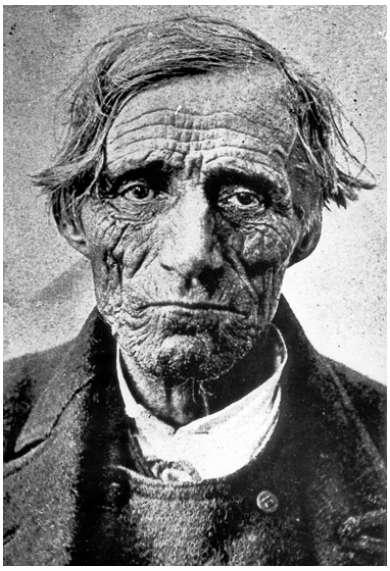
December 2025, No. 13

The Värmland-Hedmark Cluster

About the VHC Newsletter



The VHC Newsletter is a twice-yearly publication that normally appears in July and December. It provides updates on a genetic genealogy project with the same name, "The Värmland-Hedmark Cluster" (or VHC for short). The 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 Hedmark (Norway). It addresses questions such as: What can be said about the ancestors' whereabouts before they first appear in the written records (i.e., 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.

This long chain of letters and numbers is the project's "address" on the Y-DNA family tree, moving from a broad group (R1b) to a very specific branch.

The VHC Newsletter is written by Johan N.M. Lagerlöf (email address in the page footer). All issues can be downloaded from www.johanlagerlof.com/gengen. Thoughts and opinions about the content of the newsletters are very welcome. A good forum for discussion is the project's Substack, "Ghost Tree Wermlandia", which is available here: https://varmlanddna.substack.com/. The VHC 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.

Contents

The Värmland-Hedmark Cluster and a Neighboring Branch (Dec. 2025)

Confidence intervals for age estimates

The age estimates for A1-A9 in the tree are from YFull (YTree v13.07.00), and those for A3 and A10-A11 are from FTDNA (January 4, 2026); 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:

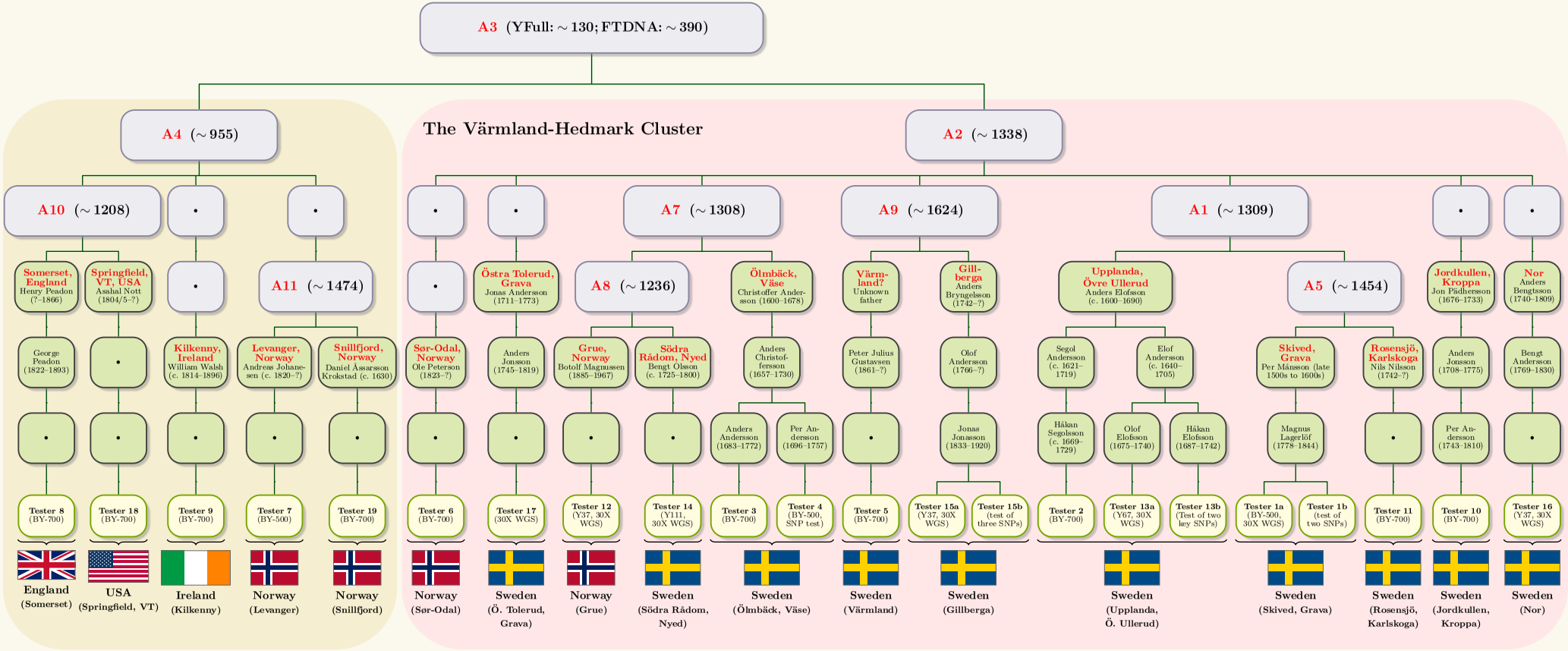
	95% CI
◊ **A1:**	925 — 1625
◊ **A2:**	1125 — 1525
◊ **A3:**	475 B.C. — 675 (YFull); 49 B.C. — 744 (FTDNA)
◊ **A4:**	588 — 1241
◊ **A5:**	925 — 1750
◊ **A7:**	1125 — 1525
◊ **A8:**	1125 — 1525
◊ **A9:**	825 — 1925
◊ **A10:**	698 — 1560
◊ **A11:**	1226 — 1658

