



The Värmland-Hedmark Cluster

No. 2 (December 2019)



A newsletter with updates about the genetic genealogy project "The Värmland-Hedmark Cluster," which studies the Y chromosome haplogroup R1b → M269 → U106 → Z18 → S11601 → Y112538 → Y130179 and surrounding clades.

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En sammanfattning på svenska finns i slutet av nyhetsbrevet.

Welcome

Welcome to the second issue of this newsletter. Here you can read about:

- Several new test results have arrived and we can now study where these testers are located in the haplotree. The analysis of some of the tests is not yet finished, but we know that at least one new branch has been formed.
- There are some lineages that we suspect belong to the Värmland-Hedmark cluster (or at least a nearby clade) but for which the testers so far have done only an STR test. That is, these are the lineages that we would like to get into the haplotree some time in the future, so that we can learn about how they are related to our own lineages. This issue of the newsletter lists these lineages and gives a brief account of the most important things we know about them.
- One of the STR testers mentioned above has an (official) patrilineal ancestry that has been questioned. His biological great grandfather might not have been the man suggested by the church records. This issue of the newsletter explains how we have tried to confirm or disconfirm that the man indicated by the church records was indeed the tester's biological great grandfather. If he was not, the tester's true patrilineal ancestry differs from what the church records tell us, which has implications for our study of the Värmland-Hedmark cluster.
- I have discovered a fairly important error in the July issue of the newsletter, which I here explain and correct.

Remember that both this issue of the newsletter and the previous one, which was issue no. 1, are available for downloading at www.johanlagerlof.com/gengen (on that webpage one has to scroll down a bit and then, under the heading "Y-DNA Project: The Värmland-Hedmark Cluster," there are links to all issues).



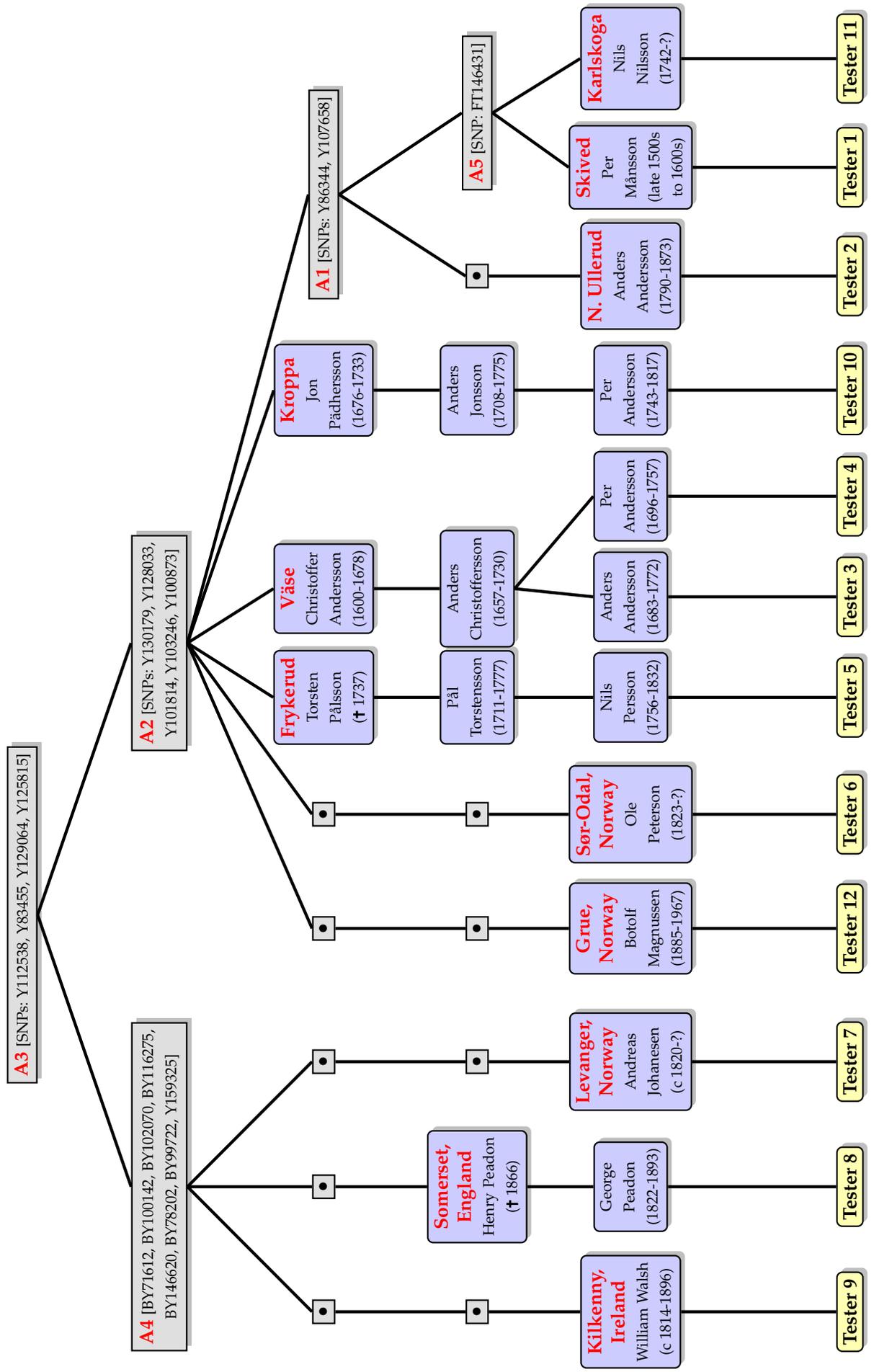
Figure 1: Karlskoga Church in 2008. The oldest parts of the church are from around 1600. Photo: Håkan Henriksson.

