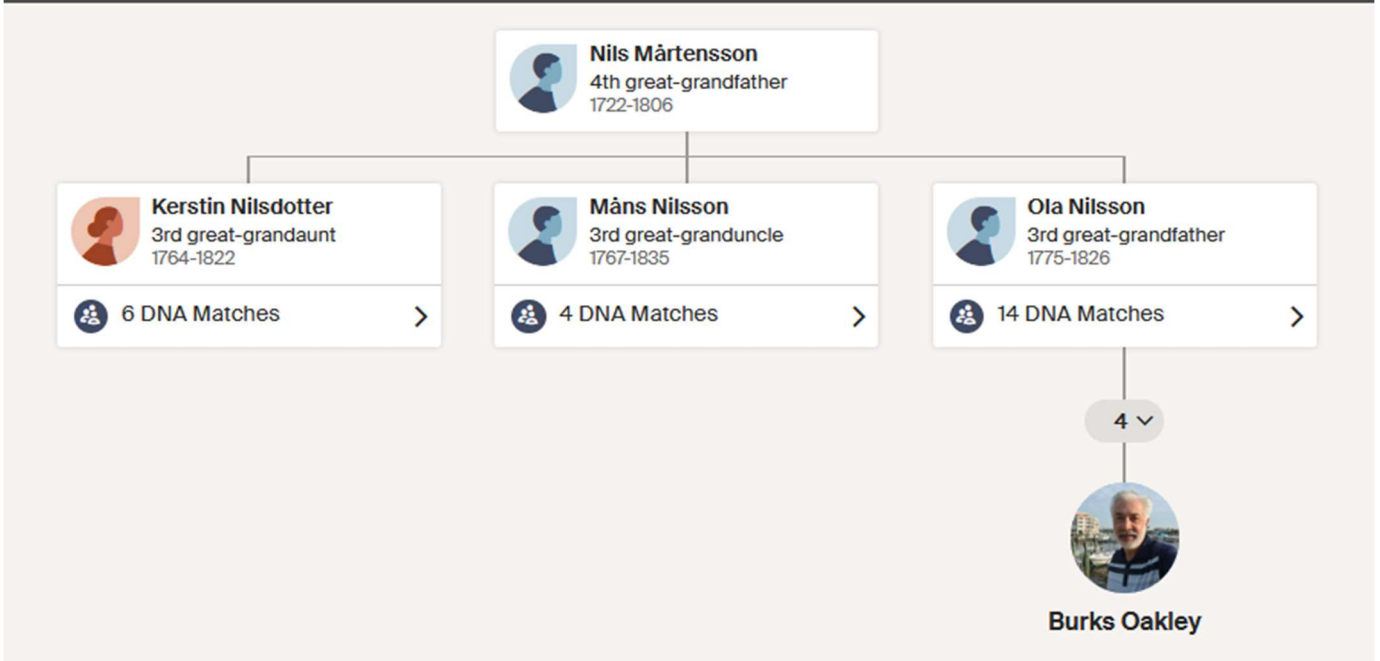


Victoria and I are both descended from Nils Mårtensson (1722-1806) and his wife Johanna Persdotter (1737-1813) – just like Sean Hitchcock and I are. In fact, Victoria’s line down from the Mårtensson-Persdotter couple is identical to Sean’s line down through Magus N. Swenson (1836-1919). Then Victoria’s diverges – since her maternal grandmother, Esther V. Swenson, was a sister of Sean’s maternal grandfather, Emil Magnus Swenson.

The relationship between Sean and Victoria can be seen in my ThruLines® chart for Nils Mårtensson. Here is the ThruLines® chart with all lines closed:

# ThruLines® for Nils Mårtensson

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 24 DNA matches through Nils Mårtensson.

