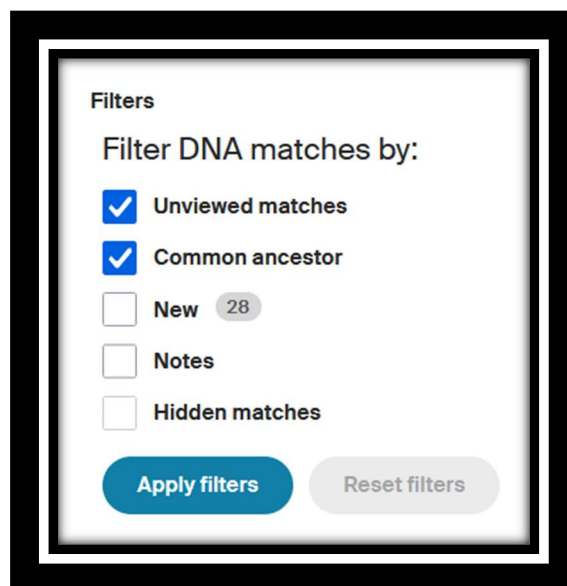


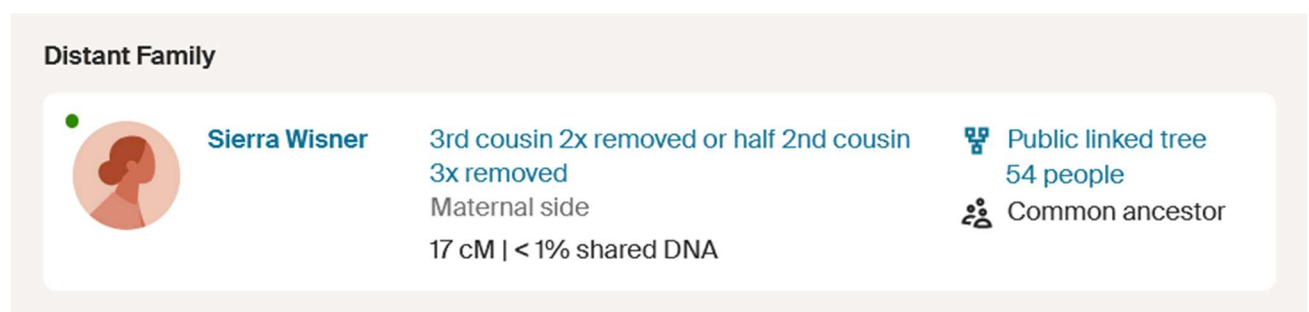
# My New DNA Match with Sierra Wisner (and more about my *Wennström* relatives in America)

By Burks Oakley II  
30 May 2025

A few days ago, I logged onto the Ancestry.com website to search for new DNA relatives. I typically filter my DNA matches so that I only see a match when (1) I have not viewed it previously (termed “unviewed”) and (2) software on the website is able to find that the match and I share at least one common ancestor. Here is a screenshot of the filters I typically use:



On most days, none of my DNA matches meet these two criteria. But this particular time, I saw that I had a new DNA match with a woman named Sierra Wisner:



Sierra and I match on the maternal side of my 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. So right away, I knew that Sierra and I had to be descended from a common Swedish ancestor (or ancestors).

Sierra and I share 17 cM of DNA, and based on the size of our DNA match (and a few other factors, such as our ages), software on Ancestry.com predicted that we were third-cousins twice-removed (or a similar relationship equivalently distant).


Of course, I immediately looked at my DNA match with Sierra on Ancestry.com, and I learned that we both are descended from Nils Wennström (1815-1914) and his wife Kristina Olsdotter (1821-1892):

How are you and Sierra Wisner related?


### Common Ancestors

According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect you and Sierra Wisner. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects you.

**Sierra Wisner could be your 3rd cousin 2x removed through:**

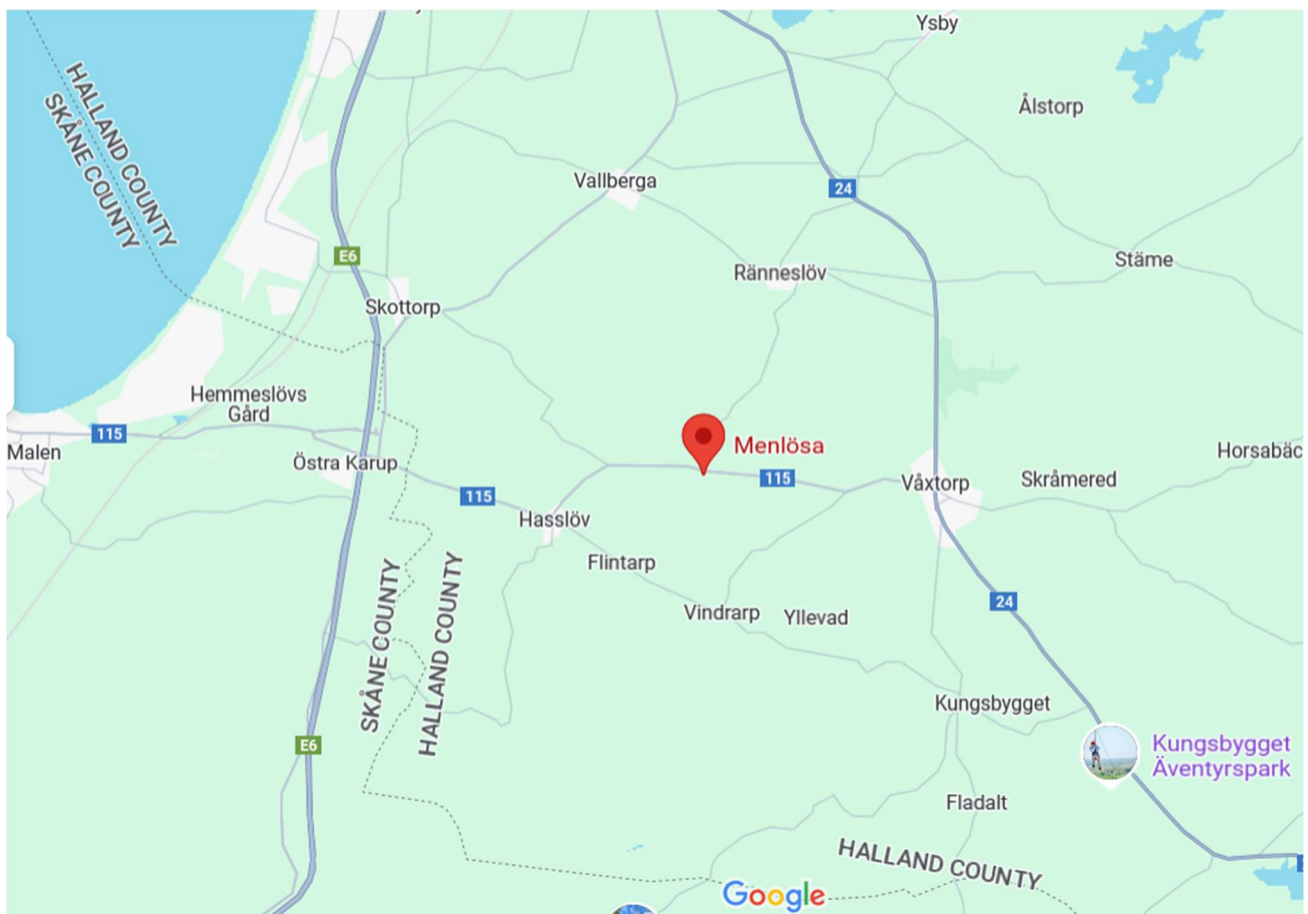


**Nils Wennström**  
2nd great-grandfather  
1815-1914  
[View Relationship](#)



**Kristina Olsdotter**  
2nd great-grandmother  
1821-1892  
[View Relationship](#)

The **Wennström-Olsdotter** couple were my second-great grandparents. They lived in Menlösa, in the far southern part of Halland County, Sweden, midway between Hasslöv and Våxtorp:



