

# The Värmland-Hedmark Cluster

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## 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](http://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](http://www.johanlagerlof.com/the-vhc-blog).

The newsletter is written in  $\text{\LaTeX}$ . The layout is borrowed from [www.overleaf.com](http://www.overleaf.com), which cites [howtotex.com](http://howtotex.com) (a now discontinued website), September 2011, as its source.

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 [En svensk sammanfattning av det viktigaste i nyhetsbrevet finns på sista sidan.](#)

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# The Värmland-Hedmark Cluster and a Neighboring Branch (July 2024)

## Confidence intervals for age estimates

The age estimates for A1-A9 in the tree are from YFull (YTree v12.02.00), and those for A3 and A10-A11 are from FTDNA (July 31, 2024); 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:

- ◇ **A1:** 924 – 1624
- ◇ **A2:** 1174 – 1524
- ◇ **A3:** { 476 B.C. – 674 (YFull) / 129 B.C. – 729 (FTDNA) }
- ◇ **A4:** 324 – 1274
- ◇ **A5:** 924 – 1749
- ◇ **A6:** 1174 – 1524
- ◇ **A7:** 1174 – 1524
- ◇ **A8:** 1124 – 1849
- ◇ **A9:** 716 – 1566
- ◇ **A10:** 1230 – 1704
- ◇ **A11:** 1230 – 1704

## 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.johannlagerlof.com/gengen](http://www.johannlagerlof.com/gengen). The branches shown in the tree are defined by the SNPs listed below (note that A6 does not exist).\*

### 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
- ◇ **A6:** A25847\*
- ◇ **A7:** A25843, A25844, A25845, Y126692(H)\*
- ◇ **A8:** FT1A19875\*, FT1A18226(H), A26538(H)\*
- ◇ **A9:** FT5016, FT5166, FT5167, FT5193, FT5729
- ◇ **A10:** BY106437, BY112147, BY134583

\*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.

