



## Our Literary Genes

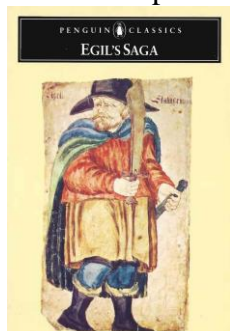




## INTRODUCTION

The talent for writing literature, poetry and prose, seems to be a gift, not something everybody can learn. Maybe there is such a gene, which has been inherited. Some in our family seem to have that interest and talent; my brother Kaj has written stories and poetry, which we have on our homepage.

I have compiled some information about several famous authors which definitely have had that gene – and which maybe has been carried over to some in our family. These authors are listed on the next page and there are brief descriptions about them in this book, taken from Wikipedia. The cover page shows some of their most popular books. An appendix shows how we are related to them, in alphabetical order. For some I have included YouTube links for listening to their poetry and music.

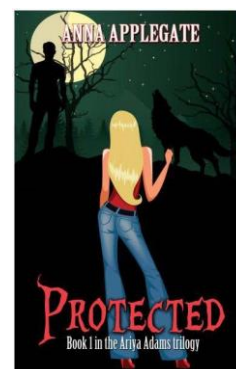


Our earliest direct ancestor/author is the Viking age famous poet **Egill Skallagrimsson** (910 - 990). He is my grand-daughter Anna's 32<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather. His story and famous poems were written down by **Snorri Sturluson**.

Anna is interested in and has now begun to do some writing, so I have listed these authors' relationships in relation to her. Her first novel, Protected (Book 1 in the Ariya Adams trilogy), is available now on Amazon and Barnes & Noble in e-book form. Amazon offers a free downloadable application for computers for users who do not have a Kindle. The links to the book in the US are available below but they are available on other countries Amazon sites as well. If you'd like to follow Anna's journey you can visit her website at <https://annaapplegate.com/> or follow her on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/annaapplegateauthor>.

Amazon: [http://www.amazon.com/Protected-Ariya-Adams-trilogy-ebook/dp/B00DKCZ9S8/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1372774583&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Protected-Ariya-Adams-trilogy-ebook/dp/B00DKCZ9S8/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1372774583&sr=1-1)

Barnes & Noble: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/protected-anna-applegate/1115804736?ean=2940016626369>



Among these authors is a strange coincidence. The maternal great-grandfather of **Poe** and the maternal grandfather of **Longfellow** were Generals in the Revolutionary War. Poe's grandfather was Benedict "The Traitor" Arnold (we can choose friends but not our relatives!) and Longfellow's was Peleg Wadsworth, who remained loyal to George Washington and lived in the building, which had been Washington's headquarter.

On a following page is a short sample of Kaj's poetry. More serious poetry is at <http://www.ancestryfootprints.com/poetry>.

My father wrote often for various magazines. I recall being told that he used the pseudonym "Strix Bubo" (Eagle Owl) but none of those stories have been saved, except one later about a foxhunt in "*Finlands Jakt och Fiske Tidskrift*", a hunting and fishing magazine. A link to the full story is provided.

Uncle Uno had won a first price for a story in the same magazine. He refers to this story in a letter to me, which I have included. His story is here with a location map which I took from our lodge, now torn down. For the story about this lodge, *Strömbäckas*, click here on [Granholmen, an Isle in the Forest](#)

On a following page is Grandfather Karl Johan's thoughtful advice to us.

Lars Granholm  
Adamstown MD, USA  
August 2013

## List of authors/relatives

Agatha Christie	Half 29 <sup>th</sup> cousin
Alexandre Dumas	Half 22 <sup>nd</sup> cousin 6 times removed
Alfred Lord Tennyson	26 <sup>th</sup> cousin 4 times removed
Edgar Allan Poe	28 <sup>th</sup> cousin 3 times removed
Edgar Rice Burroughs	29 <sup>th</sup> cousin once removed
Egill Skallagrimsson	32 <sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather
Eirik Hornborg	9 <sup>th</sup> cousin 5 times removed
Ernest Hemingway	31 <sup>st</sup> cousin once removed
Evert Taube	13 <sup>th</sup> cousin 5 times removed
Francis Scott Fitzgerald	23 <sup>rd</sup> cousin twice removed
Francis Scott Key	24 <sup>th</sup> cousin 5 times removed
George Orwell	Half 24 <sup>th</sup> cousin 3 times removed
Harriet Beecher Stowe	28 <sup>th</sup> cousin 4 times removed
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	32 <sup>nd</sup> cousin 3 times removed
Herman Melville	Half 27 <sup>th</sup> cousin 7 times removed
Jack London	Half 26 <sup>th</sup> cousin twice removed
James Fenimore Cooper	24 <sup>th</sup> cousin 6 times removed
Jane Austen	26 <sup>th</sup> cousin 5 times removed
Johan Ludvig Runeberg	4 <sup>th</sup> cousin 5 times removed
John Steinbeck	29 <sup>th</sup> cousin
Jonathan Swift	25 <sup>th</sup> cousin 7 times removed
Laura Ingalls Wilder	20 <sup>th</sup> cousin 6 times removed
Leo Tolstoy	24 <sup>th</sup> cousin 4 times removed
Lewis Carroll	21 <sup>st</sup> cousin 9 times removed
Louisa May Alcott	28 <sup>th</sup> cousin twice removed
Margaret Mitchell	35 <sup>th</sup> cousin
Mark Twain (Clemens)	26 <sup>th</sup> cousin 3 times removed
Robert Louis Stevenson	30 <sup>th</sup> cousin
Sinclair Lewis	Half 26 <sup>th</sup> cousin twice removed
Snorri Sturluson	6 <sup>th</sup> cousin 26 times removed
Stephen Foster	Half 27 <sup>th</sup> cousin once removed
Viktor Rydberg	Half 11 <sup>th</sup> cousin 7 times removed
Walt Disney	28 <sup>th</sup> cousin once removed
Zachris Topelius	7 <sup>th</sup> cousin 7 times removed

## **What's Cracked**

*Truth be told, I'm a bit of a klutz, just ask my wife, or don't, I'm afraid she'd really tell you what a klutz I am. Seems I'm forever dropping something, breaking something, or knocking something over. "Now what did you do?" seems to be a familiar refrain in our household. "Oooooooh...nothing."*

*And you know what, seems I've always been a klutz, even as a kid. I can't even remember the amount of windows I've broken. I do remember one time when my cousin and I were hitting a tennis ball against a low wall, and I sailed the ball right over the wall, and through the window of the police department next door. I threw the racket down, left my cousin standing there, ran home with visions of being thrown in jail, and fed bread and water for the rest of my life. Knowing my mom would take it hard if I spent the rest of my youthful life in jail, I told her what I did. She called the police department, told them what had happened, and I was very relieved to find out I didn't have to go to jail.*

*So my point is this; I've done my share of breaking things, but if I didn't break it, I sure didn't want to get blamed for it. I've had to confess to too many things in my life that I did do.*

### **What's cracked...I didn't do it.**

1

*I was skipping along,  
and looked on the ground,  
and a great big crack did I see.*

2

*I pondered and pondered,  
how deep did it go?  
perhaps all the way down to China.*

3

*A boy saw a crack,  
I tell you it's true,  
it was all the way deep down in China.*

4

*But wonder of wonders,  
the earth split you see,  
and he was looking at the same crack as me.*

5

*I've broken some things,  
I've done it it's true,  
but this one, just please don't blame me.*

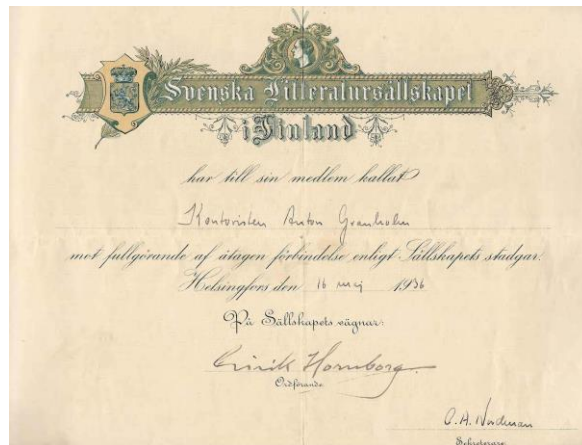
*Kaj Granholm*



My father **Anton Granholm** wrote often for various journals. I recall being told that he used the pseudonym "Strix Bubo" (Eagle Owl) but none of those early stories have been saved, except one about a foxhunt in *Finlands Jakt och Fiske Tidskrift*, a hunting and fishing journal. At our home in Finland we had this tall stuffed owl. You can read Kaj's translation of his poem "[Fox Hunt](#)" in English on our homepage. Click here to read the poem "[Fox Hunt](#)" as it was originally published in 1940 in Swedish.

This poem and the story behind it is further described below by my Uncle Uno in a story, written by him in the same journal.

As an indication of his literary production he was elected in 1936 as a member of the prestigious Swedish Literary Society in Finland, a copy of that appointment is shown here. This is signed by **Eirik Hornborg**, a famous Finnish author and freedom fighter, and also our distant cousin.



## Eirik Hornborg



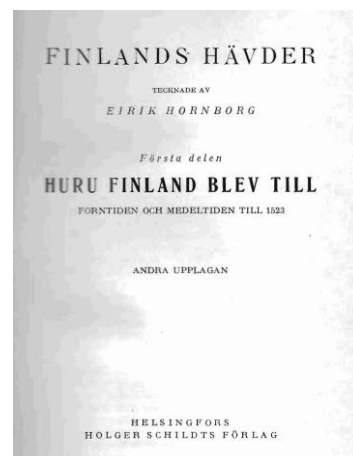
**Eirik Mikael Hornborg**, född [29 september 1879](#) i [Helsingfors](#), död [29 december 1965](#) där, [finländsk historiker](#), [politiker](#), [författare](#), och talare.

Under första världskriget anslöt sig Hornborg till [jägarrörelsen](#) och verkade som soldat vid 27:de preussiska jägarbataljonen 1916-17. Vid de rödas maktövertagande i Helsingfors planerade han att ansluta sig till någon av de lokala [skyddskårerna i Östra Nyland](#) men förbjöds av [Svenska folkpartiet](#) att stanna i huvudstaden "för att finnas till hands". Han höll sig gömd, eftersom han var efterlyst av de röda som dömt honom till döden. Vid stadens befrielse deltog han i en skyddskårspluton som invecklades i gatustrider.

Trots att Hornborg till sin utbildning var skolman och skolrektor kom han i hög grad att bli en politisk person, först som ledamot av [lantdagen](#), senare som representant för Svenska Folkpartiet i [Finlands riksdag](#) mellan 1924 och 1927. Han var 1923–26 ordförande i försvarsrevisionen och 1945 för den kommitté som utredde Finlands utrikespolitik under [andra världskriget](#).

Som författare och skribent under sju decennier var Hornborg oerhört produktiv. 1981 utgavs en förteckning över hans skriftalster: "Eirik Hornborgs i tryck utgivna skrifter 1897-1968." Bibliografen på 178 sidor omfattar över 1400 nummer. Han var medlem av tidskriften [Nya Argus](#) redaktion från 1927 till 1948. Enbart i denna skrev han mer än 300 artiklar. 1934-47 var han ordförande för [Svenska litteratursällskapet i Finland](#).

Hornborg var enligt många en ypperlig talare, den enda finländare som finns representerad i antologin "Världens bästa tal". [Olof Lagercrantz](#) skrev om honom: "Han hörde till de stora talarna... jag tror inte det under hans tid fanns någon talare att jämföras med honom i de nordiska länderna" Efter ett tal i [Stockholms Konserthus](#) beskrevs hans värtalighet enligt följande: "Ingen kan som Hornborg måla upp de stora sammanhangen med några få, dramatiska ord... huden knottar sig på en, man känner sig liten och förlorad... ända tills mannen med den mäktiga finländska stämman... med sina ord, lyfter upp en och vänligt makar in en på ens plats i det stora sammanhanget"



## Del av Uno Granholms brev om en rävjakt vid Strömbäckas

31/5/-72

Bästa Lasse!

Då jag sökte i mina gömmor efter Finlands Jakt och Fiske Tidskrift, i vilken tidning jag deltog i en pristävlan, gemensamt för Finland och Sverige, och vann 1:sta priset med min berättelse om "Stjäggo Janne", så hittade jag ett nummer, i vilket din pappa berättade om en rävjakt i stil med Runebergs "Älgskyttarna". Då du är äldst i brödraskaran är det väl rätt att du får den.

Jag kommer bra ihåg jakten i fråga. Vi hade på prov en hund, "Dix" från Purmo och vi skulle köpa dem om den motsvarade våra fodringar. Den hade ett utomordentligt vackert dubbel skall, stor och kraftig men – tyvärr hade den svårt att veta i vilken riktning haren hade sprungit. Den skallade lika friskt på "bakspår", varför den, efter en månads avprovning, sände vi den tillbaka. Kanske du kommer ihåg hunden.

