

The Brorström Family in Sweden

by Burks Oakley II

10 August 2018 [Revised 21 April 2019]

Introduction

My mother's four grandparents were all Swedes who immigrated to America in the 1880's. Their family names were Brorström, Wennström, Larsson, and Larsson (yes, Ida Gustava Larsson married Lars Emil Larsson).

My mother's maiden name was Grace Florence Brorström, and her older brother Paul Thure Brorström Jr. had five children (my first-cousins) having the surname Brorström. I had always assumed that Brorström, Wennström, and Larsson were common Swedish surnames. Boy, was I wrong!

According to Wikipedia, the Swedish website ratsit.se "contains, among other things, the population registration data for all residents in Sweden." When I searched on ratsit.se for the family names of my mother's four Swedish grandparents, I found the number of people in Sweden with each of these surnames:

Wennström – 1,659 people

Larsson – 106,943 people

Brorström – just 28 people

I was prompted to look up the number of people having the Brorström surname after I visited Stockholm in May 2018, when my cousin Gigi Sand (nee Brorström) gave me a printout listing the names of the 28 Brorström adults who live in Sweden. I'm amazed that there are just 28! My cousin Hans Brorström, who was present when Gigi gave me this list, wrote on this printout and indicated the Brorström family members that he knew, including his wife, aunt, and two first-cousins.

Since there are only 28 Brorström adults living in Sweden, I thought I should see if I could figure out if I am related to all of them, and if so, how. In this narrative, I'll try to do just that.

Finding all the Brorström Adults in Sweden

I used ratsit.se to search for all the Brorström adults living in Sweden. The search results listed the names of the 28 Brorströms in order of decreasing age, starting with Gun Ingegärd Kristina Brorström, age 98, and ending with Linda Victoria Brorström, age 17. The following table lists all 28 of them:

Name	Age
Gun Ingegärd Kristina Brorström	98
Ulf Göran Einar Brorström	83
Sven Gustav Roland Brorström	71
Karin Birgitta Brorström	69
Eva Kristina Brorström Lundén	68
Glenn Richard Brorström	68
Björn Magnus Brorström	64
Hans Gunnar Brorström	64
Ing-Britt Elisabeth Brorström	63
Ann Brorström	63
Ingrid Maria Birgitta Brorström	59
Eva Marie Brorström	58
Mats Göran Brorström	57
Kerstin Ingeborg Brorström	56
Bengt Anders Brorström	55
Gunilla Christina Brorström	53
Anna Maria Brorström	41
Magnus Kristian Brorström	36
Sara Elisabeth Brorström	36
Rebecca Chatarina Brorström	34
Oscar Mats Viktor Brorström	32
Fredrik Brorström	30
Josefin Elin Brorström	26
Amanda Frida Magdalena Brorström	25
Alfred Karl Adam Brorström	22
Eric Andreas Brorström	21
Sara Christina Brorström	20
Linda Victoria Brorström	17

OK, that is the 28 Brorström family members.

In the following sections, I'll break up these 28 individuals into family groups.

Families of Hans Brorström and Björn Brorström

Who do I know already? Based on the input from Cousin Hans, as well as the family genealogy on the guttorps.se website¹, I have:

Hans Gunnar Brorström and his wife **Ingrid** Maria Birgitta Brorström.

Hans Brorström's sister Karin **Birgitta** Brorström.

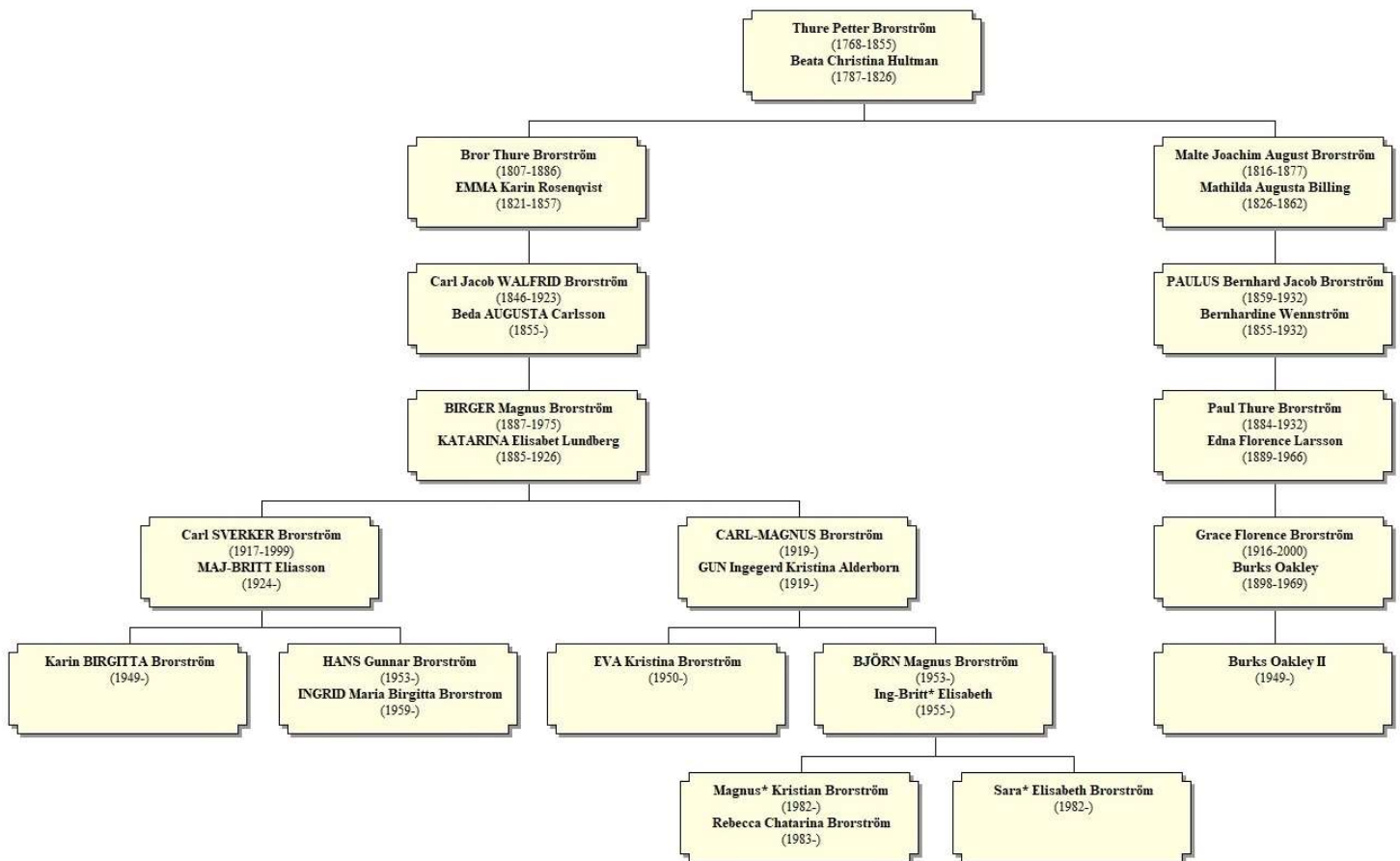
Hans Brorström's first-cousin **Björn** Magnus Brorström and his wife **Ing-Britt** Elisabeth Brorström. I exchanged e-mail with Björn and he said that their two children are twins – **Magnus** Kristian Brorström and **Sara** Elisabeth Brorström. **Rebecca** Chatarina Brorström (age 34) and Magnus Kristian Brorström (age 36) both live at the same address in Göteborg, so it appears that Rebecca is Magnus' wife.

Hans Brorström's aunt Gun Ingegärd Kristina Alderborn Brorström (she is Björn's mother).

Hans Brorström's first-cousin **Eva** Kristina Brorström Lundén (she is Björn's sister).

This amounts to *ten* of the Brorström family members living in Sweden. My relationship with this branch of the Brorström family is shown in the following chart. [Since this chart may not be readable, I will include separate charts for each family line in an appendix.]

¹ The guttorps.se website is maintained by my Swedish cousin Anna Guttorp, who is a Brorström descendant. This site includes the genealogy of the Guttorp and Brorström families, and as of early August 2018, it lists over 110 Brorströms and many more spouses and descendants.