## A3 (YFull: ~141; FTDNA: ~348)

## A4 (~866)

### A10 (~1219)

**Somerset, England**  
George Poulton (c. 1868)

**Springfield, Vermont**  
Abraham (1804/5-?)

**England (Somerset)**  
Tester 8 (BY-700)

**USA**  
Tester 18 (BY-700)

**Levanger, Norway**  
Andreas (1829-?)

**Ireland (Kilkenny)**  
Tester 9 (BY-700)

**Norway (Levanger)**  
Tester 7 (BY-500)

**Norway (Shillford)**  
Tester 19 (BY-700)

### A11 (~1506)

**Ser-Odal, Norway**  
Ole (1825-?)

**Norway (Ser-Odal)**  
Tester 6 (BY-700)

**Grue, Norway**  
Bjørn (1835-1897)

**Norway (Grue)**  
Tester 12 (33X WGS)

**Östra Tolered, Grava**  
Johan (1711-1773)

**Sweden (Ö. Tolered, Grava)**  
Tester 17 (30X WGS)

**Örnsjö, Väse**  
Christoffer (1600-1675)

**Sweden (Örnsjö, Väse)**  
Tester 4 (BY-500, SNP test)

**Örnsjö, Väse**  
Anders (1637-1730)

**Sweden (Örnsjö, Väse)**  
Tester 9 (BY-700)

## The Värmland-Hedmark Cluster

### A7 (~1307)

**Örnsjö, Väse**  
Christoffer (1600-1675)

**Sweden (Örnsjö, Väse)**  
Tester 5 (BY-700)

**Örnsjö, Väse**  
Anders (1637-1730)

**Sweden (Örnsjö, Väse)**  
Tester 9 (BY-700)

**Örnsjö, Väse**  
Anders (1637-1730)

**Sweden (Örnsjö, Väse)**  
Tester 4 (BY-500, SNP test)

**Örnsjö, Väse**  
Anders (1637-1730)

**Sweden (Örnsjö, Väse)**  
Tester 9 (BY-700)

**Örnsjö, Väse**  
Anders (1637-1730)

**Sweden (Örnsjö, Väse)**  
Tester 4 (BY-500, SNP test)

### A9 (~1599)

**Östra Glänsne, Frykerud**  
Torsten (c. 1737)

**Sweden (Ö. Glänsne, Frykerud)**  
Tester 5 (BY-700)

**Östra Glänsne, Frykerud**  
Pål (1711-1777)

**Sweden (Ö. Glänsne, Frykerud)**  
Tester 5 (BY-700)

**Östra Glänsne, Frykerud**  
Pål (1711-1777)

**Sweden (Ö. Glänsne, Frykerud)**  
Tester 5 (BY-700)

**Östra Glänsne, Frykerud**  
Pål (1711-1777)

**Sweden (Ö. Glänsne, Frykerud)**  
Tester 5 (BY-700)

**Östra Glänsne, Frykerud**  
Pål (1711-1777)

**Sweden (Ö. Glänsne, Frykerud)**  
Tester 5 (BY-700)

### A2 (~1349)

**Gillberga**  
Anders (1742-?)

**Sweden (Gillberga)**  
Tester 15a (33X WGS)

**Gillberga**  
Anders (1742-?)

**Sweden (Gillberga)**  
Tester 15a (33X WGS)

**Gillberga**  
Anders (1742-?)

**Sweden (Gillberga)**  
Tester 15a (33X WGS)

**Gillberga**  
Anders (1742-?)

**Sweden (Gillberga)**  
Tester 15a (33X WGS)

**Gillberga**  
Anders (1742-?)

**Sweden (Gillberga)**  
Tester 15a (33X WGS)

### A1 (~1308)

**Upplands, Övre Ulterud**  
Svein (c. 1600-1690)

**Sweden (Upplands, Ö. Ulterud)**  
Tester 9 (BY-700)

**Upplands, Övre Ulterud**  
Svein (c. 1600-1690)

**Sweden (Upplands, Ö. Ulterud)**  
Tester 9 (BY-700)

**Upplands, Övre Ulterud**  
Svein (c. 1600-1690)

**Sweden (Upplands, Ö. Ulterud)**  
Tester 9 (BY-700)

**Upplands, Övre Ulterud**  
Svein (c. 1600-1690)

**Sweden (Upplands, Ö. Ulterud)**  
Tester 9 (BY-700)

**Upplands, Övre Ulterud**  
Svein (c. 1600-1690)

**Sweden (Upplands, Ö. Ulterud)**  
Tester 9 (BY-700)

### A5 (~1453)

**Skived, Grava**  
Per (1406 to 1496)

**Sweden (Skived, Grava)**  
Tester 1a (BY-500, 30X WGS)

**Skived, Grava**  
Per (1406 to 1496)

**Sweden (Skived, Grava)**  
Tester 1a (BY-500, 30X WGS)

**Skived, Grava**  
Per (1406 to 1496)

**Sweden (Skived, Grava)**  
Tester 1a (BY-500, 30X WGS)

**Skived, Grava**  
Per (1406 to 1496)

**Sweden (Skived, Grava)**  
Tester 1a (BY-500, 30X WGS)

**Skived, Grava**  
Per (1406 to 1496)

**Sweden (Skived, Grava)**  
Tester 1a (BY-500, 30X WGS)

### A5 (~1453)

**Rosensjö, Karlskoga**  
Nils (1742-?)

**Sweden (Rosensjö, Karlskoga)**  
Tester 11 (BY-700)

**Rosensjö, Karlskoga**  
Nils (1742-?)

**Sweden (Rosensjö, Karlskoga)**  
Tester 11 (BY-700)

**Rosensjö, Karlskoga**  
Nils (1742-?)

**Sweden (Rosensjö, Karlskoga)**  
Tester 11 (BY-700)

**Rosensjö, Karlskoga**  
Nils (1742-?)

**Sweden (Rosensjö, Karlskoga)**  
Tester 11 (BY-700)

**Rosensjö, Karlskoga**  
Nils (1742-?)

**Sweden (Rosensjö, Karlskoga)**  
Tester 11 (BY-700)

### A5 (~1453)

**Jordkullen, Kroppa**  
Johan (1678-1739)

**Sweden (Jordkullen, Kroppa)**  
Tester 10 (BY-700)

**Jordkullen, Kroppa**  
Johan (1678-1739)

**Sweden (Jordkullen, Kroppa)**  
Tester 10 (BY-700)

**Jordkullen, Kroppa**  
Johan (1678-1739)

