December 2024, No. 12

The Värmland-Hedmark Cluster

About the VHC Newsletter

The VHC newsletter is published twice a year, in July and December. It provides updates on a genetic-genealogy project that carries the same name, "The Värmland-Hedmark Cluster" (or VHC for short). This project is run by a group of hobbyists who try to learn about the early history of their patrilineal ancestors in southern Värmland (Sweden) and in Hedmark (Norway). Among the questions that we ask are: What can be said about the ancestors' whereabouts before they start to appear in the written records (so in the 1500s and earlier)? Where did the ancestors live before they arrived in Värmland and Hedmark? In technical terms, the project concerns the study of the following Y-DNA haplogroup (and some of its surrounding branches):

> R1b → M269 → U106 → Z18 → S11601 → Y112538 → Y130179.

The newsletter is written by Johan N.M. Lagerlöf (email address in the page footer). This issue and all the previous ones are downloadable at www.johanlagerlof.com/gengen. Thoughts and opinions about the content of the newsletters are very welcome. A good forum for discussion is the weblog called "The VHC Blog," available at www.johanlagerlof.com/the-vhc-blog.

The newsletter is written in LaTeX. The layout is borrowed from www.overleaf.com, which cites howtotex.com (a now discontinued website), September 2011, as its source.

En svensk sammanfattning av det viktigaste i nyhetsbrevet finns på sista sidan.

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The Värmland-Hedmark Cluster and a Neighboring Branch (Dec. 2024)

Confidence intervals for age estimates

The age estimates for A1-A9 in the tree are from YFull (YTree v12.05.00), and those for A3 and A10-A11 are from FTDNA (January 2, 2025); thus, for A3, age estimates from both companies are provided. Unless otherwise indicated, all years shown are A.D. Below are confidence intervals at the 95% level:

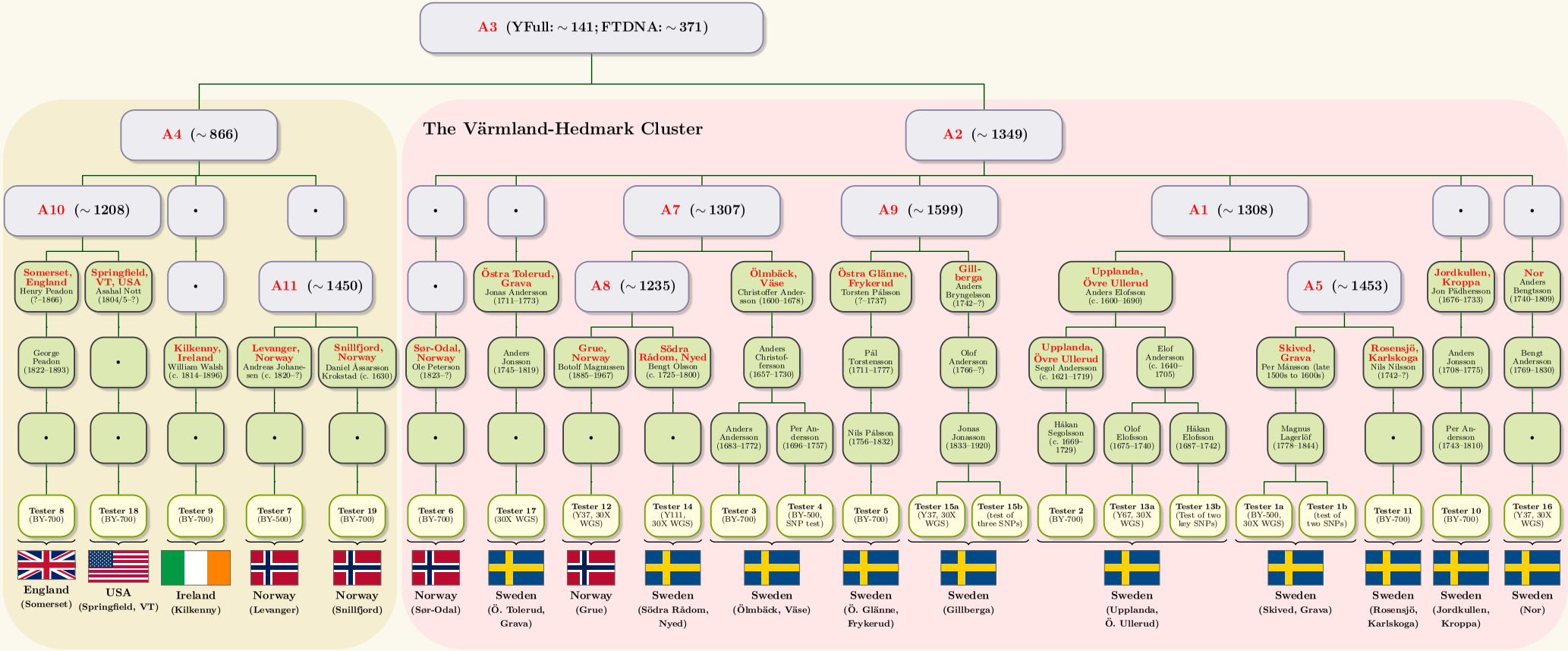
	95% CI
◊ **A1:**	924 — 1624
◊ **A2:**	1174 — 1524
◊ **A3:**	476 B.C. — 674 (YFull) 91 B.C. — 740 (FTDNA)
◊ **A4:**	324 — 1274
◊ **A5:**	924 — 1749
◊ **A7:**	1174 — 1524
◊ **A8:**	1174 — 1524
◊ **A9:**	1124 — 1849
◊ **A10:**	699 — 1560
◊ **A11:**	1144 — 1669

