

ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson

Another Link to our Family's Roots in Fjärås, Hallands län, Sverige

By Burks Oakley II
28 March 2019 [Revised 9 June 2019]

This narrative includes DNA connections with:

- Anthony Bosco Jr.
- Kelly Roberts
- Maureen Roberts
- Alexandra Soltis
- Gail Thackaberry
- Tiffany Walsh



Celebrating Midsummer (*Midsommar*) in Sweden

Introduction

My mother was Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000), and all four of her grandparents were Swedes who immigrated to America in the 1880's. My mother's older brother was Paul Thure Brorström Jr. (1913-2001), and three of

his children have their DNA profiles on the Ancestry.com website: Annmarie Brorström, Susan Brorström Baker, and Stuart Eck. I have been examining their DNA matches, realizing that they will have matches with some of our distant Swedish relatives that I don't have.

New Tools from Ancestry.com

In February 2019, Ancestry released beta versions of several new software tools for exploring, organizing, and identifying a user's DNA matches. There are two parts to this software: a new "Matches" interface and a separate feature called ThruLines™, which uses both DNA and family tree information to suggest possible relationships that would account for a user's DNA matches.

I learned about these tools from the noted genetic genealogist, Arthur Sissman.¹ I am indebted to him for showing me exactly what can be done with this new software on the Ancestry.com website.

I began by examining my first-cousin Annmarie's DNA matches on Ancestry.com. I used the "New & Improved DNA Matches" feature for the first time. Ancestry states "If you enable this feature, you can more easily sort, group, and view your DNA matches in any way you'd like." I selected a "filter" that would show all of Annmarie's DNA matches who share a common ancestor with her.

I looked at the resulting list and realized that I recognized most of these individuals from my previous research on our Swedish ancestors. But there were five people I didn't recognize. I should add that I have yet to find a DNA match on Ancestry.com for Annmarie on her mother's side of her family; all the DNA matches I have seen are on her father's side of the family.

Next, I added each of these five individuals to a new group.

¹ Mr. Sissman is the founder and current chair of the DNA SIG for the Collier County Genealogical Society in Florida.

< DNA matches for Annmarie Brorström ▾

Annmarie Brorström's DNA Matches BETA

All matches ▾ Common ancestors ▾ Search

 Maureen Roberts	4th-6th Cousin Shared DNA: 24 cM across 2 segments ⓘ	10 People Common ancestor	★ ● + Add/edit groups
 Tiffany Walsh	5th-8th Cousin Shared DNA: 10 cM across 1 segments ⓘ	321 People Common ancestor	★ ● + Add/edit groups
 Alexandra Soltis	5th-8th Cousin Shared DNA: 9 cM across 1 segments ⓘ	28 People Common ancestor	★ ● + Add/edit groups
 guido548	5th-8th Cousin Shared DNA: 8 cM across 1 segments ⓘ	9 People Common ancestor	★ ● + Add/edit groups
 Kelly Roberts	5th-8th Cousin Shared DNA: 7 cM across 1 segments ⓘ	10 People Common ancestor	★ ● + Add/edit groups

I called this group “Need to work on this one” and tagged each of them with a yellow dot. I selected the name of this group to remind me to go back and look at each of these matches when I had time (but being retired, I have lots of time...).

I continued on looking into all the new software tools. The new “Matches” software on Ancestry.com allowed me to search all of Annmarie’s matches and view just the members of my new “Need to work on this one” group:

< DNA matches for Annmarie Brorström ▾

Annmarie Brorström's DNA Matches BETA

● Need to work on this one ▾ Add a filter ▾ Search

4th Cousin

 Maureen Roberts	4th-6th Cousin Shared DNA: 24 cM across 2 segments ⓘ	10 People Common ancestor	★ ● + Add/edit groups
--	--	-------------------------------------	-----------------------

Distant Cousin

 Tiffany Walsh	5th-8th Cousin Shared DNA: 10 cM across 1 segments ⓘ	321 People Common ancestor	★ ● + Add/edit groups
 Alexandra Soltis	5th-8th Cousin Shared DNA: 9 cM across 1 segments ⓘ	28 People Common ancestor	★ ● + Add/edit groups
 guido548	5th-8th Cousin Shared DNA: 8 cM across 1 segments ⓘ	9 People Common ancestor	★ ● + Add/edit groups
 Kelly Roberts	5th-8th Cousin Shared DNA: 7 cM across 1 segments ⓘ	10 People Common ancestor	★ ● + Add/edit groups

In order to keep trying out the new tools that I learned about from Mr. Sissman, I then selected Maureen Roberts and clicked on the “Common ancestor” link (visible in the screenshot shown on the previous page).

This took me to a new page where I could view the ancestors that Annmarie and Maureen have in common:

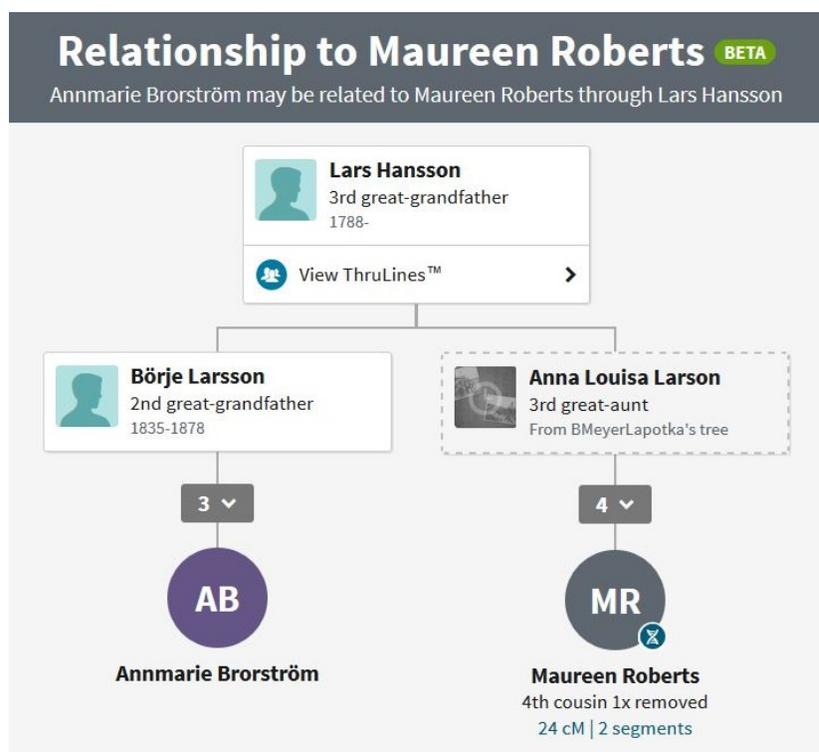
The screenshot displays the AncestryDNA interface. At the top, a box titled "Shared DNA with Maureen Roberts" indicates a "Predicted Relationship: 4th Cousin" with 24 centimorgans of shared DNA across 2 segments. Below this, the "Roberts Family Tree" is previewed, showing 10 people. To the right, the "Common Ancestors" section lists Lars Hansson (3rd Great-grandfather, 1788-) and Anna Börjesdotter (3rd Great-grandmother, 1795-). At the bottom, a "Shared Matches" section highlights a match with "Tygail" (4th Cousin, 39 cM shared) among 6,118 other people. A button to "View all shared matches" is visible in the top right of the matches section.

OMG – Their common ancestors are Lars Hansson (1788-?) and his wife Anna Börjesdotter (1795-?). They were the grandparents of our great-grandfather Lars Emil Larsson (1864-1945), and this family lived in Fjärås, Halland County, Sweden, for many generations. Lars Emil Larsson immigrated to America in 1887.

The screenshot (above) shows that Annmarie and Maureen both have a DNA match with a woman having the username of *Tygail*, who I know is Gail Thackaberry. Gail also is descended from the Larsson family from Fjärås. I wrote about our relationship with her branch of the family earlier:

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

I then clicked on “View Relationship” for Lars Hansson (in the screenshot above), which took me to a new page:



This chart shows that Anmarie and Maureen are both descended from Lars Hansson (1788-?). Anmarie is descended from his son Börje Larsson (1835-1878), while Maureen is descended from Börje's younger sister Anna Louisa Larson (1838-1918).² Note that Anna Louisa changed her surname from Larsdotter to Larson when she immigrated to America.

Let me digress here. Anna Louisa was the daughter of Lars Hansson. She was born on 28 June 1838 in Fjärås, Sweden. She undoubtedly would have had the name Anna Louisa Larsdotter when she was born (using the patronymic naming convention). Indeed, she appears in several trees on Ancestry.com with that name:

Mark Thackaberry Fam... Tree Search Tygail

Anna Louisa Larson (Larsdotter)
BIRTH 30 JUN 1838 (JULY 2) • Fjärås, Halland, Sweden
DEATH JULY 9, 1918 • Chicago

² Lars Hansson was born in 1788. His daughter Anna Louisa Larson was born in 1838, when Lars was 50 years old. Way to go Lars!!

In 2013, my distant Swedish cousin Göran Grotting researched my Swedish ancestors when he was trying to determine how we are related (we are fourth-cousins, once-removed). He sent me a PDF with details about the family of my great-grandfather Lars Emil Larsson (the Swedish immigrant). Here is an excerpt from that document:

Generation II

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).

So indeed, she was named Anna Lovisa Larsdotter, and took the name Anna Louisa Larson when she immigrated to America. OK, now that I have dealt with her name, I'll get back to Annmarie's DNA match with Maureen Roberts – recall that they both are descended from Lars Hansson (note that Lars Hansson is shown in the document from cousin Göran).

I next decided to look at Annmarie's ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson, to see if she has DNA matches with other descendants of Lars Hansson:

ThruLines™ BETA

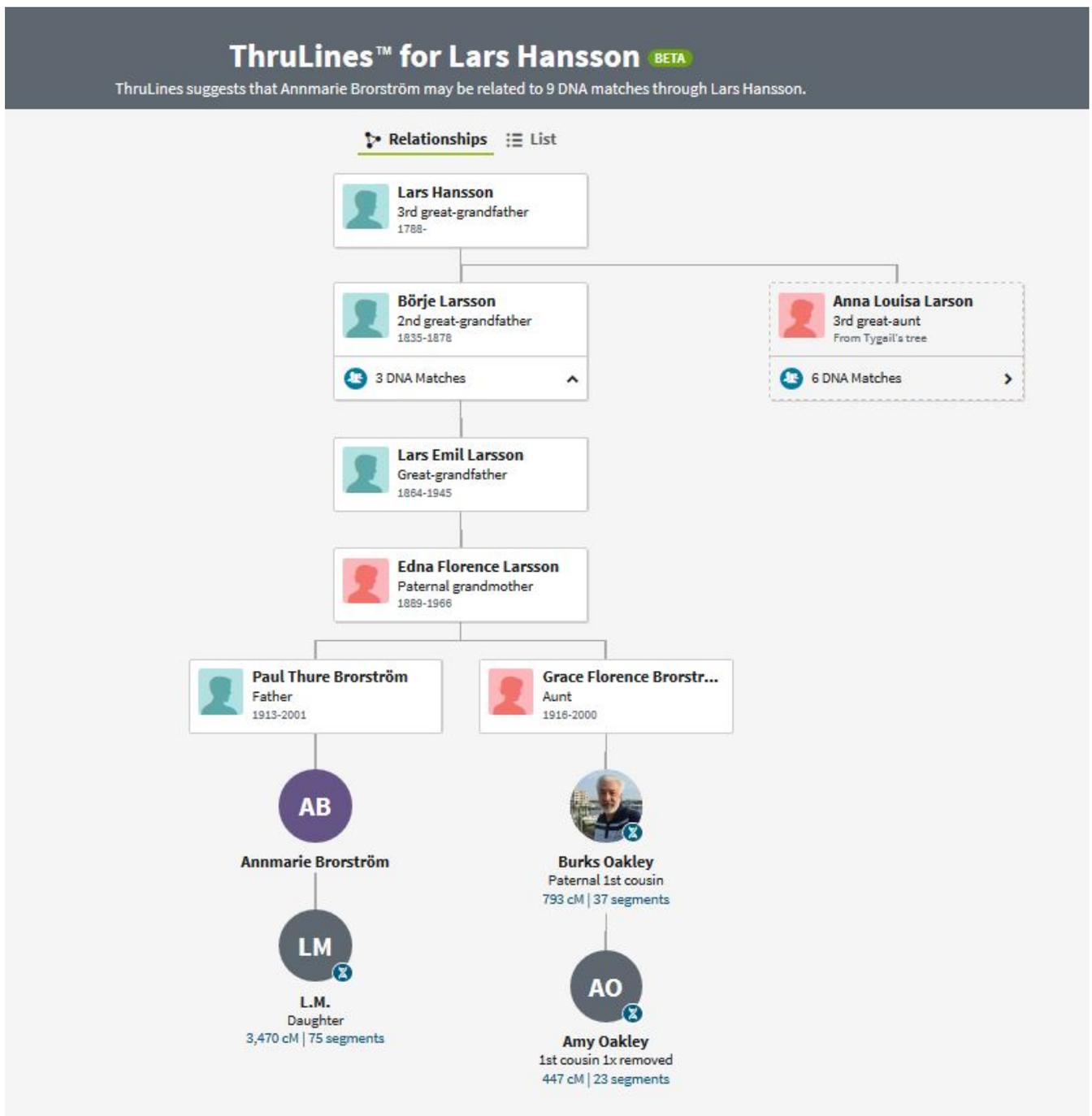
ThruLines suggests how Annmarie Brorström may be related to their DNA matches through these common ancestors.

3rd Great Grandparents

			
<p>Lars Hansson 3rd great-grandfather 1788–</p>	<p>Anna Börjesdotter 3rd great-grandmother 1795–</p>	<p>Anders Hansson 3rd great-grandfather 1816–1848</p>	<p>Anna Kristina Andreasdotter 3rd great-grandmother 1817–</p>

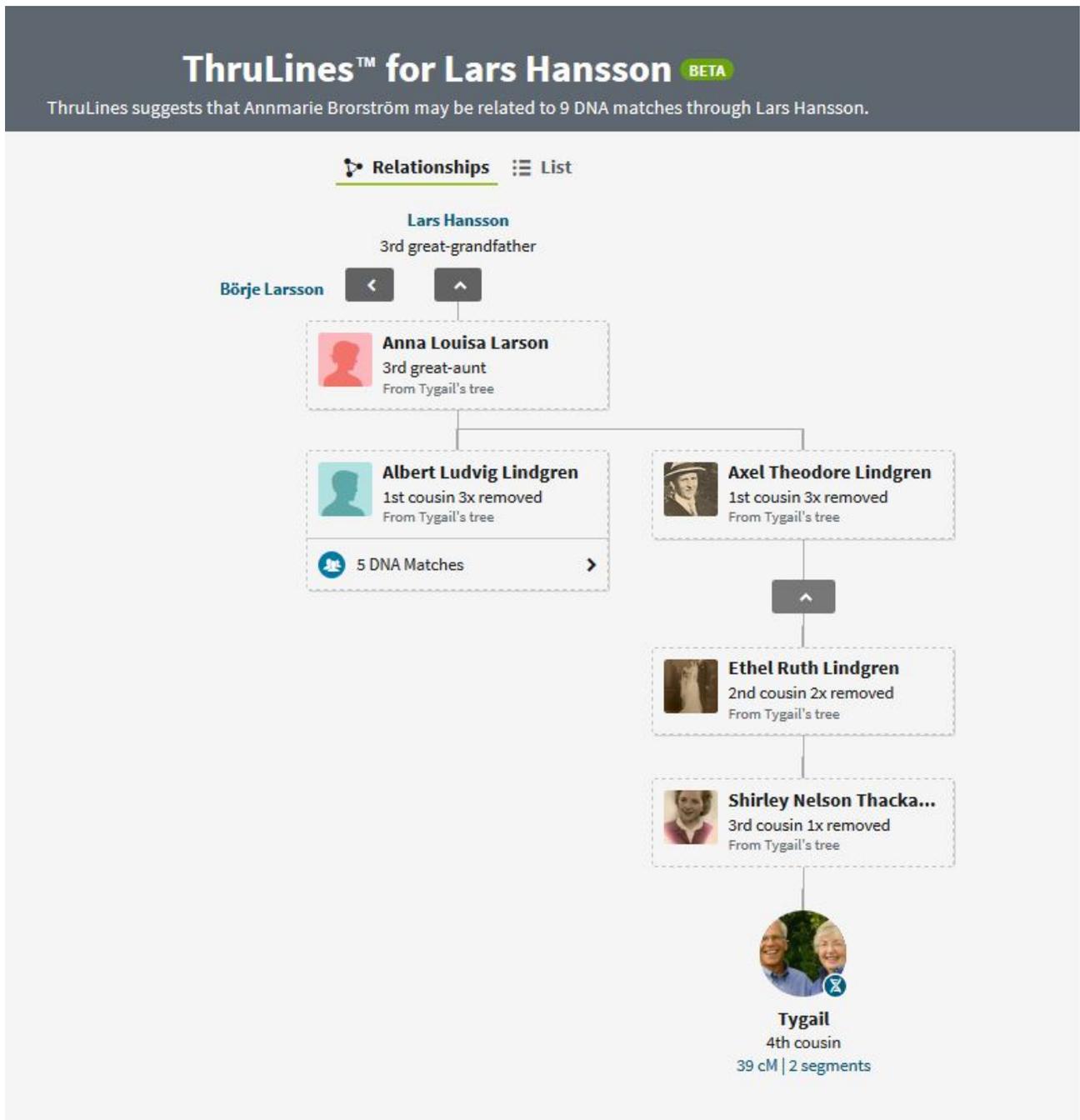
The ThruLines™ software starts with a DNA match between two people and then attempts to construct family trees linking the two people genealogically. The software searches for connections by examining all the family trees on the Ancestry.com website (even those marked Private, provided that they are 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.