**Sweden (Jordkullen, Kroppa)**  
Tester 10 (BY-700)

**Jordkullen, Kroppa**  
Johan (1678-1739)

**Sweden (Jordkullen, Kroppa)**  
Tester 10 (BY-700)

**Jordkullen, Kroppa**  
Johan (1678-1739)

**Sweden (Jordkullen, Kroppa)**  
Tester 10 (BY-700)

### A5 (~1453)

**Nor**  
Bengt Andersson (1740-1800)

**Sweden (Nor)**  
Tester 16 (33X, 30X WGS)

**Nor**  
Bengt Andersson (1740-1800)

**Sweden (Nor)**  
Tester 16 (33X, 30X WGS)

**Nor**  
Bengt Andersson (1740-1800)

**Sweden (Nor)**  
Tester 16 (33X, 30X WGS)

**Nor**  
Bengt Andersson (1740-1800)

**Sweden (Nor)**  
Tester 16 (33X, 30X WGS)

**Nor**  
Bengt Andersson (1740-1800)

**Sweden (Nor)**  
Tester 16 (33X, 30X WGS)

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, Nor- way	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), Jord- kullen, Kroppa parish, Värmland	Big Y-700	3
11	YF66826 (=YF11441)	Nils Nilsson (1742–?), Rosensjö, Karl- skoga 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–?), Gill- berga 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 summer 2024 issue of the VHC Newsletter. Most of it I have written while sitting in a cottage in Sunnemo, Värmland (see Figure 1 for some pictures of my summer office). This is not very far from places like Munkfors, Ransäter, and Gersheden, which all play an important role in matters that will be discussed in the new issue.

The man on the cover, Viktor Johansson, lived in Ransäter and he was a photographer. In Section 1, I explain more about who this man was and how I came across the photograph. In Section 2, I give an account of what has changed in the VHC haplotree shown on page 2. This time it is not primarily results from DNA tests that have added new information to the tree, but rather genealogical research based on historical records. As I will tell you about, we can thank a new member of the project, Joakim Axné, for this progress.

In Section 3, I summarize where we are in our attempts to identify takers of Family Tree DNA's autosomal test who have been assigned the haplogroup R-ZP30, and who therefore has a decent chance of belonging to the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster. As usual, on the newsletter's last page, one can find a brief Swedish

summary.

## 1 Viktor Johansson, a Photographer from Ransäter

THE SMARTLY dressed man on the cover is Viktor Johansson.<sup>1</sup> He was, at least part-time, a professional photographer; this picture is said to be a self-portrait. Viktor was born in Ransäter on May 8, 1887, and he had a twin brother, Gustaf Vilhelm. The boys' mother was Ingeborg Jönsdotter (1854–1939). At the time of their birth, she was 32 years old and written in the records as a *piga* and *hemmadotter* (i.e., maid/female farm hand and “daughter living at home”). Accordingly, she was not married. The name of the father is recorded as *ej angiven* (i.e., not stated by the mother).<sup>2</sup> I do not know whether the twin brothers themselves knew who their father was.

Ingeborg and her sons lived in Norra Stensdalen in the parish of Ransäter. That is where the church records place all three family members until September 22, 1906, when the twins, at the age of 19, emigrate to North America.<sup>3</sup> Already according to the church records for the period

1910–1917, however, Viktor is back in Sweden and in Norra Stensdalen. Viktor's occupation is now recorded as photographer. If we speculate a little, it seems plausible that he learned that trade—or at least found inspiration to learn and start practice it—in North America. In the next couple of volumes of the church records, Viktor's occupation is said to be photographer and postman.<sup>4</sup>

Viktor passed away on April 9, 1932, at which point he was still living in Norra Stensdalen. He was thus only 44 years of age when he died. The cause of death was sepsis.<sup>5</sup> Viktor's brother Gustaf Vilhelm also returned to Sweden from North America, although I have not investigated when he did so. He married in 1928 and died in Holsby in Ransäter in 1953. The twins' mother, Ingeborg Jönsdotter, died in 1939 in Norra Stensdalen.