SNPs that define the branches

The Värmland-Hedmark Cluster is a twig on the R1b branch of the human Y-DNA haplotree: R1b → M269 → U106 → Z18 → S11601 → Y112538 → Y130179. For more information, see www.johanlagerlof.com/gengen. The branches shown in the tree are defined by the SNPs listed below (note that A6 does not exist).[a]

	Defining SNPs
◊ **A1:**	Y86344, Y107658*
◊ **A2:**	Y100873*, Y128033, Y101814*, Y103246, Y130179, Y83455, Y125815*
◊ **A3:**	Y112538
◊ **A4:**	BY71612, Y159325, BY116275, BY146620, BY78202, BY99722, BY100142, BY102070
◊ **A5:**	FT146431
◊ **A7:**	A25847*
◊ **A8:**	A25843, A25844, A25845, Y126692(H)*
◊ **A9:**	FTA19875*, FTA18226(H), A29538(H)*
◊ **A10:**	FT5016, FT5166, FT5167, FT5193, FT5729
◊ **A11:**	BY106437, BY112147, BY134583

[a] An asterisk indicates that the SNP is located outside of the so-called combBED region of the Y chromosome, and it is therefore not used by YFull for age estimation; an "(H)" means that the SNP is located in a homologous region (i.e., one that is similar to other regions on the Y chromosome or on other chromosomes) and therefore is less reliable.



Tester	YFull ID	Oldest known patrilineal ancestor	Type of test	# of private SNPs
1a	YF71553 (=YF10028)	Per Månsson (late 1500s to 1600s). Skived, Grava parish, Värmland	Big Y-500, DL 30X WGS	n.a.
1b	n.a.	Same as Tester 1a	3 SNPs at YSEQ	n.a.
2	YF65575 (=YF11441)	Anders Elofsson (c. 1600–1690), died in Upplanda, Övre Ullerud, Värmland	Big Y-500, Big Y-700	2
3	YF70514 (=YF13065)	Christoffer Andersson (1600–1678), Ölmbäck, Väse parish, Värmland	Big Y-500, Big Y-700	n.a.
4	YF13845	Same as Tester 3	Big Y-500, 2 SNPs at YSEQ	n.a.
5	YF83719 (=YF14610)	Torsten Pålsson (?–1737), Östra Glänne, Frykerud parish, Värmland	Big Y-500, Big Y-700	2
6	YF072349 (=YF014751)	Ole Peterson (1823–?), Sør-Odal, Norway	Big Y-500, Big Y-700	4
7	YF15653	Andreas Johannesen (c. 1820–?), Levanger, Norway	Big Y-500	4
8	YF70654	Henry Peadon (?–1866), Somerset, England	Big Y-700	11
9	YF85325 (=YF10028)	William Walsh (c. 1814–1896), Kilkenny Ireland	Big Y-700	7
10	YF64392	Jon Pädhersson (1676–1733), Jordkullen, Kroppa parish, Värmland	Big Y-700	3
11	YF66826 (=YF11441)	Nils Nilsson (1742–?), Rosensjö, Karlskoga parish, Värmland	Big Y-700	5
12	YF75623	Botolf Magnussen (1885–1967), Grue, Norway	DL 30X WGS	6
13a	YF74441	Same as Tester 2	DL 30X WGS	4.86
13b	n.a.	Same as Tester 2	Two SNPs	n.a.
14	YF80309	Bengt Olsson (c. 1725–1800), Södra Rådom, Nyed parish, Värmland	DL 30X WGS	4
15a	YF87292	Anders Bryngelsson (1742–?), Gillberga parish, Värmland	DL 30X WGS	3
15b	n.a.	Same as Tester 15a	3 SNPs at YSEQ	n.a.
16	YF93936	Anders Bengtsson (1740–1809), Nor parish, Värmland	DL 30X WGS	1
17	not subm.	Jonas Andersson (1711–1773), Östra Tolerud, Grava parish, Värmland	DL 30X WGS	3
18	not subm.	Asahal Nott (b. 1804/5), Springfield, Vermont, USA	Big Y-700	not known
19	not subm.	Daniel Åssarsson Krokstad (c. 1630), Snillfjord STR, Norway	Big Y-700	not known