Our Brorström family can trace its roots back to Thure Petter Brorström (1768-1855) and his wife Beata Christina Hultman (1787-1826). This couple were my third-great grandparents, and I saw their graves by the old church in Borrby (in southeast Skåne) when I was in Sweden in May 2018 [see photos in Appendix B]. All the Brorström family members in the chart above who are living in Sweden (close relatives of Hans and Björn) are descended from Bror Thure Brorström (1807-1886), while I am descended from Bror Thure's younger brother Malte Joachim August Brorström (1816-1877). Hans and Björn can trace their branch of the Brorström family back to Bror Thure Brorström through his son Carl Jacob **Walfrid** Brorström (1846-1923) and Walfrid's son **Birger** Magnus Brorström (1887-1975).

I should mention here that Bror Thure Brorström was married three times. He had nine children with his first wife **Emma** Karin Rosenqvist, he had four children with his second wife **Maria** Filippa Carlsson, and he had two children with his third wife Louise Rebecka Grundström – for a total of fifteen children. His third wife was a few months younger than his oldest child from his first marriage.

Family of Ulf Göran Einar Brorström

I next used the guttorps.se website to identify the family of Ulf **Göran** Einar Brorström; he is the second-oldest Brorström family member living in Sweden. His son is **Mats** Göran Brorström and Mats' wife is **Kerstin** Ingeborg Brorström. In turn, their children are **Oscar** Mats Viktor Brorström, **Alfred** Karl Adam Brorström, and **Amanda** Frida Magdalena Brorström. **Josefin** Elin Brorström is Oscar Brorström's wife. I note that the other two daughters of Mats and Kerstin, Emelie and Mathilda, are married and using their new surnames (at least according to Facebook):

Emelie Johanna Victoria Liljeberg
<https://www.facebook.com/emelie.brorstrom>

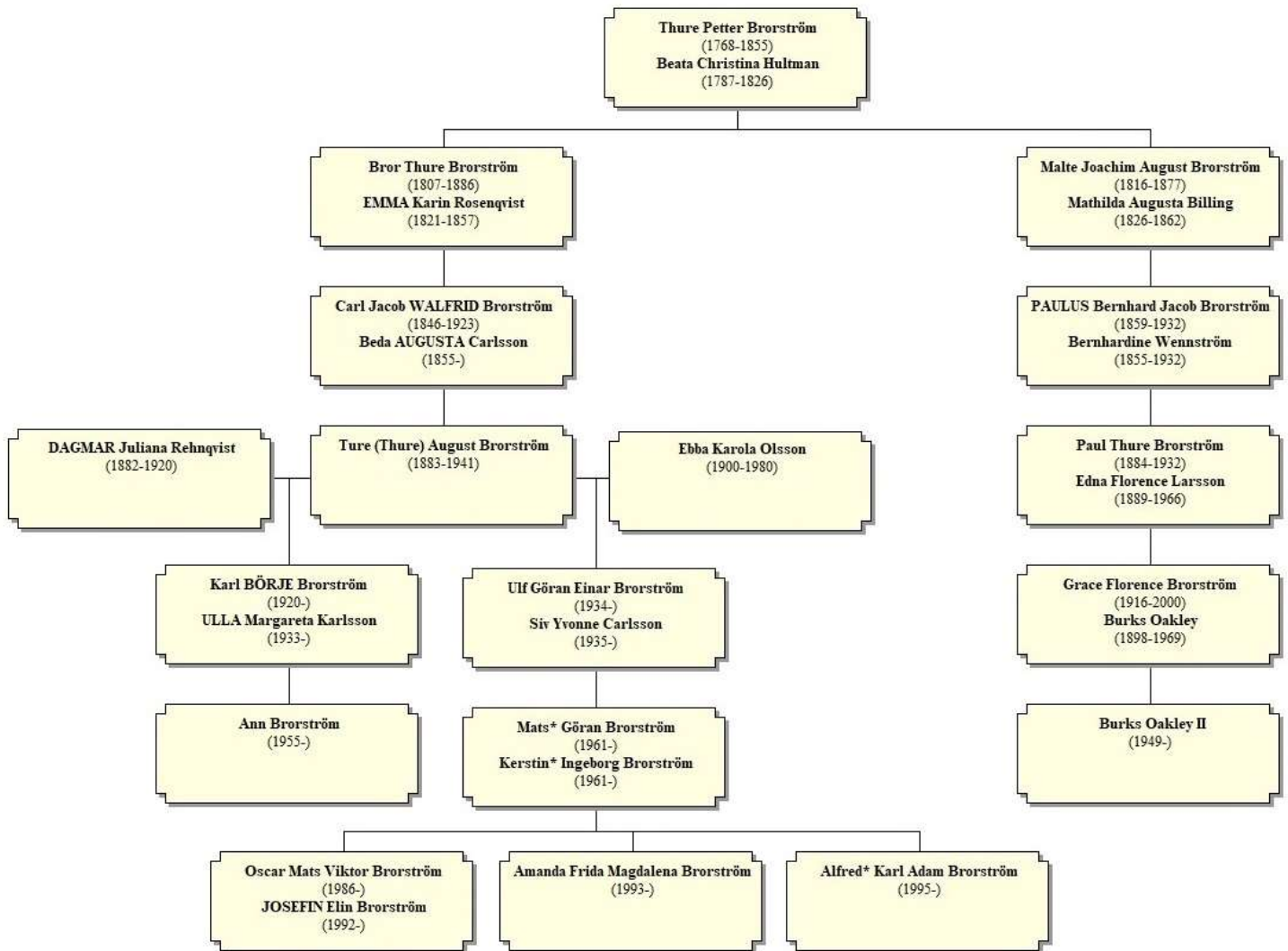
Mathilda Kerstin Karolina Sundberg
<https://www.facebook.com/mathilda.brorstrom>

Wow, this one family accounts for another 7 of the 28 Brorströms listed by ratsit.se:

1. Ulf **Göran** Einar Brorström
2. **Mats** Göran Brorström
3. **Kerstin** Ingeborg Brorström
4. **Oscar** Mats Viktor Brorström
5. **Josefin** Elin Brorström
6. **Alfred** Karl Adam Brorström
7. **Amanda** Frida Magdalena Brorström

I also found Ann Brorström on the guttorps.se website, and I learned that she is Mats' first-cousin. So now we have another **eight** Brorström family members.

My relationship with this branch of the Brorström family is shown in the following chart:



I note that this line of the family also goes back to Bror Thure Brorström (1807-1886) and his son Carl Jacob **Walfrid** Brorström (1846-1923), but through Walfrid's son Thure August Brorström (1883-1941).

Next Steps

At this point, I have found that I am related to 18 of the individuals living in Sweden who have the Brorström surname. This leaves the following ten individuals with the surname Brorström yet to be identified:

Name	Age
Sven Gustav Roland Brorström	71
Glenn Richard Brorström	68
Eva Marie Brorström	58
Bengt Anders Brorström	55
Gunilla Christina Brorström	53
Anna Maria Brorström	41
Fredrik Brorström	30
Eric Andreas Brorström	21
Sara Christina Brorström	20
Linda Victoria Brorström	17

The Anders Brorström Branch of the Family

Bengt **Anders** Brorström (age 55) lives in Fagerfjäll. **Eric** Andreas Brorström (age 21) and Linda Victoria Brorström (age 17) live at the same address in Fagerfjäll. My guess is that Eric and Linda are Anders' children.

Gunilla Christina Brorström (age 53) lives in Göteborg. Sara Christina Brorström (age 20) lives at this same address, so my guess is that they are mother and daughter.