I first found the cover photograph, together with other pictures taken by Viktor Johansson, in a Facebook group where they had been posted by a man called Bo Liljemark. I later also discovered that Bo runs a website that is dedicated to pictures taken by Viktor Johansson and a few other photographers from Värmland—see <https://boliljemarkcom.wordpress.com/>.

<sup>1</sup>His other first name was Johan, but he appears to have been called Viktor.

<sup>2</sup>See Ransäter (S) C:8 (1883-1893) Bild 81.

<sup>3</sup>Se Ransäter (S) AIIa:4 (1903-1909) Bild 320 / sid 362.

<sup>4</sup>Se Ransäter (S) AIIa:9 (1918-1924) Bild 1550 / sid 449 and Ransäter (S) AIIa:11 (1925-1936) Bild 1410 / sid 433.

<sup>5</sup>See Ransäter (S) F:5 (1913-1943) Bild 93 / sid 89.



Figure 1: My summer office in Sunnemo, Värmland.

Bo, who lives in Sunne in Värmland, has kindly given me permission to use the photograph in this newsletter. I do not believe that the photograph is available in some public archive, but only privately through Bo Liljemark.

According to the information on Bo's website, a grandchild of Viktor's sibling (which, I presume, must be the twin brother Gustaf Vilhelm) asked Bo—who since many years is an avid amateur photographer—to see what could be done about Viktor's large collection of photo negatives. Early on, for a few years, Bo used analogue darkroom techniques to produce some 50–100 paper copies from Viktor's negatives. Doing this, however, was time-consuming and expensive. More recently, Bo has started to use digital techniques, which makes the task significantly easier.

I think Bo is doing a magnificent job, and I hope he will have a chance to continue to produce pictures from Viktor's treasure trove. It would also be great if, at some point in time, the collection could be made publicly available somehow—perhaps by submitting digital versions of the photographs to some appropriate online archive. In any case, kudos to Bo Liljemark!

## 2 Developments in the VHC Tree

ON PAGE 2, one finds the most recent version of the VHC haplotree. All the changes are confined to the left branch under A1 in the tree—that is, to Anders Elofsson (c. 1600–1690) in Upplanda, Övre Ullerud, and his descendants. This time the changes have not been driven by new DNA test results but by successful genealogical research in

the church records and by findings in court minutes from the 1600s and 1700s. It is fair to say, however, that these paper-trail successes have been *prompted* by new test results.

Perhaps surprisingly, these new test results are from *autosomal* DNA tests (although they concern Y-chromosome data). The testing company Family Tree DNA has recently launched a new feature associated with its autosomal test Family Finder: the company now assigns a Y-chromosome haplogroup to all male individuals who take such a test.<sup>6</sup> The haplogroup that this test has the capacity to identify and assign is not very granular, but it is precise enough to be potentially very useful for our project. A person who truly belongs to the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster will by the Family Finder test be assigned the haplogroup R-ZP30. However, of all Family Finder testers who are assigned that haplogroup, only perhaps one in ten or one in twenty belongs to the more granular haplogroup that defines the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster. This is admittedly a fairly low number. Yet when we try learn whether the tester indeed belongs to the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster we can often be helped by information about the geographic origin of the tester's patrilineal ancestors.

*New project member: Joakim Axné*

One of the persons who recently received a haplogroup assignment based on his Family Finder test is Joakim Axné, a man living in Stockholm, Sweden (he has kindly allowed me to use his name in the newsletter). Joakim is a skillful amateur genealogist and active on the “single/collaborative family tree” forum WikiTree (see <https://www.wikitree.com/>). After hav-

ing learned about his assigned haplogroup R-ZP30, Joakim Googled this haplogroup, found my website and the newsletters, and then (on May 6, 2024) contacted me.