Here is a selfie I took in front of their house in Menlösa when I visited there in September 2022:

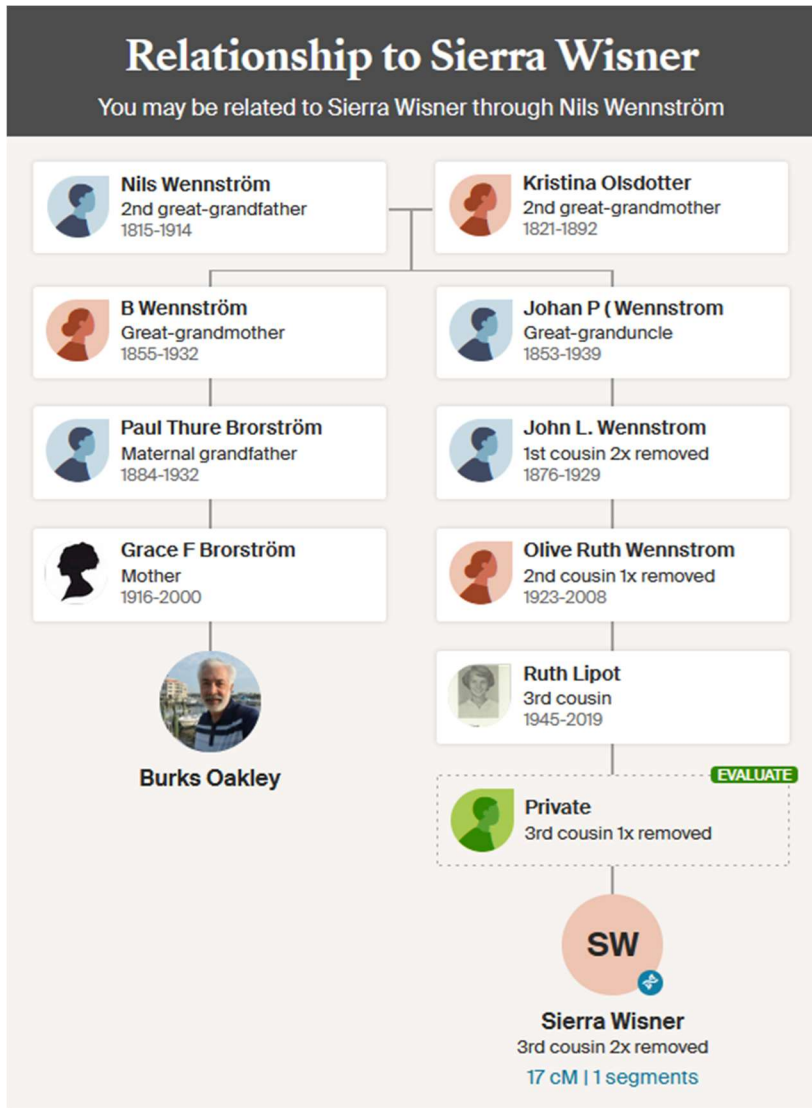


Well, maybe that is the back of the house. Here is another selfie that I took on the other side of the house (the front?) when I was there in May 2018:



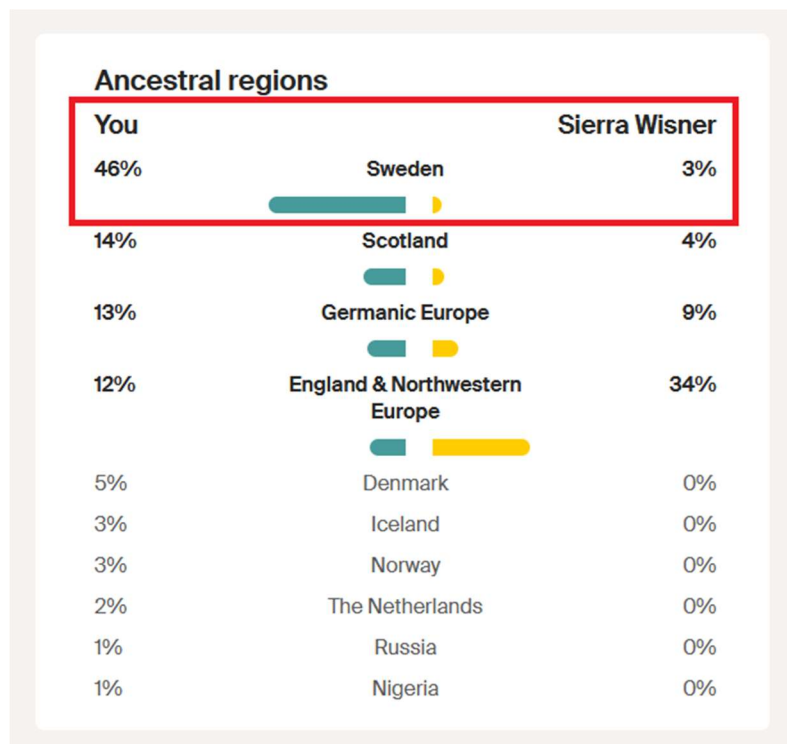
But I digress....

I next looked at the chart showing how Sierra and I are related:



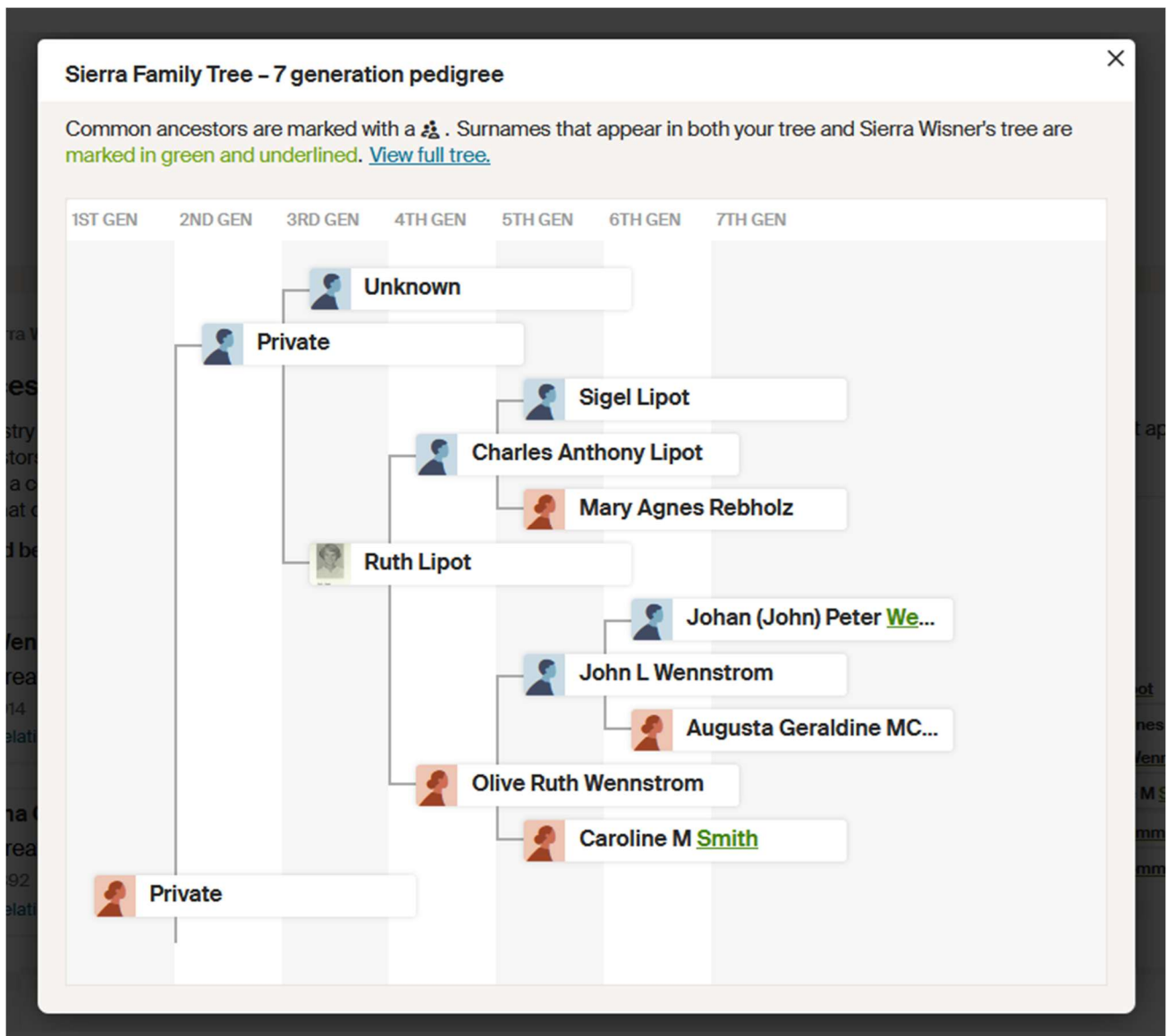
I am descended from the **Wennström-Olsdotter** couple through their daughter Bernhardine Wennström (1855-1932), while Sierra is descended from this couple through their son Johan “John” Peter Wennström. According to this chart, I was a third-cousin of Sierra’s paternal grandmother, Ruth Lipot (1945-2019). And that means that Sierra and I are third-cousins twice-removed, just as Ancestry.com predicted.

