

# **The Thackaberrys – A Larsson Family Connection Supported by DNA Triangulation**

by Burks Oakley II  
7 February 2019

## ***Introduction***

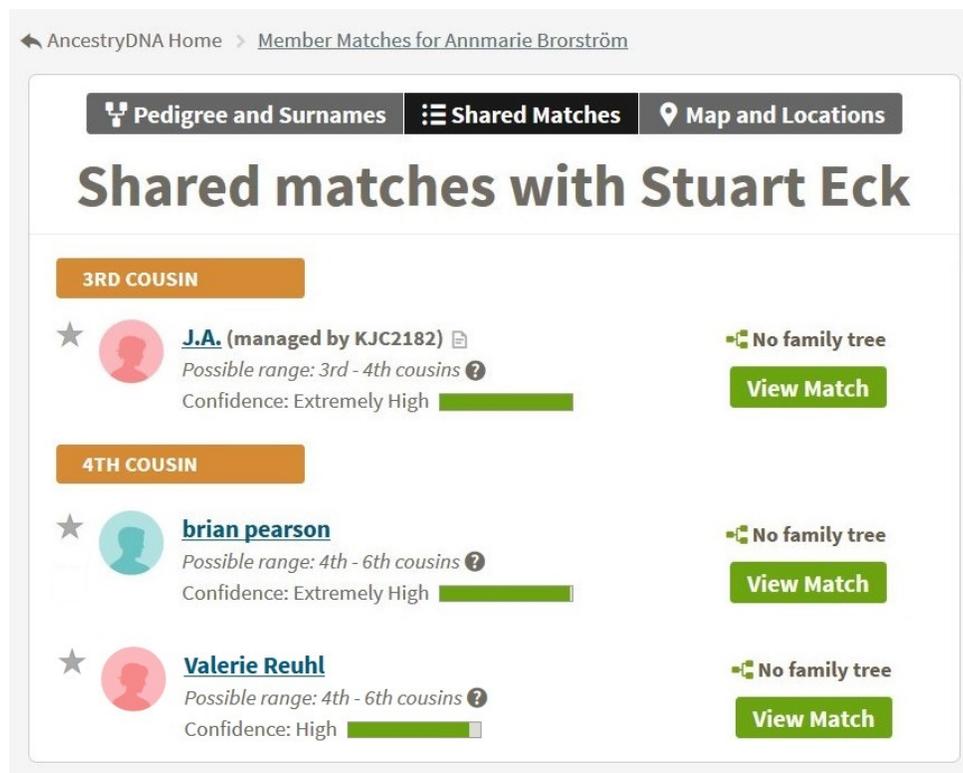
I am very interested in the field of genetic genealogy – that is, finding DNA matches that both support and extend my family tree. My mother's four grandparents all immigrated to America from Sweden in the 1880's, and for the past few years, I have been using genetic genealogy to investigate my Swedish roots. Actually, my interest in genetic genealogy began in late 2013, when a Swedish cousin, Göran Grotting, contacted my daughter Amy about a shared DNA match that they had on the 23andme.com website. Through his research, Göran was able to discover that we are related through common ancestors who lived in Fjärås, Sweden, in the late 1700's. A descendant of these common ancestors was my great-grandfather, Lars Emil Larsson (1864-1945), who was born and raised in Fjärås, and then immigrated to America in 1887. In June 2016, my Swedish-American first-cousin Susan Brorström Baker and I visited Göran in Gothenburg, Sweden, and he took us to Fjärås, where we saw several houses that Lars Emil Larsson lived in before immigrating to America.

I now have started looking at DNA matches on Ancestry.com that I have in common with my Swedish-American first-cousins Annmarie Brorström DeMattia, Susan Brorström Baker, and Stuart Wayne Eck. Their father, Paul Thure Brorström Jr., was my mother's older brother. My reasoning is that if Annmarie, Susan, Stuart, and I all share a DNA match with an individual, then I know that the individual has to be related to us through our Swedish ancestors. For example, not long ago, I found that Annmarie, Susan, Stuart, and I have a shared DNA match with a Swedish-American man named Robert Bergmark, who is a grandson of Lars Emil Larsson's older sister, Anna Louise Larsson (1860-). My narrative about this relationship is online at:

<http://burksoakley.com/SwedishGenealogy/BergmarkLarssonConnection.pdf>

## Connecting with Another Branch of the Larsson Family

I recently examined the DNA matches that Annmarie and Stuart have in common. Since they had the same father but different mothers, any DNA matches they have in common will be from their Swedish ancestors (who also are my Swedish ancestors). The following screenshot shows three of the DNA matches that Annmarie shares with Stuart:



The screenshot shows the 'Member Matches for Annmarie Brorström' page on AncestryDNA. The main heading is 'Shared matches with Stuart Eck'. There are three tabs: 'Pedigree and Surnames', 'Shared Matches', and 'Map and Locations'. The 'Shared Matches' tab is active. Below the heading, there are three match entries, each with a star icon, a profile picture, and a 'View Match' button. The first match is 'J.A. (managed by KJC2182)' with a '3RD COUSIN' label, 'Possible range: 3rd - 4th cousins', and 'Confidence: Extremely High'. The second match is 'brian pearson' with a '4TH COUSIN' label, 'Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins', and 'Confidence: Extremely High'. The third match is 'Valerie Reuhl' with a '4TH COUSIN' label, 'Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins', and 'Confidence: High'. All three matches have a 'No family tree' icon and a 'View Match' button.