At the time, Joakim's oldest known patrilineal ancestor was a man called Elof Andersson, who died in 1705 in Gersheden in Ransäter, Värmland. This observation and the fact that Joakim is positive for the SNP ZP30 made us very optimistic that he also belongs to the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster. We wanted to have that confirmed by letting Joakim test the SNP Y128033 at the testing company YSEQ; this SNP is one of the markers that define the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster. On June 14, 2024, YSEQ reported to us that Joakim is indeed positive for that SNP.

I administrate a fairly large number of Family Finder tests. In the list of matches of each of these tests, I have searched for “ZP30”. Doing this has given me a list of testers that all are known to be positive for the SNP ZP30, and which therefore might also belong to the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster; in addition to names and contact information of these testers, the list contains details about the patrilineal ancestry of some of them.

*Link between Testers 13b and TRB*

In May, I showed Joakim (who has been labeled Tester 13b) the current version of my list and in it he discovered one name—let us call this person “Tester TRB”—that Joakim suspected might be connected to his own patriline. Indeed, soon later (on June 5) Joakim reported to me that he had found a common patrilineal ancestor to himself and Tester TRB: Håkan Elofsson (1724–1797). This ancestor can be found in the bottom right corner in the family tree shown on page 8.

<sup>6</sup>For a detailed explanation and discussion, see No. 10 (Dec. 2023) of this newsletter.

*Link between Testers 13a and 13b*

Now Joakim felt inspired to see if he could find a patrilinear connection also between Tester 13 (now re-labeled 13a) and himself. The common geographical location appearing in the two patriline—Gersheden in the parish of Ransäter—suggested that such a connection might be possible to find. On July 3, Joakim told me that he thinks he has found evidence in church records and in court minutes that indeed suggests that also Tester 13a—just like Joakim himself—is a patrilinear descendent of Elof Andersson (c. 1640–1705). Also this connection is illustrated in the tree shown on page 8.

*Link between Testers 13b and 2*

The next challenge for Joakim concerned a possible connection between Tester 2 and himself. Elof Andersson is known to have been born in Övre Ullerud, whereas the (at the time) oldest known patrilinear ancestor of Tester 2 was from Nedre Ullerud—the parish immediately south of Övre Ullerud. Therefore, there was certainly a reasonably close *geographical* connection, so this looked promising.

On July 10, Joakim could report to me that he thought that he had found the link. The oldest patrilinear ancestor of Tester 2 that we knew about at the time was Anders Andersson (1790–1873). This man’s mother was unmarried, and his father appears to have been unknown—at least in the church records. However, Joakim had found court minutes that stated that the father was a farmhand called Anders Andersson, who lived in Ås. Moreover, this man had acknowledged paternity of the boy. Joakim further argued that it seems likely that this place Ås that is referred to is the village Ås in Övre Ullerud. The church records show

that, at the time, there was only one Anders Andersson living in Ås in Övre Ullerud, and he was born in 1769 in Norra Ås (which would make him about 21 years old when he fathered the child). The patrilinear ancestry of this man, Anders Andersson in Ås, could in turn be tracked in the records and led back to Segol Andersson (c. 1621–1719), who was a brother of Elof Andersson (c. 1640–1705). The father of these two brothers was a man called Anders Elofsson, who died in Upplanda, Övre Ullerud, 1690 and probably was born in 1600 or thereabout (we do not know where).

*Are these results reliable?*

As is clear from the above account, there are some links in the chain of connections that appear to be somewhat weak—like the claim that the father of Anders Andersson (1790–1873) was Anders Andersson, born in 1769 in Norra Ås. Indeed, if the only evidence we had were the church records and court minutes, then we should rightly feel a bit nervous about the reliability of the account. Fortunately, that is not the only evidence we have access to—there are also results from several DNA tests that support the account, and we are in the process of adding further tests.