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)	Peter Julius Gustavsen (1861–?). His father is unknown, but a Värmland origin is likely	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.

WELCOME TO the December 2025 issue of our newsletter, the first after a short hiatus. The VHC Newsletter normally comes out twice a year—in July and December—but this year we missed the July issue. I had too many other commitments at the time, so I did not manage to write a summer issue. But now we are back, and the project is still very much alive and kicking. If I can, I will continue publishing the newsletter twice a year. While I cannot promise there will be no interruptions, I will do my best to keep any breaks short.

At the moment, the project is advancing mainly by investigating project participants' patrilineal ancestors—partly to verify what we believe we already know and partly to push further back in time. Our methods include both searching written records (most importantly, court minutes) and performing DNA tests to confirm or reject hypotheses inspired by those records. For DNA testing, we typically use single-SNP tests at the German company YSEQ.

For quite a while now, we have not added any new branches to the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster tree (although we have recently seen several changes in the neighboring branch—the one with testers from Norway and the British Isles). Hopefully, however, I will soon be able to recruit new testers and thereby add new branches also to our part of the tree.

In Section 1 of this issue, I explain who the somber-looking man on the cover is and what the source of the photograph is. The core of this issue is Section 2, where I give an account of some recent project developments, including a brief discussion of the (lack of) changes in the VHC haplotree. Section 3 recommends a new white paper related to our research, and Section 4 discusses YFull's recent move away from Russia to Spain. Finally, in Section 5, I share a photograph of project member Jan Lagerlöf and me at a recent family reunion.

1 Cover Picture: Sad-Eyed Gentleman of Fryksände

THE SAD-LOOKING old man with gazing eyes shown on the cover picture is called Per ("Päger") Persson. He was born on March 2, 1829, in Fryksände, Värmland, and died on December 27, 1904, in Lekvattnet in the same province. In 1875, he married Britta ("Lätta") Andersdotter (1825–1910).[1]

I found the photograph at Digitalmuseum.[2] In that source and other places, Päger is said to have been a wizard, although he mainly appears to have made his living on manufacturing tar. At the Swedish website Lekvattnet.se, one can find some online articles about Päger and Lätta that are interesting to read.[3]

Moreover, in 1902, after having visited the couple, the Swedish ethnologist and photographer Nils Keyland (1867–1924) wrote an article about them (Keyland, 1902). This article was published in Arvika Tidning on February 18, 1902, and I quote parts of it below. (I have not, I am afraid, made any attempt to translate the text to English—please try some automatic translation service.) The text confirms the above suggestion that Päger made his living partly as a "wizard". In Figure 1, one can (to the left) find a photo showing a fairly young Keyland, and (to the right) a photo *by* Keyland showing the Finnish settlement Kvarntorp (so *not* the home of Päger and Lätta).[4]