Table 1: Information about the testers in the project. The numbers in the first column refer to the numbering of testers in the tree on page 2. The indicated number of private SNPs in the last column is the count according to YFull and it refers to the combBED region (although for Tester 17, this piece of information comes from YSEQ). The reason why Tester 13a's SNP count is not an integer is, I believe, that YFull uses a particular weight when it is unsure about whether to include a SNP or not. I use this number for the time being, and I hope to be able to investigate this issue more carefully some time in the future.

HELLO TO ALL you participants in the VHC project, and to anyone else who might read this text. Here is the December 2024 issue of our newsletter. It is a shorter issue than usual, as I felt that I had to spend most of the holidays working on other things. I have nevertheless attempted to write down some of the important things that have happened in the project since the summer. It is useful, I believe, if I can maintain the continuity and carry on circulating a new issue of the newsletter every July and December—even if it is not always particularly long.

As usual, in Section 1 of the newsletter I explain who the person on the cover is, and I give a brief account of some of the things I know about this person's life. The VHC haplotree (shown on page 2) is this time unchanged relative to the version from July 2024 (except for an update of the age estimates from YFull and FTDNA). However, some DNA testing is currently in the works, and the results of that could later lead to modifications in the tree. This is discussed in Section 2 of the new issue. In Section 3, I recommend a Swedish book on haplogroup research that I have read recently. During a Black Friday sale in November, I could not resist the temptation to purchase some new whole genome sequencing tests. In Section 4 I explain why I did that and how I plan to use the tests.

Very sadly, one of our project participants passed away recently. His name was Göran Hedqvist and he was Tester 4 in the VHC haplotree. In Section 5, I write a few lines about Göran and how he helped us in the project. On the newsletter's last page, one can as always find a brief summary in Swedish.

1 Ada Lagerlöf (1847–1927)

THE COVER photograph that I have chosen for this issue of the newsletter (source: Svenskt porträttarkiv) shows a woman called Adelaide Matilda Lagerlöf—or Ada for short. Her father was a cousin of Magnus Lagerlöf (1778–1844), who one can find in the tree on page 2 (under the ancestor A5). This means that Ada is a relative of mine, although quite distantly (my great great grandfather was her second cousin). Ada was born in 1847 in Ny parish in Värmland, and she died in 1927 Satltsjöbaden outside Stockholm. She is buried in Arvika, together with her husband Elis Sallberg; below one finds some pictures of their grave, taken by me when I visited it on August 13, 2020.

2 Developments in the Project

ON PAGE 2, one can as usual find the most recent version of the VHC haplotree. This time there are no changes. The only things I have modified relative to the version from July 2024 are the age estimates, which have been updated to the most recent ones reported by YFull and Family Tree DNA.