Note that none of these individuals has a family tree on the Ancestry.com website. It appears that many people are having their DNA tested by Ancestry.com to learn about their ethnicity (which is what Ancestry.com promotes), and these people don't have a real interest in genealogy. So it becomes frustrating to find all these DNA matches who don't have family trees.

As an aside, recall the Ancestry.com advertisement about Kyle, a man who for most of his life thought he was of German ancestry, but his DNA test on Ancestry.com showed that he was really of Scottish ancestry.<sup>1 2</sup> I think that there are too many people like Kyle who have their DNA tested just to learn about their ethnicities.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2J5n8kzpbCs>

<sup>2</sup> <https://blogs.ancestry.com/cm/queens-native-trades-lederhosen-for-kilt-after-dna-test/>



Again, finding so many DNA matches without family trees can be very frustrating! So when someone turns up who has a large family tree on Ancestry.com, this person is worth investigating in detail. One such person who has a shared DNA match with my Swedish-American first-cousins Annmarie and Stuart is a woman having the username ***Tygail***; she has 5,972 people in her family tree:

← AncestryDNA Home > [Member Matches for Annmarie Brorström](#)

[Pedigree and Surnames](#) [Shared Matches](#) [Map and Locations](#)

## Shared matches with Stuart Eck

**4TH COUSIN**

★  **Tygail** 5,972 people

Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins ?

Confidence: High

[View Match](#)

I next learned that I also have a DNA match with ***Tygail***:

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley



**Tygail**  
Northwest Illinois - Member since 2002, last logged in Jun 14, 2018

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

 Confidence: Moderate 

**Amount of Shared DNA**

12.7 centimorgans shared across  
2 DNA segments

**Ethnicity**

**Regions:** Scandinavia, Ireland/Scotland/Wales

**Trace Regions:** Finland/Northwest Russia, Europe West, Europe South, Europe East, Iberian Peninsula, Great Britain, Asia South

My DNA match with **Tygail** is 12.7 cM across 2 DNA segments, which is considerably smaller than my first-cousins' matches with her: Annmarie – 39 cM shared across 2 DNA segments; Susan – 44 cM shared across 3 DNA segments; and Stuart – 36 cM shared across 3 DNA segments. But the important finding here is that each of us has a DNA match with **Tygail**.

When I looked at her page on the Ancestry.com website, I found that **Tygail** has an ancestor who lived in Fjärås, Sweden!



**Tygail**  
Northwest Illinois - Member since 2002, last logged in Jun 14, 2018

 Pedigree and Surnames

 Shared Matches

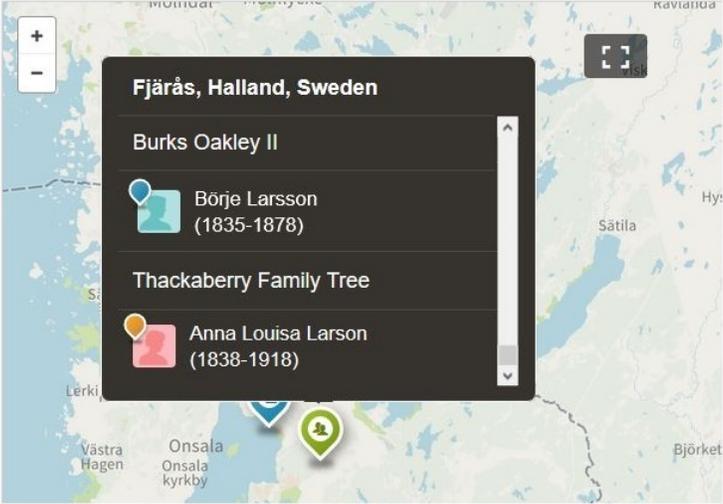
 Map and Locations

**SHARED BIRTH LOCATIONS**

Birth locations that appear in both **Tygail's** tree and **Burks Oakley's** tree

- Sweden, Halland, Fjärås
- USA, Connecticut, Hartford, Wethersfield
- USA, Massachusetts, Plymouth, Hingham
- USA, Massachusetts, Suffolk, Boston
- USA, North Carolina
- USA, Pennsylvania, Chester
- USA, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Philadelphia