> *Här i denna stuga bo de gamle, gubben Päger själf, och hans hustru Britta, gemenligen kallad Kläcklätta, ett originellt par i den gamla goda stilen. De äro afkomlingar i sjätte led af från Savolaks invandrade finnar och bibehålla troget sina förfäders enkla seder och lefnadssätt. […] Detta sitt enkla uppehälle förtjäna Päger och hans Lätta med olika slags handarbeten, såsom med tillverkning af näfverkontar och näfverskor, spömjärdar, ostkärl och tjära. Men de lifnära sig äfven med ett annat, numera mindre väl ansedt näringsfång, nämligen trolldom. Här och där i bygderna finnes folk, som ännu tro på trolldom, och af sådana bli Päger och hans väna vif ofta anlitade mot en frikostig betalning.*
>
> *[…]*
>
> *Såväl Päger som hans hustru förstå finska språket, hvilket de understundom använda sins emellan i dagligt tal, och då de utsäga sina trollformler, hvilka skola vara mera verksamma på finska, än när de utsägas på svenska.*
>
> *Till sitt yttre är Päger af medellängd med en stark kroppsbyggnad. Han har en mörk smutsig, nästan mongolisk hy, skarpt tecknade fåror i sitt ansikte och stenhårda drag, hvilka sällan upplifvas af ett leende.*

[1] See, for example, Lekvattnet (S) AI:7 (1886-1890) Bild 26 / sid 22; Lekvattnet (S) AI:8 (1891-1900) Bild 193 / sid 179; Lekvattnet (S) AIIa:1 (1900-1905) Bild 1470 / sid 137.

[2] See https://digitaltmuseum.se/0210113275850/per-persson-pager-f-1820-d-1904. There is no photographer indicated, but the material has been donated to Värmlands museum by Richard Broberg (1910–1988).

[3] See https://www.lekvattnet.se/historien/pager-och-britta/; https://www.lekvattnet.se/historien/pager-och-britta/mer-om-pager-och-latta/; https://www.lekvattnet.se/alla-torp/odetorp-i-lekvattnet/stensgards-utskog/sammelperstorp-pager/.

[4] Source for the photo to the left in Figure 1: Svenskt Porträttarkiv, https://portrattarkiv.se/details/0piq-fX0h5AAAAAAAAAZ1A. Source for the photo to the right: Nordiska museet, https://digitaltmuseum.se/021018229004/rokstugubyggnad-med-uthus-kvarntorp-bilden-ar-rattvandde-romerska-siffrorna.

Hela hans utseende bär andebesvärjarens respekt och prägel; och många äro de, som af fruktan vika undan för honom. Säkerligen är det detta mörka utseende och detta hemlighetsfulla allvar, som skänkt honom, som så många af hans finska anförvanter, namn och rykte för skicklighet i svartkonst. Hans hustru Britta är mycket liten till växten. Hon har listiga, grå ögon, antikt utseende och antikt sätt, ägnade att väcka fornforskarens intresse. Sinsemellan draga de väl öfverens och hjälpa hvarandra troget i samtliga nämnda näringsfång.

2 What Is Happening in the Project?

THE VHC HAPLOTREE is a chart that summarizes what we know so far about the relationships among project members, based on Y-chromosome tests. The most recent version of the VHC haplotree is shown on page 2. In the tree, the node labeled A2 represents an inferred ancestor who is estimated to have been born in the mid-1300s. This is a rough estimate, and it could easily be off by one or two centuries in either direction. We do not know A2's name, and we can only make educated guesses about his life—for example, that he may have been a farmer living in southern Värmland.

The Värmland–Hedmark Cluster is defined as all patrilineal (father-to-son) descendants of A2, both those we know and those we have not identified yet. The chart shows that every known member of the Cluster has an earliest known paternal-line ancestor from either Värmland or Hedmark (in Norway, across the border from Värmland). It also shows that some testers are more closely related to each other along the paternal line than to others in the Cluster. Under A2 there are seven main branches, some of which have their own sub-branches.

Although the chart on page 2 is the most recent version of the tree, it is unfortunately not complete. Under A11 (i.e., the fully Norwegian branch), Family Tree DNA lists four new testers and several new branches—none of which is shown in the chart on page 2. There are two reasons why I have not yet created an updated chart that includes these new branches: (i) I ran out of time, and (ii) adding them would be technically complicated and might make it hard to fit the entire tree on a single newsletter page.

I aim to publish a new issue of the newsletter this summer, and by then I will hopefully have found a good solution. One possibility is to use two charts: one more detailed chart that includes only the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster, and one more stylized chart that covers a larger part of the haplotree (perhaps similar to Figure 2 in the current issue). In any case, I do want to include our neighboring branch, defined by A4 in the chart—that branch, and our common ancestor A3, are needed if we are to think about where our lineage came from before it reached Värmland/Hedmark, and when this happened.