In the July 2024 issue of the newsletter, I gave an account of how we, by using DNA tests, were trying to verify a family tree consisting of a man called Anders Elofsson (ca. 1600–1690) and many of his descendants. Indeed, we believed that Anders Elofsson is identical to the man that we previously referred to as ancestor A6. Already then, I felt reasonably confident that the tree in question was correct, and I therefore replaced A6 with Anders Elofsson in the July 2024 version of VHC haplotree—see the current and unchanged version of the tree shown on page 2 (Anders E. can be found there as the oldest descendant of A1).

I can now report that we have a result from one further DNA test, which provides further evidence in support of the hypothesized tree structure with Anders Elofsson as the oldest known patrilineal ancestor. On September 20, the test company YSEQ reported to us that Tester 13b (i.e., Joakim Axnér) is positive for the SNP BY12164. This result reinforces our conclusion that the tree is correct. We will see whether it is appropriate, and possible, to do any further testing to confirm the tree. Among the next few steps in this sub-project are the task of mapping out all the

Figure 1: The grave of Ada, her husband, and other members of the Lagerlöf family.

remaining patrilineal descendants of Anders Elofsson, to consider carrying out further tests, and then to document everything.

The person who has done all the paper trail work that was needed to identify Anders Elofsson is the project participant Joakim Axnér, who nowadays also is included in the VHC haplotree as Tester 13b. Joakim has continued his hard work and has now come up with a hypothesis about the name of a patrilineal ancestor of Tester 5—older than the one known earlier. We are currently trying to do DNA tests to test this hypothesis. So far, one man has accepted to help us out by letting us have him tested at YSEQ (the test will tell us whether this man is positive or negative for the SNP FTA19875). His sample was sent to the test company in the middle of December, and we hope that the result will be ready in January. The hypothesized tree that we try to verify is shown on page 6. On this occasion, I think there is a real risk that the hypothesis is wrong, which makes it even more exciting to see what the results will tell us.

3 A New Book on Haplogroup Research

I RECENTLY read a newly published book on human history and haplogroups. It is written in Swedish and, as far as I am aware, it is not yet translated to English or any other language. The author is Sverker Johansson, the book's title is *Fäder* (the Swedish word for "fathers"), and the publisher is Natur & kultur (2024). The book's focus is on Y chromosome haplogroups, but it includes a fair amount of discussion of mitochondrial haplogroups as well.

I quite enjoyed reading this book and I strongly recommend it to anyone who is interested in haplogroup research (and who can read Swedish). The book is not technical, but it includes a very useful summary of the development of the different haplogroups, although only at a broad level—so concerning our branch, the text only makes a distinction between R1a and R1b (Z18, for example, which is further downstream, is not mentioned). Anyone who is interested in that kind of material but does not have time to read the whole book may want to have a look at the two chapters titled "Från Adam till I-mannen" (about Y haplogroups) and "I-mannens mödrar" (about mt haplogroups).

4 Purchase of Three WGS Tests

A FEW YEARS ago, when there was a good sale, I bought a number of whole genome sequencing (WGS) tests from the Italian testing company Dante Labs—all in all nine tests (during a period of perhaps one or two years). I used one of them to test myself, and of the others I used seven to test possible neighbors in the VHC haplotree. One of these seven testers turned out not to be an actual neighbor (only very, very distantly), but the other six new testers indeed ended up in our tree. They are now Testers 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17.

On the Black Friday sale in November 2024 I purchased three new WGS tests, although this time from the testing company Sequencing. The company that I used previously, Dante Labs, appears to be in financial trouble and to have problems with delivering their services in a timely manner (or possibly even at all). Therefore, that company seems to be a risky choice these days (although I have no complaints about my nine tests a few years ago).

It was with some hesitation that I again bought some WGS tests, as there is a lot of work required to recruit testers. I write long letters to them, where I explain what the test is all about and what we do in the project. I will have to see how much time I can spend on that and how quickly I can find good candidates to test. Fortunately, I can see on the test kits that I have received that they can be used until March 2029. I therefore seem to have plenty of time, although I will try to do it quicker than that if I can.