As I was investigating my DNA match with Sierra, I came to think of her as one of my Swedish relatives. So when I looked at her ethnicity estimates, I sure was surprised:



Sierra's ethnicity is only 3% Swedish! And my ethnicity is 46% Sweden (plus 5% Denmark, 3% Iceland, and 3% Norway).

In order to understand Sierra's ethnicity, I looked at the relevant part of her pedigree chart:



Note that Johan "John" Peter Wennström was a "full-blooded" Sweden (his parents were the **Wennström-Olsdotter** couple, and all of their ancestors were Swedish). But Johan married Augusta McLaughlin (obviously not a Swede). And their son John L. Wennström married Caroline M. Smith (again, obviously not a Swede), and their daughter married Charles Anthony Lipot (his ancestors were from Austria), and their daughter married a man with the surname of **Wisner** (not likely to be of Swedish descent).

After reviewing Sierra's pedigree, it seems that only her third-great grandfather, Johan "John" Peter Wennström, was Swedish. And a person has 2 parents, 4 grandparents, 8 great-grandparents, 16 second-great grandparents, and 32 third-great grandparents. So if none of Sierra's other lines had Swedish ancestors, you would expect her to be 1/32 Swedish. And this fits exactly with her 3% Swedish ethnicity estimate. How cool!

Changing gears....

I now want to discuss the **Wennström** family in America. A number of my Swedish-American first-cousins<sup>1</sup> in America have DNA matches with Sierra. My first-cousin Stuart Eck<sup>2</sup> has a 38 cM match with Sierra:



## Stuart Eck and Sierra Wisner

3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed  
Parent 1's side

< 1% shared DNA: 38 cM across 2 segments

I looked at the DNA matches that Stuart and Sierra have in common (termed their “Shared DNA Matches”). Since I have a “Pro” membership on Ancestry.com, I viewed their Shared DNA Matches from Sierra’s perspective (from largest to smallest):

Shared match:	Stuart Eck's:	Sierra Wisner's:
Robert Lipot	Stuart Eck's: 2nd cousin 1x removed 167 cM Parent 1's side	Sierra Wisner's: Granduncle 749 cM
Trisha Gable	Stuart Eck's: 3rd cousin 1x removed or half 2nd cousin 2x removed 49 cM Parent 1's side	Sierra Wisner's: 1st cousin 1x removed 436 cM
Sam Lipot	Stuart Eck's: 3rd cousin 1x removed or half 2nd cousin 2x removed 46 cM Parent 1's side	Sierra Wisner's: 1st cousin 1x removed 429 cM
Ann Lipot	Stuart Eck's: Half 2nd cousin 1x removed or 2nd cousin 2x removed 61 cM Parent 1's side	Sierra Wisner's: 1st cousin 1x removed 412 cM
Stephen Reed	Stuart Eck's: 3rd cousin 1x removed or half 3rd cousin 43 cM Parent 1's side	Sierra Wisner's: 1st cousin 1x removed or half granduncle 407 cM

Stuart and Sierra have Shared DNA Matches with Robert Lipot, Trisha Gable (née Lipot), Sam Lipot, Ann Lipot, and Stephen Reed. It turns out that Trisha and Ann are sisters, and their father is Robert Lipot. Robert must have a brother, and Sam Lipot is the brother’s son. [Neither Sam nor Robert have family trees on Ancestry.com, so it took me a while to figure out these relationships -see more in the Appendix.]

I have mentioned some of these people in my previous narratives about my **Wennström** relatives in America. All of these narratives are at:

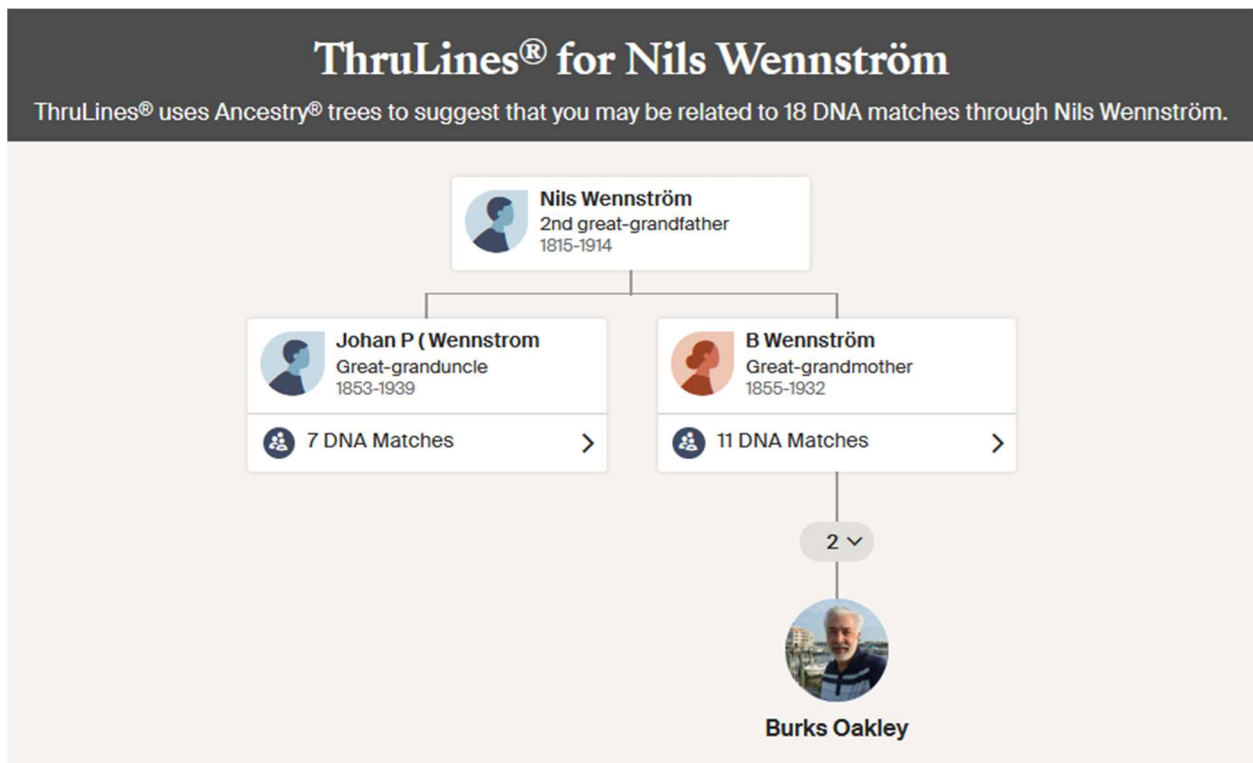
<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/#Wennström>

<sup>1</sup> Annmarie (29 cM), Susan (17 cM), Beth (38 cM) – but Peter does NOT have a DNA match with Sierra.