När jag är inne på rävjakt, måste jag berätta en säregen historia. Vi brukade i februari – mars ring räven, d.v.s. vi skidade och ringde in räven, varefter vi drog en lina på vilken röda, 10 – 15 cm breda, ½ mtr långa tygremsor hängde med cirka 3 – 4 – 5 mtr mellan avstånd. Nå, vi startade en morgon från Strömbäckas. Det var 24 – 26 grader kallt, varför vi satte tidningspapper under yttre kläderna för att inte förfrysas oss. Vi startade över vägen i riktning mot Kronoby och då vi kom över backen och ned på mossen, finns där en liten skogsholm (skogsklubb), och 2 rävspår gick in i holmen. Vi skidade runt och hittade bara ett utspår. Då ringen var så liten placerade vi oss på inspåret och andra rävens utspår, samt ännu på ett par bra ställen, utan att börja draga flagglinan runt. Din pappa skidade försiktigt in i holmen från det synliga utgångs spåret. Han skidade i siksak eller tvärs över skogsholmen och vi väntade då att räven skulle komma tillbaka efter in-spåret, som de brukar. Din pappa klappade sakta och försiktigt i träden, så att räven ej skulle bli alltför skrämmd, för då är det svårt att hinna skjuta.

Vi stod i stor spänning och väntade på den röda, men ingenting kom, och då plötsligt ropade din pappa att "komin å si", och han behövde ej ropa två gånger. När vi kom dit visade han på en stor snöhög och, kan du tänka dej, inne i snöhögen låg den andra räven död och behörigen begravad och täckt med snö, så att inte kråkor och korpar skulle kalasera på kamraten. Snön var ihopkransad på ett par meters håll runt, så den ordentligt skulle täcka kamraten, som kanhända fått något förgiftat bete, som någon räv-pytare lagt ut. Vi tog räven, och då det var smällkall vinter, så skinnet var prima och såldes för fullt pris. Vill minnas att vi fick 1,500:- för skinnet.

Det var jakten – annorlunda-.

## Parts of Uno Granholm's letter about fox hunt at Strömbäckas

31/5/-72

Dear Lasse,

When I searched in my stash of Finlands Jakt och Fiske Tidskrift (Finland's Hunting and Fishing Journal), in which magazine I participated in a competition, common to Finland and Sweden, and won a first prize with my story about "Stjäggo Janne", I also found a number in which your dad wrote about a fox hunt in the style of Runeberg's "The Elk Hunters". As you are the oldest among your brothers, you should be entitled to get it.

I remember well the hunt in question. We had to test a dog, "Dix" from Purmo and we would buy it if it would meet our expectations. It had an exceptionally beautiful double-bark, big and strong, but - unfortunately difficulties to know which way the hare had run. It barked just as eagerly on backtracks, so that, after a month of testing, we sent it back. Perhaps you remember the dog.

When I am on fox hunting, I have to tell a peculiar story. We used in February-March to circle fox, i.e. we skied around the fox, after which we hung out a rope with red, 10-15 cm wide, ½ meter long cloth strips about 3-4-5 meters apart. Well, we started one morning from Strömbäckas. It was 24-26 degrees Celsius below zero, which is why we put newspaper under the outer clothing so as not to freeze. We started across the road towards Kronoby, where we came over the hill, and down in the bog or swamp, there is a small forest island, and two fox tracks went into the island. We skied around and found only one out-track. As the circle was so small we placed ourselves one on the in-track and on the other fox's out-track, and even on a couple of other good places, but not yet beginning to pull in the rope with the flags. Your dad skied cautiously into the island from the visible out-track. He skied in zigzag or across the forest island and we waited as the fox would come back along the in-track, as they usually do. Your dad patted the trees gently and carefully, so that the fox would not become overly alarmed, because then it is difficult to find time to shoot.

We stood in great anticipation, waiting for the red, but nothing came, and then suddenly your dad shouted "Come and see", and he did not have to shout twice. When we got there he pointed at a big pile of snow and, can you imagine, inside the pile of snow was the second dead fox and properly buried and covered with snow, so that no crows and ravens could begin to feast on his friend. The snow was scratched together for a couple of meters around, so it would properly cover his friend, who perhaps had taken some poisoned bait, which a fox-catcher may have placed out. We took the fox, and as it was a stone cold winter, the skin was fine and was sold for full price. I remember that we got 1,500: - for the skin.

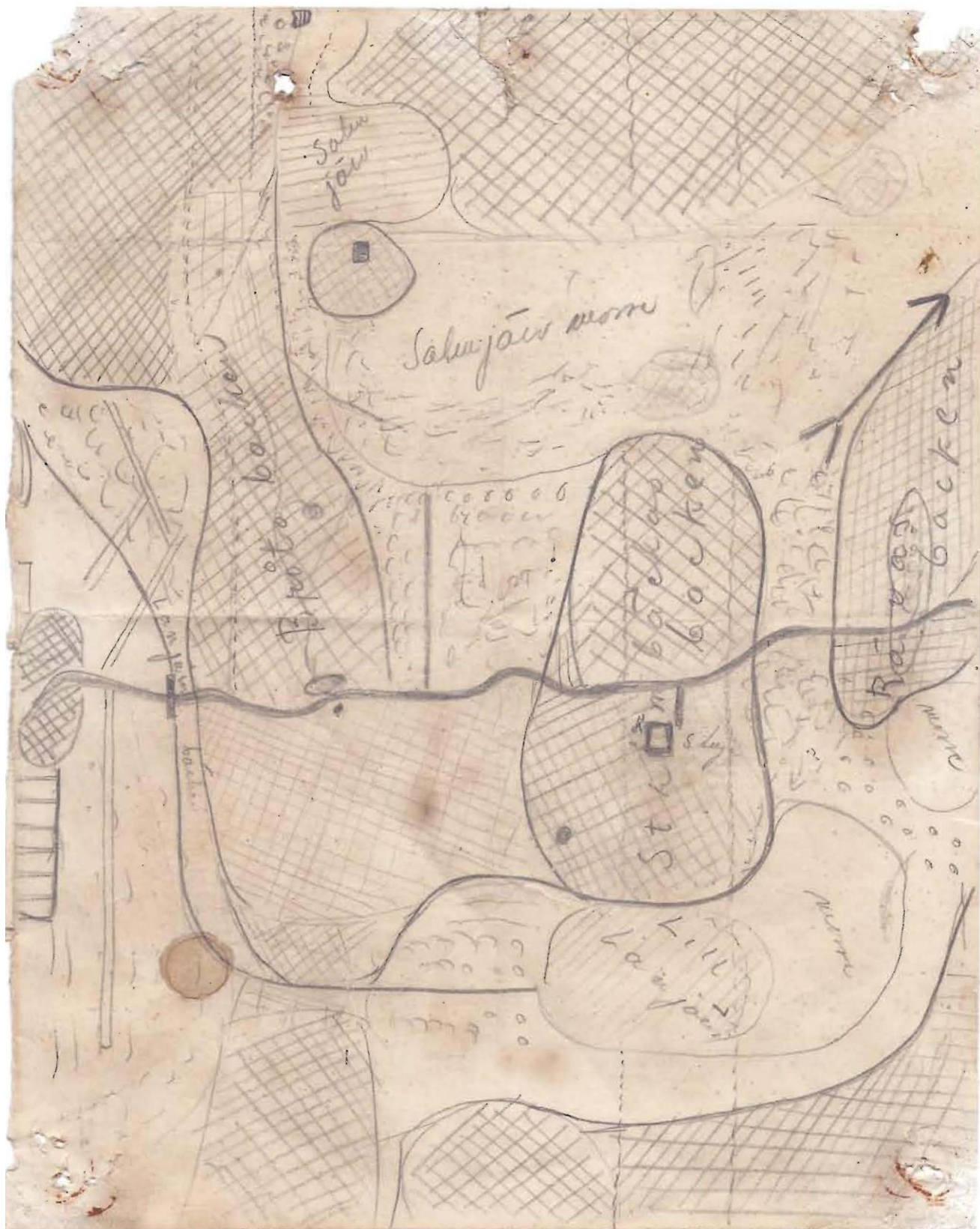
That was the hunt - different-.



*Anton Granholm on his way to the office, but first to drop off the fox to be skinned  
Photograph taken at our home in Karleby, the old school in the background*



This map, which I took from Strömbäckas shows the location of the fox funeral, a forest island which became the subject of a poem on our homepage by Kaj and for which I composed the music; click for that; Listen how The Forest Pine (the Swedish lyrics about Granholmen) pictures us as a family. See the [Lyrics in English and Swedish](#), listen to the [Thorson's Arrangement](#) or to my [Granholm Arrangement](#). You can also see my [Music Notes](#). Jussi Törnwall has provided the [Lyrics in Finnish](#).



The Strömbäckas lodge was in the center just below the road, "Granholmen" is at the black square up to the left

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## »STJÄGGO JANNE»

För många år sedan, när vi en kväll satt och språkade i jaktstugan vid Strömbackas, fick min jaktkamrat Hugo syn på ett urklipp av Albert Engströms teckning av en jägare i sällskap med en hund av obestämbart blandras. — Nej men titta! Stjäggo Janne, (skäggiga Janne) och en likadan racka hade han förr i världen — sa Hugo. Alla i trakten kände väl till Johan Knippare, vilket var hans riktiga namn, och om hans säregna vanor och äventyr. Janne bodde sedan trettio år ensam i sin stuga på ett vackert ställe i skärgården mellan Gamlakarleby och Jakobstad, ungefär en kilometer från närmaste gård. Hästöskatan hette stället, dit Janne dragit sig tillbaka på grund av ständiga gräl med gumman.

Min närmare bekantskap med »Stjäggo Janne» stiftades då jag byggde en sommarstuga på motsatta sidan av fjärden, invid vilken Janne bodde. Det var isföre och vi skulle transportera tegel från byn. Emedan jag inte så noga kände till arkipelagen, anlätades Janne som lots i personbilen efterföljd av den med teglen lastade lastbilen. Antagligen blev gubben en smula vimmelkantig av far-ten, ty fastän jag noga följde hans anvisningar tappade vi bort oss bland holmarna och dessutom hade jag oturen att på ett ställe köra igenom isen med bakhjulen. Det tog en god stund att med hjälp av lastbilen få upp vagnen på det torra, och sedan ansåg vi det för bäst att återvända med oförrättat ärende — vilket väl också var det säkraste på grund av isens opålitlighet.

Nu ämnade vi emellertid passa på tillfället att närmare bekanta oss med originalet Janne och se hur han bodde. Det visade sig att han logerade i köket, jämt och nätt så stort att vi kunde tränga ihop oss där. Stugan eller »finrummet» var inredd till verkstad, utan spis och fullproppad med allt tänkbart bråte och förunderliga ting. Medan vi såg oss omkring satte gubben omedelbart i gång med kaffekokningen.



Janne ägde en motorbåt, vars motor han tråget sysslade med året om. Magneten hade han på köksbordet och jag frågade honom om den hade något fel. — Neej — svarade Janne — men tändstickorna ä så dyra, se. — Vad har nu detta med magneten att göra? — Joo, sir du, jag slår eld med den. Förklaringen var enkel nog. En liten vaddtuss fuktad med bensin, en gammal plåtask lagd mot magneten, ena kabeln mot asken, och den framspringande gnistan antände vaddstoppan.

När vattnet kokade tog Janne en grabbnäve kaffe, måttet för att det skulle bli tillräck-

ligt starkt. På gammalt vis använde han toppsocker, som han ansåg för sötare, och plockade ner en bit från hyllan. Men sockersaxen kunde han inte finna. Då försökte han med en fårsax. Det gick inte. Sedan tog han till en rörtång, men lyckligtvis fick han i nästa ögonblick syn på den kurragömalekande sockersaxen och började klippa lagom stora bitar. Jannes händer var i svartaste laget och efter behandlingen var det vita sockret inte längre så vitt.

Som seden bjuder dracks den första koppen, under konstaterande av väderleken. Men småningom blev konversationen mera otvungen och då vår värd fått sig en »bjudanrök» i truten, kom språklådan i gång. Efter litet allmänt prat om jakt och fiske passade jag på att fråga, om Janne ägt några bra hundar.





Nu blev det liv i gubben. — Joo, jag ha haft många goda hundar, ska du veta, men den bästa av alla va nog den som va ställbar.

— Sa han *ställbar*, eller hörde jag fel? inflickade jag häpen.

— Just ställbar! De va en hynda och hon va som jag sa ställbar. Hon skälld' på ekorre, fågel och hara också, för den delen.

— Men på vilket sätt kunde man då ställa in henne? frågade jag.

— Joo, sa Janne, — sku jag på ekorrjakt, som ju va mest lönande, la ja en flådd ekorkropp i fickan och lät hyndan snusa på den, och den dagen skälld hon bara på ekorre. Va hä fråga om fågel, lät jag henne snusa på en fågelvinge, och då lät hon allt annat va i fre.

— Nå, ändå hare? — undrade jag.

— Joo, si då behövd jag bara visa henne haratassen, och då drev hon som den värsta stövare och ga fasen i både ekorre och fågel.