5 In Memory of Göran Hedqvist (1951–2024)

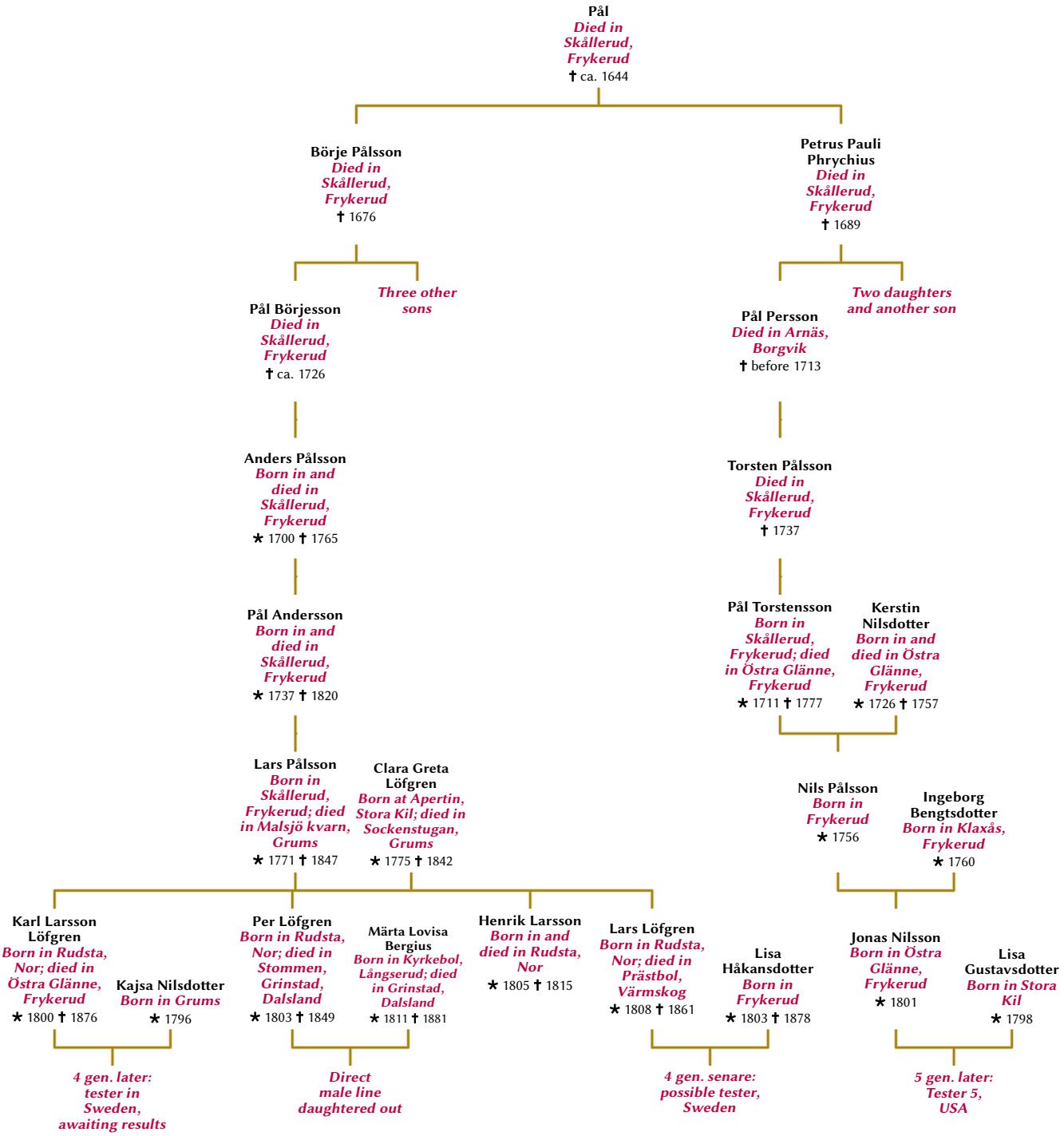
GÖRAN HEDQVIST sadly passed away on December 23, 2024. Göran is Tester 4 in the VHC haplotreee shown on page 2, and he was one of the very earliest testers in the project.

The results for his original Big Y-500 test at Family Tree DNA arrived in September 2017. The test was done on the initiative of Göran's cousin Bruno Steiner, who has administrated the test since the beginning (and still does). Göran was born on November 21, 1951 in Väse in Värmland.

By letting Bruno test him in 2017, Göran has been a fantastic help to the project and he has contributed greatly to our knowledge about this extended family from the Middle Ages that we call the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster. In the fall of 2020, Göran helped us further by providing a sample for a test at YSEQ, which was useful for understanding how the family connections under the ancestor A7 in the haplotree look like—see the discussion on pages 3-4 in the December 2020 issue of the newsletter.