Investigating Tester 5's Ancestry

An important recent activity in the project has been to investigate the project participants' patrilineal ancestors, to verify what we think we know and, if possible, to push further back in time.

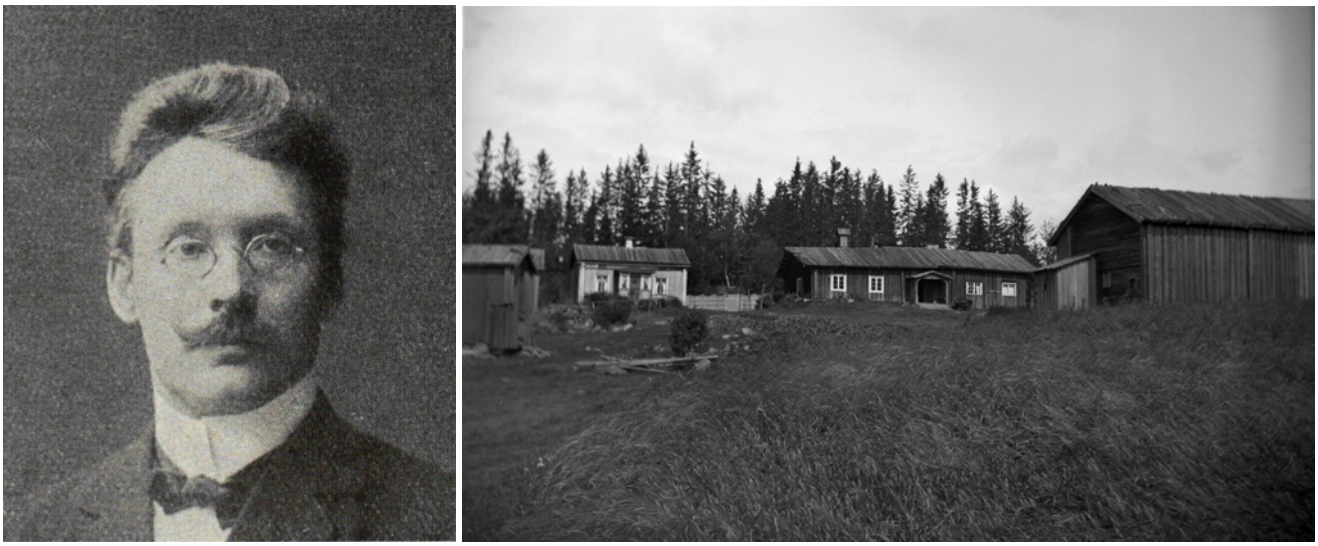


Figure 1: *Left:* Nils Keyland (1867–1924). *Right:* A photograph by Nils Keyland from 1916, showing the Finnish settlement Kvarntorp in Lekvattnet (so *not* the home of Päger and Lätta).

One member we have focused on is Tester 5, who belongs to the sub-branch under A9 in the tree. He lives in the US and is a second-generation American on his direct paternal line. Further back, his paternal ancestry has been somewhat hard to track, partly because of migration between Sweden and Norway before the move to America. However, we have long believed that Tester 5's patriline goes back to Fryksände parish in southern Värmland—specifically to a man called Torsten Pålsson, who lived in the village of Östra Glänne and died in 1737.

Project member Joakim Axnér has done excellent work investigating Torsten Pålsson's patrilineal ancestry. In the written records, Joakim has found evidence suggesting that Torsten Pålsson's paternal grandfather was a man called Petrus Pauli Phrychius (c. 1620–1689), a priest in Frykerud parish.[5] Moreover (although this link is more uncertain), Joakim has found information in court records that seems to indicate that Phrychius' father was a man called Pål, who lived in Skållerud in Frykerud and died in 1644.

About a year ago, we began trying to verify these links using tests of specific Y-chromosome SNPs (i.e., DNA markers). Joakim's investigations suggested that, besides Phrychius, Pål in Skållerud had at least one other son, namely Börje Pålsson, who died in Skållerud in 1676. Joakim also identified a few living patrilineal descendants of Börje Pålsson. One of them—let us call him "TÅ"—was contacted by me in early November 2024 and kindly agreed to be tested.[6] We decided to test whether TÅ is positive or negative for the SNP FTA19875.[7] We know that Tester 5 is positive for this SNP, whereas most men in the general population are negative for it. If TÅ turns out to be *negative* for this marker, then at least one link in our proposed connection between TÅ and Tester 5 must be wrong. If, instead, TÅ is *positive* for FTA19875, this would constitute strong support for the hypothesized relationship.