Here is part of Annmarie's ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson:



The main branch at the left of this ThruLines™ shows Annmarie's line back to Lars Hansson, which goes through our great-grandfather Lars Emil Larsson. It shows that Annmarie has three DNA matches from this line – with her daughter Lauren Meier (*L.M.*), with me, and with my daughter Amy Oakley.³

I next opened the line at the right (see the ThruLines™ on previous page), which goes through Anna Louisa Larson:



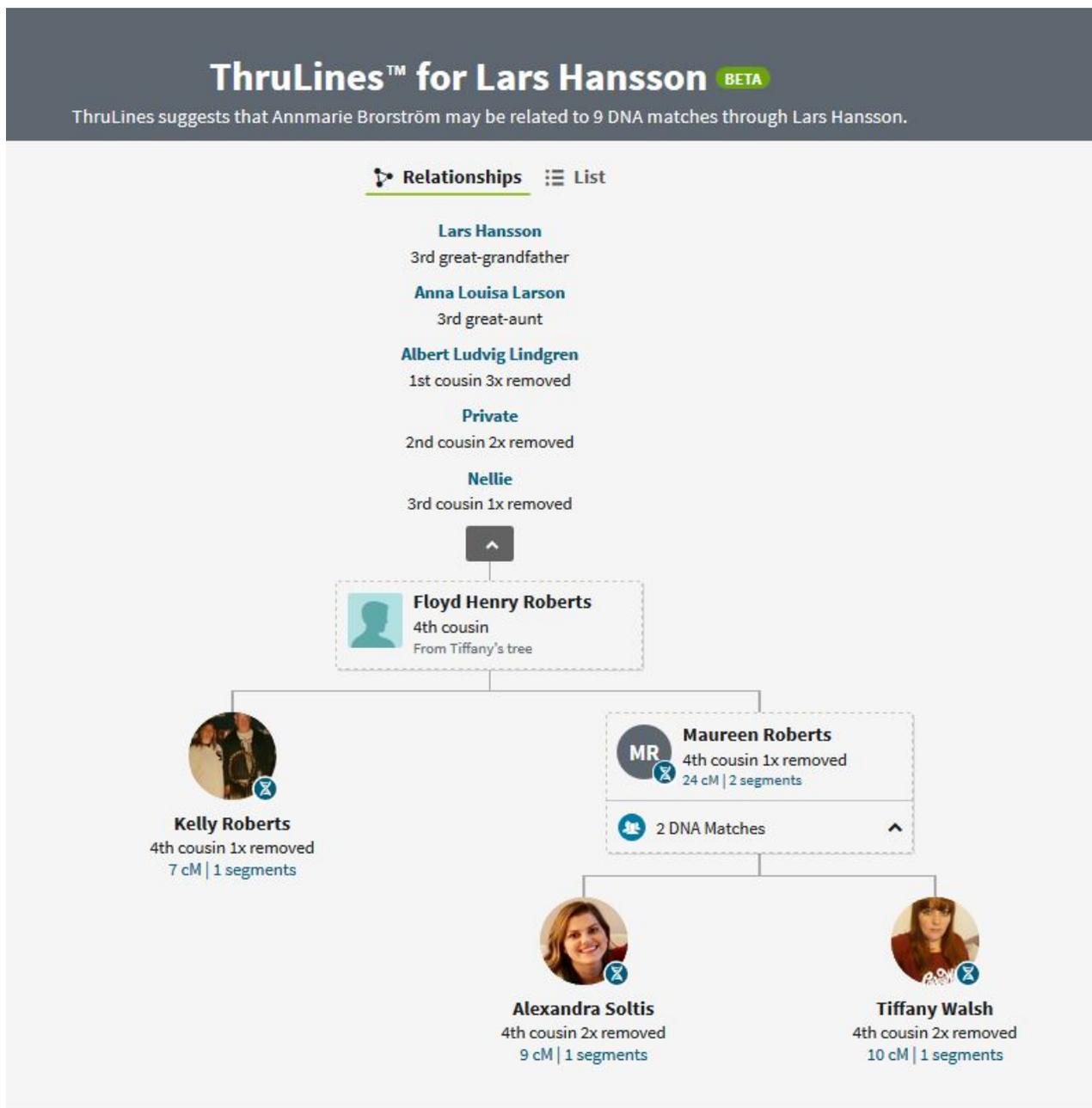
³ Since capturing the screenshot, Annmarie's DNA match with her sister Susan has been added to this branch of the ThruLines™.