**Fjärås, Halland, Sweden**

Burks Oakley II

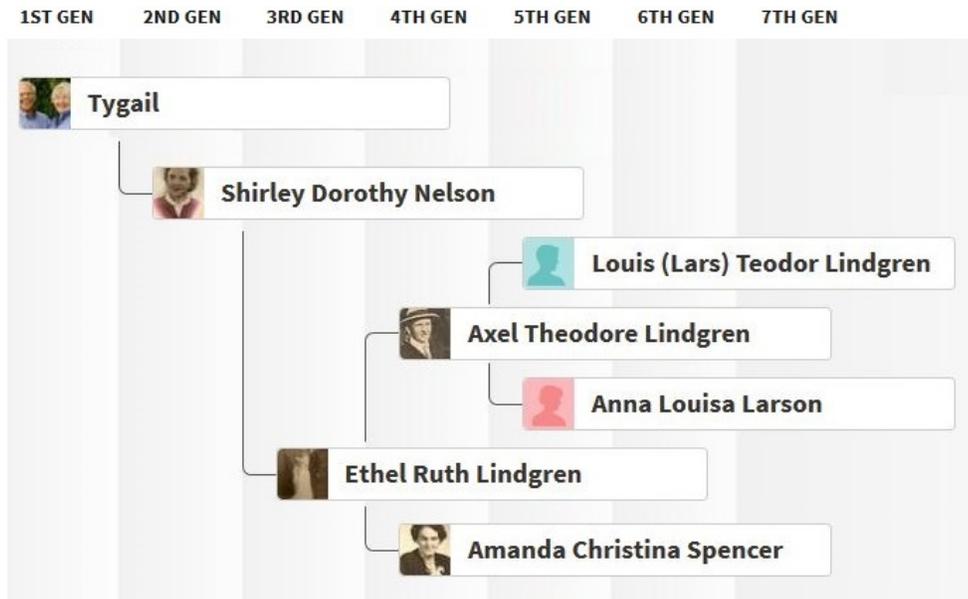
-  Börje Larsson (1835-1878)
-  Thackaberry Family Tree
-  Anna Louisa Larson (1838-1918)

**BIRTH LOCATIONS**

 Tygail's tree
  Burks Oakley's tree
  Both trees

Her ancestor from Fjärås was named Anna Louisa Larson (1838-1918). Of course, Fjärås is where my great grandfather, Lars Emil Larsson, was born. Lars Emil's father was Börje Larsson (1835-1878). Fjärås was a small town in the 1830's, and I wondered if Anna Louisa (born in 1838) and Börje (born in 1835) were siblings, since this would account for our shared DNA match.

**Tygail's** family tree on Ancestry.com shows that Anna Louisa Larson was her second-great grandmother:



**Tygail's** profile on the Ancestry.com website shows that she administers the DNA profile for a man having the username of **M.T.**, and it shows that I also have a DNA match with him.

The screenshot shows Tygail's profile on AncestryDNA. It includes her name, location (Northwest Illinois), and a bio stating she has been collecting info for years and just began putting it on Ancestry.com. Below this, there is a section for DNA matches. The first match is with Tygail herself, showing a relationship of 5th - 8th cousins with moderate confidence. The second match is with a user named M.T., showing a relationship of 4th - 6th cousins with good confidence. Both matches have a 'View match' button.

Looking at my DNA match with **M.T.**, I learned that he was Mark Daniel Thackaberry Jr. (1945-2016). As with **Tygail**, my Swedish-American cousins and I all share a DNA match with Mark Thackaberry Jr. Here is a screenshot showing Annmarie's shared DNA matches with **M.T.**:

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Annmarie Brorström

Pedigree and Surnames Shared Matches Map and Locations

## Shared matches with M.T.

**IMMEDIATE FAMILY**

- ★  **Susan Baker**   
Possible range: Immediate family - close family   
Confidence: Extremely High   
 No family tree  
[View Match](#)

**CLOSE FAMILY**

- ★  **Stuart Eck**   
Possible range: Close family - 1st cousins   
Confidence: Extremely High   
 9 people  
[View Match](#)
- ★  **Robert Baker**  
Possible range: Close family - 1st cousins   
Confidence: Extremely High   
 No family tree  
[View Match](#)

**1ST COUSIN**

- ★  **Burks Oakley**  
Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins   
Confidence: Extremely High   
 1,902 people  
[View Match](#)

**4TH COUSIN**

- ★  **Tygail**  
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins   
Confidence: High   
 5,972 people  
[View Match](#)

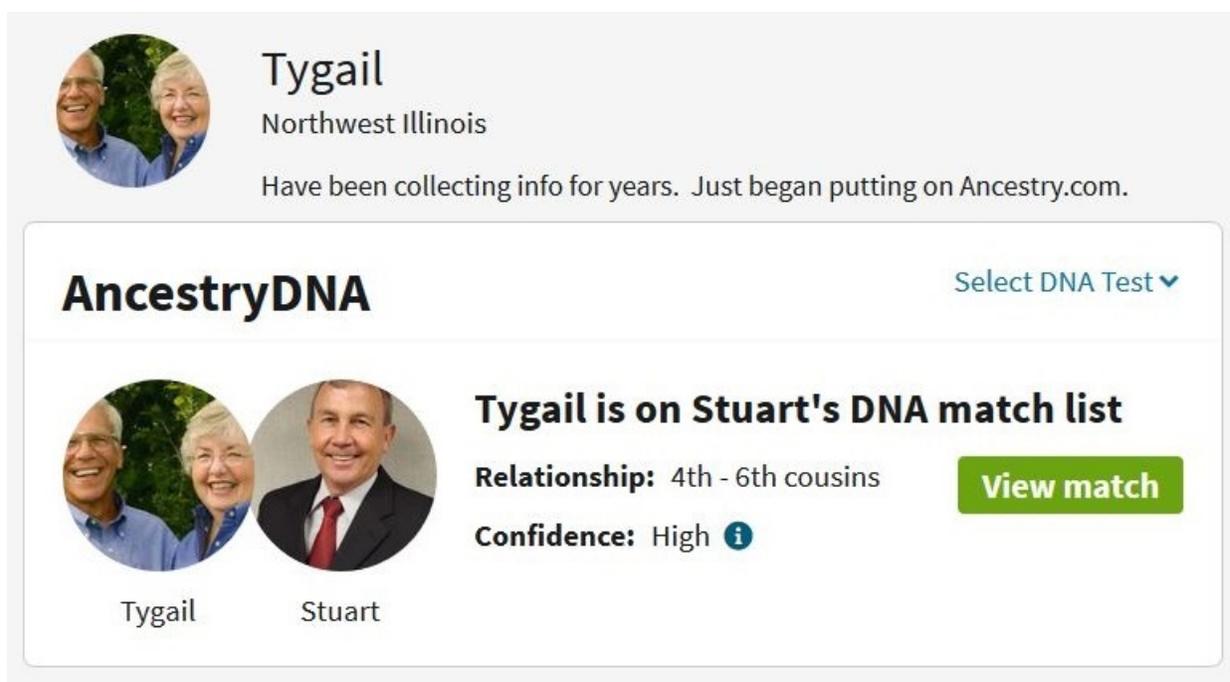
Annmarie and Mark Thackaberry share their DNA match with Susan, Stuart, Robert Baker (Susan's son), Burks, and **Tygail**.