We are very grateful to Göran for all his help, and we will miss him dearly.

Hypothesized family tree: Descendants of Pål, who died around 1644 in Skållerud, Frykerud — selected lineages



Svensk sammanfattning

Värmland-Hedmark-klustret (förkortat VHC) är benämningen på en – vad det verkar – väldigt stor släkt som levde i Värmland och Hedmark under medeltiden och kanske även längre tillbaka i tiden. Idag är det många människor, inte minst i Värmland, som härstammar från denna släkt på sitt raka fäderne – och ännu fler, förstås, längs andra linjer. En av Värmland-Hedmark-klustrets många grenar leder till exempel till den värmländska släkten Lagerlöf (som författaren till de här raderna råkar tillhöra).

Dessa saker har vi upptäckt med hjälp av dna-test av nu levande personer. Framförallt har vi varit behjälpta av test av Y-kromosomen, som bara män har och som ärvs från far till son. Arbetet pågår kontinuerligt med att samla mer kunskap om Värmland-Hedmark-klustret. Det här nyhetsbrevet har utkommit i juli och december varje år sedan 2019, och det rapporterar och diskuterar vad som har hänt inom projektet sedan sist.

Exempel på frågor som vi försöker förstå: Hur stor var den här släkten? Var i Värmland och Hedmark fanns den? Hur långt tillbaka i tiden har medlemmar i släkten funnits i Värmland och/eller Hedmark? Varifrån kom släktmedlemmarna när de anlände dit? Kan resultaten hjälpa oss att förstå frågor kring social mobilitet?

✔Omslagsbilden föreställer Adelaide Matilda Lagerlöf, som kallades Ada. Hon var född 1847 i Ny socken i Värmland och hon dog i Saltsjöbaden 1947. Hon var en avlägsen släkting till mig, och hennes far var kusin till Magnus Lagerlöf (1778–1844) som syns i haploträdet på sidan 2 (under A5).

✔Den senaste versionen av projektets haploträd återfinns alltså som vanligt på sidan 2. Det är dock inga förändringar jämfört med den föregående versionen, bortsett från att åldersuppskattningarna har uppdaterats till de senast tillgängliga från YFull och Family Tree DNA. Men vi håller för närvarande på med en del dna-testande som lite senare kan leda till förändringar i haploträdet. I det föregående numret av nyhetsbrevet berättade jag om hur projektdeltagaren Joakim Axnér hittat belägg för att Testpersonerna 2 och 13:s gemensamma patrilinjära anfader troligen var en Anders Elofsson (ca 1600–1690) från Upplanda i Övre Ullerud. Vi har under hösten gjort ytterligare ett test som styrker den hypotesen. Joakim har i domböcker och andra källor nu också lyckats hitta troliga patrilinjära anfäder till Testperson 5 – längre tillbaka i tiden än vad vi hade kunskap om tidigare. Detta möjliga träd kas ses på sidan 6 i nyhetsbrevet. Vi bör dock tills vidare betrakta detta träd endast som en hypotes. Vi väntar just nu på svar på ett test hos YSEQ som kan ge stöd för, eller stjälpa, hypotesen.

✔Jag har under en rea inhandlat tre nya WGS-test, och jag hoppas kunna använda dessa för att hitta nya grenar i vårt haploträd. Det är dock förenat med mycket jobb att rekrytera lämpliga testpersoner (bl a skriver jag långa brev, vilket tar tid och ork), så det kanske tar ett tag för mig att få användning för alla tre. Men jag ska nog nå dit. Jag har också nyligen läst en bok som jag gärna vill rekommendera: “Fäder: en genetisk historia från Afrika till Skandinavien” av Sverker Johansson (Natur & kultur, 2024).

✔Så till sist några väldigt sorgliga nyheter. Göran Hedqvist, som var en av de allra första testpersonerna i projektet, gick bort den 23 december. I haploträdet på sidan 2 finns han med som Tester 4. Göran har varit till väldigt stor hjälp i projektet genom att låta sig testas med ett Big Y-500 år 2017. Senare, under hösten 2020, bidrog han även med ett prov för ett test hos YSEQ, som hjälpte oss förstå hur släktskapen under anfadern A7 i trädet ser ut. Vi känner stor saknad.