The first thing I viewed was a line going to Gail Thackaberry (*Tyggail*) – see previous page. No surprise here. Annmarie and Gail have a DNA match, and Annmarie also has a DNA match with Gail’s late brother Mark Thackaberry. See:

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

Gail’s line to Anna Louisa Larson goes through Anna’s son Axel Theodore Lindgren (1860-1933).

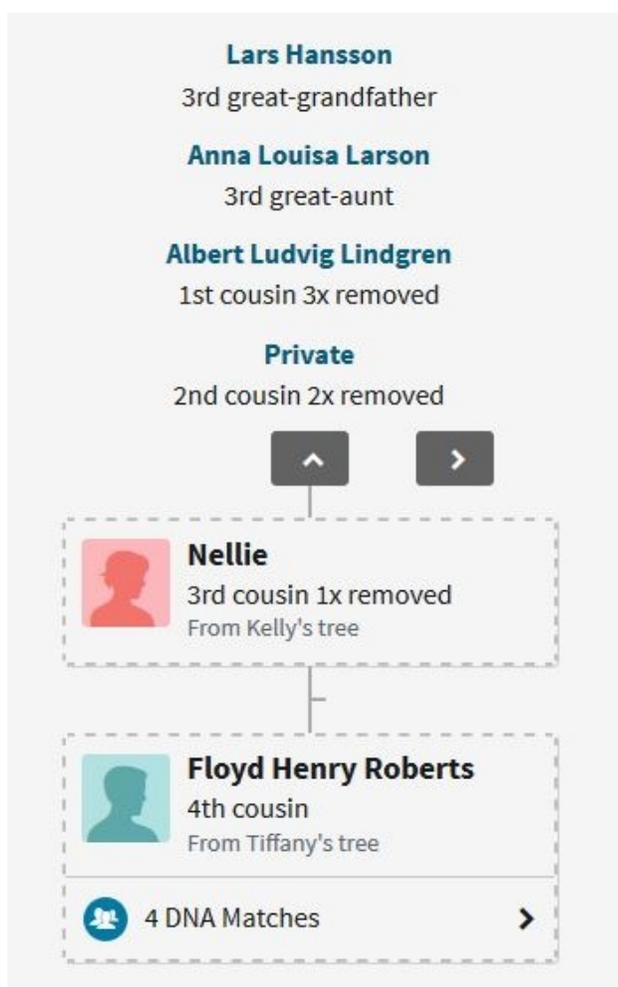
Next, I opened the line connecting through Anna’s other son, Albert Ludvig Lindgren (1857-1934):



OMG – This line brings in three other people from my “Need to work on this one” group. Based on this ThruLines™, Kelly Roberts is Maureen Robert’s sister, and Alexandra Soltis and Tiffany Walsh are Maureen’s daughters.

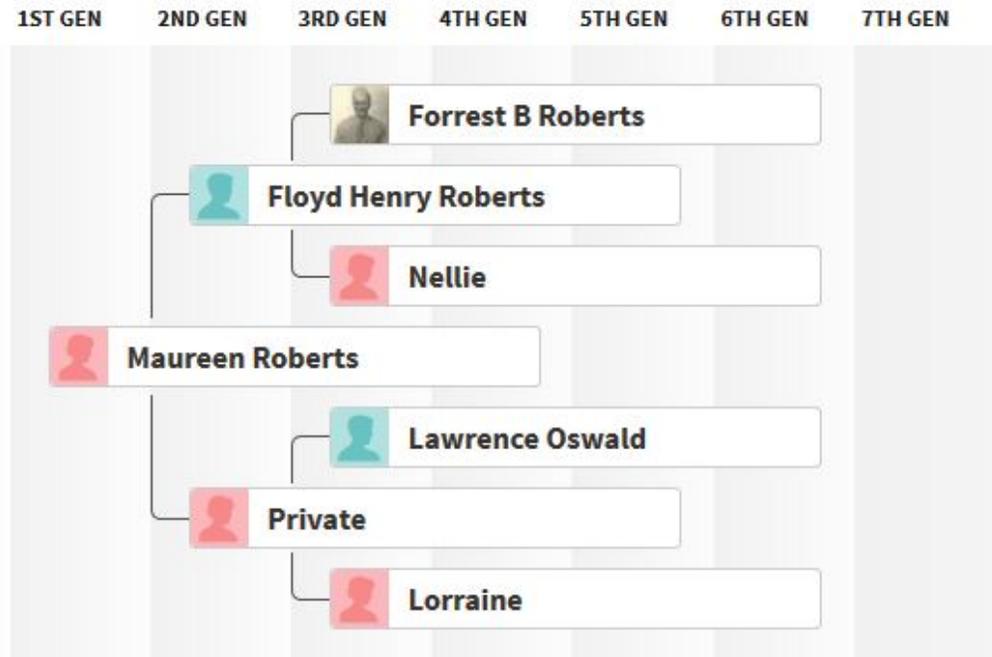
I want to mention the noted genetic genealogist Arthur Sissman again here. In his workshops, he emphasizes over and over again that these ThruLines™ are only suggestions for how people are related. Nothing is proven. These ThruLines™ should serve as starting points for research – not the end points. The ThruLines™ are based on family trees on the Ancestry.com website, which are notorious for having errors.