Here are additional details about our DNA matches with Mark Thackaberry Jr.: Burks – 26.9 cM shared across 3 DNA segments; Stuart – 43 cM shared across 3 DNA segments; Annmarie – 17.7 cM shared across 1 DNA segment; Susan – 35 cM shared across 2 DNA segments.

I next searched the web for information about Mark Thackaberry Jr., and found his obituary<sup>3</sup>, which included the following information:

“He is survived by his sister, Gail (Tyson) Cocagne; nephews, Joshua (Tammy) Cocagne , and Wesley (Stephanie) Cocagne; great nephews, Mason and Sam; great nieces, Morgan, Madelyn, and Anne, all of Apple River; ...”

From this obituary, I learned that his sister Gail is married to Tyson Cocagne, and a Google search for Tyson found that his nickname is Ty. So this means that **Tygail** is really Gail Thackaberry Cocagne. It also accounts for the username of **Tygail** on Ancestry.com, and the photo showing both of them:



**Tygail**  
Northwest Illinois  
Have been collecting info for years. Just began putting on Ancestry.com.

**AncestryDNA** Select DNA Test ▾

**Tygail is on Stuart's DNA match list**

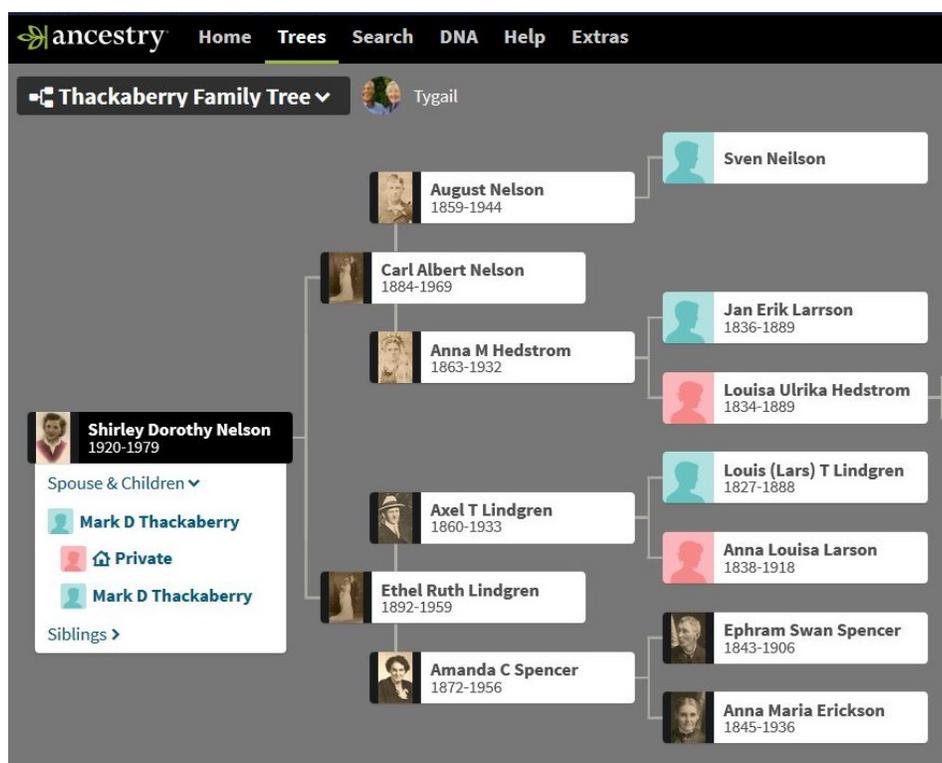
**Relationship:** 4th - 6th cousins **View match**

**Confidence:** High ⓘ

Tygail Stuart

An excerpt of Gail’s family tree on Ancestry shows her mother’s Swedish ancestors:

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.andersonfuneralhomeltd.com/obituaries/print?o\\_id=3743077](http://www.andersonfuneralhomeltd.com/obituaries/print?o_id=3743077)



Unfortunately, this tree doesn't show Anna Louisa Larson's parents. Recall that I have hypothesized that Anna Louisa Larson (1838-1918) was a younger sister of Börje Larsson (1835-1878).