On January 3, 2025, we received the result from YSEQ: TÅ was negative for FTA19875—a somewhat disappointing finding. The hypothesis we had tested was, however, quite ambitious. It assumed not only that Petrus Pauli Phrychius is a true patrilineal ancestor of Tester 5, but also that we have correctly identified both Phrychius' father and his brother. We therefore next tried to test a more modest hypothesis.

We wanted to confirm that our hypothesized tree was correct at least closer to the present. To this end, we contacted another man—to be referred to as "KH"—who is expected to share a patrilineal ancestor with Tester 5 more recently than TÅ does. The common patrilineal ancestor of KH and Tester 5 is, according to our hypothesized tree, Torsten Pålsson (1675–1737) in Glänne mentioned above—that is, a grandson of Petrus Pauli Phrychius. KH also kindly agreed to be tested at YSEQ, and he submitted his sample on December 10, 2025. Again, we chose the SNP FTA19875 to be tested.

YSEQ was particularly quick this time. On December 19, 2025, we received the result from Berlin: KH was also negative for FTA19875—yet another disappointing outcome. So, what should we make of this?

As explained above, KH being negative for FTA19875 means that the tree cannot look the way we have hypothesized: there is at least one error somewhere in the father-to-son chain. The test does not tell us *where* in the chain the error lies, but my guess is that the mistake is relatively close to Tester 5. It seems more likely that we have misidentified someone in connection with one of the migrations—either between Sweden and Norway or between Sweden and the USA—than in the other parts of the tree, where people typically moved only within the same parish.

Where does this leave us? It looks as if this sub-project now needs to be split into two tasks: (i) to make a new attempt at tracing Tester 5's patrilineal ancestry by returning to the written records, and (ii) to investigate Phrychius' father by identifying new potential test candidates in other parts of the tree and conducting additional tests.

Task (ii) is not directly part of the VHC project, since our results suggest that Phrychius does not belong to the Värmland–Hedmark Cluster. Still, Joakim and I are both curious about whether the hypothesis concerning Phrychius' father is correct—and checking it seems quite feasible. For example, we can investigate (with the help of further Y-DNA tests) whether TÅ and KH share enough SNPs on their Y chromosomes. I plan to pursue this. Task (i) might be harder, but we should do what we can.

3 A New R-U106 White Paper

RECALL THAT the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster is defined by

[5] The name Phrychius is a Latinized form of Fryken or Frykerud, that is, the place he came from. Also "Petrus" and "Pauli" are Latinized versions of Swedish names—Peter and Pålsson, respectively. The Latin name Petrus Pauli Phrychius therefore really means "Peter, Pål's son, from Frykerud".

[6] I already reported on this test in the December 2024 issue (without using the label TÅ or any other name). At that time, we were still waiting for the results.

[7] This is one of the SNPs that define the A9 branch; see the haplotree on page 2 (both the tree and the right-hand-side box).

the following lineage:

$$\text{R1b} \to \text{M269} \to \text{U106} \to \text{Z18} \to \text{S11601} \to \text{Y112538} \to \text{Y130179},$$

where R1b is a very broad group and the letter-number combinations that follow represent gradually more specific branches on the Y-chromosome family tree. For example, the SNP (or DNA marker) U106 defines a branch relatively close to the tree's root and is estimated to be about 5,000 years old.

Over the years, Family Tree DNA has launched a large number of haplogroup projects. One of them is the U106 Project, with 9,536 members and run by volunteers. Iain McDonald is one of the project's most active members and has recently published on his website a white paper on the "Phylogeography of R-U106"—that is, a discussion of where (and when) the SNP U106 and its various subclades might have their origins. The report, McDonald (2025), is available at the author's website.[8]

Some parts of the report dig deep into very small branches, and those sections may not be especially interesting to most people in our project. So I am not sure I would recommend reading the white paper cover to cover. Other parts are more general—or directly relevant to our branch—and are well worth your time. I read the whole report except for the very long and detailed Section 7 (pp. 28–170 of a 181-page text), where I only dipped my toes here and there. Overall, McDonald's white paper is a great resource.