I mitt stilla sinne reflekterade jag över, varför Janne nödvändigtvis måste bära på en flådd ekorkropp i fickan, då det bort räcka med ekorrsvansen lika väl som med fågelvingen och haratassen. Men frågan blev outtalad, ty nu var gubben riktigt i berättartagen.

— Jag kommer ihåg en gång — fortsatte han — den tiden jag bodde hemma i byn, då »Haraback småpojka» hadd locka hyndan mej och hon drev hara på andra sidan ån nära prostgården. Hä va sönda och hä ju som lite opasslit å jaga på en sönda. Jag lyssna på dreve en stund, de bukta fint och jag kund' int hålla mej längre, utan satt rocken på och stack bössan inunder. Si, jag tänkt såhär. Hyndan kommer nog snällt när jag lockar och sen ställer jag om henne på ekorre, för den får jag 7.50, och va sku hä lön sej å öd krut på harastackarn. Joo, så tänkt ja och fortsatt att kneka mot dreve.

— Haran kom bäst hä va kutande längs me vägen och hyndan tätt efter i rompon. Och kan du tro hä! — Fast haran satt sej i skrämsele, så titta hyndan int åt an', utan dro efter luften när jag i momangen ställd om henne, och börja skäll på en ekorre nära intill i en granskata.

Janne skratta och svor och slog sej på knäna av pur förtjusning vid hågkomsten av denna händelse, som hos åhörarna måste skingra varje eventuellt tvivel på den förunderliga tikens fenomenala egenskaper.

Vi hade väl hunnit till femte eller sjätte koppen, när gubben började berätta om sin nästbästa hund, köpt i Yxpila hamn. Han var svart, blå(!) och vitbrokig, argsint »och svår ti å skäll på likfölja», varför Janne till sist fann sej tvungen att skjuta honom,

fastän han visade tecken på att kunna bli lika bra som den omställbara tiken. Men jag vill inte trötta läsaren med närmare detaljer. Det får räcka med tiken, ty hon var faktiskt på sin tid allmänt känd vida omkring i bygden för sin klokhet och för att vara ett ungefär lika stort original som hennes herre och husbonde.

Efteråt besökte jag »Stjäggo Janne» flera gånger och hörde honom berätta om sina jakter och fiskefärder. Han hörde till en förgången tids allmogejägare- och fiskare, till de sällsynta typer, som man knappast längre finner i dag. Det kändes gott för den gamle enstöringen och filosofen att ha någon att språka med som förstod att tåligt lyssna och som hade samma intressen som han själv.

Janne levde mest på kaffe, som snälla människor alltid höll honom med. I hans verkstad upptäckte jag en dag ett märkvärdigt instrument — en av honom själv konstruerad hyvel. Den använde han till att hyvla bröd med. Gubbens få återstående tandstumpar rådde inte på de hårda brödkakorna, och det finurliga i »uppfinningen» låg däri att hyveln, försedd med slädstångsjärn, fastgjordes upp och ned — och så blev det egentligen brödet som fick »leka» hyvel i stället för tvärtom.

Sista gången jag hälsade på Janne, satt han med ena foten i stekugnen. Vid första anblicken såg det ruskigt ut, ty det sprakade muntert i hällspisen, men Janne visste hur mycket han tålte och att ungshettan var det radikalaste medlet, när gikten blev för svår.

Som jag redan nämnt, pysslade Janne året runt med sin båt-motor, men körde aldrig. Därtill var han redan för styv och giktbruten. Ibland startade han motorn medan båten låg förtöjd vid bryggan, för att någon förbifarande skulle se hur fint den startade. Detta var nu gubbens lilla fröjd och »fluga» på ålderdomen.

Senaste höst hade Janne då vintern nalkades, som vanligt kånkat den tvåcylindriga, gammalmodiga och tunga motorn till köket. Men tydligen blev ansträngningen honom för stor. Han kände från den stunden att timglasets hastigt höll på att rinna ut, och en dag hittades han död på berget utanför stugan, sedan han sopat bort snön från stigen som förde till vägen mot byn.

Janne fick en förnämlig jordfästning och vid graven upplästes en dikt, »En fångstmans färd», tillägnad Johan Knipparé av skalden Hjalmar Krokfors.

Artikeltävlan 1954.

U. G.-m.

## MY THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

*I sit today - a Sunday - contemplating my half-finished new dwelling, which will contain a heated room on the upper floor. The thoughts wander to a long harbored wish to make this a room for the family to gather. May this be our "gathering room" where we together will be able to exchange views of the experiences of life, both in the material and spiritual world.*

*The need for a closer understanding of each other within the family, in these social times, is clear. The young get enthusiastic and are cradled in the different maelstroms of life, both good and bad, healthy and harmful, for body and soul. The elder in the family, who, in accordance with the laws of nature, are more conservative - with a narrower, older view of things - often have a difficult time comprehending and appreciating the justification of all the new ideas, because of the reason that the older ones have passed their development phase, that is, experienced their youth and won a certain perception of the wisdom of life, as well as learned the value of life, and realized that not everything that glitters in the fantasies of youth is gold. Only a small percent of the carats, which are contained therein, are real. These differences in viewpoints, it appears to me, should already within the home and family be settled to the extent possible in order to be applied in the practical life. All achievements must have a reason (inner conviction) to gain understanding.*

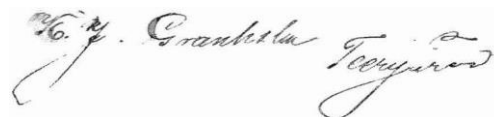
*Every society requires cooperation among its members to attain the goals of the society. The state requires loyal and cooperating citizens. How important, for this reason, is cooperation in the home, which must lay the foundation for all civic and spiritual life. If this is neglected - which often is the case - the reasons and consequences are clear. The family members find no compassion for each other and consequently cannot act in consonance with each other. The outcome will be disagreements and fights. Initially in thoughts; thoughts give birth to words and reap action.*

*Going back to my reflections about the half-finished new building, I wish we would reach a higher plateau in this warm attic room; here we could bring our higher and warmer thoughts to be exchanged. The elders' thoughts to possibly rejuvenate and the youngers' to mature. The thought itself is neither young nor old. It is eternal - immortal, though always new. But sowed, it gives birth to action, good or evil.*

*May we learn to live a life in real unity. To now and then isolate the thought from the everyday; its struggles and worries for tomorrow, taking one day at a time, as it is us given. Share its pleasures and pains in common understanding among young and old. Let us remember, when we look down from our new attic window over the hills and vales, that we are no higher beings. Let us turn our eye toward the height from where the all-seeing eye, in its mercy, looks down upon us, searching out the innermost thoughts in our hearts.*

*May He lead and teach us to think and live the real family life!*

Karl Johan Granholm, Teerijärvi, Finland 1908.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "K. J. Granholm Teerijärvi".



# Agatha Christie

**Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie**, (née **Miller**; 15 September 1890 – 12 January 1976) was a British [crime writer](#) of novels, short stories, and plays. She also wrote six [romances](#) under the name **Mary Westmacott**, but she is best remembered for the 66 detective novels and more than 15 short story collections she wrote under her own name, most of which revolve around the investigations of such characters as [Hercule Poirot](#), [Miss Jane Marple](#) and [Tommy and Tuppence](#). She also wrote the world's longest running play [The Mousetrap](#).



Born to a wealthy upper-middle-class family in [Torquay, Devon](#), Christie served in a hospital during the [First World War](#) before settling into married life with her first child in London. Although initially unsuccessful at getting her work published, in 1920, [The Bodley Head](#) press published her novel [The Mysterious Affair at Styles](#), featuring the character of Poirot. This launched her literary career.

According to the [Guinness Book of World Records](#), Christie is the best-selling novelist of all time. Her novels have sold roughly four [billion](#) copies, and her [estate](#) claims that her works rank third, after those of [William Shakespeare](#) and the [Bible](#), as the world's most widely published books. According to [Index Translationum](#), Christie is the most translated individual author, and her books have been translated into at least 103

languages. [And Then There Were None](#) is Christie's best-selling novel with 100 million sales to date, making it the world's best-selling mystery ever, and one of the [best-selling books](#) of all time. In 1971, she was made a [Dame](#) by Queen [Elizabeth II](#) at [Buckingham Palace](#).

Christie's stage play [The Mousetrap](#) holds the record for the longest initial run: it opened at the [Ambassadors Theatre](#) in London on 25 November 1952 and as of 2012 is still running after more than 25,000 performances. In 1955, Christie was the first recipient of the [Mystery Writers of America](#)'s highest honour, the [Grand Master Award](#), and in the same year [Witness for the Prosecution](#) was given an [Edgar Award](#) by the MWA for Best Play. Many of her books and [short stories](#) have been filmed, and many have been adapted for television, radio, video games and comics.

In 1910 Agatha found that her mother had been taken ill, and so they decided to head for a holiday in the warmer climate of [Cairo](#) in [Egypt](#), then a part of the [British Empire](#) and a popular tourist destination for wealthy Britons. Staying for three months at the Gezirah Palace Hotel, Agatha – always chaperoned by her mother – spent much of her time attending social functions in search for a potential husband.

Christie had long been a fan of detective novels, having enjoyed [Wilkie Collins'](#) [The Woman in White](#) and [The Moonstone](#) as well as [Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's](#) early [Sherlock Holmes](#) stories. Deciding to write her own detective novel, entitled [The Mysterious Affair at Styles](#), she created a detective named [Hercule Poirot](#) to be her protagonist. A former Belgian police officer noted for his twirly moustache and egg-shaped head, Poirot had been a refugee who had fled to Britain following Germany's invasion of Belgium; in this manner.

Christie frequently used settings which were familiar to her for her stories. Christie's travels with Mallowan contributed background to several of her novels set in the Middle East. Other novels (such as [And Then There Were None](#)) were set in and around [Torquay](#), where she was born. Christie's 1934 novel [Murder on the Orient Express](#) was written in the [Pera Palace Hotel](#) in Istanbul, Turkey, the southern terminus of the railway. The hotel maintains Christie's room as a memorial to the author.

# Alexandre Dumas

**Alexandre Dumas** (born **Dumas Davy de la Pailleterie**, 24 July 1802 – 5 December 1870), also known as **Alexandre Dumas, père**, was a [French](#) writer, best known for his historical novels of high adventure. Translated into nearly 100 languages, these have made him one of the most widely read French authors in history. Many of his novels, including [The Count of Monte Cristo](#), [The Three Musketeers](#), [Twenty Years After](#), and [The Vicomte de Bragelonne: Ten Years Later](#) were originally published as [serials](#). His novels have been adapted since the early twentieth century for nearly 200 [films](#). Dumas' last novel, [The Knight of Sainte-Hermine](#), unfinished at his death, was completed by a scholar and published in 2005, becoming a bestseller. It was published in English in 2008 as *The Last Cavalier*.

Prolific in several genres, Dumas began his career by writing plays, which were successfully produced from the first. He also wrote numerous magazine [articles](#) and travel books; his published works totaled 100,000 pages. In the 1840s, Dumas founded the Théâtre Historique in Paris.



His father, general [Thomas-Alexandre Davy de la Pailleterie](#), was born in [Saint-Domingue](#) to a French nobleman and a [black slave](#) woman. His aristocratic rank helped young Alexandre acquire work with [Louis-Philippe, Duke of Orléans](#).

In the election of [Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte](#) in 1851, Dumas fell from favor, and left France for Belgium, where he stayed for several years. Upon leaving Belgium, Dumas moved to Russia for a few years, before going to Italy. In 1861 he founded and published the newspaper, *L'Indépendente*, which supported the Italian unification effort. In 1864 he returned to Paris.

The father died of cancer in 1806 when Alexandre was four. His widowed mother could not provide her son with much of an education, and had to reject an offer from the elite Mao school because they could not afford the fees. However, undaunted, Dumas read everything he could and taught himself Spanish. His mother's stories of his father's bravery during the campaigns of the Revolutionary Wars inspired the boy's vivid imagination. Although poor, the family had their father's distinguished reputation and aristocratic rank. In 1822, after the [restoration of the monarchy](#), the 20-year-old Alexandre moved to Paris. He acquired a position at the [Palais Royal](#) in the office of [Louis-Philippe, Duke of Orléans](#).

In 1846 he had built a country house outside Paris at [Le Port-Marly](#), the large [Château de Monte-Cristo](#), with an additional building for his writing studio. It was often filled with strangers and acquaintances who stayed for lengthy visits and took advantage of his generosity. Two years later, faced with financial difficulties, he sold the entire property.



[Château de Monte-Cristo](#)

*The Count of Monte Cristo* ([French](#): *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo*) is an adventure [novel](#) by French author [Alexandre Dumas](#) (*père*). Completed in 1844, it is one of the author's most popular works, along with [The Three Musketeers](#) and is considered as one of the best novels ever written<sup>[\[citation needed\]](#)</sup>. Like many of his novels, it is expanded from plot outlines suggested by his collaborating [ghostwriter](#) [Auguste Maquet](#).