### *Connecting the Larson/Larsson/Larsdotter Siblings*

I contacted my Swedish cousin, Lise-Lotte Kolmberger, who lives in Billdal, Sweden, to see if she could find out more about my Larsson ancestors in Fjärås. I met Lise-Lotte and her family when I was in Sweden in May 2018. At that time, she offered to help me with research about my Swedish ancestors, since she is very skilled at accessing original Swedish church records that have been digitized and are available online. Less than a week after I contacted her, she sent me an e-mail note that included a GEDCOM file with detailed information about my Larsson ancestors in Fjärås. In her e-mail, she wrote:

Some new stuff for your research, see attached.

Anna Lovisa (Louisa) was born in 2 July (not 30 June).

Let me know if you need anything else on anyone. I have tried to fill as much I could find. The priest was not the most thorough. So I lost track of two of the sisters.

When I imported the GEDCOM file into RootsMagic (the family tree program that I use on my Windows computer), I saw all the details about Anna Lovisa's family that Lise-Lotte had found:

**Lars Hansson**  
 Spouses: 1  
 Parents: 0  
 b: 13 Jul 1788  
 m:  
 d: 4 Jul 1869 in Fjärås, Halland (age 80)

**Father:** 1  
 Lars Hansson  
 b: 13 Jul 1788  
 m:  
 d: 4 Jul 1869, Fjärås, Halland

**Mother:** 1  
 Anna Börjesdotter  
 b: 4 May 1795  
 d: 21 Apr 1869, Fjärås, Halland

**Children**

Children	Sex	Born	Birth Place	Died	Death Place
1 Anna Helena Larsdotter	F	5 Oct 1818	Truls Nilsgård, Fjärås, Halland	9 May 1839	Må 3, Fjärås, Halland
2 Inger Helena Larsdotter	F	15 Feb 1821	Truls Nilsgård, Fjärås, Halland		
3 Brita Stina Larsdotter	F	15 Jan 1823	Truls Nilsgård, Fjärås, Halland		
4 Anders Larsson	M	16 Apr 1825	Truls Nilsgård, Fjärås, Halland	29 Apr 1825	Truls Nilsgård, Fjärås, Halland
5 Anders Larsson	M	3 Jun 1826	Truls Nilsgård, Fjärås, Halland	14 Dec 1902	Trädgården, Långeberg, Västra Frölunda, Göteborg
6 Börje Larsson	M	12 Jan 1829	Asserlund 1, Fjärås, Halland	6 Sep 1834	Asserlund 1, Fjärås, Halland
7 Nils Larsson	M	5 Oct 1831	Asserlund 1, Fjärås, Halland	9 Oct 1834	Asserlund 1, Fjärås, Halland
8 Börje Larsson	M	18 Dec 1835	Må 3, Fjärås, Halland	26 Mar 1878	Li 3, Fjärås, Halland
9 Anna Lovisa "Louisa" Larsdotter	F	2 Jul 1838	Må 3, Fjärås, Halland	9 Jul 1918	

+ Click to add a child

It turns out to be exactly as I suspected. Lars Hansson and Anna Börjesdotter had nine children, with Börje Larsson being born 18 December 1835 and Anna Lovisa "Louisa" Larsdotter being born on 2 July 1838.

Since I am descended from Börje Larsson and Gail Thackaberry and Mark Thackaberry are descended from his younger sister Anna Lovisa "Louisa" Larsdotter, this accounts for our DNA matches.

Shortly after receiving this information from Lise-Lotte, I searched through the information about Lars Emil Larsson that I have on my computer, and I ran across Göran Grotting's research about Lars Emil Larsson from October 2013 – here are some excerpts. First of all, we see that his last name was originally Börjesson, but he changed it to Larsson.

Proband

Lars Emil **Börjesson-Larsson** (298). Född 1864-10-01 i Fjärås (N). Död 1945 i Dania, Florida, U.S.A.. Emigrated 1887. (Far I:1, Mor I:2)

Gift 1888-09-09 med Ida Gustava **Larsson** (231). Född 1871-03-17 i Bergum (O). Död 1954-12-30 i Pleasantville, U.S.A..

Barn:

Edna Florence **Larsson** (228). Född 1889-08-15 i Connecticut.

Let me digress here. In Sweden, patronymic surnames based on the father's first name were common. For example, Börje's son would have the surname Börjesson, while Börje's daughter would have the surname Börjesdotter. During the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, these patronymic surnames were transformed into permanent family names.

It seems likely that Lars Emil changed his surname from Börjesson to Larsson when he immigrated to America.

Göran's research next lists Lars Emil's parents and siblings (*Generation I*):

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*Generation I*

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I:1 f

Börje **Larsson** (300). Född 1835-12-18 i Fjärås (N). Döpt 1835-12-20 i Fjärås (N). Död 1878-03-26 i Fjärås (N). Dödsorsak: "Brain fever". (Barn Proband, Far II:1, Mor II:2)

Gift 1859-04-08 i Fjärås (N) med efterföljande ana.