Newly Finished Test Results

Since the previous issue of the newsletter, published in July, five new Big Y-700 tests in the project have been finished, although three of these were upgrades from Big Y-500 by testers who were already present in the haplotree. The two new testers whose tests were not upgrades from Big Y-500 both have oldest known patrilineal ancestors who lived in the south-east corner of Värmland. There is also one whole genome sequencing (WGS) test from Dante Labs that has been (almost) finished. This tester has an oldest known patrilineal ancestor from Hedmark. Here is a list of these three brand new members of the Värmland-Hedmark cluster:

- **Tester 10 (Kroppa).** *Oldest known patrilineal ancestor: Jon Pädheresson (1679-1733), who was from Kroppa parish in the (south-) eastern part of Värmland.*¹ This is a Big Y-700 test from Family Tree DNA (an upgrade from Y111). It was ordered on March 26 and I believe it was finished on July 16. The test results have been submitted to YFull (the tester's ID there is YF64392). According to both FTDNA and YFull, this tester is located immediately underneath A2 in the tree, as shown in the tree on page 3. However, he does not form a new branch with anyone of the other testers located next to him there (so anyone of Testers 3/4, 5, 6, or 12). Moreover, Tester 10 appears to be negative for the SNPs that define the branch where Testers 1, 2, and 11 are located. We can conclude that, as we expected, this tester indeed belongs to the Värmland-Hedmark cluster. However, he did not form a new branch in the tree, at least not yet.

¹This information comes from the person who manages the test. This individual has a public tree on Ancestry that shows the lineage. There one can read that members of this family appear to have lived at Jordkullen in Kroppa for at least three generations before Jon Pädheresson (in particular, back to Joen Eskilsson, born around 1570), although it is also indicated that this is not fully confirmed.



- **Tester 11 (Karlskoga).** *Oldest known patrilineal ancestor: Nils Nilsson (1742-?), who was from the farm Rosensjö in Karlskoga parish in the south-eastern corner of Värmland.*² Also this is a Big Y-700 test from Family Tree DNA (an upgrade from Y111). It was ordered on June 30 and it was finished on October 7. The test results have been submitted to YFull (the tester's ID is YF66826).

According to FTDNA, Tester 11 forms a new branch together with Tester 1 (who, recall, is the person writing these lines, Johan Lagerlöf). FTDNA suggests that these two testers are both positive for the SNP called FT146431, whereas Tester 2 is negative for this SNP. YFull, however, appears to disagree, as the YFull tree does not show this new branch. It seems as if the reason for this decision on the part of YFull is that there is only a single read in Tester 1's results that indicates that he is positive for FT146431. YFull is cautious when deciding whether to add new branches and does not trust a single read. It is not clear to me why FTDNA has decided to trust that single read.