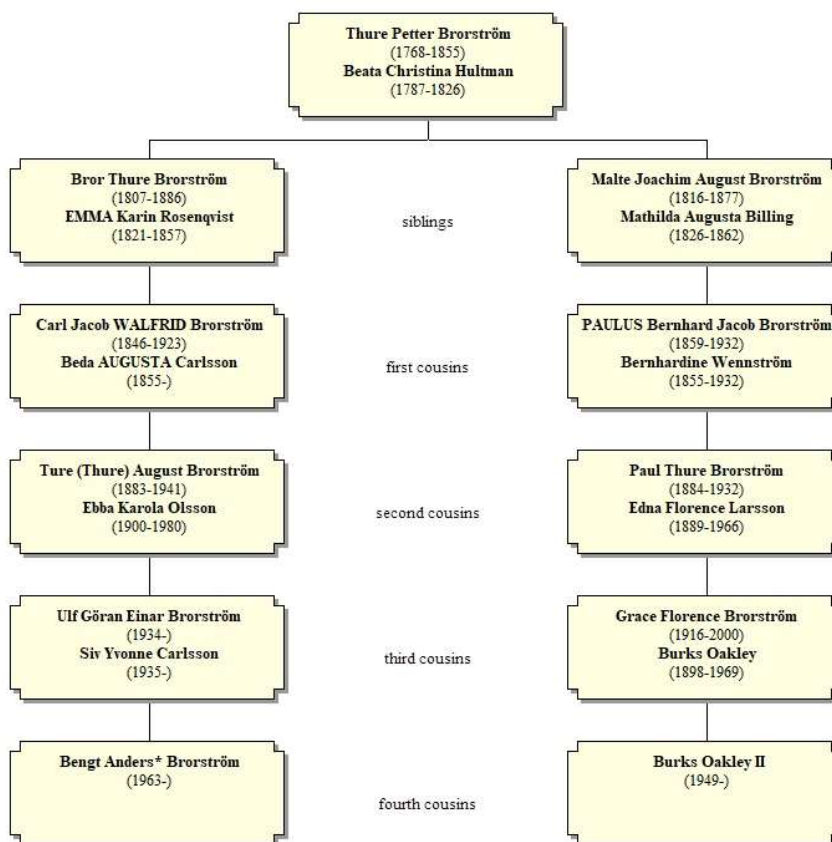
The hitta.se listing for Gunilla Brorström has her work address as Ander's address in Fagerfjäll, so it is likely that the five of them (Anders, Gunilla, Eric, Sara, and Linda) are all in the same family. The ages certainly match up. For now, I'm going to put them all into the same family.

And that turned out to be the right thing to do – I checked on Facebook, and found that Gunilla is indeed married to Anders:

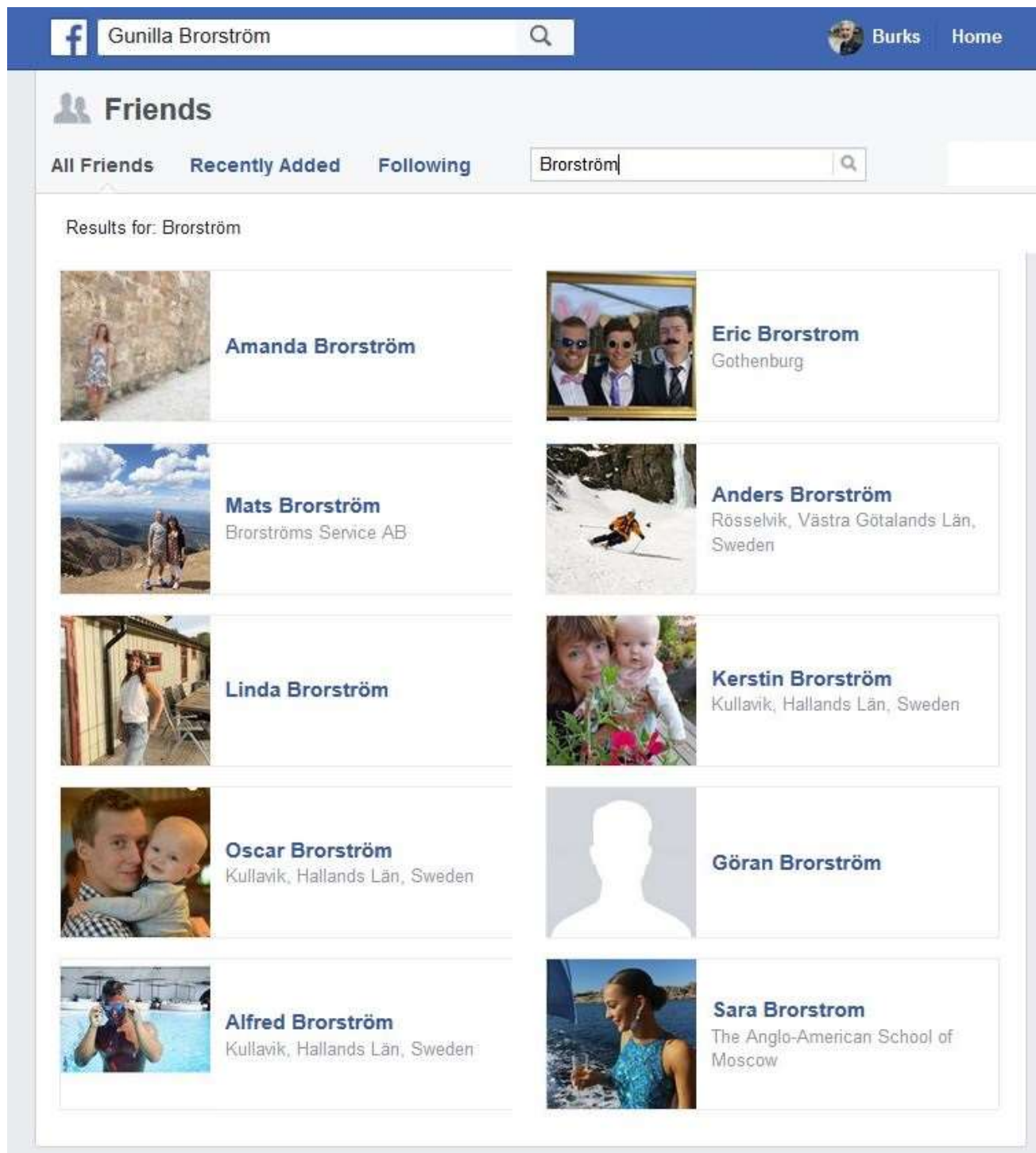


My distant Swedish cousin Lise-Lotte Kolmberger is an expert genealogist. I sent her an e-mail and asked if she could find out how Anders is connected to the Brorström family in Sweden. Within a few days, she replied that she had found that Anders is a son of Ulf **Göran** Einar Brorström, and a younger brother of **Mats** Göran Brorström. Wow, so I am indeed related to Anders and his family.

Here is a chart showing our relationship:



Once again, I should have looked on Facebook sooner. Gunilla is FB friends with many of the people mentioned thus far:



The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook search for 'Brorström'. The search bar at the top contains 'Gunilla Brorström' and a search icon. Below the search bar, the 'Friends' section is active, with tabs for 'All Friends', 'Recently Added', and 'Following'. A search box for 'Brorström' is also present. The results are displayed in a grid of 10 cards, each with a profile picture, name, and location. The results are:

- Amanda Brorström** (Profile picture: A woman in a patterned dress standing in front of a stone wall)
- Eric Brorstrom** (Profile picture: Three men in suits, one with a mustache, one with sunglasses, and one with a pink bunny ear headband; Location: Gothenburg)
- Mats Brorström** (Profile picture: A man and a woman walking on a dirt path; Location: Brorströms Service AB)
- Anders Brorström** (Profile picture: A person skiing on a snowy slope; Location: Rösselvik, Västra Götalands Län, Sweden)
- Linda Brorström** (Profile picture: A woman in a white shirt standing in front of a building)
- Kerstin Brorström** (Profile picture: A woman holding a baby; Location: Kullavik, Hallands Län, Sweden)
- Oscar Brorström** (Profile picture: A man holding a baby; Location: Kullavik, Hallands Län, Sweden)
- Göran Brorström** (Profile picture: A grey silhouette of a person's head and shoulders)
- Alfred Brorström** (Profile picture: A man in a blue shirt holding a camera; Location: Kullavik, Hallands Län, Sweden)
- Sara Brorstrom** (Profile picture: A woman in a blue dress holding a glass; Location: The Anglo-American School of Moscow)

Anders' branch of the family takes care of another five Brorström family members and leaves just five to be identified.

Family of Glenn Richard Brorström

Glenn Richard Brorström (age 68) and Eva Marie Brorström (age 58) have the same address in Limhamn, which is a suburb of Malmö, and my guess is that they are husband and wife.