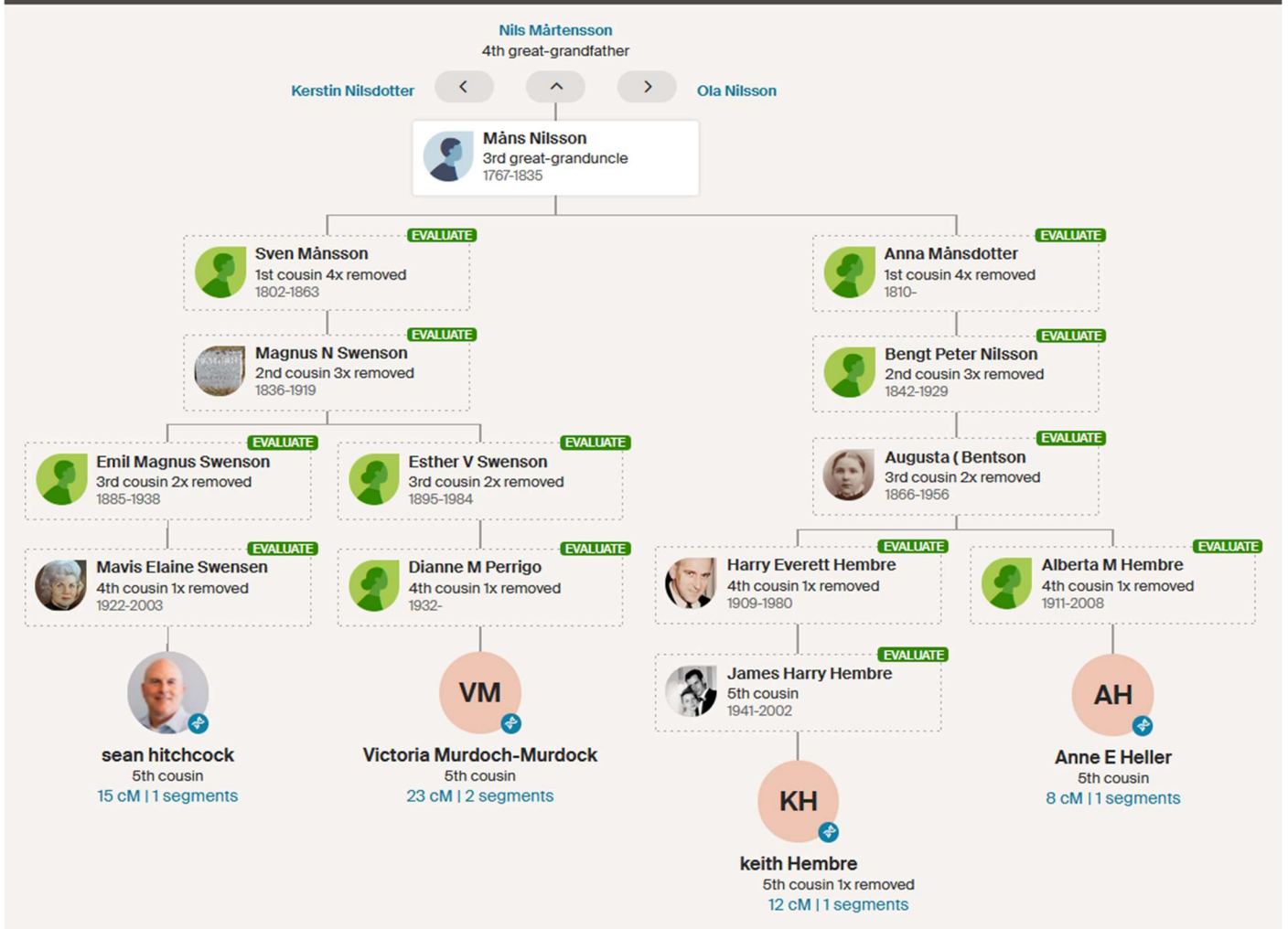


This chart shows that I have DNA matches with 24 descendants of Nils Mårtensson. I should note that the ThruLines® chart for Nils' wife Johanna Persdotter is identical to this chart.

Here is my ThruLines® chart for Nils Mårtensson with the line through his son Måns Nilsson open:

# ThruLines® for Nils Mårtensson

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 24 DNA matches through Nils Mårtensson.



From this chart, it appears that Sean and Victoria are second-cousins, since they share the same great-grandfather (Magnus N. Swenson).

To review, my list of “Shared Matches” with Sean includes two of my second-cousins (Peter and Jim Horton) and one of Sean’s second-cousins (Victoria Murdoch-Murdock). And all five of us are descended from Nils Mårtensson and his wife Johanna Persdotter.

It is interesting to note that while none of my Swedish-American first-cousins have a DNA match with Sean Hitchcock, all of them have DNA matches with other descendants of Nils Mårtensson and his wife Johanna Persdotter:

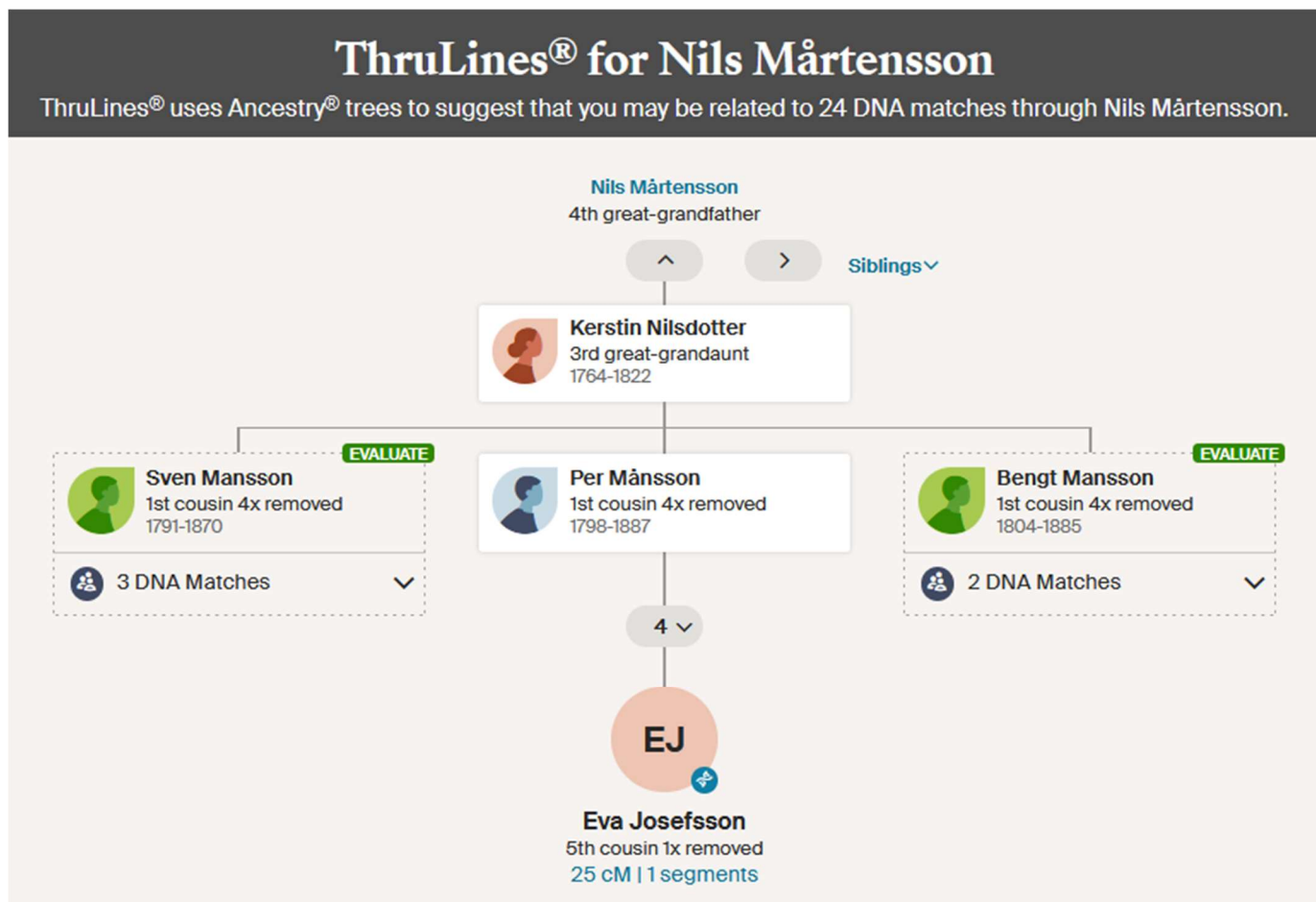
- Susan Baker (née Brorström) – 27 DNA matches
- Annmarie Brorström – 27 DNA matches
- Stuart Eck – 26 DNA matches
- Peter Larson (born Brorström) – 26 DNA matches

At some point, I should list all of these matches, since I’m sure that it would contain at least 40 unique individuals.