<sup>2</sup> Stuart’s father was Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001)– my mother’s brother.

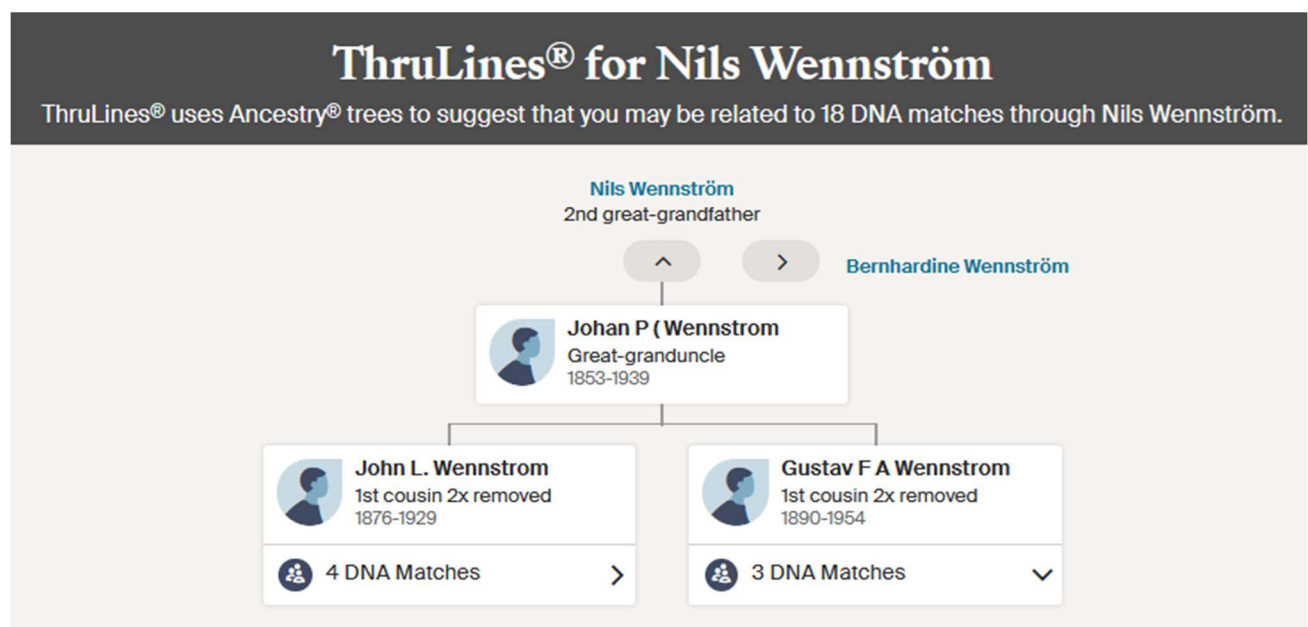
To show how I am related to all of these people (and other **Wennström** descendants), I next will examine my ThruLines® chart for Nils Wennström. ThruLines® charts on Ancestry.com show all of a person’s DNA matches who are descended from a common ancestor.

Here is the top-level view of my ThruLines® chart for Nils Wennström:



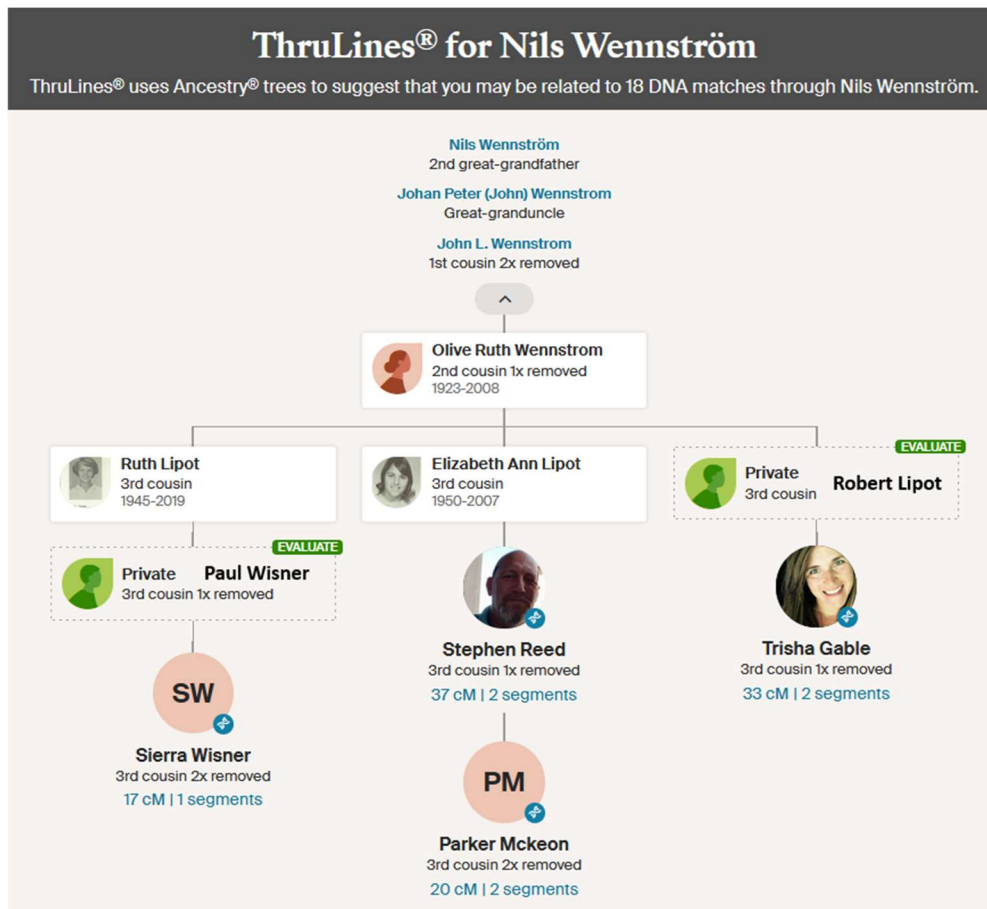
I have a total of eighteen DNA matches with descendants of Nils Wennström. Seven of these DNA matches are with descendants of Nils’ son Johan “John” Peter Wennström, and eleven of these DNA matches are with descendants of Nils’ daughter Bernhardine Wennström (my great-grandmother). In this chart, the ancestral lines are all “closed”. [I should add that my ThruLines® chart for Nils’ wife, Kristina Olsdotter, looks exactly the same as his.]