Specifically, if the true tree looks as described above and on page 8, then Anders Elofsson (c. 1600–1690) and thus all his patrilinear descendants must have been positive for the SNP BY12164. Moreover, Ancestor A1 in the tree must have been *negative* for that SNP. Those things mean, in turn, that if the testers that we believe are patrilinear descendants of Anders Elofsson (c. 1600–1690) all turn out to be positive for BY12164, then our hypothesis about the tree structure has passed a fairly hard test—it is hard in the sense that

it is unlikely that we would obtain those test results if our hypothesis were wrong, as the SNP in question is rare in the population. We know already today that two of the four testers that we expect to be patrilinear descendants of Anders Elofsson (c. 1600–1690), namely Tester 2 and Tester 13a, are positive for BY12164. For Tester 13b, we have ordered a test of BY12164 at the testing company YSEQ, and hopefully we will receive the results soon. For tester TRB, we hope to be able to order a test of BY12164 later.

Already now, however, we know that Tester 13b is positive for the SNP Y1128033, which is one of the SNPs that define the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster and which is thus located upstream of Anders Elofsson (c. 1600–1690) in the tree—the latter fact makes this test somewhat less difficult to pass even if the hypothesis is wrong, although it is still reasonably hard and therefore useful. Similarly, we already now know that Tester TRB is positive for the SNP ZP30, which is located even further upstream in the tree. Also this test is useful and provides at least some further support in favor of our hypothesis about the tree structure, although the support will be stronger if we later can show that Tester TRB is positive for BY12164.

Overall, I personally feel confident enough about the claims made above to include the new information in the tree. We will, however, continue to gather information and carry out further tests that can help us feel even more confident.

Most of the findings, with information about sources, have been added by Joakim Axné to the relevant pages on the WikiTree website. See, for example, the following page for Anders Elofsson (c. 1600–1690): <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Elofsson-83>. The pages for the

other individuals in the tree can easily be reached by using the relevant links.

#### Summing up

Summing up, we have—thanks to Joakim Axné’s great efforts—identified the ancestor A6 shown in earlier versions of the VHC tree. Up until now, we have only known that A6 is the youngest common patrilineal ancestor of Tester 2 and Tester 13a; thanks to DNA tests we also knew that A6 must have lived fairly recently—YFull’s point estimate for the year of A6’s birth was 1465, with a large 95% confidence interval: 923 — 1773. Now we know that the name of A6 was Anders Elofsson, that he died in Upplanda, Norra Ullerud in 1690, and that he was born around 1600.

The point estimate for A6’s birth year was apparently off by as much as about one and a half century, which is not very surprising or remarkable (just note the size of the confidence interval). Yet it is interesting to note that the true birth year that we have now found is so recent (we can even find the man A6 in the historical records). Perhaps several of the other age estimates in the tree are also overestimates,<sup>7</sup> and that the patriline that we investigate in this project arrived in Värmland/Hedmark not that long ago (so, say in the 1400s or 1500s, rather than two or three centuries earlier than that)? This last remark/question is, of course, rather speculative—it is still true that we

simply do not know. It is nevertheless useful to raise the question and to think about these issues.

### 3 Haplogroups via the Family Finder Test—Where Are We?

AS MENTIONED in the previous section, I administered a fairly large number of Family Finder tests, and by using the list of matches for those tests I have identified 38 test takers who we know are positive for the SNP ZP30. As also pointed out above, being positive for ZP30 is an indication that the tester might indeed be a member of the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster. My assessment is that this might be true for perhaps one in ten, or one in twenty, of those who are positive for ZP30. We certainly know that being positive for that SNP is a *necessary* requirement for a tester to belong to the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster.

For many of these 38 test takers that are positive for ZP30, I do not have any information about the geographical origin of their patriline or even the test taker’s own nationality. A crude way of sorting the testers, however, is to just look at their names and see if they look Swedish, Norwegian, English, or something else. When I created such a list in May (I have not had time to re-do it in the last few weeks), I obtained the following result:

- 18 Swedish names.