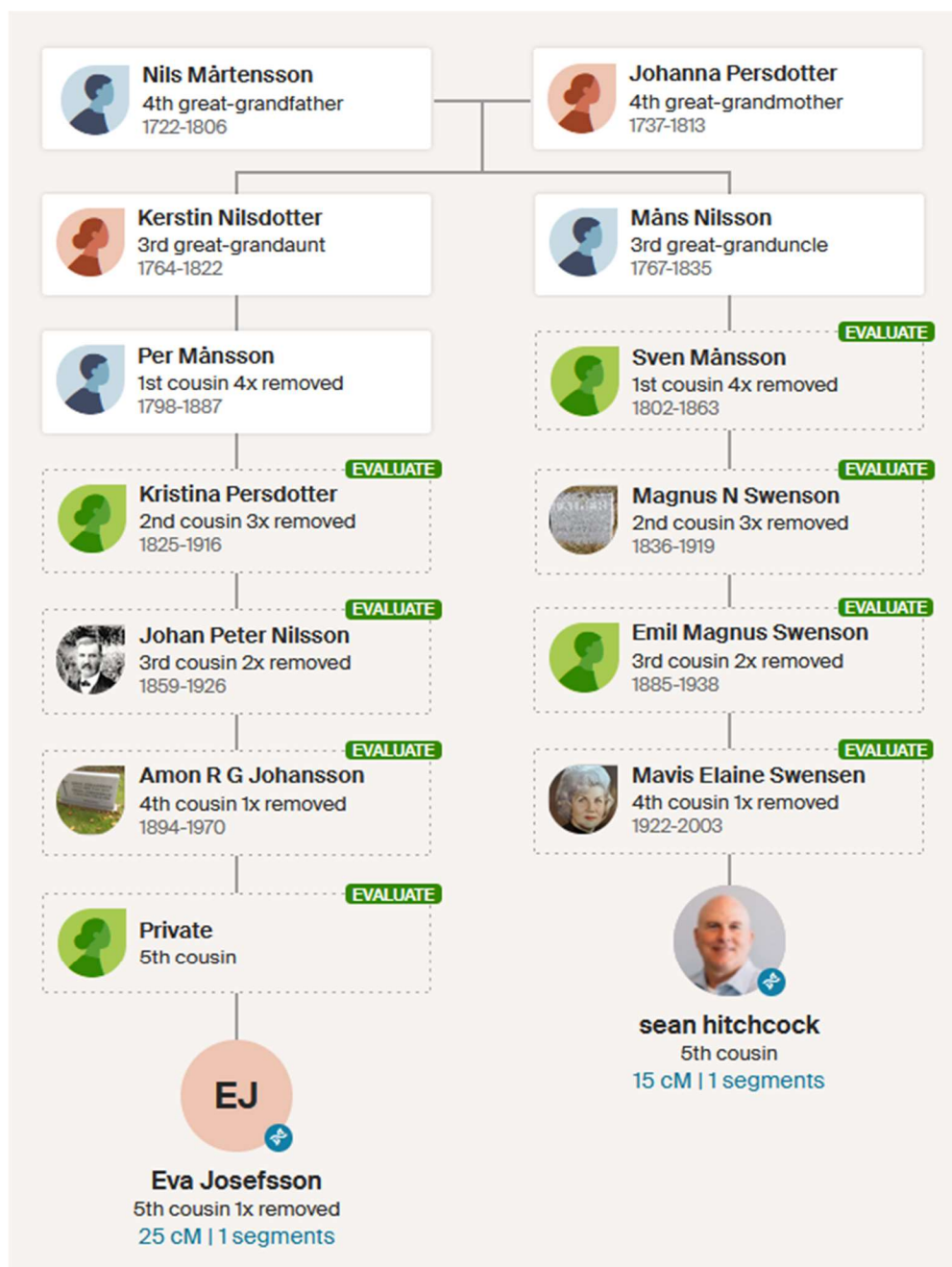
---

One of the Swedes with whom I have a DNA match is with Eva Josefsson (née Gunnarsson), and I have visited her and her husband Sterner in Halmstad, Sweden, many times. I know from my past work that Eva is descended from the Mårtensson-Persdotter couple. Therefore, she should also be related to Sean Hitchcock.

Here is my ThruLines® chart for Nils Mårtensson showing the line down to Eva Josefsson:



I took Eva's ancestral line from this ThruLines® chart, as well as the ancestral line I had previously for Sean Hitchcock, and combined them into a single chart, which shows how Eva and Sean are related:



Based on this chart, Eva and Sean are fifth-cousins once-removed. I wonder if they have a DNA match...

I should add that I am related to Eva Josefsson in a second way – on the Wennström branch of my family tree – and I have written about this previously:

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

**Summary:** In this narrative, I presented various aspects of my new DNA match with Sean Hitchcock. Sean and I are both descended from Nils Mårtensson (1722-1806) and his wife Johanna Persdotter (1737-1813). This couple were my fourth-great grandparents, and they lived in the very southern part of Halland County (*Hallands län* in Swedish).

Sean and I have “Shared DNA Matches” with two of my second-cousins (Peter and Jim Horton) and one of Sean’s second-cousins (Victoria Murdoch-Murdock). All five of us are descended from the Mårtensson-Persdotter couple.

Sean is related to my Swedish cousin Eva Josefsson (née Gunnarson), since she is also descended from the Mårtensson-Persdotter couple. Eva grew up on a farm not very far from Menlösa, and her brother Anders Gunnarsson still lives in Menlösa, on a farm with a great view of the Hallandsås.

Appendix – Miscellaneous Photos



The church in Våxtorp.



Road signs in Menlösa, which is situated mid-way between Våxtorp and Hasslöv.



Eva, Anders, and their sister Marie – at Ander's farm in Menlösa, with the Hallandsås in the background