Here is the branch of the ThruLines® chart that goes back to Nils Wennström through his son Johan:



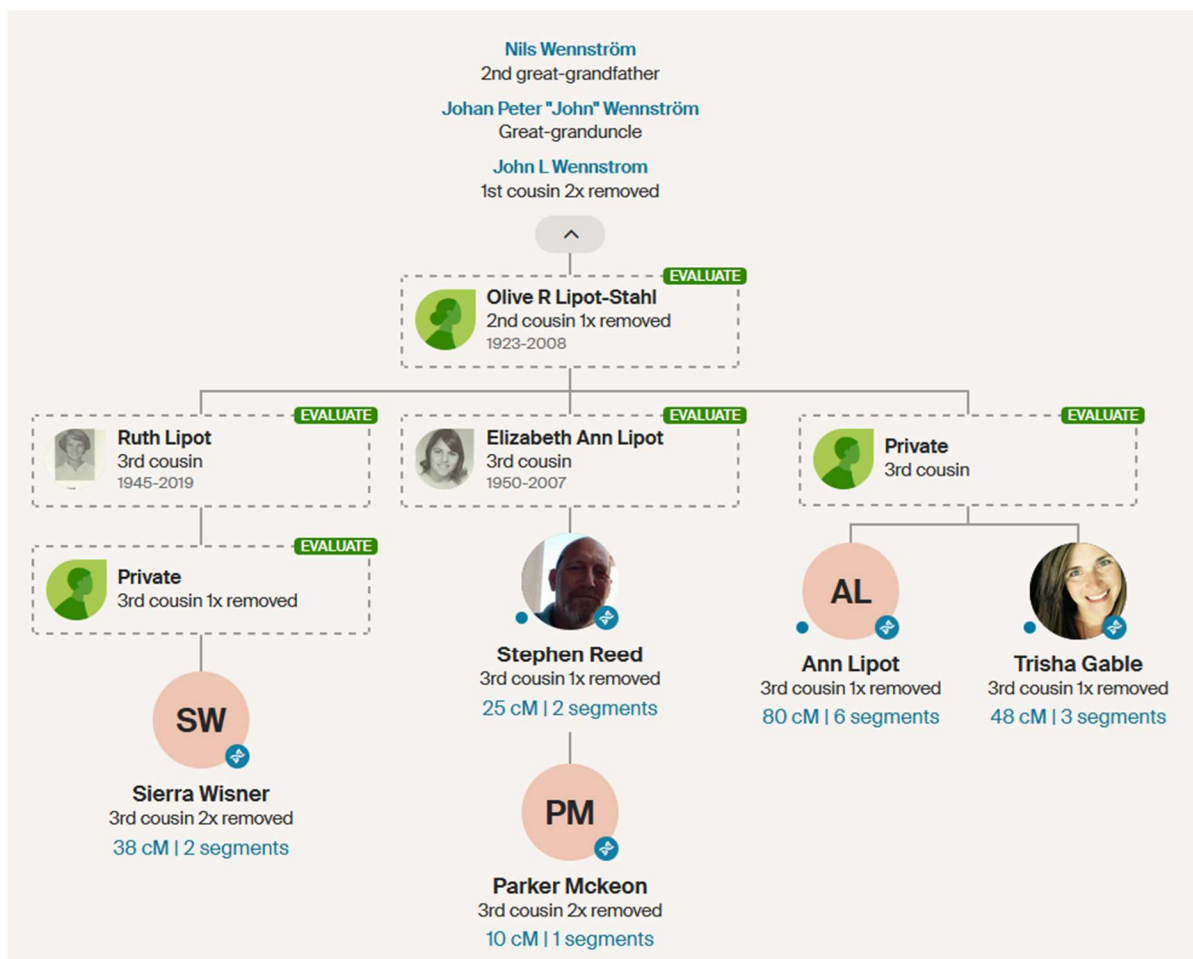
I have four DNA matches with descendants of Johan’s son John L. Wennström, and I have three DNA matches with descendants of Johan’s son Gustav Frank\* Arthur Wennström.

Here is the branch going back through John L. Wennström:

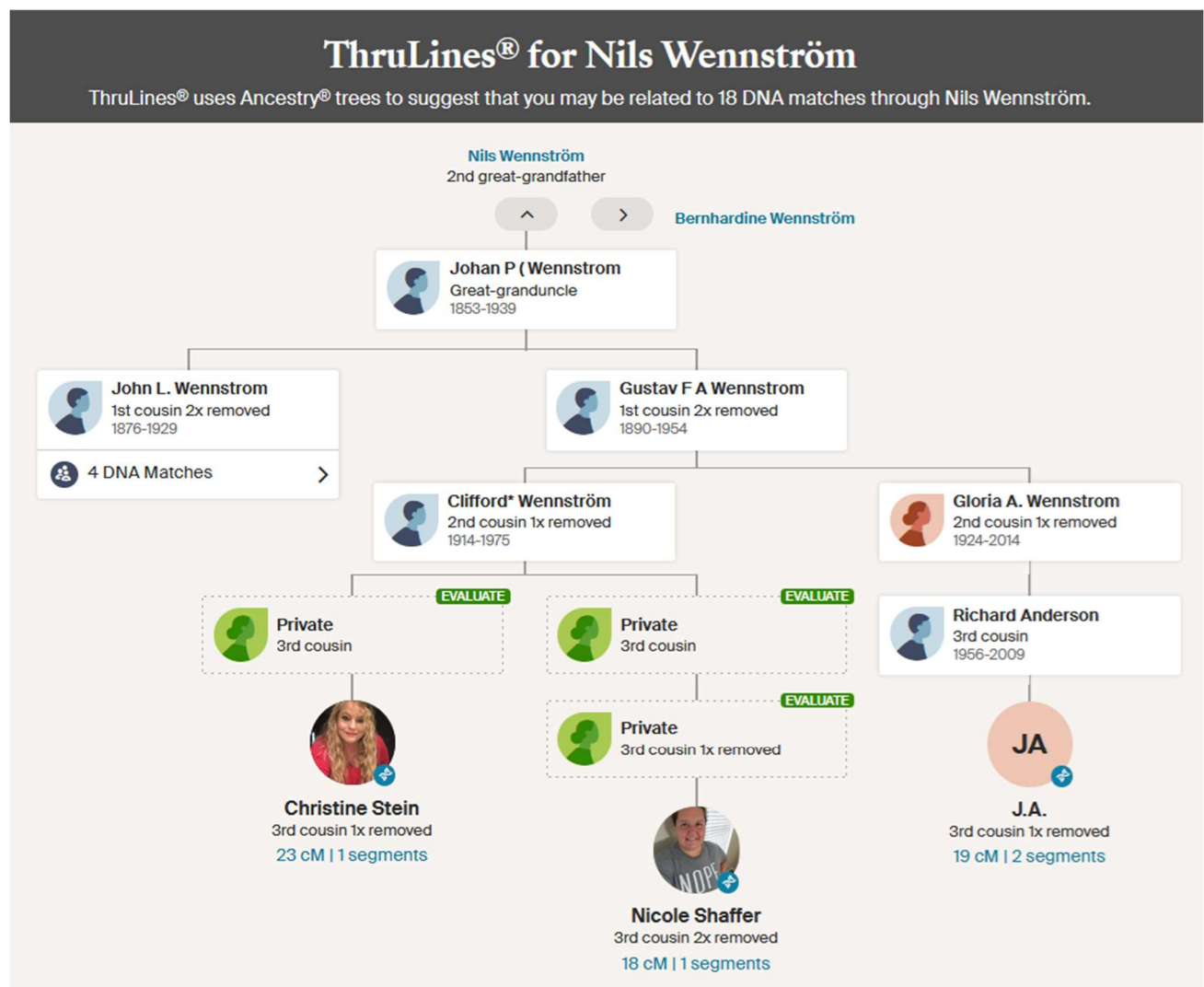


This branch of the ThruLines® chart goes back to John L. Wennström through his daughter Olive Ruth Wennström (1923-2008). And this branch has my DNA matches with Sierra Wisner, Stephen Reed and his son Parker McKeon, and Trisha Gable (née Lipot).