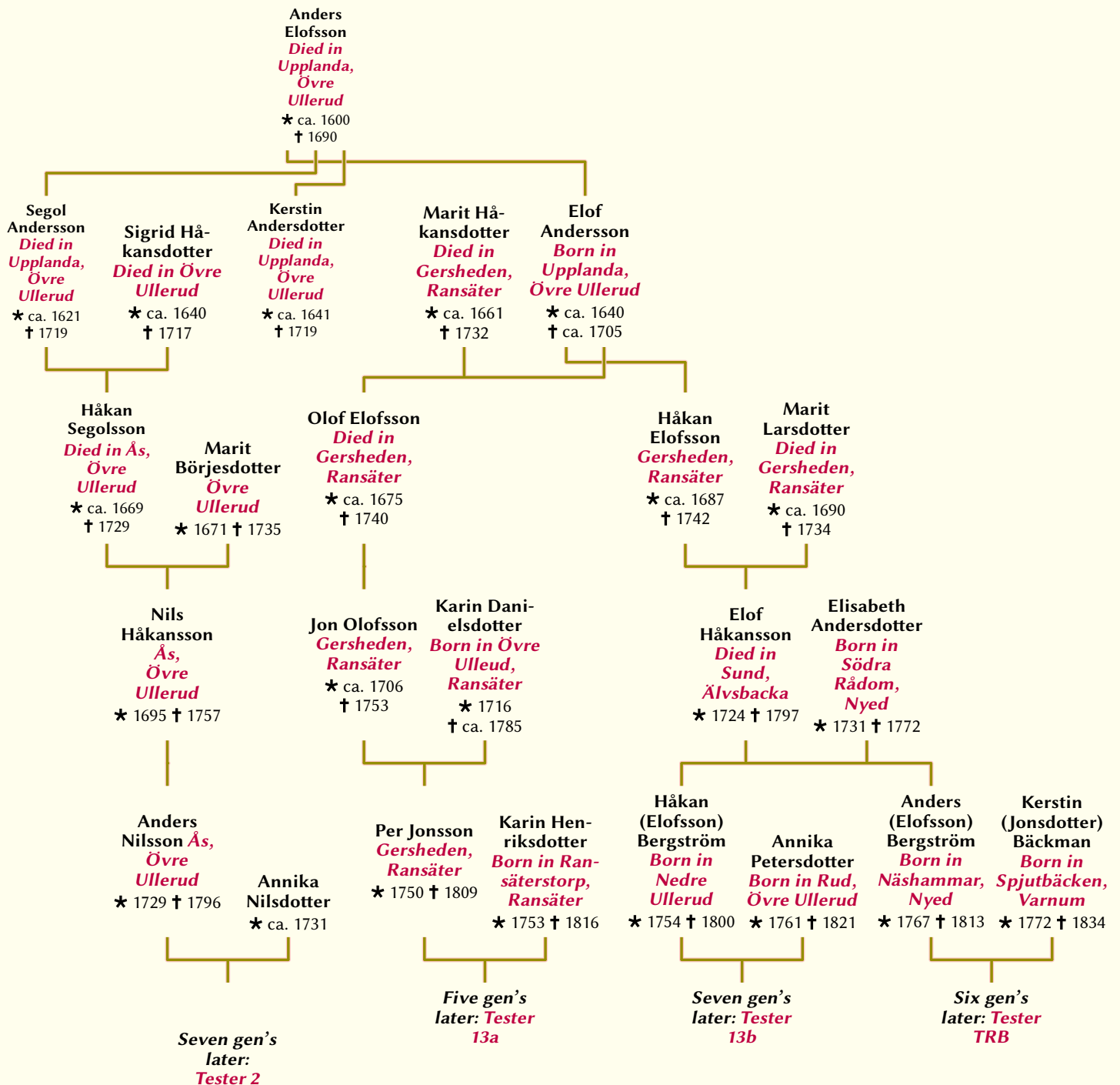
- Four Norwegian names.
- 15 English names.