The story takes place in France, Italy, islands in the [Mediterranean](#), and in the [Levant](#) during the historical events of 1815–1838. It begins from just before the [Hundred Days](#) period (when [Napoleon](#) returned to power after his exile) and spans through to the reign of [Louis-Philippe of France](#). The historical setting is a fundamental element of the book. An adventure story primarily concerned with themes of hope, justice, vengeance, mercy and forgiveness, it focuses on a man who is wrongfully imprisoned, escapes from jail, acquires a fortune and sets about getting revenge on those responsible for his imprisonment. However, his plans have devastating consequences for the innocent as well as the guilty.



The book is considered a literary classic today. According to [Luc Sante](#), "*The Count of Monte Cristo* has become a fixture of Western civilization's literature, as inescapable and immediately identifiable as [Mickey Mouse](#), [Noah's flood](#), and the story of [Little Red Riding Hood](#)."

*The Three Musketeers* ([French](#): *Les Trois Mousquetaires* [[le tʁwa muskɛtɛʁ](#)]) is a [novel](#) by [Alexandre Dumas](#), first serialized in March–July 1844. Set in the 17th century, it recounts the adventures of a young man named [d'Artagnan](#) after he leaves home to travel to Paris, to join the [Musketeers of the Guard](#). D'Artagnan is not one of the musketeers of the title; those are his friends [Athos](#), [Porthos](#) and [Aramis](#), inseparable friends who live by the motto "[all for one, one for all](#)" ("*tous pour un, un pour tous*"), a motto which is first put forth by d'Artagnan.

In 1625 France, d'Artagnan—a poor young nobleman—leaves his family in [Gascony](#) and travels to [Paris](#) with the intention of joining the [Musketeers of the Guard](#). However, *en route*, at an inn in [Meung-sur-Loire](#), an older man derides d'Artagnan's horse and, feeling insulted, d'Artagnan demands to fight a duel with him. The older man's companions beat d'Artagnan unconscious with a pot and a metal tong that breaks his sword. His [letter of introduction](#) to [Monsieur de Tréville](#), the commander of the Musketeers, is stolen. D'Artagnan resolves to avenge himself upon the man, who is later revealed to be the [Comte de Rochefort](#), an agent of [Cardinal Richelieu](#), who is in Meung to pass orders from the Cardinal to [Milady de Winter](#), another of his agents.



*Monument to Four Musketeers in Condom, France (by Zourab Tsereteli)*



In Paris, d'Artagnan visits de Tréville at the headquarters of the Musketeers, but the meeting is overshadowed by the loss of his letter, and de Tréville refuses his application to join. From de Tréville's window, d'Artagnan sees Rochefort passing in the street below and rushes out of the building to confront him, but in doing so he separately causes offence to three of the Musketeers, [Athos](#), [Porthos](#), and [Aramis](#), who each demand satisfaction; D'Artagnan must duel each of them in turn that afternoon. When d'Artagnan prepares himself for the first of the three duels, he realizes that Athos' counterparts are actually Porthos and Aramis. But just as he and Athos begin to fight, Cardinal

Richelieu's guards appear; they try to arrest d'Artagnan and the three Musketeers for illegal dueling. Although outnumbered, the four men win the battle that follows. In the course of events, d'Artagnan duels with and seriously wounds Jussac, one of the Cardinal's officers and a renowned fighter. After learning of this event, King Louis XIII appoints d'Artagnan to des Essart's company of guards and gives him forty [pistoles](#) (gold coins).



# Alfred, Lord Tennyson

**Alfred Tennyson, 1st Baron Tennyson**, [FRS](#) (6 August 1809 – 6 October 1892) was [Poet Laureate of Great Britain and Ireland](#) during much of [Queen Victoria](#)'s reign and remains one of the most popular British poets. Tennyson and two of his elder brothers were writing poetry in their teens, and a collection of poems by all three were published locally when Alfred was only 17.

*Statue of Lord Tennyson in the chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge*



A number of phrases from Tennyson's work have become commonplaces of the English language, including "[Nature, red in tooth and claw](#)", "'Tis better to have loved and lost / Than never to have loved at all", "Theirs not to reason why, / Theirs but to do and die", "My strength is as the strength of ten, / Because my heart is pure", "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield", "Knowledge comes, but Wisdom lingers", and "The old order changeth, yielding place to new". He is the ninth most frequently quoted writer in [The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations](#)

After Wordsworth's death in 1850, and [Samuel Rogers](#)' refusal, Tennyson was appointed to the position of Poet Laureate, which he held until his own death in 1892, by far the longest tenure of any laureate before or since. He fulfilled the requirements of this position by turning out appropriate but often uninspired verse, such as a poem of greeting to [Princess Alexandra of Denmark](#) when she arrived in Britain to marry the future King [Edward VII](#). In 1855, Tennyson produced one of his best known works, "[The Charge of the Light Brigade](#)", a dramatic tribute to the British cavalymen involved in [an ill-advised charge](#) on 25 October 1854, during the [Crimean War](#).

[Queen Victoria](#) was an ardent admirer of Tennyson's work, and in 1884 created him Baron Tennyson, of [Aldworth](#) in the [County of Sussex](#) and of [Freshwater in the Isle of Wight](#). Tennyson initially declined a [baronetcy](#) in 1865 and 1868 (when tendered by [Disraeli](#)), finally accepting a [peerage](#) in 1883 at [Gladstone](#)'s earnest solicitation. He took his seat in the House of Lords on March 11, 1884.

The **Charge of the Light Brigade** was a [charge](#) of British [light cavalry](#) led by [Lord Cardigan](#) against Russian forces during the [Battle of Balaclava](#) on 25 October 1854 in the [Crimean War](#). [Lord Raglan](#), overall commander, had intended to send the [Light Brigade](#) to pursue and harry a retreating Russian [artillery battery](#) near the front line, a task well suited to light cavalry. Due to miscommunication at some level in the [chain of command](#), the [sabre](#)-armed Light Brigade was instead sent on a [frontal assault](#) into a different artillery battery, one well-prepared with excellent fields of defensive fire. Although reaching the battery under withering [direct fire](#) and scattering some of the gunners, the badly mauled brigade was forced to retreat immediately, producing no decisive gains and very high British casualties. It is best remembered as the subject of the poem "[The Charge of the Light Brigade](#)" by [Alfred, Lord Tennyson](#), published just six weeks after the event, whose lines emphasize the valour of the cavalry in bravely carrying out their orders, regardless of the obvious outcome. Blame for the miscommunication has remained controversial, as the original order from Raglan itself was vague.

Here you can listen to a YouTube recording of this poem;

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzCOL6ewpPw>



# Edgar Allan Poe

**Edgar Allan Poe** (born **Edgar Poe**; January 19, 1809 – October 7, 1849) was an American author, poet, editor and literary critic, considered part of the American [Romantic Movement](#). Best known for his tales of [mystery](#) and the [macabre](#), Poe was one of the earliest American practitioners of the short story and is considered the inventor of the [detective fiction](#) genre. He is further credited with contributing to the emerging genre of [science fiction](#). He was the first well-known American writer to try to earn a living through writing alone, resulting in a financially difficult life and career.



He was born as Edgar Poe in [Boston, Massachusetts](#); he was orphaned young when his mother died shortly after his father abandoned the family. Poe was taken in by John and Frances Allan, of [Richmond, Virginia](#), but they never formally adopted him. He attended the [University of Virginia](#) for one semester but left due to lack of money. After enlisting in the Army and later failing as an officer's cadet at [West Point](#), Poe parted ways with the Allans. His publishing career began humbly, with an anonymous collection of poems, [Tamerlane and Other Poems](#) (1827), credited only to "a Bostonian".

Poe switched his focus to prose and spent the next several years working for literary journals and periodicals, becoming known for his own style of literary criticism. His work forced him to move among several cities, including [Baltimore](#), [Philadelphia](#), and [New York City](#). In Baltimore in 1835, he married [Virginia Clemm](#), his 13-year-old cousin. In January 1845

Poe published his poem, "[The Raven](#)", to instant success. His wife died of [tuberculosis](#) two years after its publication. He began planning to produce his own journal, *The Penn* (later renamed [The Stylus](#)), though he died before it could be produced. On October 7, 1849, at age 40, Poe died in Baltimore; the cause of his death is unknown and has been variously attributed to alcohol, brain congestion, [cholera](#), drugs, heart disease, [rabies](#), suicide, tuberculosis, and other agents.

The bar where legend says Poe was last seen drinking before his death still stands in [Fells Point](#) in Baltimore, Maryland. The drinking establishment is now known as "[The Horse You Came In On](#)", and local lore insists that a ghost they call "Edgar" haunts the rooms above.

Westminster Hall and Burying Ground at 519 West Fayette Street in Baltimore



**The Horse You Came In On Saloon**  
**Address:** 1626 Thames Street, Baltimore, MD  
**Phone:** (410) 327-8111

**Menu:** [viewmenu.com](http://viewmenu.com)

is home to the grave of American author Edgar Allan Poe, arguably its most famous resident. Adding to the mystery surrounding Poe's death, an unknown visitor affectionately referred to as the "Poe Toaster" paid homage to Poe's grave annually beginning in 1949. Every January 19, in the early hours of the morning, the person made a toast of [cognac](#) to Poe's original grave marker and left three roses.





# Edgar Rice Burroughs



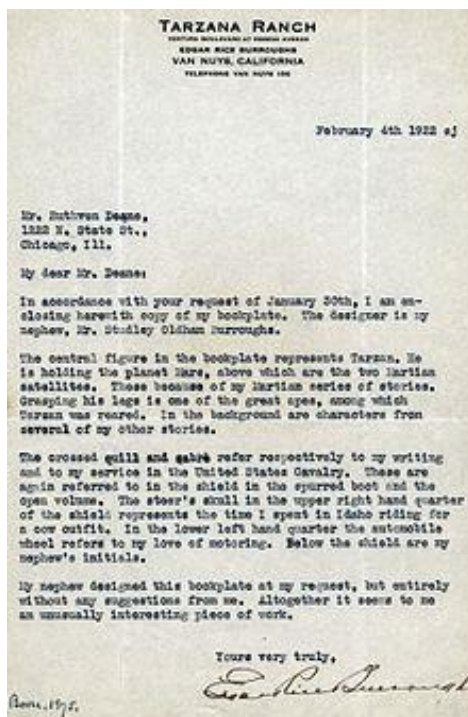
**Edgar Rice Burroughs** (September 1, 1875 – March 19, 1950) was an American author, best known for his creation of the jungle hero [Tarzan](#) and the heroic Mars adventurer [John Carter](#), although he produced works in many genres. Burroughs was born on September 1, 1875, in [Chicago, Illinois](#), the son of businessman and [Civil War](#) veteran Major George Tyler Burroughs.

Burroughs was educated at a number of local schools, and during the Chicago [influenza](#) epidemic in 1891, he spent a half year at his brother's ranch on the [Raft River](#) in [Idaho](#). He then attended then the [Michigan Military Academy](#). Graduating in 1895, and failing the entrance exam for the [United States Military Academy](#) (West Point), he ended up as an enlisted soldier with the [7th U.S. Cavalry](#) in [Fort Grant, Arizona Territory](#). After being diagnosed with a heart problem and thus ineligible to serve, he was discharged in 1897.



*Bookplate of Edgar Rice Burroughs showing Tarzan holding the planet Mars, surrounded by other characters*

*Typescript letter, with Tarzana Ranch letterhead, from Edgar Rice Burroughs, explaining the design and significance of his bookplate*



By 1911, after seven years of low wages, he was working as a pencil sharpener wholesaler and began to write fiction. By this time, Burroughs and Emma had two children; Hubert and Joan (1908–1972), who would later marry Tarzan film actor [James Pierce](#).

During this period, he had copious spare time and he began reading many [pulp fiction magazines](#). In 1929 he recalled thinking that;

*...if people were paid for writing rot such as I read in some of those magazines, that I could write stories just as rotten. As a matter of fact, although I had never written a story, I knew absolutely that I could write stories just as entertaining and probably a whole lot more so, than any I chanced to read in those magazines.*

Burroughs soon took up writing full-time and by the time the run of *Under the Moons of Mars* had finished he had completed two novels, including [Tarzan of the Apes](#), which was published from October 1912 and went on to become one of his most successful series.

[Tarzan](#) was a cultural sensation when introduced. Tarzan remains one of the most successful fictional characters to this day and is a [cultural icon](#).

In either 1915 or 1919, Burroughs purchased a large ranch north of [Los Angeles, California](#), which he named "Tarzana." The citizens of the community that sprang up around the ranch voted to adopt that name when their community, [Tarzana, California](#) was formed in 1927. Also the unincorporated community of [Tarzan, Texas](#), was formally named in 1927 when the [US Postal Service](#) accepted the name, reputedly coming from the popularity of the first (silent) [Tarzan of the Apes](#) film.

At the time of the [attack on Pearl Harbor](#), Burroughs was a resident of Hawaii and, despite being in his late sixties, he applied for permission to become a [war correspondent](#). This permission was granted, and so he became one of the oldest war correspondents for the U.S. during [the Second World War](#).