However, as it turns out, FTDNA is right. Also Tester 1 is indeed positive for FT146431. I have verified this by letting the Berlin-based company YSEQ test that particular SNP on a sample from Tester 1 (i.e., myself). I placed the order on November 21 and on December 2, I received the result from YSEQ confirming that I was positive for FT146431. There are also a large number of reads indicating that Tester 11 is positive for this SNP whereas Tester 2 is negative for it. Tester 1 is currently awaiting results for a 30X WGS test from the Italian company Dante Labs. Once I receive those results I will submit the raw data file to YFull and hopefully, at that point, also YFull will show the new branch (and, for example, compute an age estimate for the new ancestor A5 shown in the tree on page 3).

We can conclude that Tester 11 indeed belongs to the Värmland-Hedmark cluster, as we expected. Moreover, together with Tester 1 he forms a new branch in the haplotree, downstream of the ancestor A1. The practical implication of this is that we now know that my patrilineal ancestors from Skived (for example, the farmer and salmon fisher Peter Månsson, who lived in the late 1500s until perhaps the mid 1600s) were more closely related to Tester 11's ancestors from Rosensjö, Karlskoga parish, than they were to Tester 2's ancestors from Nedre Ullerud.

- **Tester 12 (Grue, Hedmark).** *Oldest known patrilineal ancestor: Botolf Magnussen (born in 1885), who was from Kirkenær in Grue, Hedmark, Norway.* This is a 30X WGS test from Dante Labs. The test sample was sent from Sweden by me (I administrate the test) to Dante Labs on March 3. Now recently, in early December, Dante Labs uploaded the raw data files to the account associated with the test. However, the quality of the results was not satisfactory (it was effectively a 23.2X test instead of a 30X test). I pointed this out to Dante Labs, who agreed to resequence the sample. I am currently waiting for the results from the resequencing. As soon as they are ready, I will submit the file with Y chromosome raw data to YFull.

Nevertheless, the 23.2X results I did obtain were sufficiently informative to confirm that Tester 12 belongs to the Värmland-Hedmark cluster. This is what we expected, based on the Y37 STR test that this tester had done previously. In particular, as shown in the tree shown on page 3, Tester 12 is located underneath the ancestor A2. However, Tester 12 does not appear to form a new branch with anyone of the other testers located next to him there (so anyone of Testers 3/4, 5, 6, or 10).

In addition, as mentioned above, three testers who were already in the tree have upgraded from Big Y-500 to Big Y-700. These are Testers 2, 3, and 6. I have not yet been in contact with Testers 3 and 6 about their upgrades (but I have seen on the FTDNA website that their upgrades are finished). However, Tester 2's kit is managed by myself, and I can report about those results. Tester 2's upgrade to Big Y-700 was ordered on March 31 and it was finished on September 11. Soon thereafter it was submitted to YFull (the ID there is YF65575). YFull requires a new submission fee (\$49), even if the

²I have done some traditional genealogical research on this family line myself. It seems likely that one can get further back in time (probably, also Nils Nilsson's father and grandfather lived at the farm Rosensjö). However, I have not seen this being confidently confirmed, so for the time being I write Nils Nilsson as the oldest known patrilineal ancestor.

previous Big Y-500 test has been uploaded there earlier. This is not, in my opinion, unreasonable on YFull's part, as the "upgrade" to a Big Y-500 in practice is a new test and YFull needs to do all their analysis from scratch. However, the \$49 effectively adds to the overall cost of doing the upgrade, which should be taken into account by anyone who considers it. Yet, I do recommend anyone who has a Big Y-500 test to upgrade to a Big Y-700 and then also submit the results to YFull.³

Both FTDNA and YFull say that Tester 2 is, as he was before, located immediately underneath A1 in the tree shown on page 3. In particular, he has not formed a new branch with either one of Tester 1 or Tester 11. Instead, Tester 1 and Tester 11 have formed a new branch downstream of Tester 2 (see the discussion above).