For example, I appreciated the critical discussion of automated tools that estimate geographic origins (Section 1.3, p. 8), such as Hunter Provyn's Mygrations, Rob Spencer's SNP Tracker, and Family Tree DNA's Globetrekker. I personally do not find the methodology very convincing, and I am sometimes worried that the tools might mislead more than they illuminate. In particular for us in the VHC project, and concerning our relatively small part of the overall haplotree, the best approach should be mainly manual and use qualitative reasoning (which does not rule out statistical modeling and/or testing, when possible). In McDonald's list of "systems of identifying origins" on page 171, this corresponds to his last item:

> ***Clade-by-clade examination.*** *While labour-intensive, manual expert examination of the tree and the individuals that make it up remains the most effective means of identifying origins. While this introduces personal biases, it also means that confounding factors can be taken into account.*

It is useful to quote a couple of other passages in the report. On page 39, Section 7.2.6, McDonald discusses the branch (or "subclade") R-Z18 → S19726. This is believed to be just under 4,000 years old, and the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster (which is about 700 years old) is a small offshoot on that branch—cf. Figure 2.[9] This is how McDonald sums up his discussion of S19726:

> *This therefore provides us with very little information to deduce an origin for R-S19726, as we are mostly reliant on recent haplogroups. It appears fairly typical of other R-Z18 sub-clades, with a locus near northern Germany or Denmark, but is hard to pinpoint precisely.*

Finally, in Section 7.2.7 on page 39, McDonald focuses on the subclade ZP30, which is even closer to us in the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster (cf. again Figure 2). Indeed, the VHC-defining SNP Y95493 is in one place mentioned explicitly:

> *R-ZP30 shows a relatively complex distribution for a young haplogroup. Its strong Scandinavian component persists throughout the haplogroup, but is most notable in R-ZP144 > FT4479 > FT4074 > Y112538 (TMRCA: ∼ 350 AD). The medieval R-Y112538>Y95493 in particular is concentrated in Värmland (Sweden), while the late medieval R-Y112538 > BY71612 > BY106437 is strongly Norwegian from west of Trondheim.*
>
> *[...]*
>
> *Overall, the strong Scandinavian component of R-ZP30 cannot be ignored, particularly in Norway. There is insufficient evidence to place an origin in any specific place, but an origin in Norway or Sweden might be expected.*

Let me conclude this section with a reflection of my own (which I have also discussed in the December 2020 issue, pp. 7–9, of the newsletter). My interpretation of the flag pattern shown in Figure 2 is that, along the lineage between Z18 and Y95493, there cannot have been a single migration from, say, Scandinavia to the British Isles (or the other way around).

Rather, to explain the pattern, we must conceive of several migrations back and forth. It is hard to see much more than that, however—like when the migrations have occurred and between which regions. This is essentially why I do not think we can tell—given the amount of data

[8] Here is a direct link to the report: https://www.jb.man.ac.uk/ mcdonald/genetics/phylogeography.pdf. Alternatively, one can go to his website at https://www.jb.man.ac.uk/ mcdonald/genetics.html and there scroll down to the title "Draft phylogeographial analysis for R-U106".

[9] Figure 2 is a recycled version of a figure in the December 2023 issue of the VHC Newsletter. It has not been updated, although this should not matter much as the changes in our part of the haplotree since then have been modest.