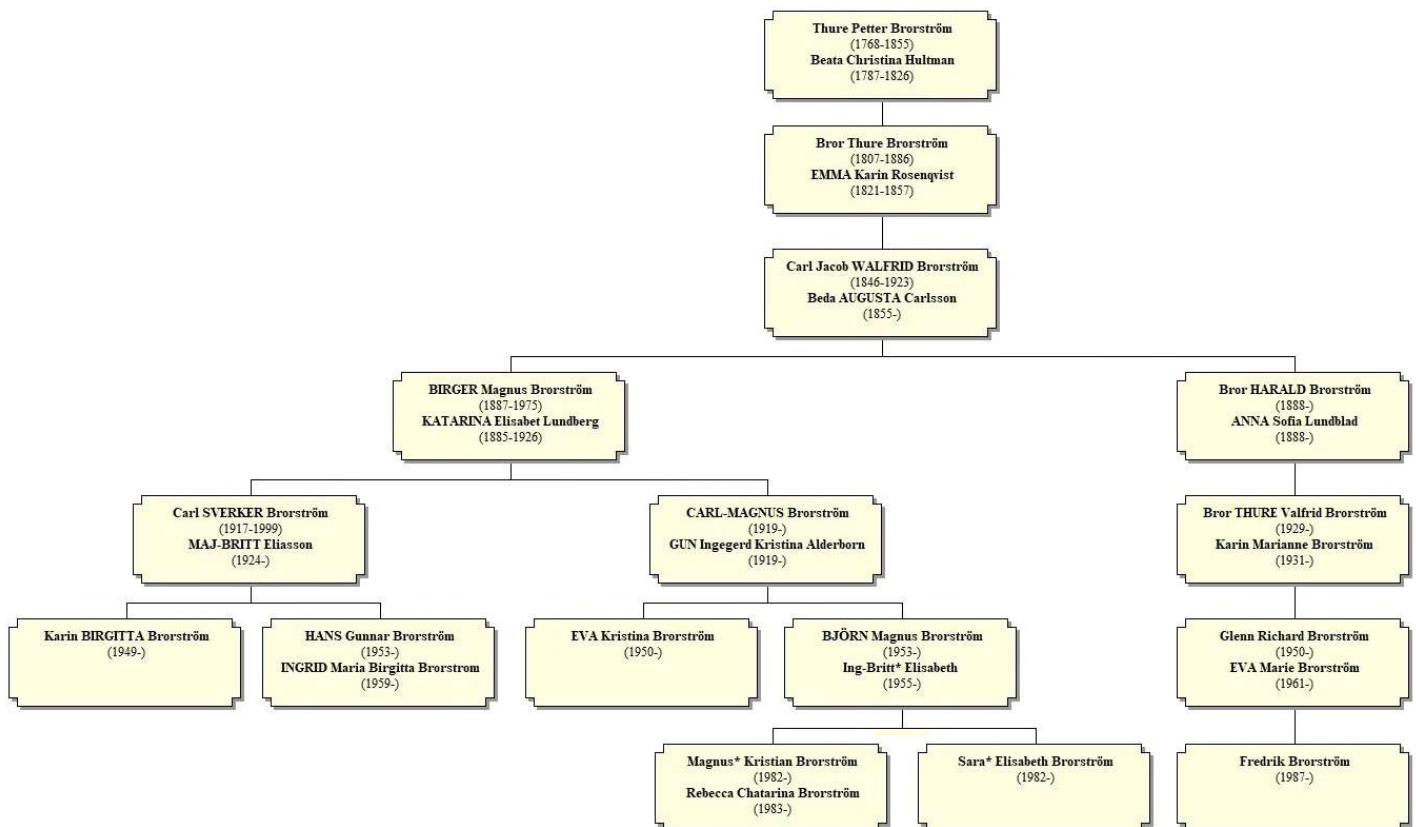
Fredrik Brorström (age 30) lives Lund and is the only Brorström living in that city. Fredrik is on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/fredrik.brorstrom>

His Facebook page states that he went to school in Malmö, so it is quite possible that he is the son of Glenn and Eva. He certainly is the right age.

Glenn's father was Bror Thure Valfrid Brorström (born 28 Feb 1929) in Limhamn. Bror Thure is on guttorps.se; his line also goes back to my 3rd-great grandfather Thure Petter Brorström (1768-1855).

So assuming that Fredrik is Glenn's son, I can expand the first chart to include three more Brorströms (I have omitted my line back to Thure Petter):

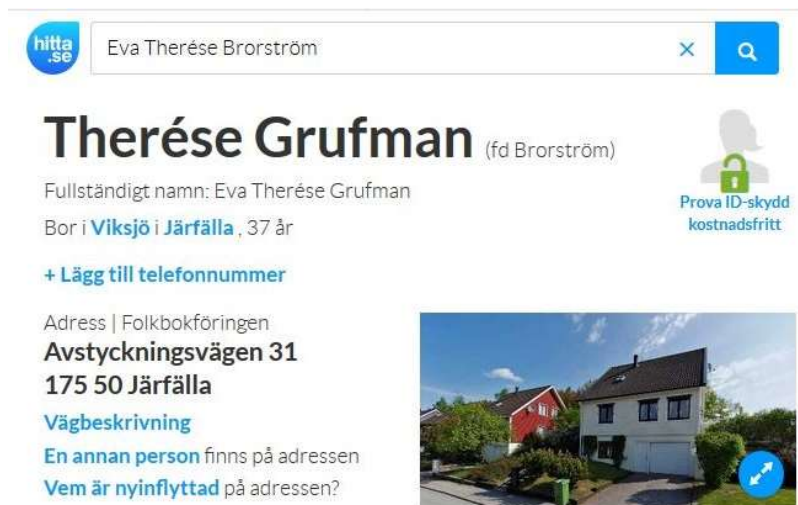


Since this branch adds three more of my relatives living in Sweden who have the Brorström surname, I now have just two who are unknown to me at this point in the narrative.

The Sven Gustav Roland Brorström Branch of the Family

Sven Gustav **Roland** Brorström (age 71) lives in eastern Skåne in the town of Tollarp. Anna **Maria** Brorström (age 41) also lives in Tollarp, but at a different address. Since the population of Tollarp is less than 3500, my guess was that they are father and daughter. When I asked Lise-Lotte Kolmberger about this, she not only confirmed that they are father and daughter, but she also found Roland's wife and another daughter, Eva Therése Brorström (born 1980).

As an aside, Eva Therése Brorström appears on the hitta.se website using her married name of Therése Grufman:



hitta.se Eva Therése Brorström

Therése Grufman (fd Brorström)

Fullständigt namn: Eva Therése Grufman

Bor i **Viksjö** i **Järfälla**, 37 år

+ [Lägg till telefonnummer](#)

Adress | Folkbokföringen
Avstyckningsvägen 31
175 50 Järfälla

[Vägbeskrivning](#)

[En annan person](#) finns på adressen
[Vem är nyinflyttad](#) på adressen?

Prova ID-skydd kostnadsfritt



She lives in Järfälla, a suburb northwest of Stockholm.

But I digress. Let me now get back to Sven Gustav Roland Brorström. I contacted Anna Guttorp via e-mail and asked her if she had any information about him. She responded with the following:

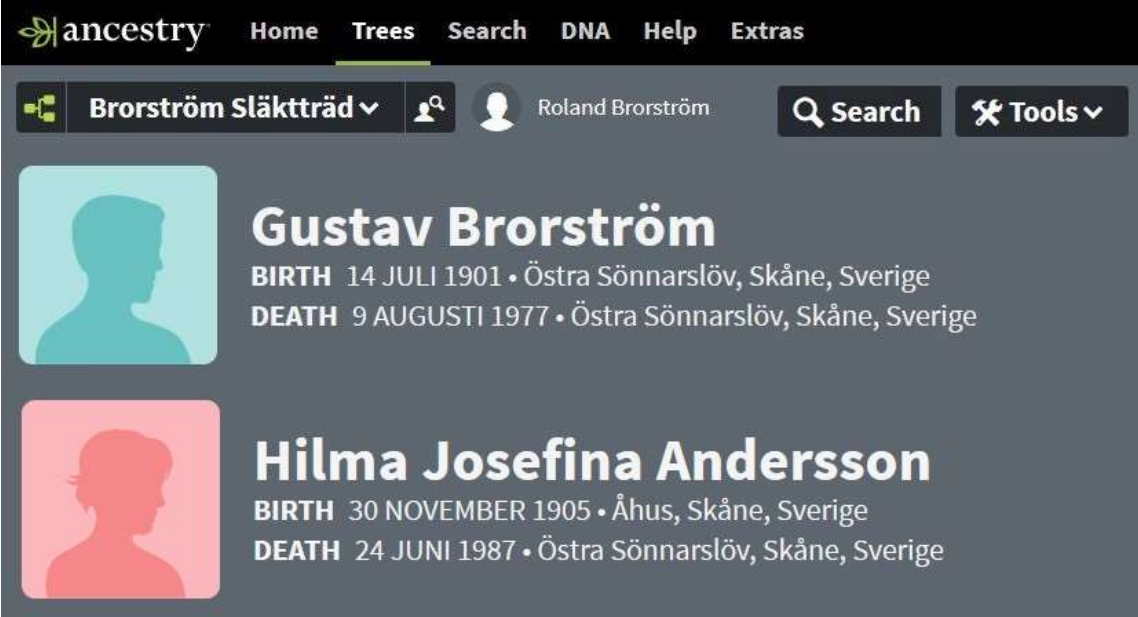
Sven Gustav Roland Brorström – born 27 April 1947