And in looking at this line from the Roberts family to Lars Hansson, I noted that it goes through “Nellie” (no last name) and her mother, marked “Private”.



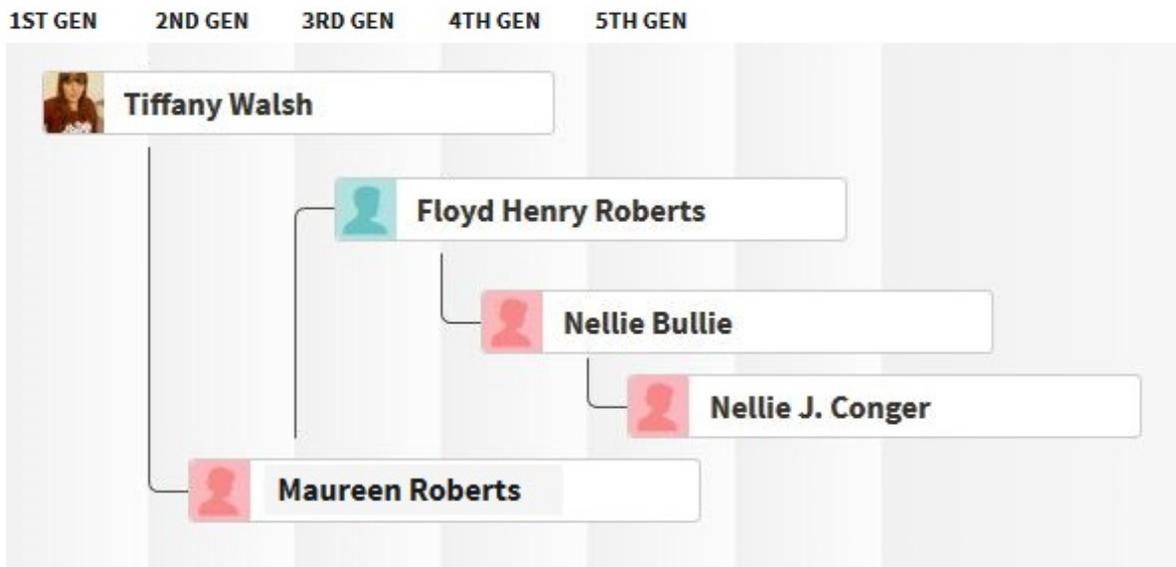
So already I’m skeptical about this line. I clicked on the *Private* word (above) and learned that this person is Mattie May Lundgren, from Chicago.

To examine all this in more detail, I started with Maureen’s pedigree:



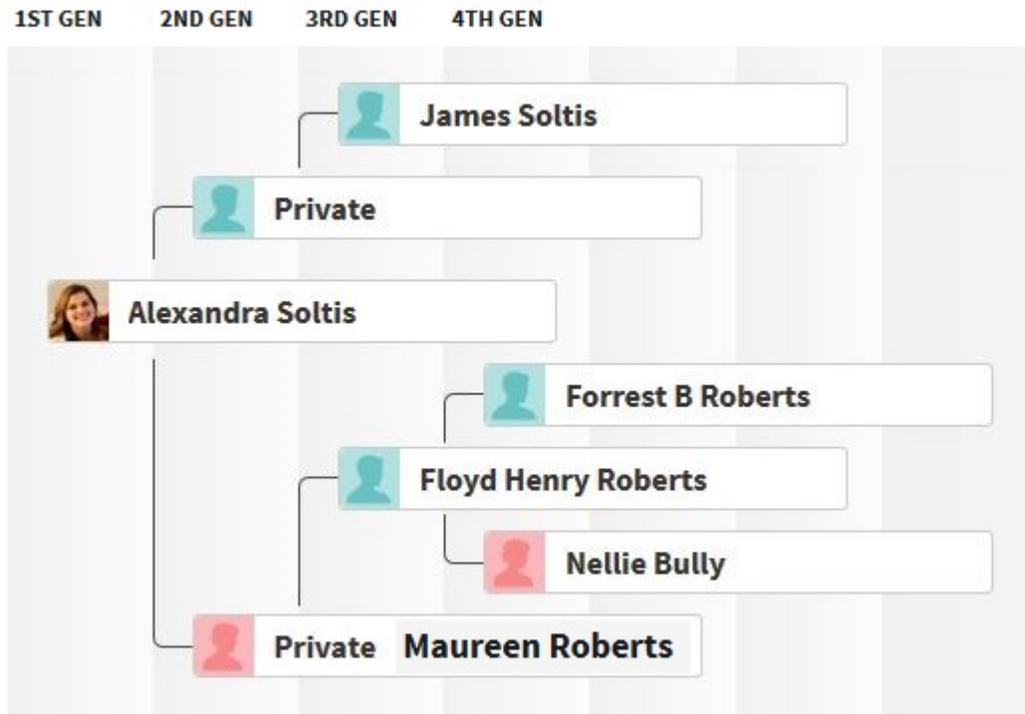
Maureen’s family tree only has her parents and grandparents. It shows her father, Floyd Henry Roberts (1938-2007), and then her paternal grandmother – just the name Nellie, with no other information.