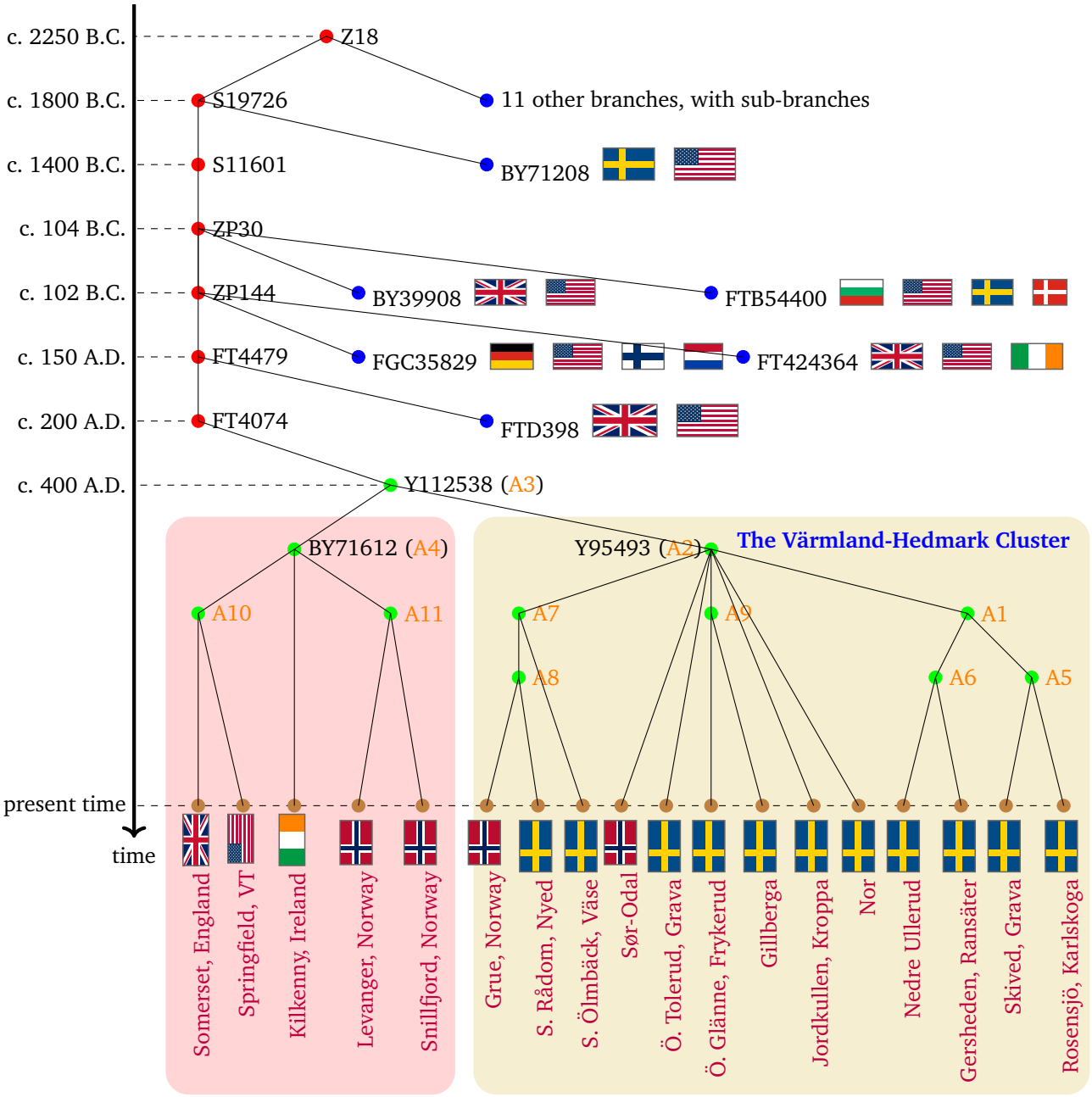


Figure 2: The figure shows a partially truncated version of the Y-DNA haplotree under R-Z18—as of December 2020, when the figure was made. The blue nodes represent branches with sub-branches that have been left out. The red nodes, in contrast, are exactly as shown in FTDNA's tree. The green nodes also show the complete, known haplotree (given information from both FTDNA and YFull, in addition to some things known only within the project); moreover, the part of the tree with green nodes coincides with the tree shown on page 2.

that we have access to presently—if Y112538 originated in Scandinavia or the British Isles (or even some other place).

4 YFull Has Moved to Spain

For the past several years, our project has relied not only—indeed not primarily—on Big Y tests from Family Tree DNA. Much of the expansion of our branch of the haplotree has instead come from whole-genome sequencing (WGS) tests purchased from other providers (previously Dante Labs, and next Sequencing). The Y-chromosome data from these tests have then been analyzed by YFull.

YFull was originally based in Rus-

sia, which—after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022—many people have seen as a concern. I discussed the question how to deal with the new situation in the July 2022 issue of the VHC Newsletter.

However, we have recently received good news. YFull announced (via the company's Facebook group) that it would move its servers to Spain, and the migration took place on November 18–21, 2025. Earlier, soon after the invasion, YFull also moved its official company registration from Russia to Spain.

From what I can tell, YFull has now cut its remaining operational ties to Russia. For practical purposes, we can treat it as a Spain-based company, which also means that it is subject to EU data-protection rules (GDPR).

5 A Picture from a Lagerlöf Family Reunion

I WILL CONCLUDE this issue of the VHC Newsletter with a picture from an (extended) family reunion held in Värmland in August 2025—see Figure 3.