His parents were:

Gustav Brorström – born 14 July 1901

Hilma Josefina Brorström – born 30 November 1905

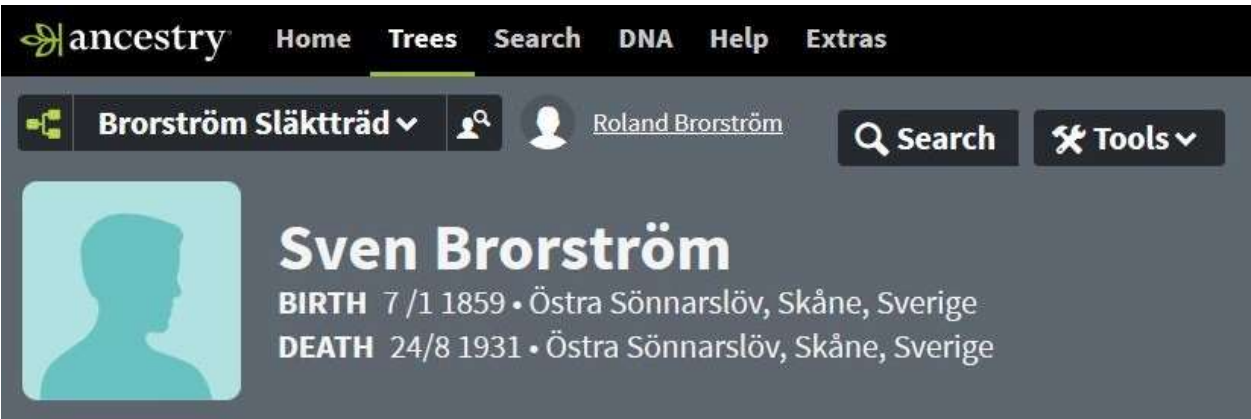
I searched for Gustav Brorström on Ancestry.com, and to my amazement, I found an entry for he and his wife in the **Brorström Släktträd** (Brorström Family Tree) that is managed by Roland Brorström. Oh my! It looks like Sven Gustav Roland Brorström is on Ancestry.com with the username of Roland Brorström.



The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Ancestry logo and links for Home, Trees, Search, DNA, Help, and Extras. Below this, a dark header contains the name of the family tree, 'Brorström Släktträd', a search icon, a user profile icon for 'Roland Brorström', and buttons for 'Search' and 'Tools'. The main content area features two profile cards. The first card is for Gustav Brorström, with a teal silhouette icon. His birth date is 14 JULI 1901 in Östra Sönnarslöv, Skåne, Sverige, and his death date is 9 AUGUSTI 1977 in Östra Sönnarslöv, Skåne, Sverige. The second card is for Hilma Josefina Andersson, with a red silhouette icon. Her birth date is 30 NOVEMBER 1905 in Åhus, Skåne, Sverige, and her death date is 24 JUNI 1987 in Östra Sönnarslöv, Skåne, Sverige.

Gustav Brorström lived all his life in Skåne in the town of Östra Sönnarslöv, and I note that this town is just 7 km from Tollarp, where Roland currently is living.

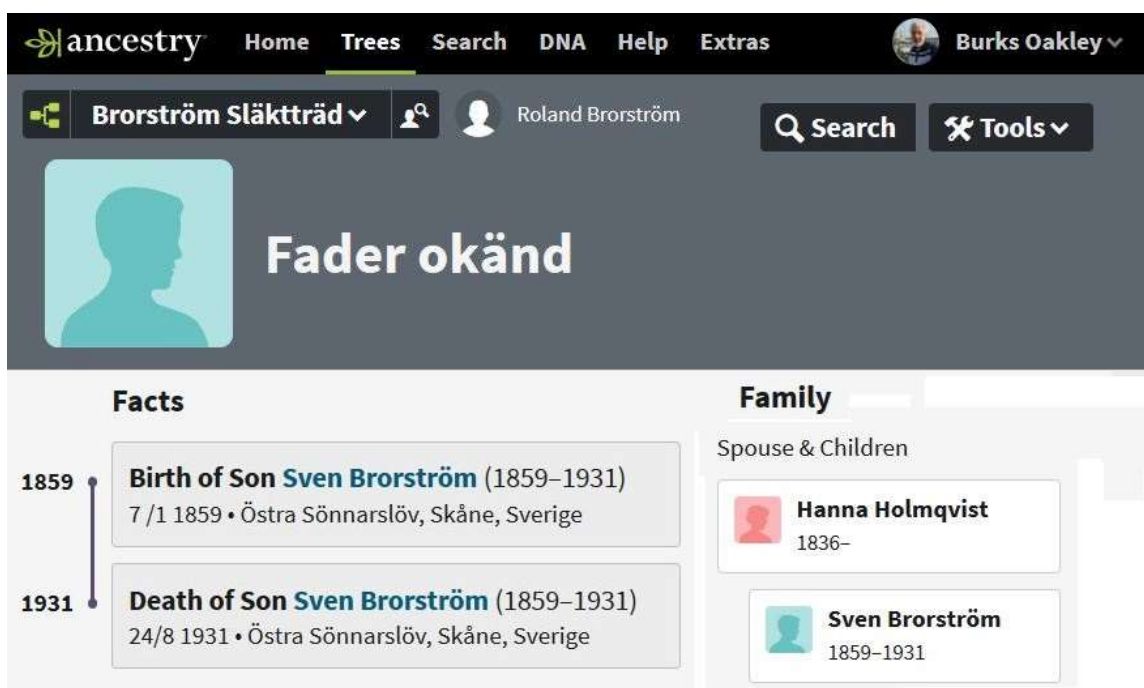
According to this family tree, Gustav Brorström was the son of Sven Brorström (1859-1931):



The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com interface for the profile of Sven Brorström. The navigation bar and header are identical to the previous screenshot. The main content area features a profile card for Sven Brorström, with a teal silhouette icon. His birth date is 7/1 1859 in Östra Sönnarslöv, Skåne, Sverige, and his death date is 24/8 1931 in Östra Sönnarslöv, Skåne, Sverige.

And Sven was the son of

Drum roll, please



ancestry Home Trees Search DNA Help Extras Burks Oakley

Brorström Släkttäd Roland Brorström Search Tools

Fader okänd

Facts

1859 **Birth of Son Sven Brorström** (1859–1931)
7 / 1 1859 • Östra Sönnarslöv, Skåne, Sverige

1931 **Death of Son Sven Brorström** (1859–1931)
24/8 1931 • Östra Sönnarslöv, Skåne, Sverige

Family

Spouse & Children

Hanna Holmqvist
1836–

Sven Brorström
1859–1931

Fader okänd (Father unknown). Darn!! Roland Brorström's family tree does, however, show that Sven Brorström's mother was Hanna Holmqvist (born 1836).

But wait! Lise-Lotte also was able to trace Sven Gustav Roland Brorström back to Sven Brorström (1859-1931). But she found that when he was born in 1859, his given name was Sven Holmqvist, since his mother was Hanna Holmqvist (8 May 1836 - 22 April 1915). Lise-Lotte wrote:

I traced Sven Gustav Roland Brorström back to Hanna Holmqvist. In 1859, she gave birth to Sven Holmqvist, born illegitimate – no father named. She had 2 more children without any fathers.

Sven Holmqvist first married Hanna Nilsson, who died in 1888 at 34 years of age.

In 1890, Sven Holmqvist married his second wife Eva Johnsson and at the same time changed his surname to Brorström. There are no notes whatsoever in the church books about this change. I see no relatives or such surrounding him or his mother with the name Brorström.

Hanna Holmqvist died unmarried on 22 April 1915 in the Östra Sönnarslöv house for the poor.

Maybe his mother told him who his father was and he decided to take the name. [Note – Burks put this in bold for emphasis.]

In Sven Brorström's second marriage to Eva Johnsson, they had seven children and one was Gustav, the father of Sven Gustav Roland Brorström.

In a separate e-mail note about Sven Holmqvist-Brorström's father, Anna speculated that this has to be "a hidden and forgotten story." She concluded her note with "But Sven must be a grandson of Thure Petter Brorström."