Maureen’s daughters both have trees. Here is Tiffany’s tree:



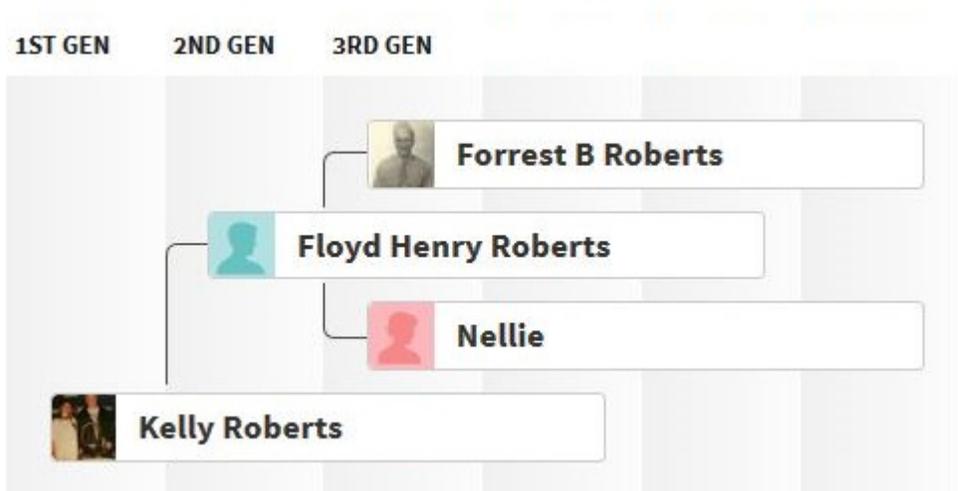
It adds Nellie Bullie (1912-1995), but this has her mother as Nellie J. Conger (1871-1940). That is different than the Mattie May Lundgren in the ThruLines™. See what I mean about potential problems with family trees?

Here is Alexandra's tree:



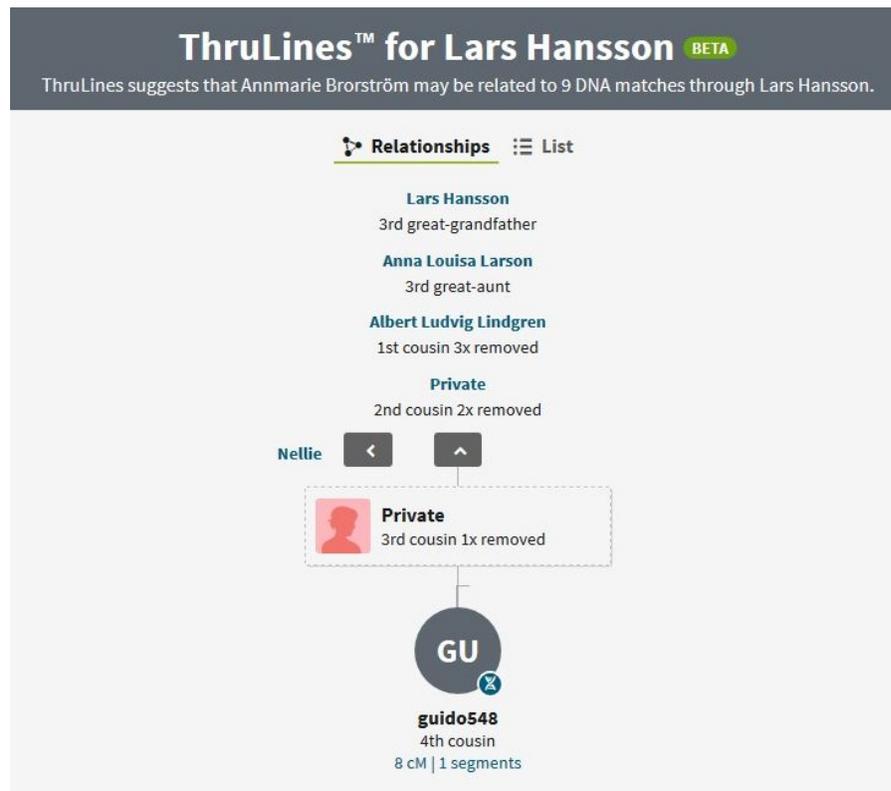
This tree has Floyd H. Roberts' mother as Nellie Bully (not Bullie) but doesn't have any other information.

For completeness, here is Kelly Roberts' tree:



This one just has "Nellie" with no other information. At this point, I didn't have a clue how the ThruLines™ software got from Nellie back to Lars Hansson. I'll come back to this later in this narrative. Let's just say that I'm skeptical of this path constructed by the ThruLines™ software.

I need to mention that there is one more connection in this ThruLines™. This line goes through Albert Ludvig Lindgren to a man having the username of **guido548**:



Oh my! This person is the fifth individual in my new group “Need to work on this one”. So all five of the people in this group are in Anmarie’s ThruLines™ for Lars Hansson.

In this line, **guido548**’s mother is living, so her box is marked Private. But the next person in this line is also marked Private. This is the box for Mattie May Lundgren.

Contact this member for more information

 [guido548](#) has chosen to not make this tree publicly viewable. Click the "Contact guido548" button below to contact the tree owner using Ancestry’s anonymous Connection Service.

This private tree contains information about:

Mattie May Lundgren

Born: Chicago, Cook, Illinois, USA

You will also find attached to this person

9 people in this member tree

Contact guido548

This gives me more cause for being skeptical. Albert Ludvig LINDGREN's daughter is listed as Mattie May LUNDGREN in this family tree. This is a totally different family name. And the connection to Maureen, Kelly, Alexandra, Tiffany, and **guido548** all depend on this one person from a private tree with a surname that doesn't make sense. And no birth year is provided for Mattie May Lundgren. I'm even more skeptical.