As an aside, my late cousin Elizabeth “Beth” Brorström (married name *Lynes*) had a DNA match with Trisha’s sister, Ann Lipot:



I'll now show the branch of my ThruLines® chart going back to Nils Wennström through Johan's son Gustav Frank\* Arthur Wennström:



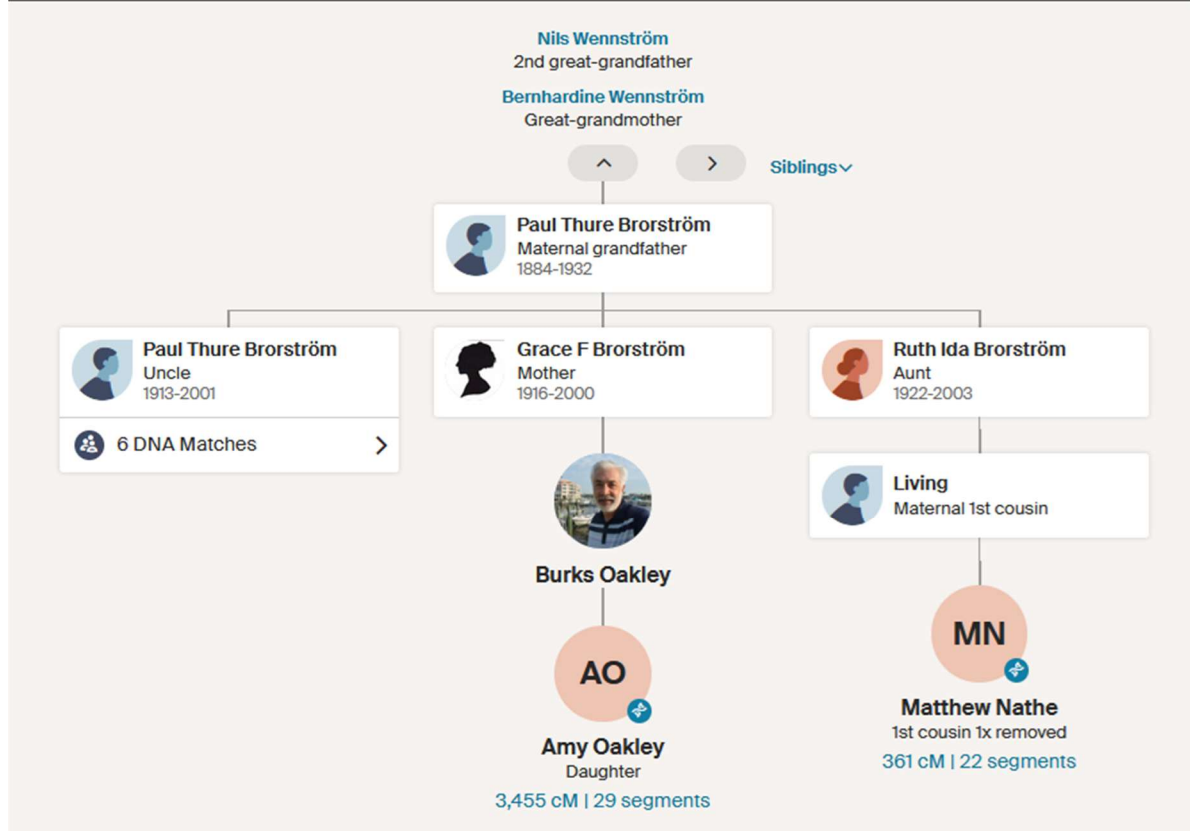
This branch of my ThruLines® chart includes my DNA matches with Christine Stein, Nicole Shaffer, and **J.A.** (Jessica Anderson). Again, I have written about my DNA matches with these folks previously:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/#Wennström>

My other DNA matches with descendants of Nils Wennström go back through his daughter Bernhardine Wennström (my second-great grandmother). Here is that branch of my ThruLines® chart:

# ThruLines® for Nils Wennström

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 18 DNA matches through Nils Wennström.

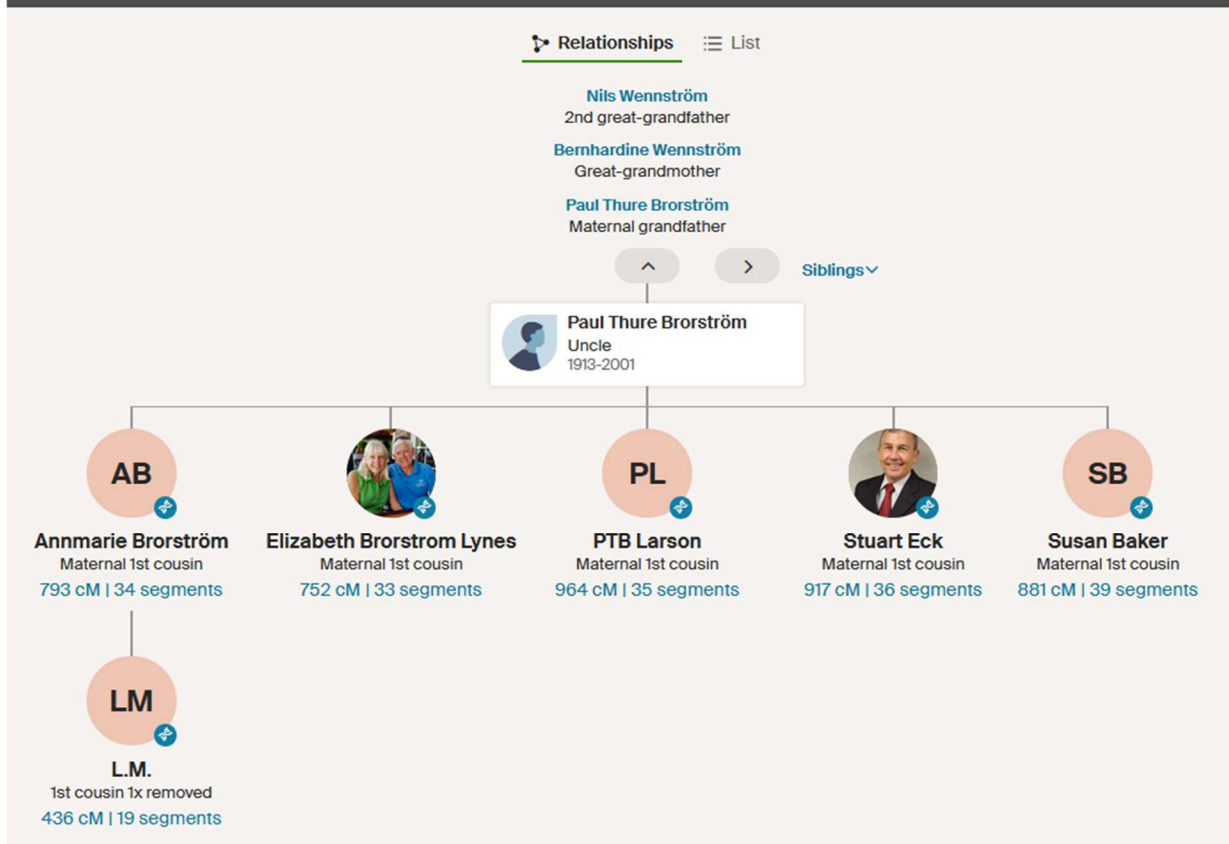


This chart shows my mother, Grace Florence Brorström, and her two siblings, Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001) and Ruth Ida Brorström (1922-2003). And this part of the ThruLines® chart shows my DNA match with my daughter Amy, as well as my DNA match with Matthew Nathe, who is the son of my first-cousin Paul R. Nathe.

The line at the left goes back through my uncle Paul Thure Brorström Jr. – and here is that branch of the ThruLines® chart:

# ThruLines® for Nils Wennström

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 18 DNA matches through Nils Wennström.



This part of the ThruLines® chart shows my DNA matches with my first-cousins Annmarie, Elizabeth, Peter, Stuart, and Susan. It also shows my DNA match with Annmarie's daughter Lauren (*L.M.*).