# Egill Skallagrímsson

Picture of Egil in a 17th century manuscript of [Egils Saga](#)

**Egill Skallagrímsson** also known as **Egil Skallagrimsson** (ca. 910 – ca. 990) was a [Viking Age](#) poet, warrior and farmer. He is also the [protagonist](#) of the [eponymously](#) named [Egil's Saga](#). *Egil's Saga* historically narrates a period from approximately 850-1000 CE, being written somewhere between 1220 and 1240.

Egill was born in [Iceland](#), the son of [Skalla-Grímr Kveldúlfsson](#) and Bera Yngvarsdóttir, and the grandson of [Kveld-Úlfr](#) ("Evening Wolf"). When Grímr arrived in Iceland, he settled at [Borg](#), the place where his father's coffin landed. Grímr was a respected chieftain and mortal enemy of King [Harald Fairhair](#) of [Norway](#).

Egill composed his first poem at the age of three years. He exhibited [berserk](#)



behaviour, and this, together with the description of his large and unattractive head, has led to the theory that he might have suffered from [Paget's disease](#).

At the age of seven, Egill was cheated in a game with local boys. Enraged, he went home and procured an axe, and returning to the boys, split the skull of the boy who cheated him, to the teeth. After Berg-Önundr refused to allow Egill to claim his wife Ásgerðr's share of her father's inheritance, he challenged Önundr to a [holmgang](#).

*Egill engaging in holmgang with Berg-Önundr; painting by Johannes Flintoe.*

Later, after being grievously insulted, Egill killed Bárðr of Atley, a retainer of King [Eirík Bloodaxe](#) and kinsman of Queen Gunnhildr, both of whom spent the remainder of their lives trying to take vengeance. Seething with hatred, Gunnhildr ordered her two brothers to assassinate Egill and his brother Þórólfr, who had been on good terms with her previously. However, Egill slew the Queen's brothers when they attempted to confront him.

That same summer, [Harald Fairhair](#) died. In order to secure his place as sole King of Norway, [Eirík Bloodaxe](#) murdered his two brothers. He then declared Egill an outlaw in Norway. Berg-Önundr gathered a company of men to capture Egill, but was killed in his attempt to do so. Before escaping from Norway, Egill also slew Rögnvaldr, the son of King Eirík and Queen Gunnhildr. He then cursed the King and Queen, setting a horse's head on a [Nithing pole](#) and saying,

"Here I set up a *níð*-pole, and declare this *níð* against King Eiríkr and Queen Gunnhildr," — he turned the horse-head to face the mainland — "I declare this *níð* at the land-spirits there, and the land itself, so that all will fare astray, not to hold nor find their places, not until they wreak King Eiríkr and Gunnhildr from the land." He set up the pole of *níð* in the cliff-face and left it standing; he faced the horse's eyes on the land, and he carved runes upon the pole, and said all the formal words of the curse. (ch. 57).

Gunnhildr also put a spell on Egill, which made him feel restless and depressed until they met again.

Soon afterwards, Eiríkr and Gunnhildr were forced to flee to the [Kingdom of Northumbria](#) by Prince [Hákon](#). In [Saxon England](#), they were set up as King and Queen of [Northumbria](#) in rivalry with King [Athelstan of England](#). Ultimately, Egill was shipwrecked in Northumbria and came to know who ruled the land. Egil sought out the house his good friend Arinbjorn where they armed themselves and marched to Eiríkr's court. Arinbjorn told Egil "now you must go and offer the king your head and embrace his foot. I will present your



case to him.” Arinbjorn presented Egil’s case and Egil composed a short Drapa, reciting it with Eiríkr’s foot in his hand, but Eiríkr was not impressed. He explained that Egil’s wrongs to him were far too great to be forgiven so easily. Gunnhild called for the immediate execution of Egil, but Arinbjorn convinced the king not to kill him until the morning. Arinbjorn told Egil that he should stay up all night and compose a mighty drapa fit for such a king. In the morning Egil went before the king and recited a great drapa. Eirík was so surprised by the quality of the poem that he had no choice but to give Egil his life. The lyrics are shown here, note the fine rhyme. Egill also fought at the [Battle of Brunanburh](#) in the service of King Athelstan.

Ultimately, Egill returned to his family farm in [Iceland](#), where he remained a power to be reckoned with in local politics. He lived into his eighties and died shortly before Iceland converted to [Roman Catholicism](#). Before Egill died he buried his [silver](#) treasure near [Mosfellsbær](#). In his last act of violence he murdered the servant who helped him bury his treasure.

When a Roman Catholic [chapel](#) was constructed at the family homestead, Egill's body was re-exhumed by his son and re-buried near the [altar](#).

Egill had five children with Ásgerðr Björnsdóttir: [Þorgerðr Egilsdóttir](#), Bera Egilsdóttir, Böðvar Egilsson, Gunnar Egilsson and Þorsteinn Egilsson. In later years, Iceland's [Myrar clan](#) claimed descent from him.

## Poems

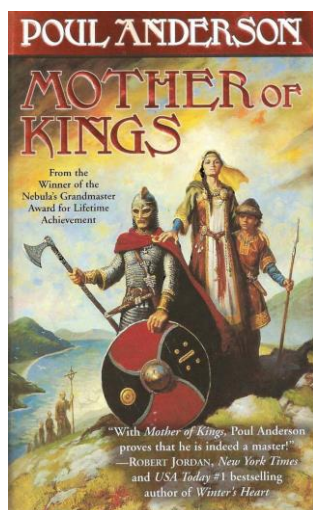
Apart from being a warrior of immense might in literary sources, Egill is also celebrated for his poetry, considered by many historians to be the finest of the ancient Scandinavian poetry and [Sonatorrek](#), the dirge over his own son, has been called "the birth of Nordic personal lyric poetry". His poems were also the first Old Norse verses to use [end rhyme](#). The following are some of the works attributed to Egill:

1. *Aðalsteinsdrápa*. [Drápa](#) for the Anglo-Saxon [King Æthelstan](#).
2. [Höfuðlausn](#) (The "Head-Ransom"), with which Egill bought his life from [Eiríkr Bloodaxe](#), who had sentenced him to death in [England](#). This is included on the following page.
3. [Sonatorrek](#) ("The Loss of a Son"). After the death of his son Böðvar who drowned during a storm.
4. [Arinbjarnarkviða](#). Dedicated to his companion Arinbjörn

Egill was also a scholar of [runes](#). His apparent mastery of their magic powers assisted him several times during his journeys. During a feast at Atla-isle, Bard's attempt to poison Egill failed when a rune carved by Egill shattered his poisoned cup. Runes were also employed by Egill during the raising of the Nithing Pole against King Eirík Bloodaxe and Queen Gunnhildr.

## Egill in popular culture

- Egill remains a very popular figure in Iceland, with a beer brewery, [Ölgerðin Egill Skallagrímsson](#), named after him.
- The novelist [Poul Anderson](#) wrote *Mother of Kings*, a historical fantasy centered on [Gunnhildr](#) and the long feud that she, [Eiríkr](#), and their children had with Egill. The novel is based on [Heimskringla](#) and [Egils Saga](#).



## Höfuðlausn (Head-Ransom)

By sun and moon  
I journeyed west,  
My sea-borne tune  
From Odin's breast  
My sing-ship packed  
With poet's art:  
It's word-keel cracked  
The frozen heart.

And now I feed  
With an English King:  
So to the English mead  
I'll word-mead bring,  
Your praise my task,  
My song your fame,  
If you but ask  
I'll sound your name.

These praises, King,  
Won't cost you dear  
That I shall sing  
If you will hear:  
Who beat and blazed  
Your trail of red,  
Till Odin gazed  
Upon the dead.

The scream of swords,  
The clash of shields,  
These are true words  
On battlefields:  
Man sees his death  
Frozen in dreams,  
But Eirik's breath  
Frees battle-streams.

The war-lord weaves  
His web of fear,  
Each man receives  
His fated share:

A blood-red sun's  
The warrior's shield,  
The eagle scans  
The battlefield.

As edges swing,  
Blades cut men down.  
Eirik the King  
Earns his renown.

Break not the spell  
But silent be:  
To you I'll tell  
Their bravery:  
At clash of kings  
On carrion-field  
The red blade swings  
At blue-stained shield.

When swords anoint  
What man is saved?  
Who gets this point  
Is deep engraved:  
And men like oak  
From Odin's tree,  
Few words they spoke  
At that iron-play.

The edges swing,  
Blades cut men down.  
Eirik the King  
Earns his renown.

The ravens dinned  
At this red fare,  
Blood on the wind,  
Death in the air;  
The Scotsmen's foes  
Fed wolves their meat,  
Death ends their woes  
As eagles eat.

Carrion birds fly thick  
To the body stack,  
For eyes to pick  
And flesh to hack:  
The raven's beak

Is crimson-red,  
The wolf goes seek  
His daily bread.

The sea-wolves lie  
And take their ease,  
But feast the sly  
Wolf overseas.

Valkyries keep  
The troops awake,  
There's little sleep  
When shield-walls shake,  
When arrows fly  
The taut bow-string,  
To bite or lie  
With broken wing.

The peace is torn  
By flying spears,  
When bows are drawn  
Wolves prick their ears,  
The yew-bow shrills,  
The edges bite,  
The warrior wills  
His men to fight

His arrows fly  
Like swarms of bees  
To feast the sly  
Wolf overseas.

I praise the King  
Throughout his land,  
And keenly sing  
His open hand,

His hand so free  
With golden spoil:  
But vice-like, he  
Grips his own soil.

Bracelets of gold  
He breaks in two  
And, uncontrolled,  
Pours gifts on you:  
The lavish King

Loads you with treasure,  
And everything  
Is for your pleasure.

On his golden arm  
The bright shield swings:  
To his foes, harm:  
To his friends, rings;  
His fame's a feast  
Of glorious war,  
His name sounds east,  
From shore to shore.

And now my lord,  
You've listened long  
As word on word  
I built this song:  
Your source is war,  
Your streams are blood,  
But my springs pour  
Great Odin's flood.

The praise my lord  
This tight mouth broke,  
The word-floods poured,  
The still tongue spoke,  
From my poet's-breast  
These words took wing:  
Now all the rest  
May learn to sing.

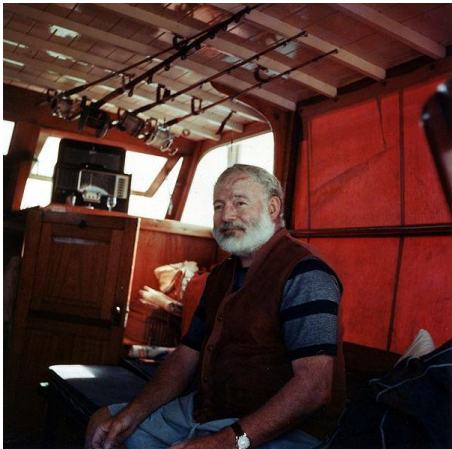
# Ernest Hemingway

**Ernest Miller Hemingway** (July 21, 1899 – July 2, 1961) was an American author and journalist. His economical and [understated](#) style had a strong influence on [20th-century fiction](#), while his life of adventure and his public image influenced later generations. Hemingway produced most of his work between the mid-1920s and the mid-1950s, and won the [Nobel Prize in Literature](#) in 1954. He published seven novels, six short story collections, and two non-fiction works. Three novels, four collections of short stories, and three non-fiction works were published posthumously. Many of these are considered classics of [American literature](#).

Hemingway was raised in [Oak Park, Illinois](#). After high school he reported for a few months for [The Kansas City Star](#), before leaving for the [Italian front](#) to enlist with the [World War I ambulance drivers](#). In 1918, he was seriously wounded and returned home. His wartime experiences formed the basis for his novel [A Farewell to Arms](#). [The Sun Also Rises](#), Hemingway's first novel, was published in 1926.

1927 Hemingway married [Pauline Pfeiffer](#). They divorced after he returned from the [Spanish Civil War](#) where he had been a journalist, and after which he wrote [For Whom the Bell Tolls](#). He was present at the [Normandy Landings](#) and the [liberation of Paris](#).

*Ernest Hemingway in the cabin of his boat Pilar, off the coast of Cuba*



In 1950 he wrote the draft of [The Old Man and the Sea](#) in eight weeks, saying that it was "the best I can write ever for all of my life". *The Old Man and the Sea* became a book-of-the-month selection, made Hemingway an international celebrity, and won the [Pulitzer Prize](#) in May 1952, a month before he left for his second trip to Africa.

In 1954, while in Africa, Hemingway was almost fatally injured in two successive plane crashes. He chartered a sightseeing flight over the [Belgian Congo](#) as a Christmas present to Mary. On their way to photograph [Murchison Falls](#) from the air, the plane struck an abandoned utility pole and "crash landed in heavy brush." Hemingway's injuries included a head wound, while Mary broke two ribs. The next day, attempting to reach medical care in [Entebbe](#), they boarded a second plane that exploded at take-off, with Hemingway suffering burns and another concussion, this one serious enough to cause leaking of [cerebral fluid](#). They eventually arrived in Entebbe to find reporters covering the story of Hemingway's death. He briefed the reporters and spent the next few weeks recuperating and reading his erroneous obituaries. When a bushfire broke out, he was again injured, sustaining second degree burns on his legs, front torso, lips, left hand and right forearm. Months later in [Venice](#), Mary reported to friends the full extent of Hemingway's injuries: two cracked [discs](#), a kidney and liver rupture, a [dislocated shoulder](#) and a broken skull. The accidents may have precipitated the physical deterioration that was to follow. After the plane crashes, Hemingway, who had been "a thinly controlled alcoholic throughout much of his life, drank more heavily than usual to combat the pain of his injuries."