Lineages That We Suspect Belong to the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster

All current testers who have been confirmed as belonging to the Värmland-Hedmark cluster have done a so-called STR test at Family Tree DNA. Many of these testers can in their lists of STR matches find people with a stated oldest known patrilineal ancestor (OKPA) from either Värmland or Hedmark. Arguably, there is a very good chance that these matches belong to the Värmland-Hedmark cluster, as (i) they match other testers who are confirmed to belong to that cluster and (ii) their OKPA is from Värmland or Hedmark. However, an STR test does not, in itself, provide us with enough information to place the match in the tree. (One reason for this is that the value of an STR marker can back-mutate.) My hope, instead, is that these matches one day will upgrade to a Big Y test or some other more ambitious test that will enable us to confidently place the tester in the tree and confirm that he belongs to the Värmland-Hedmark cluster. It is of course not necessary that these particular testers do the upgrade; instead, any other man belonging to the same lineage could do the test. My ambition is to—sooner or later—get all these lineages that we suspect belong to the Värmland-Hedmark cluster into the tree (or, otherwise, have it confirmed that they actually do not belong to that cluster, in spite of the strong indications that they do.)

Below I list the six STR matches that I am currently aware of, for which there are strong reasons to believe that they belong to the Värmland-Hedmark cluster, although they have not yet done a test that makes it possible to confirm this and place them in the tree. (The fifth person in the list does perhaps not belong to this cluster but, if so, he should at least belong to a nearby branch.)

- **Lineage L1 (Nor).** *Oldest known patrilineal ancestor: Anders Bengtsson, born in 1744 in Nor in southern Värmland.* The person in this lineage who shows up in my match list has done a Y37 test. I have currently lost contact with the (Swedish) person who manages this test, after we had a fairly brief email correspondence around December 2018. Perhaps this person and/or the tester himself have become busy with other things in life. However, I have carried out some traditional genealogical research on this lineage and, in particular, I have identified another person who I could also ask to be tested, in order to get this lineage into our tree. This is the grandson of a second cousin of the person who did the Y37 test at Family Tree DNA. This person appears to be an avid amateur genealogist and he has a large public family tree on Ancestry. I therefore have some hope that he will find this project interesting and let me test him. So far, however, I have failed to get in contact with him. I will continue trying.
- **Lineage L2 (Nyed).** *Oldest known patrilineal ancestor: Bengt Olsson, born in 1725 in Nyed (Södra Rådom) in southern Värmland.* The person in this lineage who shows up in my match list is American and has done a Y111 test. I was first in contact with him via email in August 2018. At that time he had taken Y37 test, and my emails to him might have encouraged him to upgrade to Y111 (the Y111 results were ready in October 2018). After that I lost contact with him. Possibly he was disappointed with the results from the upgrade and what they could tell him about his family

³Family Tree DNA changed its pricing policy on November 1 and, for any new Big Y-700 orders placed after that date, the company charges \$100 for the BAM file with raw that one needs when submitting to YFull. However, there is no fee for the BAM file for Big Y-700 tests placed prior to November 1. Nor is there any fee for the BAM file for customers who upgrade from Big Y-500 to Big Y-700 (no matter when the upgrade order was placed).

tree. Again, however, I have with the help of traditional genealogical research managed to find another person who I could also ask to be tested, in order to get this lineage into our haplotree. This is a second cousin of the person who did the Y111 test at Family Tree DNA. In July this year I wrote a letter to this person, asking whether I could have him tested (at my expense of course). I suggested a 30X WGS test at Dante Labs. I did not get any response but later in August I called him. We had a nice conversation, but he preferred not to be tested (which I of course respect). I will try to find yet another person belonging to this lineage that I can ask.