Barn:

Anna Lovisa **Börjesdotter** (373). Född 1859-12-12 i Örmevalla (N). Changed to Anna Louise in America. Emigrated probably together with Lars Emil 1887.

Hilda Evelina **Börjesdotter** (374). Född 1862-06-23 i Fjärås (N). Changed to Hanna in America.

Lars Emil **Börjesson-Larsson** (298). Född 1864-10-01 i Fjärås (N). Död 1945 i Dania, Florida, U.S.A.. (Se Proband).

Thekla Elise **Börjesdotter** (375). Född 1873-04-02 i Fjärås (N). Emigrated together with her two children 1897-04-12.

Helga Bernhardina **Börjesdotter** (376). Född 1876-04-18 i Fjärås (N). Emigrated alone 1895-03-08.

I:2 m

Anna Helena **Andersdotter** (301). Född 1837-12-08 i Fjärås (N). (Barn Proband, Far II:3, Mor II:4)

Gift 1859-04-08 i Fjärås (N) med föregående ana.

We see that that Lars Emil had an older sister Anna Lovisa (born in 1859), and that she emigrated from Sweden with Lars Emil in 1887 and changed her name to Anna Louise. We also see that the children of Börje were given the last name of Börjesson (male) or Börjesdotter (female), but we now know that both Anna Lovisa (Louise) and Lars Emil took the last name of Larsson.

Finally, Göran's research shows that Lars Emil's paternal grandparents (*Generation II*) were Lars Hansson (born 1788) and Anna Börjesdotter (born 1795), and it also shows that Börje Larsson had a sister Anna Lovisa Larsdotter (born 28 June 1838).

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*Generation II*

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II:1 ff

Lars **Hansson** (252). Född 1788-07-12 i Fjärås (N). (Barn I:1, Far III:1, Mor III:2)

Gift med efterföljande ana.

Barn:

Helena **Larsdotter** (370). Född 1821-12-15 i Fjärås (N). Död 1839 i Fjärås (N).

Britta Stina **Larsdotter** (371). Född 1823-02-15 i Fjärås (N).

Anders **Larsson** (369). Född 1826-06-03 i Fjärås (N).

Börje **Larsson** (300). Född 1835-12-18 i Fjärås (N). Död 1878-03-26 i Fjärås (N). (Se I:1).

Anna Lovisa **Larsdotter** (372). Född 1838-06-28 i Fjärås (N).

II:2 fm

Anna **Börjesdotter** (250). Född 1795-02-08 i Fjärås (N). (Barn I:1, Far III:3, Mor III:4)

Gift med föregående ana.

This confirms the information that Lise-Lotte found about this family, although these two datasets have different dates of birth for Anna Lovisa Larsdotter (28 June 1838 vs. 2 July 1838). Göran listed five children in the family, while Lise-Lotte found that there really were nine children.

The bottom line is that I now have two independent searches that confirm that Börje Larsson (1835-1878) had a younger sister Anna Lovisa Larsdotter (1838-1918). At some point (perhaps when she immigrated to America), she changed her name to Larsson (or Larson).

### ***Another Connection with the Larsson Family in Fjärås***

In the *Introduction*, I mentioned that my Swedish-American first-cousins and I also have a DNA match with Robert Bergmark, who is descended from Lars Emil Larsson's younger sister Anna Louisa Larson.

In looking at the shared DNA matches that Annmarie and Gail have, I was pleasantly surprised to find that one of the individuals is Robert Bergmark:

[Pedigree and Surnames](#) [Shared Matches](#) [Map and Locations](#)

## Shared matches with Tygail

4TH COUSIN



**Robert Bergmark**

Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins ?

Confidence: Good

3 people

[View Match](#)

In addition, Stuart and Gail also match with Robert Bergmark:

[Pedigree and Surnames](#) [Shared Matches](#) [Map and Locations](#)

## Shared matches with Tygail

4TH COUSIN



**M.T. (managed by Tygail)**

Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins ?

Confidence: High

5,972 people

[View Match](#)



**Robert Bergmark**

Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins ?

Confidence: High

3 people

[View Match](#)

And finally, Gail and I match with Robert Bergmark:

Pedigree and Surnames

Shared Matches

Map and Locations

# Shared matches with Tygail

3RD COUSIN



**Robert Bergmark**

Possible range: 3rd - 4th cousins

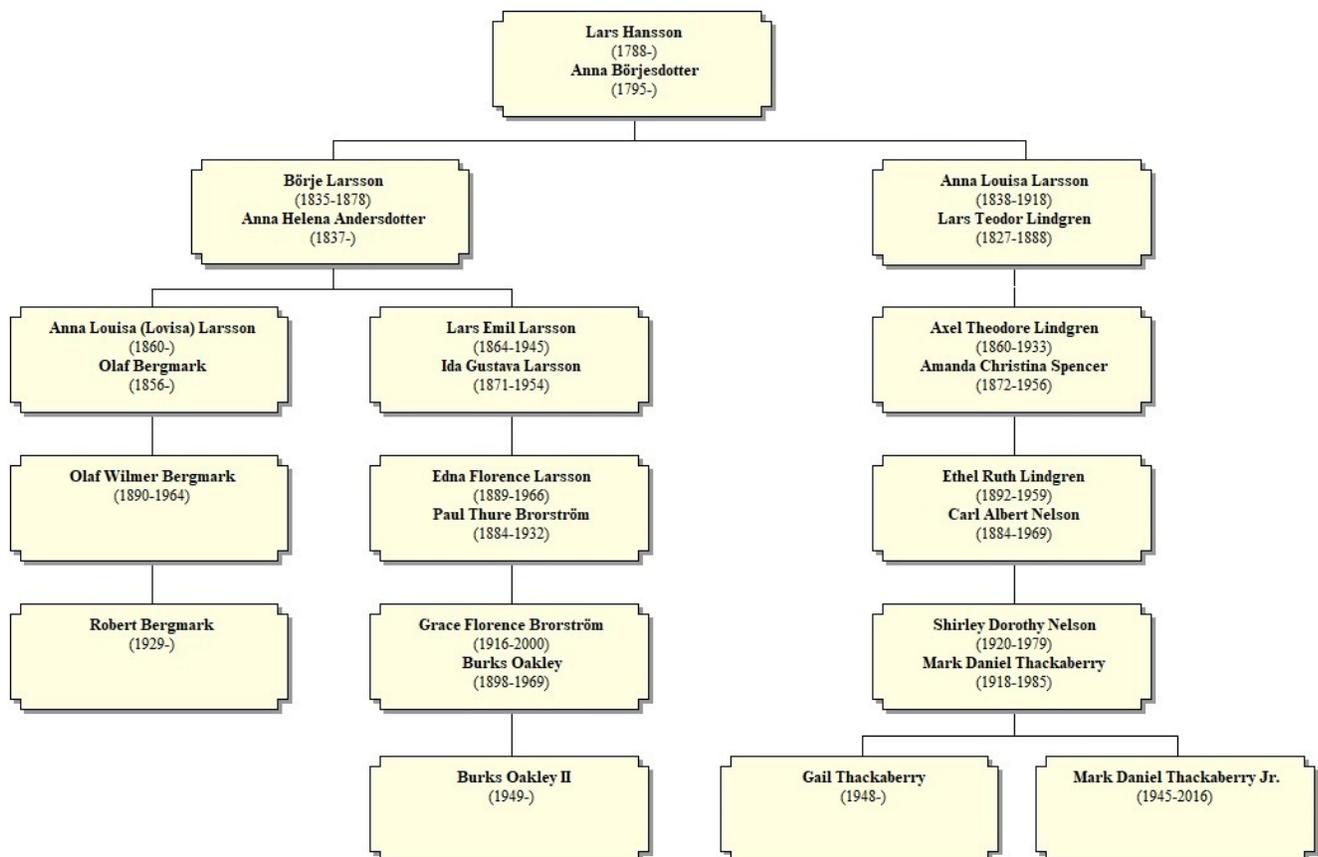
Confidence: Extremely High

3 people

View Match

These three-way matches come about because each person is descended from the same family that lived in Fjärås in the early 1800's. This triangulation strongly supports the genealogical record that my ancestor Börje Larsson was the brother of Gail's ancestor Anna Louisa Larsson.

A family tree showing these genealogical relationships follows:

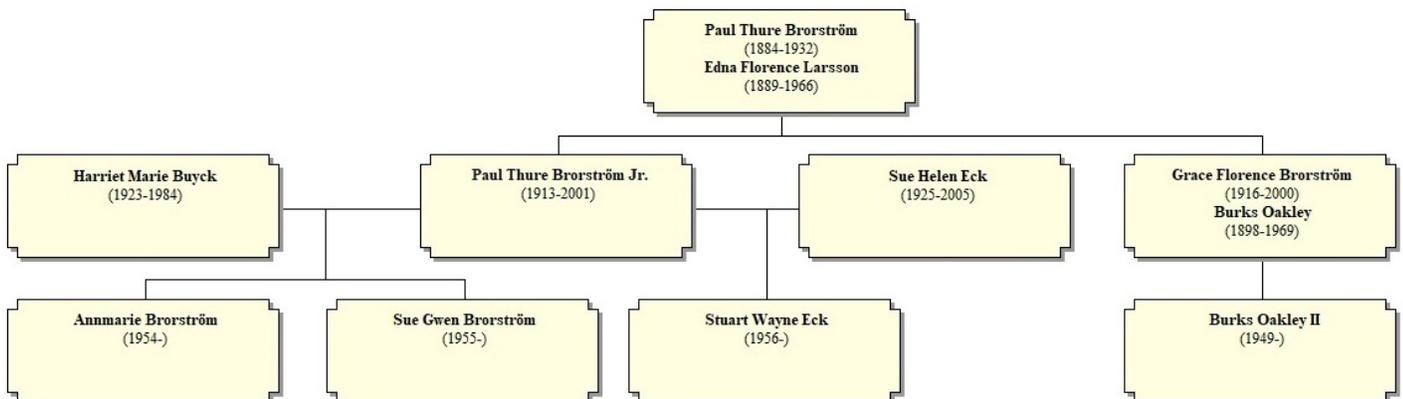


This family tree begins with Lars Hansson (1788-) and his wife Anna Börjesdotter (1795-), who lived in Fjärås, Sweden. They had a son, Börje Larsson (1835-1878) and a daughter Anna Louisa Larsson (1838-1918).