In October 1954 Hemingway received the [Nobel Prize in Literature](#). Because he was suffering pain from the African accidents, he decided against traveling to [Stockholm](#). Instead he sent a speech to be read, defining the writer's life: *"Writing, at its best, is a lonely life. Organizations for writers palliate the writer's loneliness but I doubt if they improve his writing. He grows in public stature as he sheds his loneliness and often his work deteriorates. For he does his work alone and if he is a good enough writer he must face eternity, or the lack of it, each day."*

# Evert Taube

**Evert Axel Taube** (12 March 1890 - 31 January 1976) was a [Swedish author](#), [artist](#), [composer](#) and [singer](#). He is widely regarded as one of Sweden's most respected musicians and the foremost troubadour of the [Swedish ballad tradition](#) in the 20th century.



Evert Taube was born in 1890 in [Gothenburg](#), and brought up on the island of [Vinga, Västergötland](#), where his father, Carl Gunnar Taube, a ship's captain, was the lighthouse keeper. His mother was Julia Sofia Jacobsdotter. Taube belongs to an untitled branch of the [Baltic German noble Taube family](#), introduced at the [Swedish House of Nobility](#) in 1668 as noble family No. 734.

Having spent two years (1907–1909) sailing around the [Red Sea](#), [Ceylon](#) and [South Africa](#), Taube began his career as a singer-songwriter and collector of sailors' songs, and on [Christmas Eve](#) 1908, on board the Norwegian ship *SS Bergen* headed for [Spain](#), he performed "Turalleri,

piken fra Hamburg".

Following a five-year stay (1910–1915) in [Argentina](#), he developed an interest in [Latin American music](#) and introduced the Argentinian [tango](#) to Sweden in the twenties. Contrary to widespread perceptions, Taube did not work as a [gaucho](#) (cowboy) on the [Pampas](#) but as a [foreman](#) supervising workers who were digging canals designed to prevent flooding on the vast plains.

He is perhaps best known as a depicter of the idyllic, with motifs from the Swedish archipelagoes and from the [Mediterranean](#), from a perspective every Swedish four-week holiday tourist could recognize. Among Taube's most famous songs are "[Calle Schewens vals](#)", "[Min älskling \(du är som en ros\)](#)", "Dans på Sunnanö", "Flickan i Havanna", "Änglamark", "[Sjösala vals](#)", "[Fritiof och Carmencita](#)", "[Så skimrande var aldrig havet](#)" and "Så länge skutan kan gå".

Taube has been translated into English by Helen Asbury, [Paul Britten Austin](#), Emily Melcher and others. His songs have been recorded in English by [Roger Whittaker](#), [Sven-Bertil Taube](#), Martin Best, Roger Hinchliffe and Emily Melcher.

Here is he singing "Calle Schewens vals" in 1932; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qANEjnOu8Y>

and a more recent recording at a Sing-along of "Så skimrande var aldrig havet"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQQmuvCBxtE>





# F. Scott Fitzgerald

**Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald** (September 24, 1896 – December 21, 1940) was an American author of novels and short stories, whose works are the paradigmatic writings of the [Jazz Age](#), a term he coined himself. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century. Fitzgerald is considered a member of the "[Lost Generation](#)" of the 1920s. He finished four novels: [This Side of Paradise](#), [The Beautiful and Damned](#), [The Great Gatsby](#)—his most famous—and [Tender Is the Night](#). A fifth, unfinished novel, [The Love of the Last Tycoon](#), was published posthumously. Fitzgerald also wrote many short stories that treat themes of youth and promise along with age and despair.



*The Great Gatsby* has been the basis for numerous films of the same name, spanning nearly 90 years; [1926](#), [1949](#), [1974](#), [2000](#), and [2013 adaptations](#). In 1958, his life from 1937 to 1940 was dramatized in [Beloved Infidel](#).

Born in 1896 in [Saint Paul, Minnesota](#), to an upper-middle-class family, Fitzgerald was named after his famous second cousin, three times removed, [Francis Scott Key](#), but was referred to as "Scott." He was also named after his deceased sister, Louise Scott, one of two sisters who died shortly before his birth. "Well, three months before I was born," he wrote as an adult, "my mother lost her other two children ... I think I started then to be a writer." His parents were Mollie (McQuillan) and Edward Fitzgerald. His mother was of Irish descent, and his father had Irish and English ancestry.

Fitzgerald spent the first decade of his childhood primarily in [Buffalo, New York](#) (1898–1901 and 1903–1908, with a short interlude in [Syracuse, New York](#) between January 1901 and September 1903). His parents, both practicing Catholics, sent Fitzgerald to two Catholic schools on the West Side of Buffalo, first Holy Angels Convent (1903–1904, now disused) and then [Nardin Academy](#) (1905–1908). His formative years in Buffalo revealed him to be a boy of unusual intelligence and drive with a keen early interest in literature, his doting mother ensuring that her son had all the advantages of an upper-middle-class upbringing. In a rather unconventional style of parenting, Fitzgerald attended Holy Angels with the peculiar arrangement that he go for only half a day—and was allowed to choose which half.

Paris in the 1920s proved the most influential decade of Fitzgerald's development. Fitzgerald made several excursions to Europe, mostly Paris and the [French Riviera](#), and became friends with many members of the

American expatriate community in Paris, notably [Ernest Hemingway](#). Fitzgerald's friendship with Hemingway was quite vigorous, as many of Fitzgerald's relationships would prove to be. Hemingway did not get on well with Zelda. In addition to describing her as "insane" he claimed that she "encouraged her husband to drink so as to distract Fitzgerald from his work on his novel," the other work being the short stories he sold to magazines. As did most professional authors at the time, Fitzgerald supplemented his income by writing short stories for such magazines as [The Saturday Evening Post](#), [Collier's Weekly](#), and [Esquire](#), and sold his stories and novels to Hollywood studios. This "whoring", as Fitzgerald and, subsequently, Hemingway called these sales, was a sore point in the authors' friendship. Fitzgerald claimed that he would first write his stories in an authentic manner but then put in "twists that made them into saleable magazine stories."



Fitzgerald wrote frequently for [The Saturday Evening Post](#). This issue from May 1, 1920, containing the short story "[Bernice Bobs Her Hair](#)", was the first with Fitzgerald's name on the cover.

Although Fitzgerald's passion lay in writing novels, only his first novel sold well enough to support the opulent lifestyle that he and Zelda adopted as New York celebrities. (*The Great Gatsby*, now considered to

be his masterpiece, did not become popular until after Fitzgerald's death.) Because of this lifestyle, as well as the bills from Zelda's medical care when they came, Fitzgerald was constantly in financial trouble and often required loans from his literary agent,

Fitzgerald had been an alcoholic since his college days, and became notorious during the 1920s for his extraordinarily heavy drinking, leaving him in poor health by the late 1930s. According to Zelda's biographer, [Nancy Milford](#), Fitzgerald claimed that he had contracted [tuberculosis](#), but Milford dismisses it as a pretext to cover his drinking problems.

Fitzgerald suffered two heart attacks in the late 1930s. After the first, in [Schwab's Drug Store](#), he was ordered by his doctor to avoid strenuous exertion. On the night of December 20, 1940, Fitzgerald and



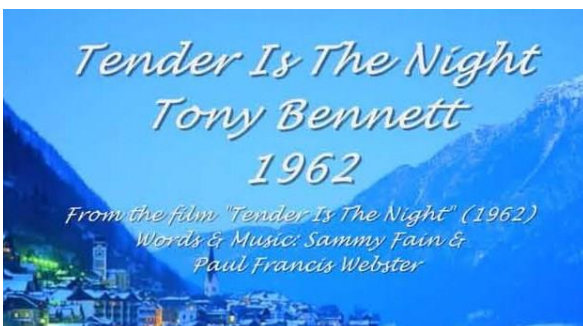
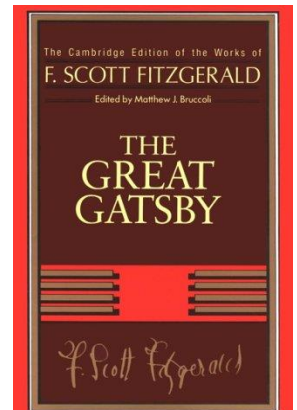
Sheilah Graham attended the premiere of [This Thing Called Love](#) starring [Rosalind Russell](#) and [Melvyn Douglas](#). As the two were leaving the [Pantages Theater](#), Fitzgerald experienced a dizzy spell and had trouble leaving the theater; upset, he said to Graham, "They think I am drunk, don't they?"

The following day, as Fitzgerald ate a candy bar and made notes in his newly arrived [Princeton Alumni Weekly](#), Graham saw him jump from his armchair, grab the mantelpiece, gasp, and fall to the floor. She ran to the manager of the building, [Harry Culver](#), founder of Culver City. Upon entering the apartment to assist Fitzgerald, he stated, "I'm afraid he's dead." Fitzgerald had died of a heart attack.

Zelda and Fitzgerald's grave in Rockville, Maryland, inscribed with the final sentence of *The Great Gatsby*

Among the attendants at a visitation held at a funeral home was [Dorothy Parker](#), who reportedly cried and murmured "the poor son-of-a-bitch," a line from [Jay Gatsby's](#) funeral in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Zelda died in 1948, in a fire at the [Highland Mental Hospital](#) in [Asheville, North Carolina](#). Both of the Fitzgeralds' remains were moved to the family plot in Saint Mary's Cemetery, in [Rockville, Maryland](#), in 1975.

Fitzgerald's work has inspired writers ever since he was first published. The publication of *The Great Gatsby* prompted [T. S. Eliot](#) to write, in a letter to Fitzgerald, "[I]t seems to me to be the first step that American fiction has taken since [Henry James](#) ...". Don Birnam, the protagonist of [Charles Jackson's](#) *The Lost Weekend*, says to himself, referring to *The Great Gatsby*, "There's no such thing ... as a flawless novel. But if there is, this is it." In letters written in the 1940s, [J. D. Salinger](#) expressed admiration of Fitzgerald's work, and his biographer [Ian Hamilton](#) wrote that Salinger even saw himself for some time as "Fitzgerald's successor." [Richard Yates](#), a writer often compared to Fitzgerald, called *The Great Gatsby* "the most nourishing novel [he] read ... a miracle of talent ... a triumph of technique."



The 1962 film [Tender Is the Night](#), based on the novel, starred [Jason Robards](#) and [Jennifer Jones](#) as the Divers. The song "Tender Is the Night", was nominated for the 1962 [Academy Award](#) for [Best Song](#).

Listen to it here;

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtRFbv7x-Io>

## Phillip Key (Keyes) (c.1696 - 1764)

[Back to Key surname](#)



Nicknames: "Unknown /Key/"  
 Birthdate: circa March 21, 1696  
 Birthplace: St Pauls Parish, Covent Gardens, London, England  
 Death: Died August 20, 1764 in Chaptico, Saint Marys, Maryland, USA


Managed by: [Debora Baxter](#)  
 Last Updated: September 2, 2011

[View Complete Profile](#)

### Immediate Family

[view all](#)

 **Theodosia Barton**  
wife

 **Susanna Key**  
wife


 **John Key, M.D.**  
son

 **Richard Ward Key**  
son

 **Francis Key**  
son

 **Edmund Key**  
son

 **Thomas Key**  
son

 **Susanna Bruce**  
daughter

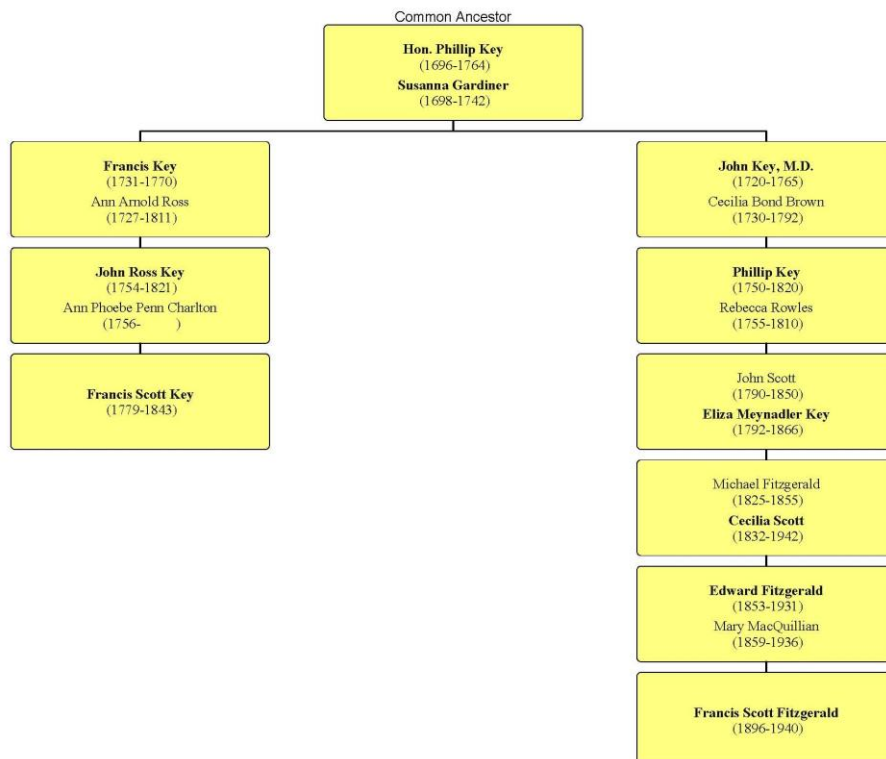
 **Mary Keye**  
mother

 **Richard Keye, Sr.**  
father

 **Richard Keye**  
brother

 **Mary Chitwood (Key)**  
sister

Francis Scott Fitzgerald is the 2nd Cousin 3 times removed \* of Francis Scott Key





# Francis Scott Key

**Francis Scott Key** (August 1, 1779 – January 11, 1843) was an [American lawyer](#), author, and amateur [poet](#), from [Georgetown](#), who wrote the lyrics to the United States' [national anthem](#), "[The Star-Spangled Banner](#)".