- **Lineage L3 (Ransäter).** *Oldest known patrilineal ancestor: Jon Andersen, born in 1732 in Ransäter (Munkebo) in Värmland.*⁴ The person in this lineage who shows up in my match list had, at the time when I first contacted him, done a Y37 test and he later upgraded to Y67. The information about his oldest known patrilineal ancestor (including the spelling of “Jon Andersen,” which probably is not correct) comes from the tester himself, who is American. I have not been able to find this ancestor in the church records and I have now also, it appears, lost contact with the test person. In August this year I wrote an email to the tester where I asked whether I could have him tested (at my expense). Again, I suggested a 30X WGS test at Dante Labs. However, I never received any response and it might be that we, for the time being anyway, have to give up on our ambition to get this lineage into the tree.
- **Lineage L4 (Ölme).** *Oldest known patrilineal ancestor: Erland Eriksson Falk (1863-1937), born in Ölme in south-eastern Värmland.* The person in this lineage who shows up in my match list has done a Y37 test. The kit is managed by a relative of the tester; this relative has since some time been interested in (genetic) genealogy. Very sadly, the test person passed away in the beginning of 2019 (he was only in his 60s). I was in contact with his relative, the kit manager, for the first time in the summer of 2018. I contacted this person again in June this year (which is when I heard about the test person’s passing). In the summer of 2018 the relative had told me that there were some reasons to doubt the accuracy of the church records’ claims about who Erland Eriksson Falk’s father was. I started to investigate this and now recently I have been able confirm, with the help of DNA tests, that the person who had acknowledged paternity according to the church records (a man called Erik Eriksson, 1839-1893) in all likelihood was not the father. I give an account of this story later in this issue of the newsletter.
- **Lineage L5 (Växjö).** *Oldest known patrilineal ancestor: Peter Engström (1764-1855), born in Telestad, Växjö.* The person in this lineage who shows up in my match list has done a Y37 test at FTDNA and the genetic distance between him and me is only one (at the 37 level). However, the tester has not joined any project (as far as I am aware), so I have not been able to compare his marker values with those of other testers in the Värmland-Hedmark cluster. Moreover, there is no known link between the tester (or the lineage more generally) and Värmland or Hedmark. Nevertheless, the facts that I match him relatively closely and that the lineage at least is Swedish make it desirable to try to get this lineage into the haplotree. About two years ago I was in contact with the tester’s wife in a Facebook genetic genealogy group, and she then provided me with some information. I will consider getting in contact again and perhaps suggest a 30X WGS test at Dante Labs.
- **Lineage L6 (“Hässelby”).** *Only the tester’s father and paternal grandfather are known, but I personally do not even know those names. The geographic origin is also unknown to me.* The person in this lineage who shows up in my match list has done a Y37 test at FTDNA and the genetic distance between him and me is only three (at the 37 level). I have been in contact with the tester who says that he is looking for the unknown father of his paternal grandfather. The tester has joined the Sweden DNA project (<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/sweden/about>), which means that I have access to his STR marker values. I have had a (fairly quick) look at them and I am very optimistic that this lineage either belongs to the Värmland-Hedmark cluster or otherwise

⁴In a separate place, the tester has indicated “Peter Henriksson” as the name of the oldest known patrilineal ancestor.

a nearby branch. I will try to get this lineage into the haplotree. Hopefully we can also find the unknown father and thereby learn about the geographic origin of the lineage.