In a follow-up e-mail, Anna wrote:

Sven Brorström Holmqvist was born 7 January 1859.

Was Bror Thure Brorström Sven's father? He had no wife 1858. His first wife Emma Karin Rosenqvist died 22 October 1857. He married his second wife Maria Filippa Carlsson 15 February 1859.

Was Malte his father? He was married and had small children 1858. His first wife Boel died in 1853 and he married his second wife Mathilda Augusta in 1855.

If it really was a Brorström that was his father, I think it was Bror Thure.

The story goes on!

Remember Bror Thure Brorström? He was the man with three wives and fifteen children. It is very tempting to speculate that Sven was his sixteenth child. But as of now, it is safe to say that Sven's pedigree is something we just never will know without DNA testing.

Why aren't there more Brorströms in Sweden?

While writing this narrative, I have been thinking to myself "Why aren't there more people named Brorström in Sweden?" And "Why are all the individuals named Brorström all descended from Carl Jacob Walfrid Brorström (1846-1923)?" Hey, everyone has to think about something, right?

And I know that Bror Thure had fifteen children and his father Thure Petter had thirteen children- so where are all the Brorström descendants in Sweden?

The obvious answer, of course, is that most of the Brorström males mostly had daughters, or never married, or died at a young age. Or else they immigrated to America.

It is instructive to look at Thure Petter's first marriage to Hedvig Maria Malmström. They had three daughters and a son. The son, Carl Ture, died before his first birthday. No males to carry on the Brorström family name.

In Thure Petter's second marriage to **Beata** Christina Hultman, they had two daughters and seven sons. We know about Bror Ture and Malte, but that leaves:

- Per Jacob – died at the age of 18
- Carl Oscar – married but no children (according to guttorps.se)
- Mattias Alfred – died at the age of 4 months
- Andreas Mattias Alfred – married but no children (according to guttorps.se)
- Jöns Viktor Constantin – twice married but no children (according to guttorps.se)

Another example is my second-great grandfather, **Malte** Joachim August Brorström (1816-1877). He and his first wife had three daughters. He and his second wife had four sons: Thure Paulus, Carl August (died at age 2), Paulus Bernhard Jacob (my great-grandfather who immigrated to America), and Bror Alfred Constantin (who also immigrated to America). So this just leaves Thure Paulus to have a family in Sweden.

Thure Paulus (1856-1924) had two sons and two daughters. The first son, Thure Malte Vitalis, had a daughter with his first wife, and two daughters with his second wife. No sons!

The second son, **Carl** Alfred Viktor Brorström, had a son and two daughters. The son **Carl Erik** Thure, had a son Rolf Carl Thure (1947-2011), and according to guttorps.se, Rolf Carl never married.

So there you have it. Malte has no descendants with the surname Brorström living in Sweden.

As I noted previously, all of the people with the Brorström name are all descended from Carl Jacob **Walfrid** Brorström (1846-1923). And while I can account for all the other male lines dying out over time, it still strikes me as somewhat strange. Of course, the other thing that hits me when looking at all

this is how many children died in infancy or as children. This emphasizes how very difficult life was for Swedes in the early part of the 19th century.

My Brorström Family in America

The story of my branch of the Brorström family in America is similar to the Brorström family in Sweden. The immigrants Paulus Brorström (1859-1932) and his wife Bernhardine Wennström Brorström (1855-1932) first had two sons, Malte and Paul Thure, and then had five daughters, Ebba, Alice, Lillian, Grace, and Pauline.

Malte and his wife had two pregnancies – the first resulted in a stillbirth, and the second child only lived for a few hours.

The five daughters had children, but of course, none of them had the family name of Brorström.

That left my *morfar* (my mother's father), Paul Thure Brorström Sr., to pass along the Brorström family name in America. He and his wife had three children: Paul Thure Brorström Jr., Grace Florence Brorström, and Ruth Ida Brorström. Of these three children, there was only one son.

Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (my "Uncle Paul") had five children with his wife Harriett: Peter Thure, Elizabeth Ruth, David Arlon, Annmarie, and Susan.

Tragically, David Arlon drowned while still a toddler. The other son, Peter Thure, never married and thus didn't pass along the family name. As a young adult, Peter Thure changed his surname to Larson, so his lack of male offspring really didn't matter.

So in just three generations of this branch of the Brorström family in America, there are no longer any individuals having the family name of Brorström.

Summary

I now know that I definitely am related to 26 of the 28 Brorström family members living in Sweden. My relationship with the remaining two individuals is unknown, and since no father was recorded for Sven, we may never know without DNA testing. But we can speculate that Sven was a grandson of Thure Petter.

But the bottom line is that there is but one extended family in Sweden with the surname Brorström, and I'm related to all of them!!! We all are descended from my third-great grandparents, Thure Petter Brorström (1768-1855) and his wife Beata Christina Hultman (1787-1826).

My known relationship with people in Sweden having the surname Brorström means that all of my Swedish-American Brorström-Wennström cousins also share this special relationship.

It also means that all of my Swedish cousins who are descended from Thure Petter Brorström are also related to all of the people with the Brorström surname mentioned in this narrative. The list of my Swedish cousins includes Gigi Sand, Fredrik Sand, Anna Guttorp, Birgitta Landén, Margaretha Ahlberg, Birgit Tesch, Lisen Tesch, Clara Tesch, and numerous others.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank all of my Swedish cousins who contributed to this narrative:

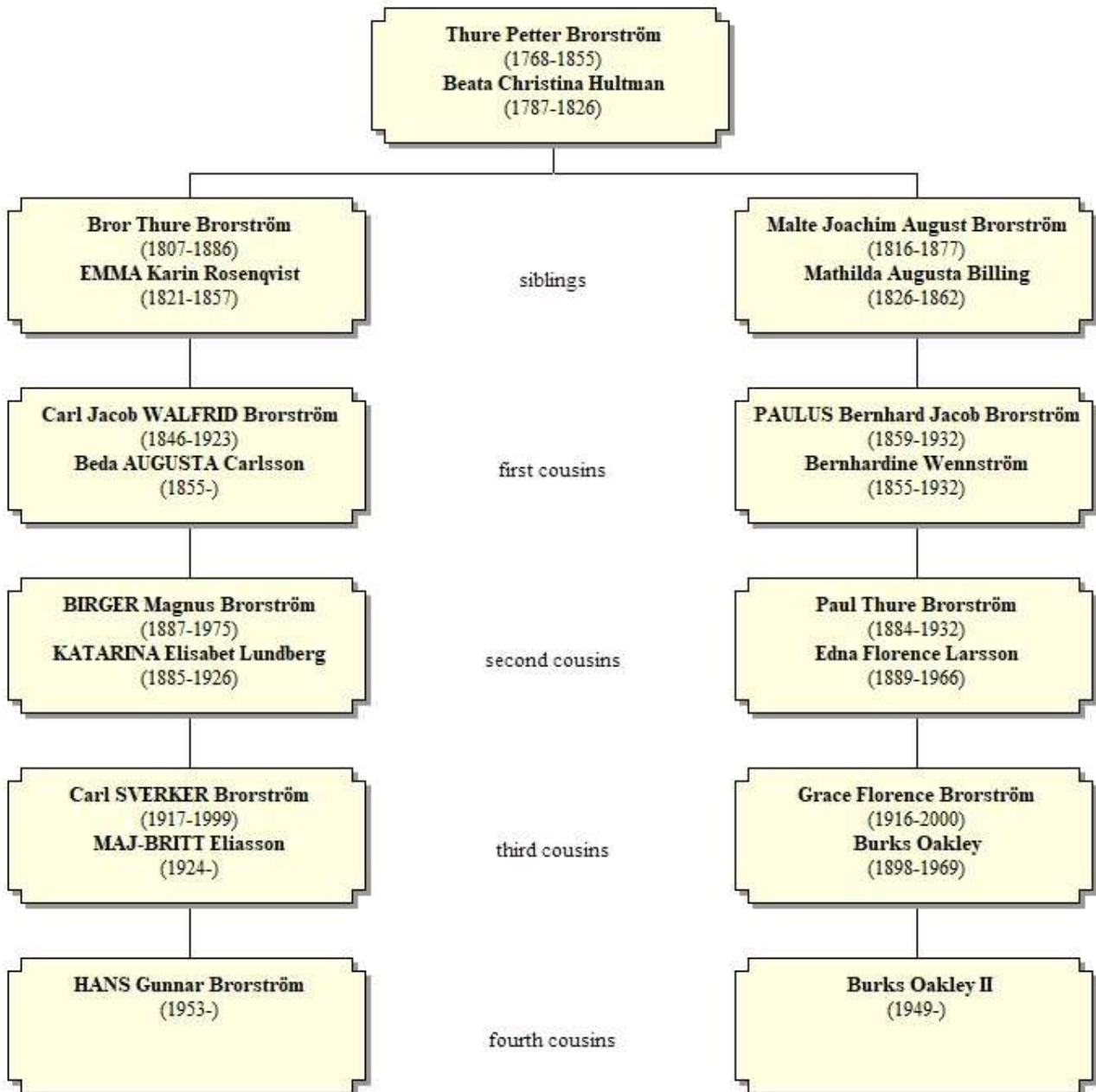
- Gigi Sand
- Hans Brorström
- Anna Guttorp
- Lise-Lotte Kolmberger

I sure couldn't have written this without their input!