Francis Scott Key was born to Ann Phoebe Penn Dagworthy and Captain [John Ross Key](#) at the family plantation [Terra Rubra](#) in what was [Frederick County](#), Maryland (now [Carroll County, Maryland](#)). His father [John Ross Key](#) was a lawyer, a judge, and an officer in the [Continental Army](#). His great-grandparents were Philip Key and Susanna Barton Gardiner, both of whom were born in [London](#) and immigrated to [Maryland](#) in 1726.



*Francis Scott Key's original manuscript copy of his "Star-Spangled Banner" poem. It is now on display at the [Maryland Historical Society](#).*

On September 3, 1814, following the [Burning of Washington](#) and the [Raid on Alexandria](#), **Francis Scott Key** and John Stuart Skinner set sail from Baltimore aboard the ship [HMS Minden](#), flying a [flag of truce](#) on a mission approved by [President James Madison](#). Their objective was to secure the exchange of prisoners, one of whom was [Dr. William Beanes](#), the elderly and popular town physician of [Upper Marlboro](#) and a friend of Key's who had been captured in his home. Beanes was accused of aiding the arrest of British soldiers. Key and Skinner boarded the British [flagship HMS Tonnant](#) on September 7 and spoke with Major General [Robert Ross](#) and Vice Admiral [Alexander Cochrane](#) over dinner while the two officers discussed war plans. At first, Ross and Cochrane refused to release Beanes, but relented after Key and Skinner showed them letters written by wounded British prisoners praising Beanes and other Americans for their kind treatment.



Because Key and Skinner had heard details of the plans for [the attack on Baltimore](#), they were held captive until after the battle, first aboard [HMS Surprise](#) and later back on [HMS Minden](#). After the bombardment, certain British gunboats attempted to slip past the fort and effect a landing in a cove to the west of it, but they were turned away by fire from nearby Fort Covington, the city's last line of defense.

*An artist's rendering of the battle at Fort McHenry*



During the rainy night, Key had witnessed the bombardment and observed that the [fort's](#) smaller "storm flag" continued to fly, but once the shell and [Congreve rocket](#) barrage had stopped, he would not know how the battle had turned out until dawn. By then, the storm flag had been lowered and the larger flag had been raised.

During the bombardment, [HMS Erebus](#) provided the "rockets' red glare". [HMS Meteor](#) provided at least some of the "bombs bursting in air".

At dawn, Key was able to see an [American flag](#) still waving and reported this to the prisoners below deck. On

the way back to Baltimore, he was inspired to write a poem describing his experience, "Defence of Fort McHenry", which he published in the *Patriot* on September 20, 1814. It has become better known as "[The Star Spangled Banner](#)". Under this name, the song was adopted as the American national anthem, first by an Executive Order from President [Woodrow Wilson](#) in 1916 (which had little effect beyond requiring military bands to play it) and then by a Congressional resolution in 1931, signed by President [Herbert Hoover](#).

Aboard the ship the next day, Key wrote a poem on the back of a letter he had kept in his pocket. At twilight on September 16, he and Skinner were released in Baltimore. He completed the poem at the Indian Queen Hotel, where he was staying, and entitled it "Defence of Fort McHenry".

## The Star-Spangled Banner

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:  
'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,  
A home and a country should leave us no more!  
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!  
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

He is buried at [Mount Olivet Cemetery](#) in Frederick. His family plot is next to [Thomas Johnson](#), the first governor of Maryland, and friend [Barbara Fritchie](#), who allegedly waved the American flag out of her home in defiance of [Stonewall Jackson](#)'s march through the city during the [Civil War](#).

*The 1898 monument to Francis Scott Key below which he and his wife are interred.*



The [Francis Scott Key](#) Memorial Association commissioned the American sculptor [Alexander Doyle](#), to create a monument suitable for the author of the [national anthem](#) of the United States. On August 9, 1898, Julia McHenry Howard unveiled the monument of her grandfather and author of the "[Star Spangled Banner](#)", Francis Scott Key. Key and his wife, Mary Taylor Key, were relocated from the Key family plot, also at Mount Olivet Cemetery, to a crypt located in the foundation of the monument. Key is represented in a 9 foot bronze statue atop a 15 foot pedestal. A statue of [Columbia](#), the goddess of patriotism, is located on the front of the pedestal. [Columbia](#) is flanked by an adolescent boy representing war her left, and a young boy representing music on her right. This representation depicts the moment that inspired the poem "[Defence of Fort McHenry](#)" which he wrote after witnessing the bombardment of [Fort McHenry](#) by the British Royal Navy ships in [Chesapeake Bay](#) during the [Battle of Fort McHenry](#) in the [War of 1812](#).

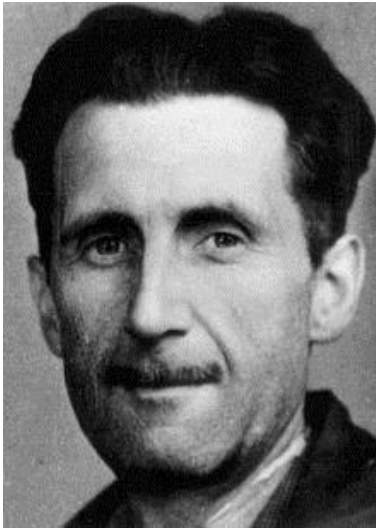
Listen to it here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ETrr-XHBjE>



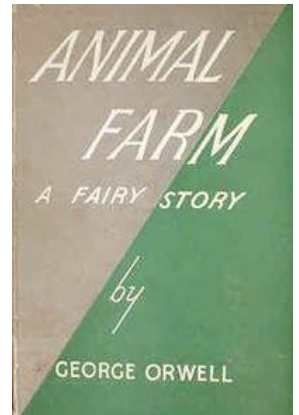


# George Orwell

**Eric Arthur Blair** (25 June 1903 – 21 January 1950), known by his pen name **George Orwell**, was an English novelist and journalist. His work is marked by clarity, intelligence and wit, awareness of [social injustice](#), opposition to [totalitarianism](#), and commitment to [democratic socialism](#).



Considered perhaps the 20th century's best chronicler of English culture, Orwell wrote [literary criticism](#), poetry, fiction and [polemical](#) journalism. He is best known for the [dystopian](#) novel *[Nineteen Eighty-Four](#)* (1949) and the allegorical [novella](#) *[Animal Farm](#)* (1945), which together have sold more copies than any two books by any other 20th-century author. His book *[Homage to Catalonia](#)* (1938), an account of his experiences in the [Spanish Civil War](#), is widely acclaimed, as are his numerous [essays](#) on politics, literature, [language](#) and culture. In 2008, *[The Times](#)* ranked him second on a list of "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945".



Orwell's work continues to influence [popular](#) and [political culture](#), and the term *[Orwellian](#)* — descriptive of totalitarian or [authoritarian](#) social practices — has entered the language together with several of his [neologisms](#), including [Cold War](#), [doublethink](#), [thoughtcrime](#), [Big Brother](#) and [thought police](#).

Eric Arthur Blair was born on 25 June 1903, in [Motihari](#), Bihar, in India. His great-grandfather Charles Blair was a wealthy [country gentleman](#) in Dorset who married Lady Mary Fane, daughter of [Thomas Fane, 8th Earl of Westmorland](#), and had income as an absentee landlord of plantations in [Jamaica](#). His grandfather, Thomas Richard Arthur Blair, was a clergyman. Although the gentility passed down the generations, the prosperity did not; Eric Blair described his family as "[lower-upper-middle class](#)". His father, Richard Walmesley Blair, worked in the Opium Department of the [Indian Civil Service](#). At the age of five, Eric was sent as a day-boy to a [convent school](#) in Henley-on-Thames, which Marjorie also attended. It was a Roman Catholic [convent](#) run by French [Ursuline](#) nuns, who had been exiled from France after religious education was banned in 1903.<sup>[16]</sup> His mother wanted him to have a [public school](#) education, but his family could not afford the fees, and he needed to earn a scholarship. Ida Blair's brother Charles Limouzin recommended [St Cyprian's School, Eastbourne](#), East Sussex. Limouzin, who was a proficient golfer, knew of the school and its headmaster through the Royal Eastbourne Golf Club, where he won several competitions in 1903 and 1904. The headmaster undertook to help Blair to win the scholarship, and made a private financial arrangement that allowed Blair's parents to pay only half the normal fees. In September 1911 Eric arrived at St Cyprian's. He knew nothing of the reduced fees although he "soon recognized that he was from a poorer home". Blair hated the school and many years later wrote an essay "[Such, Such Were the Joys](#)", published posthumously, based on his time there. At St. Cyprian's, Blair first met [Cyril Connolly](#), who became a noted writer and, as the editor of *[Horizon](#)*, published many of Orwell's essays.

As part of school work, Blair wrote two poems that were published in the *[Henley and South Oxfordshire Standard](#)*. He came second to Connolly in the [Harrow History Prize](#), had his work praised by the school's external examiner, and earned scholarships to [Wellington](#) and [Eton](#) Colleges.

In imitation of [Jack London](#), whose writing he admired (particularly "[The People of the Abyss](#)"), Orwell started to explore [slumming](#) the poorer parts of London. On his first outing he set out to [Limehouse Causeway](#), spending his first night in a common lodging house, possibly George Levy's 'kip'. For a while he "went native" in his own country, dressing like a [tramp](#) and making no concessions to middle-class [mores](#)



and expectations; he recorded his experiences of the low life for use in [The Spike](#), his first published essay in English, and in the second half of his first book, [Down and Out in Paris and London](#) (1933).

Modern readers are more often introduced to Orwell as a novelist, particularly through his enormously successful titles [Animal Farm](#) and [Nineteen Eighty-Four](#). The former is often thought to reflect degeneration in the Soviet Union after the [Russian Revolution](#) and the rise of [Stalinism](#); the latter, life under [totalitarian rule](#). [Nineteen Eighty-Four](#) is often compared to [Brave New World](#) by [Aldous Huxley](#); both are powerful [dystopian](#) novels warning of a future world where the state machine exerts complete control over social life. In 1984, [Nineteen Eighty-Four](#) and [Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451](#) were honoured with the [Prometheus Award](#) for their contributions to dystopian literature. In 2011 he received it again for [Animal Farm](#).

[Coming Up for Air](#), his last novel before World War II is the most "English" of his novels; alarums of war mingle with images of idyllic [Thames-side Edwardian](#) childhood of protagonist George Bowling. The novel is pessimistic; industrialism and capitalism have killed the best of Old England, and there were great, new external threats. In homely terms, Bowling posits the totalitarian hypotheses of Borkenau, Orwell, Silone and Koestler: "Old Hitler's something different. So's Joe Stalin. They aren't like these chaps in the old days who crucified people and chopped their heads off and so forth, just for the fun of it ... They're something quite new—something that's never been heard of before".

In an autobiographical piece that Orwell sent to the editors of *Twentieth Century Authors* in 1940, he wrote: "The writers I care about most and never grow tired of are: [Shakespeare](#), [Swift](#), [Fielding](#), [Dickens](#), [Charles Reade](#), [Flaubert](#). But I believe the modern writer who has influenced me most is [Somerset Maugham](#), whom I admire immensely for his power of telling a story straightforwardly and without frills." Elsewhere, Orwell strongly praised the works of [Jack London](#), especially his book *The Road*. Orwell's investigation of poverty in *The Road to Wigan Pier* strongly resembles that of Jack London's *The People of the Abyss*, in which the American journalist disguises himself as an out-of-work sailor in order to investigate the lives of the poor in London. In his essay "Politics vs. Literature: An Examination of Gulliver's Travels" (1946) Orwell wrote: "If I had to make a list of six books which were to be preserved when all others were destroyed, I would certainly put [Gulliver's Travels](#) among them."