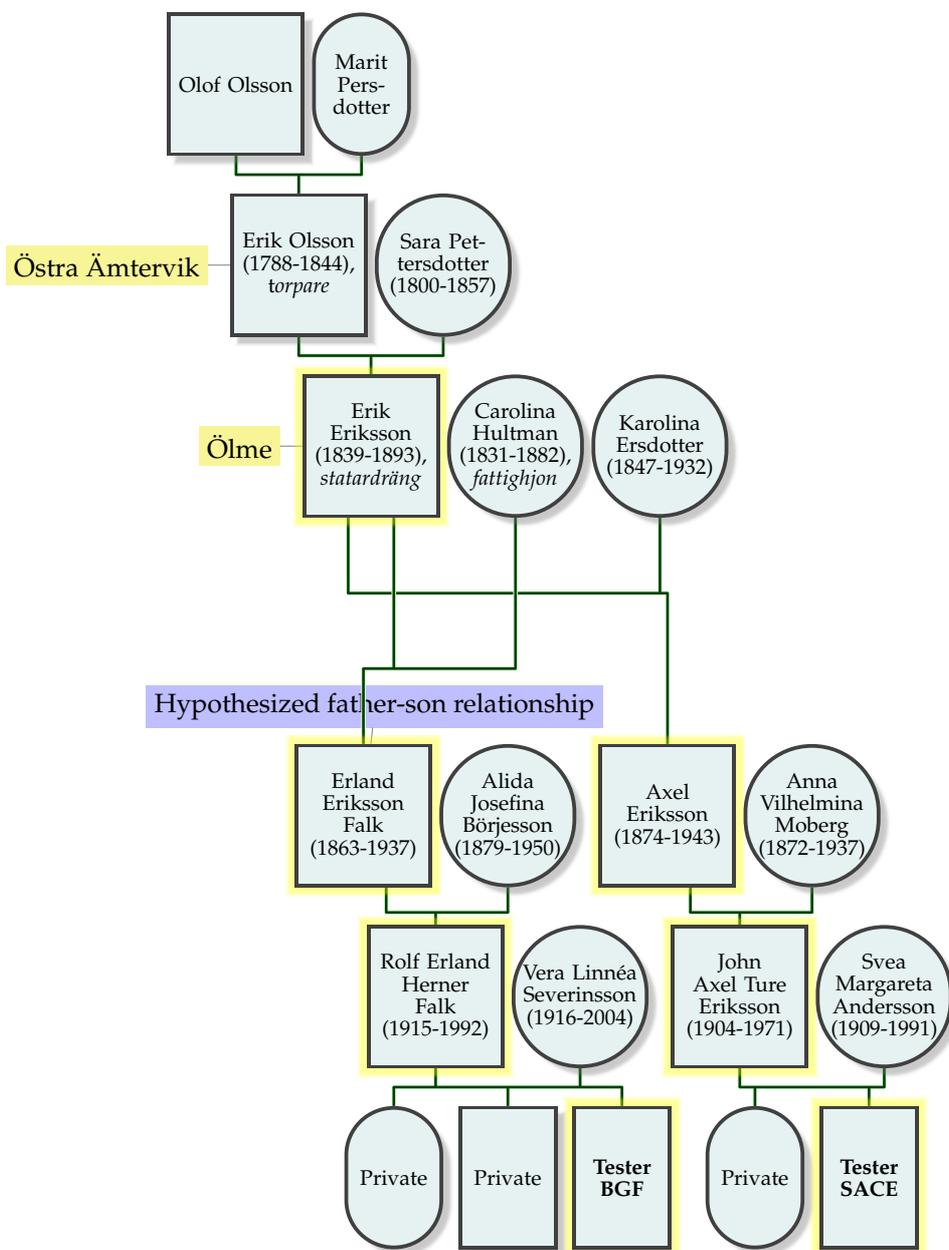


Figure 2: A family tree showing the descendants of Erik Eriksson.

Who Was Erland Eriksson Falk's Father?

As I wrote in the section immediately above (see Lineage L4), one of my Y37 matches at FTDNA—let us call him BGF—has a patrilineal great grandfather whose name was Erland Eriksson Falk (1863-1937); see Figure 2. The person who manages BGF's test, a relative of his, has done some research on BGF's ancestry. This research suggests that the biological father of Erland Eriksson Falk (EEF) might not have been the man that the church records suggest. The mother of EEF was a woman called Carolina Hultman (1831-1882). She is in the church records often described as a pauper (*fattighjon*), although at the time of EEF's conception it appears as if Carolina was employed at an estate in Ölme owned by the

landlord (*patron*) Per Ludvig Falk (born in 1798). The church records include a note stating that the man Erik Eriksson (1839-1893), who at the time was working as a farmhand (*dräng*), had acknowledged paternity of Carolina's son. According to what the relative of BGF has told me, EEF later in life emigrated to the USA, where he appear to have earned a fair amount of money. He then returned to Sweden and purchased several farms. At some point in the early 1900s, when he was back in his native country, he started to call himself Falk instead of Eriksson. One possibility is thus that the biological father of EEF was either Per Ludvig Falk or one of his sons, who also lived on the estate at the time. If EEF knew or suspected this, it might have been the reason why he chose the name Falk for himself. Even if neither Per Ludvig Falk nor any of his sons was EEF's father, the circumstances surrounding the birth of EEF suggest that it may very well have been someone else than Erik Eriksson that fathered EEF.