This picture shows Testers 1a and 1b—that is, yours truly and Jan Lagerlöf, my third cousin once removed. We are sitting in front of a statue of the writer Selma Lagerlöf (1858–1940), who belonged to a rather distant branch of the Lagerlöf family relative to both Jan and me. The statue is located in Rottneros Park, a well-known floral and sculpture park near Sunne in Värmland.

References

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McDonald, Iain. 2025. "Phylogeography of R-U106."Technical report, Available at https://www.jb.man.ac.uk/ mcdonald/genetics/phylogeography.pdf.

Figure 3: Tester 1b (left) and Tester 1a (right)—i.e., Jan Lagerlöf and Johan Lagerlöf, respectively. The photo was taken in Rottneros Park on August 9, 2025, by Cissela Génetay.

Svensk sammanfattning

Värmland–Hedmark-klustret (förkortat VHC) är namnet på en (vad det verkar) väldigt stor släkt som levde i Värmland och Hedmark under medeltiden och kanske ännu längre tillbaka i tiden. I dag är det många människor, inte minst i Värmland, som härstammar från denna släkt på sin raka fädernelinje – 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-tester på nu levande personer. Framför allt har vi haft stor nytta av tester av Y-kromosomen, som bara män har och som ärvs från far till son. Vi arbetar löpande med att samla mer kunskap om Värmland-Hedmark-klustret. Nyhetsbrevet har utkommit i juli och december varje år sedan 2019 (med hittills ett enda undantag), och det rapporterar och diskuterar vad som har hänt inom projektet sedan sist.

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

✔Omslagsbilden föreställer Per Persson, eller Päger som han kallades. Han föddes 1829 i Fryksände och dog 1904 i Lekvattnet. I bygden var han känd som trollkarl. Vi har ingen speciell anledning att tro att han tillhörde Värmland-Hedmark-klustret – att han är med på omslaget beror på han är en intressant person och att jag gillar fotografiet. I nyhetsbrevet citerar jag några stycken ur en tidningsartikel från 1902 om Päger och hans hustru Lätta, författad av folklivsforskaren Nils Keyland (1867–1924).

✔Den senaste versionen av projektets haploträd återfinns som vanligt på sidan 2. De enda förändringarna jämfört med den föregående versionen berör åldersuppgifterna i trädet, som har uppdaterats till de senast tillgängliga uppskattningarna från YFull och Family Tree DNA. Vi har dessutom fortsatt våra undersökningar av Tester 5:s anor längs den raka fädernelinjen. Vi har låtit testa två individer hos YSEQ i Berlin för att försöka verifiera Tester 5:s släktträd. Våra skriftliga källor tydde på att Tester 5 kan vara en ättling till Petrus Pauli Phrychius (ca 1620–1689), präst i Frykerud socken. Båda testerna gav dock negativa resultat, vilket tyder på att det har smugit sig in något fel i Tester 5:s släktträd. Detta är ett nedslående utfall, men vi kommer att fortsätta våra ansträngningar med att dels hitta Tester 5:s anor, dels försöka verifiera vår hypotes om vilka Phrychius far och bror var.

✔På Family Tree DNA:s plattform finns ett stort antal haplogruppsprojekt som drivs av volontärer. Ett av dessa är projektet för haplogruppen R-U106, som ligger några steg närmare roten i haploträdet än Värmland–Hedmark-klustret. En av administratörerna för U106-projektet, Iain McDonald, har nyligen skrivit en rapport med titeln “Phylogeography of R-U106”, där han bland annat diskuterar var (och när) U106 och dess olika undergrenar kan tänkas ha uppstått. I nyhetsbrevet sammanfattar jag delar av rapporten och återger några citat ur den.

✔Vårt projekt har länge förlitat sig inte bara på Big Y-tester från Family Tree DNA, utan också i hög grad på så kallade helgenomtester, som sedan har skickats till YFull för analys. YFull är ursprungligen ett ryskt företag, och detta har sedan Rysslands fullskaliga invasion av Ukraina våren 2022 varit bekymmersamt. Vi har dock nyligen nåtts av det glädjande beskedet att YFull har flyttat sina servrar till Spanien; detta skedde under perioden 18–21 november 2025. Företaget har dessutom varit officiellt registrerat i Spanien sedan strax efter invasionen. Såvitt jag kan bedöma är YFull därmed i praktiken ett spanskt företag, vilket bland annat innebär att verksamheten regleras av EU-lagstiftning (som GDPR).