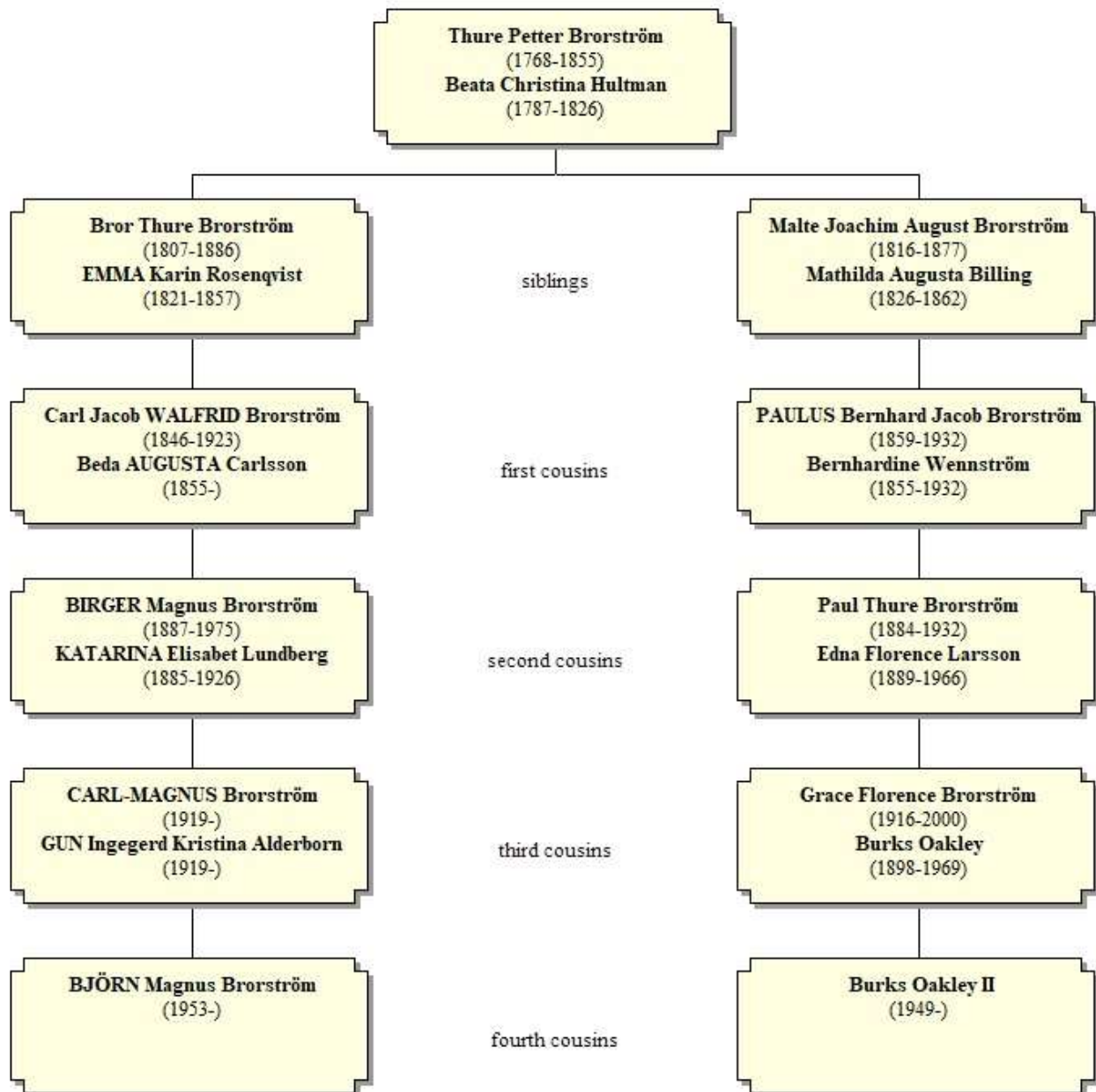
Appendix A

Here are some charts showing my relationship with the various branches of the Brorström family in Sweden.

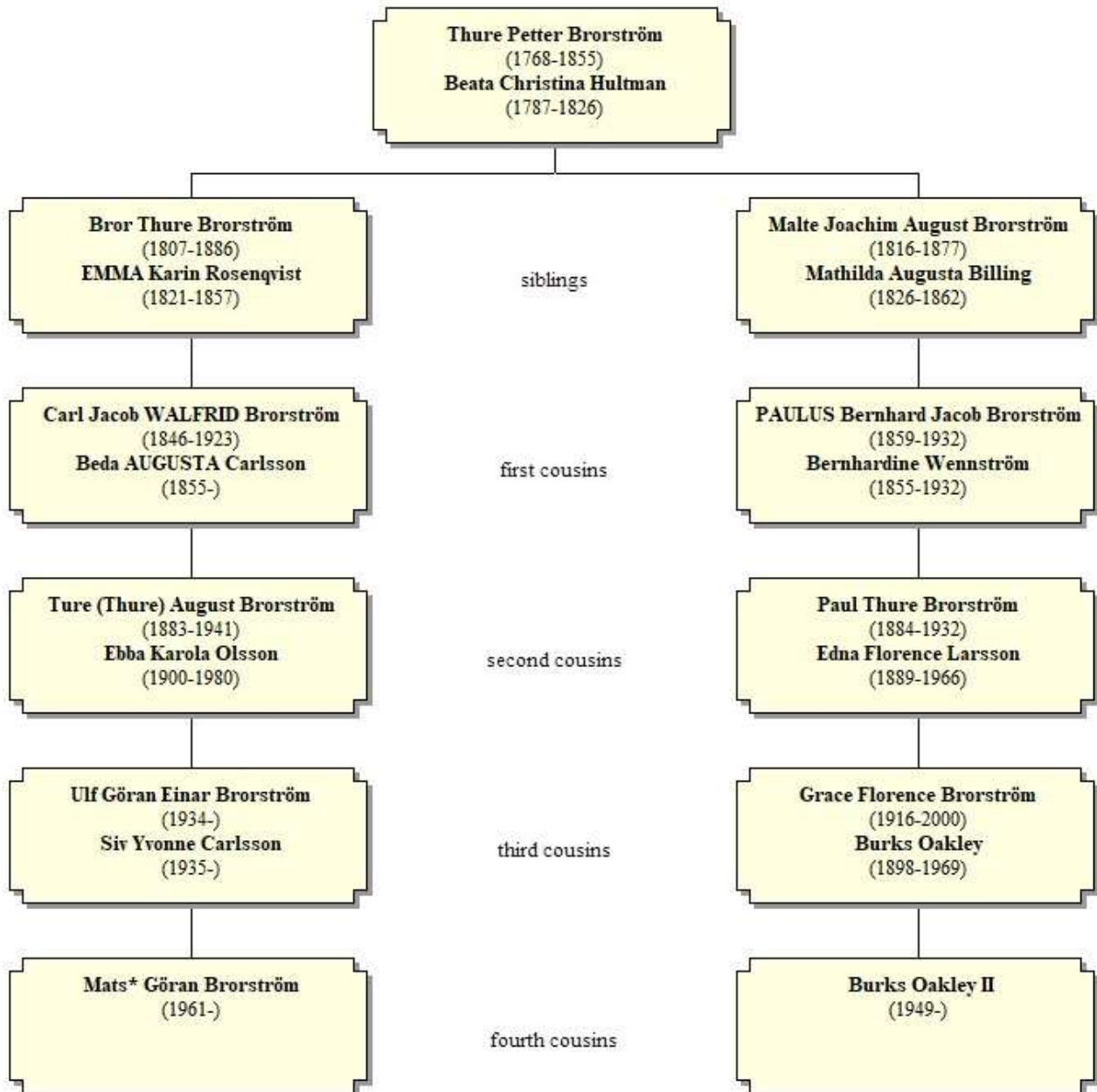
Hans Brorström:



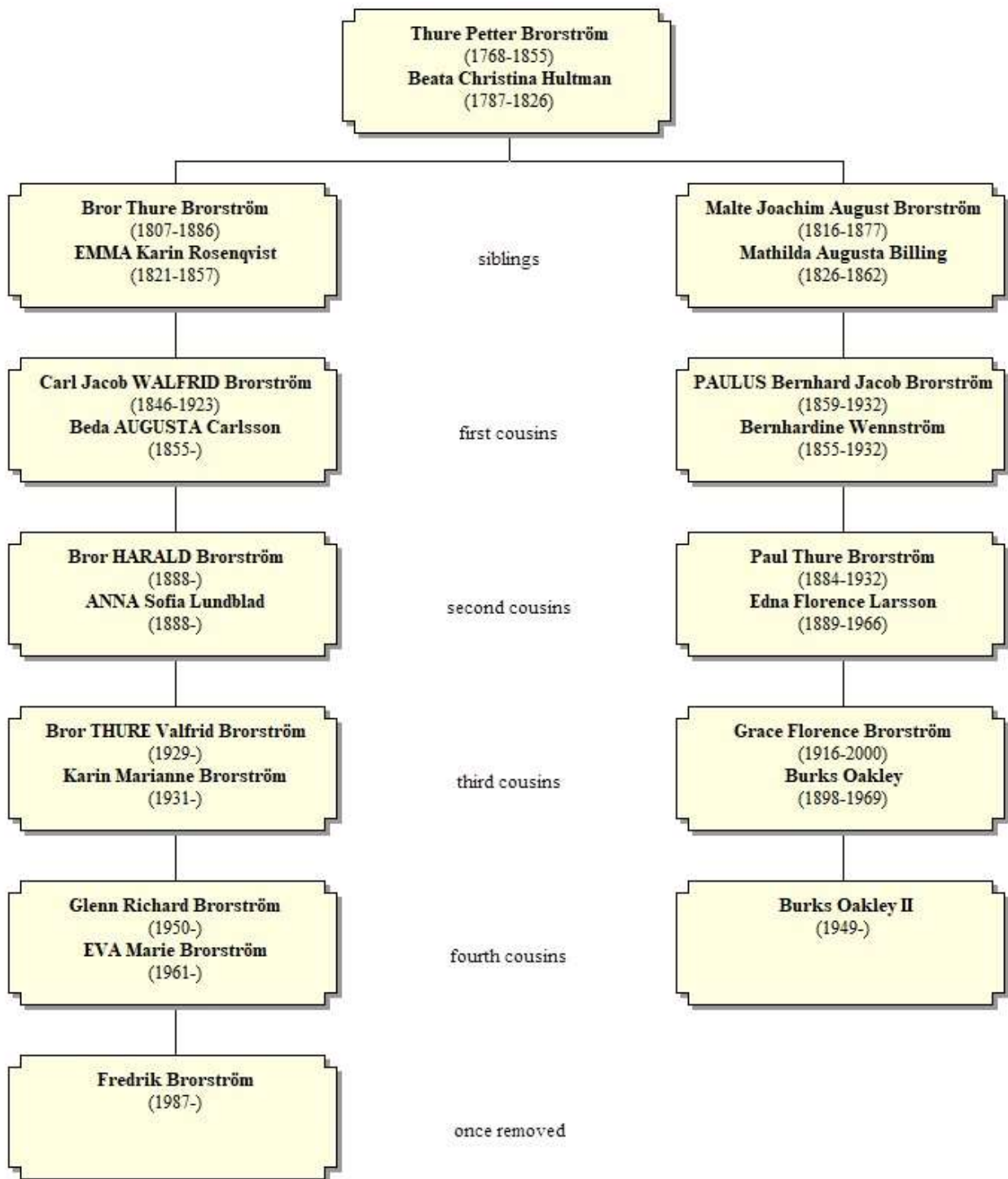
Björn Brorström:



Mats Brorström:

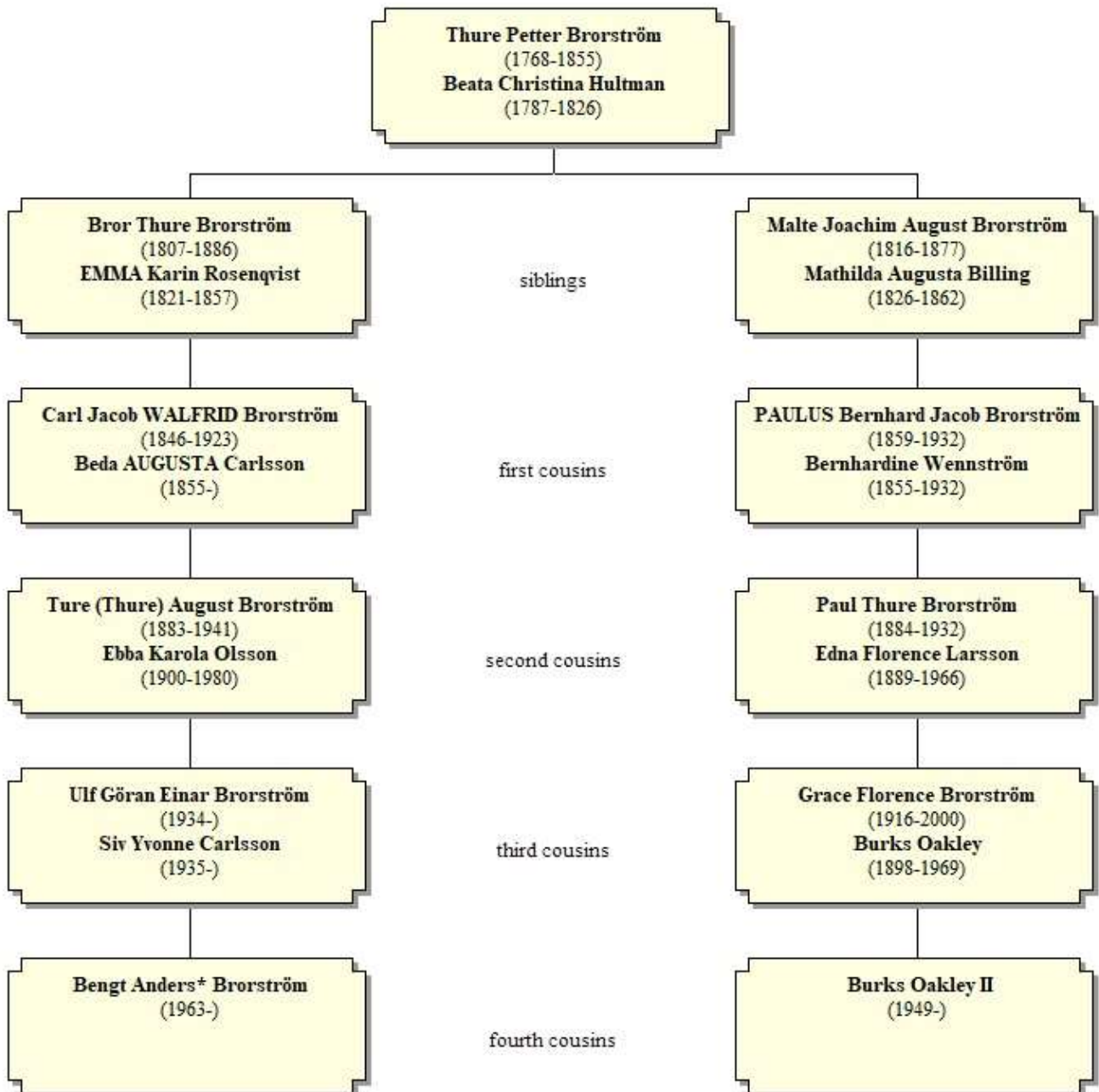


Glenn Richard Brorström and his son Fredrik:



[Note that I have assumed that Fredrik is the son of Glenn Richard.]

Bengt Anders Brorström:



Appendix B:

Here are a few photos of the grave marker of Thure Petter Brorström (1768-1855) and his wife Beata Christina Hultman (1787-1826). They are buried next to the church in Borrby, in southeast Skåne.