In order to investigate this, I did some traditional genealogical research on Erik Eriksson's descendants (other than EEF)—see again Figure 2. Erik Eriksson married another woman about ten years after the birth of EEF and had several children. He also has now-living descendants. I got in contact with one of them, a paternal great grandson, who thus has the same Y chromosome as Erik Eriksson. This person (call him SACE) was kind enough to let me test him. We started with an autosomal test (Family Tree DNA's so-called Family Finder test). If Erik Eriksson was the father of EEF, then SACE and BGF are half second cousins and should thus with a very high likelihood match each other. It turned out that they did not match each other.⁵ However, an autosomal test does not necessarily show a match between two half second cousins—the relationship is not close enough for that to be guaranteed. Therefore, just to be on the safe side, I also asked SACE to let me test whether he was positive for a Y chromosome SNP called M269 (for this, we used the services of the German company YSEQ). This is a SNP that in the haplotree is located very much upstream of the SNPs shown in the tree on page 3—according to YFull's age estimates, M269 is about 6000 or 7000 years old. BGF has done a Y37 test at FTDNA, and based on those test results, we can confidently say that he is positive for M269. It turned out, however, that SACE is *negative* for M269, which means that BGF and SACE cannot both be patrilineal descendants of Erik Eriksson.

The results thus strongly suggest that Erik Eriksson was *not* the father of Erland Eriksson Falk.⁶ I will in the future try to find out who the true biological father is. Probably I will get in contact with a now-living descendant of Per Ludvig Falk and ask if I may test this person.⁷

Correction of an Error in Issue No. 1

In the July issue of the newsletter, I claimed that “A1 could in principle be a brother of Schivedius, shown in the chart, but not younger” (see p. 4). This claim was made in the context of a discussion about the age estimates from YFull and the fact that they do not take our genealogical information into account and therefore, sometimes, will be verifiably wrong.

My claim is wrong. The error is due to sloppy thinking and writing on my part. What I meant to say is that the ancestor called A1 in Figure 1 in the July issue could in principle be identical to Schivedius' father, Per Månsson, but not younger. If he were Schivedius' father, A1 would have been an ancestor (indeed, the father) of both Schivedius and a brother of Schivedius; moreover, given the information available in July, we cannot rule out that Tester 2 is a descendent of Schivedius' brother.⁸ This scenario is therefore a possibility (at least we did not, in July, have enough information to rule it out). We can, however, be reasonably sure that Tester 2 is not a descendent of Schivedius, as all his male descendants

⁵Also a daughter of BGF has done an autosomal test at FTDNA and she did not match SACE either.

⁶In principle, our test results are also consistent with the possibility that, say, SACE's biological father or grandfather is someone else than what the church records indicate and what SACE himself believes. However, there is nothing that suggests that this would be the case, and I think the conclusion above is indeed very reasonable.

⁷Per Ludvig Falk and his sons were members of the well-known military family Falk from Värmland, which is documented in the 1938 volume of Svenska släktkalendern; see Elgenstierna (1938).

⁸It is known that Schivedius had at least one brother (this was probably an older brother, called Nils Persson, who took over the father's farm, while Schivedius became a priest). However, I have not yet been able to do any research on the brother and learn about, for example, whether he has any now-living descendants. This is clearly a good and interesting project for the future.

are well documented in genealogical research, based on church records.⁹

Today we have more information about the tree structure than we had in July. In particular, we now know that there is a branch downstream of A1 that Tester 2 is not located on whereas Tester 1 is (see the tree on page 3). This means that we should adjust the claim to read: The ancestor called A1 in Figure 1 in the July issue could in principle be identical to Schivedius' paternal *grandfather*, but not younger (the caveats in footnote 9 still apply).