In addition there is one name to which I have difficulty attaching a nationality. By using my (often scarce) information about the tester’s ancestral origin, I could in May make a short list of four test takers that appear to belong to the Värmland-Hedmark Cluster with a high likelihood: three Swedish names and one Norwegian (the latter’s patriline comes from Østfold which is relatively close to the Swedish border and to Värmland).

One of the three Swedish names is Joakim Axné, who I have been in extensive contact with and who now in the last few weeks helped us make significant progress with genealogical research (see the previous section). The other three individuals on my shortlist (two with Swedish names and one with a Norwegian name) I have not yet contacted, although I hope to be able to do that soon. In the December 2023 issue of the newsletter, I wrote that I was planning to recruit people who are positive for ZP30 in various Facebook groups for DNA-testing. Unfortunately I haven’t had time to do that yet. However, given that I have obtained such a long list of names anyway, simply by checking the Family Finder tests that I have access to personally, it does not feel urgent to make the list even longer. Yet I will start to recruit ZP30 positive people also through that method as soon as I can.

<sup>7</sup>That is, “overestimates” in the sense that the estimated ages are older than the true ages.

# Descendants of Anders Elofsson (c. 1600–1690), 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 Viktor Johansson (1887–1932), som var född i Norra Stensdalen i Ransäters socken i Värmland. Viktor var fotograf och lantbrevbärare i Ransäter, och fotografiet är ett självporträtt. Det är Bo Liljemark i Sunne som har gjort fotografiet tillgängligt. Bo sköter dessutom en hemsida (se <https://boliljemark.com.wordpress.com/>) där han visar fler fotografier av Viktor Johansson och ytterligare några värmländska fotografer.
- ✓ På sidan 2 i nyhetsbrevet hittar man som vanligt den senaste versionen av projektets haploträd. Alla förändringar i trädet återfinns i den vänstra grenen under (den okände) anfadern med beteckningen A1. Det finns inte längre någon anfader med beteckningen A2 i trädet, eftersom vi nu har identifierat den mannen. Han hette Anders Elofsson, dog i Upplanda i Övre Ullerud i Värmland år 1690, och var född ungefär år 1600 (vi vet ej var). På sidan 8 i nyhetsbrevet finns ett släkträd som visar en del av Anders Elofssons ättlingar. Sökandet efter de nya resultaten har *inspirerats* av dna-test, men vi lutar oss framförallt mot nyfunna belägg i domböcker och andra skriftliga källor. Den person som vi kan tacka för dessa nya resultat är en ny projektdeltagare – Joakim Axné, som bor i Stockholm och är en duktig och aktiv amatörsläktforskare. Även om de nya resultaten baserar sig på fynd i skriftliga källor, så kan vi använda dna-test för att försöka verifiera resultaten som vi tror oss ha funnit i domböcker och på andra ställen. Vi har redan gjort flera sådana dna-test, och alla dessa ger stöd för den nyfunna trädstrukturen. Vi planerar dessutom att göra ytterligare några test.
- ✓ Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) har lanserat en ny tjänst som följer med det autsomal testet som bolaget säljer. Den nya tjänsten innebär att manliga testtagare får information om sin Y-haplogrupp, även om det är på en ganska grov och oprecis nivå. Informationen bör dock kunna vara till väldigt stor hjälp när vi letar efter ännu ej upptäckta grenar i Värmland-Hedmark-klustret. Om man av den nya tjänsten får sig tilldelad haplogruppen R-ZP30, så är det hyfsat goda chanser att man tillhör Värmland-Hedmark-klustret. Joakim Axné som nämns ovan är en sådan testtagare som vi fick kontakt med tack vare den nya tjänsten (han är nu Tester 13b i vårt träd). Vi har dessutom en ganska lång lista på andra personer som vi, tack vare den nya tjänsten, vet är positiva för ZP30. Vi hoppas att så många som möjligt av dessa testtagare verkligen tillhör vårt kluster. På grund av tidsbrist har vi ännu inte hunnit så långt med att undersöka detta, men vi hoppas att snart kunna börja beta av listan. Alla som av FTDNA tilldelas haplogruppen R-ZP30 är mycket välkomna att ta kontakt!