I searched for Mattie May Lundgren in family trees on Ancestry.com and didn't find anything. Nobody by this name who was born in Chicago (or anywhere else) appears in any tree on Ancestry.

Being persistent, I decided to try this the other way – working down the line from Albert Ludvig Lindgren, realizing that Nellie Bullie has to be his granddaughter, if all this is true. I found Albert Ludvig Lindgren in **Tygail's** Nelson Family Tree, and oh my! Albert Ludvig had a daughter Mattie Mae Lindgren (1894-1979), who was born in Chicago:

The screenshot shows a profile for Mattie Mae Lindgren on the Nelson Family Tree. The profile includes her name, birth date (12 FEB 1894) and location (Chicago, Cook, Illinois), and death date (3 SEP 1979) and location (Chicago, Cook, Illinois, United States). Under the 'Family' section, her parents are listed as Albert Ludvig Lindgren (1858-1910) and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Volk / Valk (1862-). Under the 'Spouse & Children' section, her spouse is John Henry Bullie (1892-1966). Her children are listed as Elizabeth Bullie (1915-), Nellie Josephine Bullie (1916-2001), Katherine Margaret Bullie (1921-1996), and three children whose profiles are marked as 'Private'.

And Mattie Mae had a daughter named Nellie Josephine Bullie (1916-2001). This is the connection!!

And Nellie Bullie had a son named Floyd H. Roberts (1938-2007):

The screenshot shows a family tree profile for Nellie Josephine Bullie. At the top, it says "Nelson Family Tree" and "Tree Search" with a search icon. The profile name is "Nellie Josephine Bullie". Her birth information is "BIRTH 28 SEP 1916 • Cook County, IL" and her death information is "DEATH 11 MAR 2001 • Kankakee, Kankakee, Illinois, USA". Below the profile, there are two sections: "Family" and "Spouse & Children".

Family

Parents

- John Henry Bullie 1892-1966
- Mattie Mae Lindgren 1894-1979

Spouse & Children

- Forrest Bernie Roberts 1913-1945
- Mary Ann Roberts 1924-2010
- Barbara Ann Roberts 1933-1979
- Forrest Bernie Roberts 1934-2017
- Floyd H Roberts 1938-2007

Tygail's Nelson Family Tree has a great deal of supporting records and documents, so I'm inclined think that it is legitimate. It is well researched. This tree certainly would explain the DNA connection that Annmarie has with the Albert Ludvig Lindgren line, including Maureen Roberts, her sister Kelly Roberts, and her daughters Alexandra Soltis and Tiffany Walsh. As well as with **guido548**.

I also found that Annmarie and Gail Thackaberry have shared DNA matches with Susan Baker, Stuart Eck, Robert Baker, Robert Bergmark, and Maureen Roberts, and all of these people can trace their family trees to the Larsson family in Fjärås, Sweden.

I'm amazed that the ThruLines™ software figured out that the Mattie May Lundgren in **guido548's** tree is the same person as the Mattie Mae Lindgren in Gail Thackaberry's Nelson Family Tree. Somehow all this has to involve artificial intelligence (AI).

After learning about all of this, I contacted ***guido548*** using the Ancestry.com message system. He responded in a few hours. His name is Anthony “Tony” Bosco Jr. He wrote:

Hi Burks! My name is Tony (Anthony Jr) Bosco. Mattie Mae Lindgren was my grandmother. Mattie was married to Henry Bullie. My mother was Dorothy Bullie. I hope this helps you. If you have any more questions let me know and I will try to help. Good luck.

Having looked into all this, I conclude that the various lines involving Anna Louisa’s son Albert Ludvig Lindgren are strongly supported by the DNA matches.

Conclusion

In this narrative, I have documented my cousin Annmarie’s DNA matches with individuals who are descended from our third-great grandfather, Lars Hansson (1788-?). The new software tools on the Ancestry.com website were invaluable in identifying the genealogical connections between all these individuals. Although I previously knew about the line to Gail Thackaberry going back to Anna Louisa Larson’s son Axel Theodore Lindgren, the line through Anna’s son Albert Ludvig Lindgren was completely new to me – and it connects us to Maureen Roberts, her sister Kelly Roberts, her daughters Alexandra Soltis and Tiffany Walsh, and also to Anthony Bosco Jr. Albert Ludvig Lindgren, who was born in Sweden and immigrated to Chicago, was a first-cousin of our immigrant ancestor Lars Emil Larsson.

How wonderful to find additional cousins who can trace their roots to the Larsson/Hansson family in Fjärås!

Appendix – Photos from Fjärås

On 1 July 2016, my first-cousin Susan Brorström Baker and I visited Fjärås. We were accompanied by our distant Swedish cousins Göran Grotting and Ingemar Nilsson, along with Ingemar's wife Pia. Here are some photos taken on that visit.



Burks standing in front of a house in which Lars Emil Larsson lived.



Another house in which Lars Emil Larsson lived.



The church in Fjärås.



The view looking west from the church.



Another view looking west from the church.



One of the houses in which Lars Emil Larsson lived is in the center of this photo.



Road sign for Fjärås.



Welcome to Fjärås Centre.



Burks, Stig RUNE Ingmar Carlsson, Susan, Göran, and Ingemar in the yard of one of the houses in which Lars Emil Larsson lived. Rune is a Larsson descendant, but due to my inability to speak Swedish, I never did learn the relationship.