Concluding Discussion

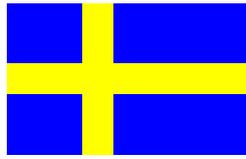
We have made a fair amount of progress in the last year, with several new testers added to the Värmland-Hedmark cluster. I am personally very happy that we also have a new branch that consists of Tester 1 (myself) and Tester 11, linking Skived in Grava parish with Rosensjö in Karlskoga parish. However, we are still waiting for a new branch to be formed immediately underneath the ancestor called A2. Currently we are looking forward to receive the results for Tester P2, who has an oldest known patrilineal ancestor from Bro in Bohuslän (see the July issue of the newsletter). As discussed in the current issue, we also have knowledge about six lineages that appear to belong to the Värmland-Hedmark cluster, but where the tester has not yet done a more ambitious Y chromosome test. Indeed, the single most interesting and important finding in the project so far, I think, is the fact that there are so many (apparently independent) lineages that all have an oldest known patrilineal ancestor in a very small geographic area (namely, southern Värmland and Hedmark). It appears as if this extended family was very large already in the late middle ages and possibly even earlier, and that most of its members resided in southern Värmland and/or Hedmark. How did the family become so large (in terms of male lineages, at least)? Was it a rich family? Or can the growth of this particular family be explained simply by chance (unusually many sons happened to be born, who also survived until adulthood)? For how long time had members of the family lived in Värmland and/or Hedmark? Wherefrom did the family come?

In the coming year, I hope we will get at least a few of the six lineages mentioned above into the tree. I actually have four, so far unused, 30X WGS test kits from Dante Labs in my home. If I were to find willing test persons who are reasonably likely to belong to the Värmland-Hedmark cluster, I could have them tested already tomorrow. I will continue writing letters and email messages, trying to recruit such willing individuals—I am sure I will find a few at some point. But I also look forward to getting some more time, again, to traditional genealogy with the help of church records, as this is also a very important part of the project. Several of the lineages in the tree would benefit from some further paper trail research. For example, we have at least three unknown fathers to find. Moreover, I personally need to read up on the middle age history of Värmland (and that county's connection to Hedmark). That kind of knowledge will certainly be important for understanding many of the questions that we ask.

References

Elgenstierna, Gustaf. ed. 1938. *Svenska släktkalendern*.: Albert Bonniers förlag.

⁹Of course, the church records could be wrong and some descendant of Schivedius, or he himself, might have had an illegitimate son (in spite of the fact that many of these individuals were priests). That is why we can only be reasonably sure about this.



Svensk sammanfattning

- ✓ Flera nya testresultat har blivit färdiga under hösten. Analysen av resultaten är inte helt klar ännu, men vi vet att åtminstone en ny gren har bildats i den del av haploträdet som utgör Värmland-Hedmark-klustret. Tre nya testpersoner har tillkommit. Man kan se den senaste versionen av vår del av trädet på sidan 3 i nyhetsbrevet.
- ✓ Det finns flera släktlinjer som, med hög sannolikhet, tillhör Värmland-Hedmark-klustret men där testpersonerna har gjort endast ett ganska grunt test. Sex stycken sådana släktlinjer finns listade och beskrivna i detta nummer av nyhetsbrevet. Vi hoppas att vi snart ska få in dessa linjer i haploträdet, genom att åtminstone någon representant för linjen gör ett mer ambitiöst test (t ex ett Big Y-test hos Family Tree DNA eller ett helgenom-test hos Dante Labs).
- ✓ En av de personer som hittills har gjort endast ett ganska grunt test, men som förmodligen tillhör Värmland-Hedmark-klustret, har enligt kyrkböckerna en farfarsfar som vi misstänker inte är den biologiska farfarsfadern. Om det är riktigt, så är detta viktigt att känna till den dagen vi får in släktlinjen ifråga i haploträdet. Vi har därför använt bl a autosomala test för att undersöka om det påstådda faderskapet stämmer. Dessa test visar att uppgifterna i kyrkböckerna med all sannolikhet är felaktiga.
- ✓ Jag har upptäckt ett ganska viktigt misstag jag gjorde i förra numret av nyhetsbrevet. I detta nummer förklarar jag vad som är fel (det har med åldersuppskattningarna av olika grenar i trädet att göra) och vad jag borde ha skrivit istället.