Not shown are my DNA matches with Stuart's daughter Jessica Lynn Eck, Susan's son Robert Baker, and Annmarie's daughter Leslie DeMattia. They are not in this chart because they do not have a family tree on Ancestry.com, even though they have their DNA on the site. Without a family tree, there is no way for the software on Ancestry.com to calculate how they are related to their DNA matches.

At this point, I realized that all of my DNA matches on Ancestry.com with descendants of Nils Wennström (and his wife Kristina Olsdotter) are with people living in America. The *Wennström-Olsdotter* couple actually had ten children who lived to adulthood. Here is an undated photo of the family that I found on the Ancestry.com website:



I know that in addition to Johan "John" Peter Wennström and Bernhardine Wennström, at least two more siblings immigrated to America. So it is interesting that I don't have DNA matches with other branches of the Nils Wennström family, either in America or in Sweden.

Of course, going back another generation, to the parents of the *Wennström-Olsdotter* couple, I do have DNA matches with Swedes living in Sweden.

Now let me change gears once again. I have visited Sweden a number of times since 2016 to visit my Swedish relatives, and I have been fortunate that my *Wennström* relatives in Sweden have taken me to Menlösa and the surrounding area multiple times.

On all my visits to Menlösa, I have gone to nearby Hasslöv to see the *Wennström-Olsdotter* grave in the church cemetery. Here is a photo from 2018:



The inscription on the gravestone reads:

Här vila Handlanden Nils Wennström

7 1 1815 • 19 1 1914

och hans Hustru

Kristina

25 4 1821 • 18 7 1892

This translates into English as:

Here rests Shopkeeper Nils Wennström

7 Jan. 1815 • 19 Jan. 1914

and his Wife

Kristina

25 Apr. 1821 • 18 Jul. 1892

Unfortunately, when I visited the church cemetery in 2022, I saw that the gravestone had been laid down.



A child in Sweden was killed when a gravestone fell on her, so the government in Sweden mandated that old gravestones had to be laid down, at least until it could be assured that they were stable.

When I returned to Hasslöv in 2023, I saw that their gravestone was still horizontal:



But this time I brought some cash that I gave to one of my Swedish cousins (I couldn't figure out how to make an electronic transfer). She gave the cash to the church, and on 24 April 2025, my cousin sent me an email with a photo showing that the gravestone had been repaired and was now standing upright:



Note how the grass had died where the stone was laying down.









**Summary:** In this narrative, I began with my DNA match with Sierra Wisner. Sierra and I share 17 cM, and we both are descended from Nils Wennström (1815-1914) and his wife Kristina Olsdotter (1821-1892). This couple were my second-great grandparents, and they lived in southern Halland County, Sweden.

I also presented details of my ThruLines® chart for Nils Wennström. I have eighteen DNA matches with his descendants, and I discussed how all of them are related.

Finally, I showed some photos of the gravestone of **Wennström-Olsdotter** couple in the church cemetery in Hasslöv. Due to safety concerns, the gravestone was laid down sometime around 2022. But it was repaired earlier this year and now is standing upright.

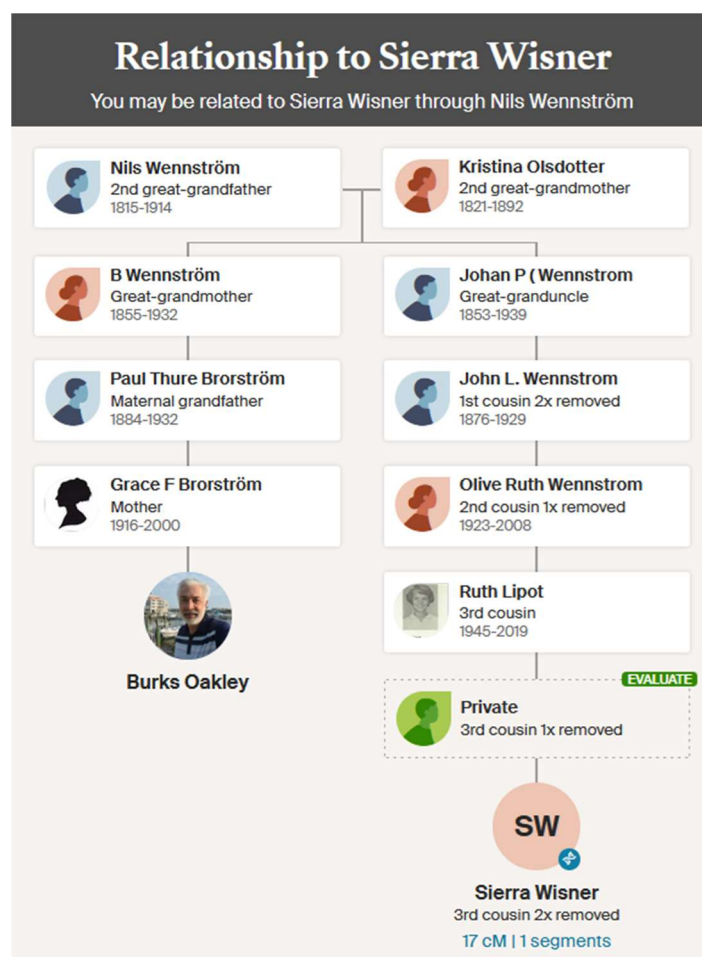
## Appendix: Much More About the Lipot Family

It took me a while to figure out how all of the **Lipot** descendants are related. My late first-cousin Elizabeth “Beth” Brorström (married name **Lynes**) had a DNA match with Robert Lipot. I looked at their “Shared DNA Matches” from Robert’s perspective (from largest to smallest). The top four matches are shown here:

Shared match:	Elizabeth Brorstrom Lynes's:	Robert Lipot's:
 <b>Ann Lipot</b> 	Elizabeth Brorstrom Lynes's: 2nd cousin 2x removed or half 2nd cousin 1x removed 80 cM Paternal side	Robert Lipot's: Daughter 3,449 cM
 <b>Trisha Gable</b> 	Elizabeth Brorstrom Lynes's: 3rd cousin 1x removed or half 2nd cousin 2x removed 48 cM Paternal side	Robert Lipot's: Daughter 3,415 cM
 <b>Sam Lipot</b> 	Elizabeth Brorstrom Lynes's: Half 2nd cousin 2x removed or 3rd cousin 1x removed 52 cM Paternal side	Robert Lipot's: Nephew 1,856 cM
 <b>Stephen Reed</b> 	Elizabeth Brorstrom Lynes's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 25 cM Paternal side	Robert Lipot's: Half brother or nephew 1,729 cM

From these matches, I learned that Ann Lipot and Trisha Gable (née Lipot) are daughters of Rober Lipot. I also learned that Sam Lipot is Robert’s nephew, so Sam must be the son of one of Robert Lipot’s brothers. [Neither Robert nor Sam have family trees on Ancestry.com.]

Here is the chart showing how Sierra and I are related:



Sierra's great-grandmother was Olive Ruth Wennström (1923-2008). Olive was married to Charles Anthony Lipot (1918-1983), and after his death, she married Joseph Stahl. Here is Olive's obituary:

### **Olive Stahl Obituary**

**O**LIVE STAHL Olive "Ollie" Ruth Stahl, 84, of Las Vegas, passed away Tuesday, May 20, 2008. Ollie was born July 29, 1923, in Suffern N.Y., and was a 17 year resident of Nevada. Ollie was married to Charles Lipot for 42 years. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Long Beach in art and had a career in photographic restoration. She was married to Joseph Stahl, June 8, 1996. Ollie was active with the Las Vegas Chapter of S.C.O.R.E. and was a member of the Sun City security patrol. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Lipot Sr.; daughters, Joan Marie, Mary and Elizabeth; and son, Patrick. Ollie is survived by her husband, Joseph Stahl; and children, Charles Jr., Ruth, Robert, James, Barbara, Linda and Richard; 17 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Visitation will be 7-9 p.m. Friday, May 23, at Davis Funeral Home, 6200 S. Eastern Ave. Funeral will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 24, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 1811 Pueblo Vista Drive. Burial to follow at Davis Memorial Park.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/lvrj/name/olive-stahl-obituary?id=48842597>

Oh my! She was preceded in death by daughters Joan Marie, Mary, and Elizabeth, and son Patrick. At the time of her death, she was survived by children Charles Jr., Ruth (Sierra's grandmother), Robert, James, Barbara, Linda, and Richard. By my count, that is eleven children.