Börje Larsson and his wife Anna Helena Andersdotter (1837-) had a daughter, Anna Louisa (Lovisa) Larsson (1860-), and a son, Lars Emil Larsson (1864-1945). Both of these children immigrated to America, and ended up living in the Town of Mt. Pleasant, New York. Robert Bergmark is descended from Anna Lovisa Larsson and Burks Oakley II is descended from Lars Emil Larsson (as are Annmarie, Susan, and Stuart).

Anna Louisa Larsson (1838-1918) married and immigrated to America, settling in Chicago. Gail Thackaberry and her late brother Mark D. Thackaberry Jr. are descended from this line.

The last family tree I will present in this narrative (just for completeness) is one showing how I am related to my Swedish-American first-cousins – Annmarie, Susan, and Stuart:



This chart shows that we are all descended from Edna Florence Larsson (1889-1966), who was the daughter of the Swedish immigrant Lars Emil Larsson. Annmarie, Susan, and Stuart are descended from Edna Florence through her son Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001), while I am descended from Edna Florence through her daughter, Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000).

**Conclusion**

We now have three independent lines that go back to Lars Hansson and his wife Anna Börjesdotter, who were born in Fjärås, Sweden, in the late 1700's. The descendants of these lines include (1) Robert Bergmark, (2) Burks Oakley II and

his Swedish-American cousins Annmarie, Susan, and Stuart, and (3) Gail Thackaberry and her late brother Mark Thackaberry Jr., and these descendants all share DNA matches.

The DNA evidence strongly supports the genealogical record. Since Fjärås in the late 1700's and early 1800's was a small village, anytime I find a DNA relative with ancestors in Fjärås, I immediately look for a connection to my Larsson ancestors. And in this case, I eventually found the connection (with the help of my Swedish cousins Lise-Lotte and Göran)!

And so now I have come full circle – my interest in genetic genealogy began with my DNA match with Göran Grotting, which led me to my Larsson ancestors in Fjärås. And now my latest DNA findings, coupled with two lines of research into Lars Emil Larsson's family, have identified additional Larsson ancestors in Fjärås, and also connected three separate lines of Larssons who immigrated to America from Fjärås.

*Appendix – Photos*



The Church in Fjärås. July 2017.



Burks in front of a house Lars Emil Larsson lived in.  
July 2017.



Another house in Fjärås that Lars Emil Larsson lived in.  
July 2017.



The view from near the church in Fjärås.  
July 2017.



Lars Emil Larsson's gravestone in Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla, NY. July 2018.



Edna Florence Larsson Brorström's gravestone in Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla, NY.  
July 2018.



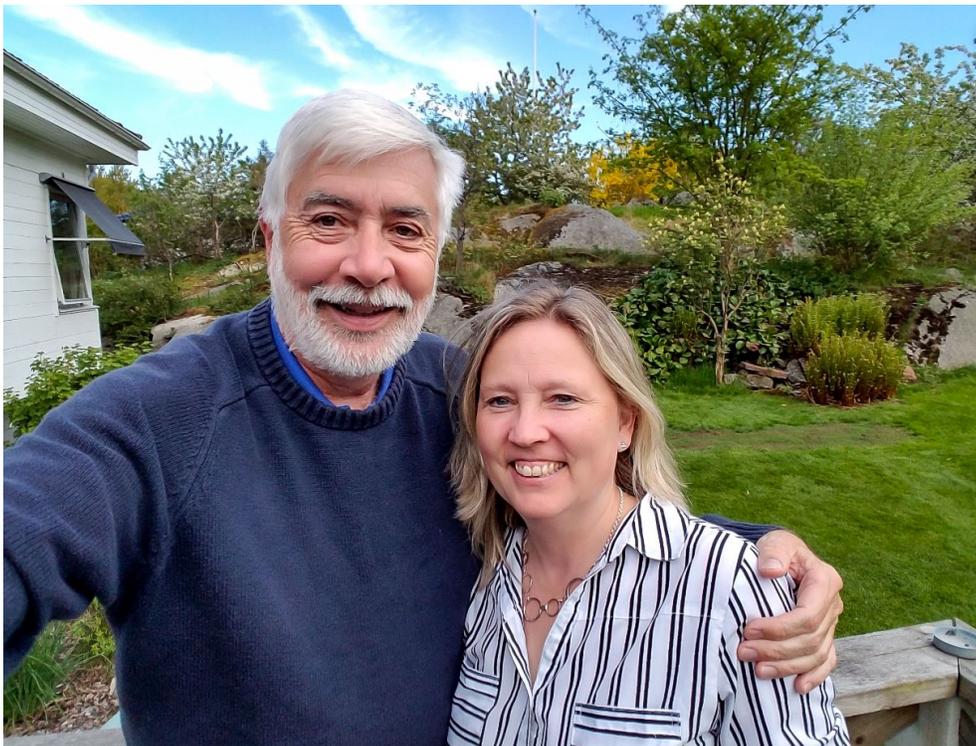
Selfie taken by Burks at the Brorström-Larsson-Nathe family plot in Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla, NY. July 2018.



Gail Thackaberry Cocagne and her husband Ty Cocagne  
February 15, 2017  
[Taken from her Facebook page.]



Burks and Göran in Gothenburg, May 2018.



Burks and Lise-Lotte in Billdal, May 2018.