I'm surprised that I only have DNA matches with descendants of Ruth, Elizabeth, and Robert. I guess others in the family haven't had their DNA "tested" on Ancestry.com.

Well, I do in fact have a DNA match with another branch of Olive's family. Recall that Sam Lipot is the nephew of Richard Lipot. And Richard has brothers Patrick, Charles Jr., Robert, and James. One of them is Sam's father.

I did a Google search on "sam lipot obituary" (no quotes). The first hit was to the "Patrick J. Lipot Memorial" at Orange Coast College:

<https://orangeoastcollege.academicworks.com/donors/patrick-j-lipot-memorial>

The description of Patrick's life mentioned his son Samuel.

## Patrick J. Lipot Memorial

Patrick Joseph Lipot, Masters in Special Education  
March 23, 1958-December 28, 1997

Patrick died suddenly of undiagnosed Acute Promylecytic Leukemia. He entered the hospital on Saturday, December 27th with flu like symptoms and died the next morning at 3:15 a.m. He was 39 years old.


In his life Patrick valued many things. He cherished being a husband to Teresa and a daddy to Zachary and Samuel. Many who knew us would comment on what an involved parent he was. He had a devoted Catholic faith, service his Lord with his many talents including youth work, drama, and music. The last song Patrick wrote was a song called "Falling Into the Hands of the Living God," for a Catholic Men's Fellowship Conference. Patrick loved education and prided himself in developing creative ways to motivate his students at Wadsworth Avenue School in South Central Los Angeles. He was proud of his achievements, having earned his Masters Degree in special Education at Cal State Dominguez Hills, the May before his death. He loved Literature and had earned a Bachelors Degree from CSULB after attending OCC for his early coursework. Patrick was a prolific writer and we are blessed to have boxes of original songs and poems he wrote. Patrick spent his high school years at Fountain Valley, participating in both the band and football. His television debut was at the age of nine when he went on Art Linkletter's, "Kids Say the Darndest Things" Show. It was during this time the he began developing his interest in music eventually learning to play the clarinet, flute, sax and piano.

The years Zack and Sammy spent at OCC's Lab School was a time of joy for the four of us. Patrick would bring his flutes into the boys classrooms to share with the children, while our boys would beam with pride. Patrick's Christmas cookies, the infamous Rum Logs, better know as "Lum Rogs" were cautiously enjoyed by all the staff.

Patrick had a gentle spirit about him that others would frequently comment on. He survived the loss of a sister when he was ten and his father when he was 26, and despite these losses went on to find joy and meaning in his life. He is tenderly missed by all of his family and friends.

Recall that Patrick was the son of Olive Ruth Lipot (née Wennström) who predeceased her. I conclude that Patrick was Samuel Lipot's father.


Interestingly, there are three other scholarships named after the **Lipot** family at Orange Coast College:



### Charles A. Lipot Memorial

Dr. Charles A. Lipot, Lt. Col. USMC. (Ret) – May 22, 1918- November 5, 1983 Chuck passed away suddenly of a massive heart attack. He was interred in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, on the Marine Corps birthday – 10 November, next to two daughters who...


[View Donor](#)



### In Memory of the Lipot Children

Mary Caroline & Patrick Joseph, children of Dr. Charles Lipot, were both musically inclined, they possessed a natural talent that was remarkable. Mary was to have graduated from the Psychic Technician Program at OCC on the day she died, October 4, 1968, at the age of...

[View Donor](#)



### Olive R. (Stahl) Lipot Scholarship

This scholarship is a remembrance of our Mother from her living children. Charles A. Lipot, Jr., Ruth Auwae, Robert Lipot, James Lipot, and Barbara Everett and their respective families. Beside her children, Ollie leaves behind 15 grandchildren and 12 great...

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Here is the description of the Olive R. (Stahl) Lipot Scholarship:

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This scholarship is a remembrance of our Mother from her living children. Charles A. Lipot, Jr., Ruth Auwae, Robert Lipot, James Lipot, and Barbara Everett and their respective families. Beside her children, Ollie leaves behind 15 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Mom was a great believer in family first and education second. She had created a scholarship for dad (Charles A. Lipot, Sr.) and did the same for the Lipot children that had preceded her in death, (Patrick – bother and sisters – Mary, Joan Marie, and Elizabeth).

As a young woman, Ollie was a member of the Roxyettes dance troupe in Washington D.C. She met our Dad on a blind date and they fell in love and married shortly thereafter. During the war, Ollie worked as a secretary in the War Department.

When her youngest children were in school, she went back to school. first to OCC where she got her A.A. and then to Cal State Long Beach where she obtained her B.A. She then got her credential to teach Photo Restoration at Coast. She loved it. Mom was very artistic person. She did oil paintings, pastel colors, stained lass, photography, and even started her own business, Ollie's Photo Restoration. She was also a member of the Professional Photographers.

A few years after Dad passed away, she decided to move to Las Vegas at the urging of several friends from OCC that had already made the move. Here too, she blossomed. She continued her photo restoration, became a member of the Security Patrol for Sun City, took up hula dancing, joined a travel club, and became proficient at playing the organ. She made many new friends and enjoyed life and eventually remarried. She will be missed very much.

WE LOVE YOU MOM.

Wow! Quite a woman! And she was my mother's second-cousin.

Finally, here is a description of the scholarship named after Dr. Charles A. Lipot (Olive's first husband):

## Charles A. Lipot Memorial

Dr. Charles A. Lipot, Lt. Col. USMC. (Ret) – May 22, 1918- November 5, 1983

Chuck passed away suddenly of a massive heart attack. He was interred in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, on the Marine Corps birthday – 10 November, next to two daughters who preceded him. In June 1982, he retired as an administrator from Orange Coast College after thirteen years of service. At the time of his death, he was enrolled in three classes at OCC. Education was of prime interest to him and each of his eight children had the opportunity to obtain college degrees and have a profession.

His primary goal had been medicine, but the funds depleted and with World War II imminent, he entered the United States Marine Corps in 1941, receiving his gold bars three months later. Education was an integral part of service life—as a student and an instructor. He learned the art of survival in the jungle heat of the South Pacific where his tour of duty lasted twenty-seven months. A few years later, he learned a different type of survival in the frozen hills of Korea. His involvement with students included serving as a member of school boards, president of high school P.T.A., advisory board member for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and he held an Honorary Life Membership in P.T.A. There were many correspondence courses he completed over the years. While in Iwakuni Japan, he taught English to high school students as a volunteer and learned Japanese in return.

When he retired in 1963, it was no surprise the he returned to school, specializing in education. He received his Master's degree at CSULB and obtained his elementary and secondary credentials. While teaching Biology at Paramount High School, he worked on his doctorate at UCLA receiving his degree in 1970. He believed that education should be an ongoing part of life.

He was a gentleman who held honesty and integrity to be all important. His faith in God was strong and a source of strength for him. He was "a best friend" to everyone from his youngest grandchild to his wife and he is sorely missed.

<https://orangeoastcollege.academicworks.com/donors/charles-a-lipot-memorial>

Impressive, to say the least!