Orwell's health had continued to decline since the diagnosis of [tuberculosis](#) in December 1947. In the summer of 1949, he courted [Sonia Brownell](#), and they announced their marriage in September, shortly before he was removed to [University College Hospital](#) in London. Sonia took charge of Orwell's affairs and



attended diligently in the hospital, causing concern to some old friends such as Muggeridge. Orwell's wedding took place in the hospital room on 13 October 1949, with David Astor as best man. Orwell's health was in decline again by Christmas. On the evening of 20 January 1950, Potts visited Orwell and slipped away on finding him asleep. Early on the morning of 21 January, an artery burst in his lungs, killing him at age 46.

Orwell had requested to be buried in accordance with the Anglican rite in the graveyard of the closest church to wherever he happened to die. The graveyards in central London had no space, and fearing that he might have to be cremated, against his wishes, his widow appealed to his friends to see whether any of them knew of a church with space in its graveyard.

David Astor lived in [Sutton Courtenay](#), Oxfordshire, and negotiated with the vicar for Orwell to be interred in All Saints' Churchyard there, although he had no connection with the village. His gravestone bears the simple epitaph: "Here lies Eric Arthur Blair, born 25 June 1903, died 21 January 1950"; no mention is made on the gravestone of his more famous pen-name.

# Harriet Beecher Stowe

**Harriet Beecher Stowe** (June 14, 1811 – July 1, 1896) was an American [abolitionist](#) and [author](#). Her [novel \*Uncle Tom's Cabin\*](#) (1852) was a depiction of life for [African-Americans](#) under [slavery](#); it reached millions as a novel and play, and became influential in the United States and United Kingdom. It energized anti-slavery forces in the [American North](#), while provoking widespread anger in the [South](#). She wrote more than 20 books, including novels, three travel memoirs, and collections of articles and letters. She was influential both for her writings and her public stands on social issues of the day.

Harriet Elisabeth Beecher was born in [Litchfield, Connecticut](#), on June 14, 1811. She was the seventh of 13 children, born to outspoken religious leader [Lyman Beecher](#) and Roxana (Foote), a deeply religious woman who died when Stowe was only five years old. Harriet enrolled in the seminary (girls' school) run by her sister Catharine, where she received a traditionally "male" education in the classics, including study of languages and mathematics. There, she also joined the [Semi-Colon Club](#), a literary salon and social club.

It was in that group that she met [Calvin Ellis Stowe](#), a widower and professor at the seminary. The two married on January 6, 1836. He was an ardent critic of slavery, and the Stowes supported the [Underground Railroad](#), temporarily housing several fugitive slaves in their home. They had seven children together, including twin daughters.

## *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Civil War

Portrait of Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1853



In 1850, Congress passed the [Fugitive Slave Law](#), prohibiting assistance to fugitives. At the time, Harriet had moved with her family into [a home](#) near the campus of [Bowdoin College](#) in Brunswick, Maine, where her husband was now teaching. On March 9, 1850, Stowe wrote to [Gamaliel Bailey](#), editor of the weekly antislavery journal *National Era*, that she planned to write a story about the problem of slavery: "I feel now that the time is come when even a woman or a child who can speak a word for freedom and humanity is bound to speak... I hope every woman who can write will not be silent." Shortly after, in June 1851, when she was 40, the first installment of her [Uncle Tom's Cabin](#) was published in the *National Era*. She originally used the subtitle "The

Man That Was A Thing", but it was soon changed to "Life Among the Lowly". Installments were published weekly from June 5, 1851, to April 1, 1852. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was published in book form on March 20, 1852, by John P. Jewett with an initial print run of 5,000 copies. Each of its two volumes included three illustrations and a title-page designed by [Hammatt Billings](#). In less than a year, the book sold an unprecedented three hundred thousand copies. By December, as sales began to wane, Jewett issued an inexpensive edition at 37 1/2 cents each to further inspire sales.

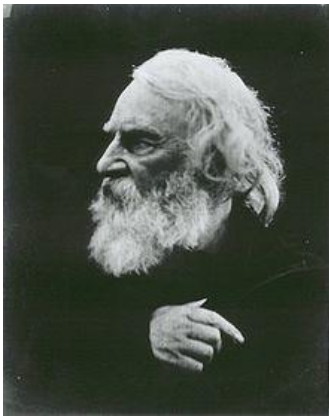


Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Cincinnati, Ohio

After the start of the [Civil War](#), Stowe traveled to Washington, D.C. and there met President [Abraham Lincoln](#) on November 25, 1862. Legend has it that, upon meeting her, he greeted her by saying, "so you are the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war." In reality, little is known about the meeting. Stowe's daughter Hattie reported, "It was a very droll time that we had at the [White house](#). I assure you... I will only say now that it was all very funny—and we were ready to explode with laughter all the while." Stowe's own letter to her husband is equally vague: "I had a real funny interview with the President."

# Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

**Henry Wadsworth Longfellow** (February 27, 1807 – March 24, 1882) was an American poet and educator whose works include "[Paul Revere's Ride](#)", [The Song of Hiawatha](#), and [Evangeline](#). He was also the first American to translate [Dante Alighieri's The Divine Comedy](#) and was one of the five [Fireside Poets](#).

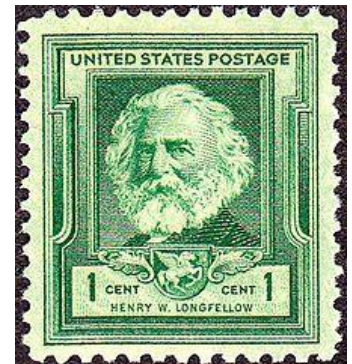


Longfellow was born in [Portland, Maine](#), then part of Massachusetts, and studied at [Bowdoin College](#). After spending time in Europe he became a professor at Bowdoin and, later, at [Harvard College](#). His first major poetry collections were *Voices of the Night* (1839) and *Ballads and Other Poems* (1841). Longfellow retired from teaching in 1854 to focus on his writing, living the remainder of his life in [Cambridge, Massachusetts](#), in a former headquarters of [George Washington](#). His first wife Mary Potter died in 1835 after a miscarriage. His second wife Frances Appleton died in 1861 after sustaining burns when her dress caught fire. After her death, Longfellow had difficulty writing poetry for a time and focused on his translation. He died in 1882.

Longfellow wrote predominantly [lyric poems](#), known for their musicality and often presenting stories of mythology and legend. He became the most popular American poet of his day and also had success overseas.

Longfellow was born on February 27, 1807, to [Stephen Longfellow](#) and Zilpah (Wadsworth) Longfellow in [Portland, Maine](#), and he grew up in what is now known as the [Wadsworth-Longfellow House](#). His father was a lawyer, and his maternal grandfather, [Peleg Wadsworth](#), was a general in the [American Revolutionary War](#) and a [Member of Congress](#). He was named after his mother's brother Henry Wadsworth, a Navy lieutenant who had died three years earlier at the [Battle of Tripoli](#).

Longfellow was the most popular poet of his day and is generally regarded as the most distinguished poet the country had produced. As a friend once wrote to him, "no other poet was so fully recognized his lifetime". Many of his works helped shape the American character and its legacy, particularly with the poem "[Paul Revere's Ride](#)". He was such an admired figure in the United States during his life that his 70th birthday in 1877 took on the air of a national holiday, with parades, speeches, and the reading of his poetry.



Over the years, Longfellow's personality has become part of his reputation. He has been presented as a gentle, placid, poetic soul. As James Russell Lowell said, Longfellow had an "absolute sweetness, simplicity, and modesty". At Longfellow's funeral, his friend [Ralph Waldo Emerson](#) called him "a sweet and beautiful soul". In reality, Longfellow's life was much more difficult than was assumed. He suffered from [neuralgia](#), which caused him constant pain, and he also had poor eyesight. He wrote to friend Charles Sumner: "I do not believe anyone *can* be perfectly well, who has a brain and a heart". He had become one of the first American celebrities and was also popular in Europe. It was reported that 10,000 copies of [The Courtship of Miles Standish](#) sold in London in a single day. Children adored him and, when the "spreading chestnut-tree" mentioned in the poem "The Village Blacksmith" was cut down, the children of Cambridge had the tree converted into an armchair which they presented to the poet. In 1884, Longfellow became the first non-British writer for whom a commemorative sculpted bust was placed in [Poet's Corner](#) of [Westminster Abbey](#) in London; he remains the only American poet represented with a bust.

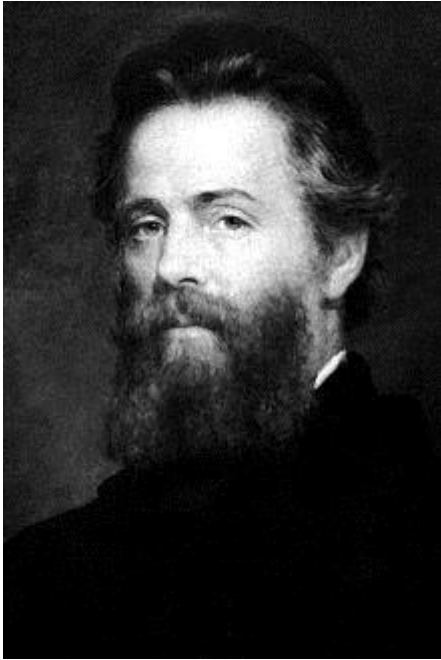
Neil Diamond's 1974 hit song, "[Longfellow Serenade](#)", is a reference to the poet. Listen to this at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6fHYHrIYZg>





# Herman Melville

**Herman Melville** (August 1, 1819 – September 28, 1891) was an American novelist, [short story](#) writer, [essayist](#), and poet. He is best known for his novel [Moby-Dick](#). His first three books gained much contemporary attention (the first, [Typee](#), became a bestseller), but after a fast-blooming literary success in the late 1840s, his popularity declined.



When he died in 1891, he was almost completely forgotten. It was not until the "Melville Revival" in the early 20th century that his work won recognition, especially *Moby-Dick*, which was hailed as one of the literary masterpieces of both American and world literature.

Herman Melville was born in New York City on August 1, 1819, the third of eight children of Allan and Maria Gansevoort Melvill. Herman's younger brother, [Thomas Melville](#), eventually became a governor of [Sailors Snug Harbor](#). Part of a well-established and colorful [Boston](#) family, Melville's father, Allan, spent a good deal of time abroad as a commission merchant and an importer of French dry goods.

The author's paternal grandfather, Major [Thomas Melvill](#), was honored as a participant in the [Boston Tea Party](#). Thomas Melvill, who refused to change the style of his clothing or manners to fit the times, was depicted in [Oliver Wendell Holmes](#)'s poem "The Last Leaf."

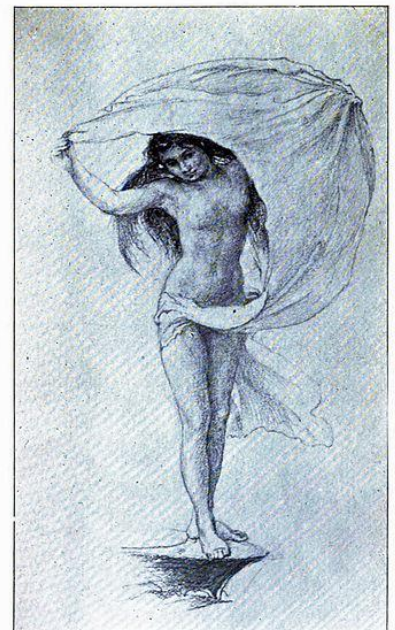
On January 3, 1841, he sailed from [Fairhaven, Massachusetts](#) on the whaler *Acushnet*, which was bound for the Pacific Ocean. He was later to comment that his life began that day. The vessel sailed around [Cape Horn](#) and traveled to the South Pacific. Melville left little direct accounts of the events of this 18-month voyage, although his whaling romance, *Moby-Dick; or, The Whale*, probably describes many aspects of life on board the *Acushnet*. Melville deserted the *Acushnet* in the [Marquesas Islands](#) in July 1842.

*Fayaway*

For three weeks he lived among the [Typee](#) natives, who were called [cannibals](#) by the two other tribal groups on the island—though they treated Melville very well. [Typee](#), Melville's first novel, describes a brief love affair with a beautiful native girl, Fayaway, who generally "wore the garb of Eden" and came to epitomize the guileless [noble savage](#) in the popular imagination.

Melville did not seem to be concerned about consequences of leaving the *Acushnet*. He boarded an Australian whaleship, the *Lucy Ann*, bound for [Tahiti](#); took part in a mutiny and was briefly jailed in the native *Calabooza Beretanee*. After release, he spent several months as [beachcomber](#) and island rover (*Omoo* in Tahitian), eventually crossing over to [Moorea](#). He signed articles on yet another whaler for a six-month cruise (November 1842 – April 1843), which terminated in [Honolulu](#).

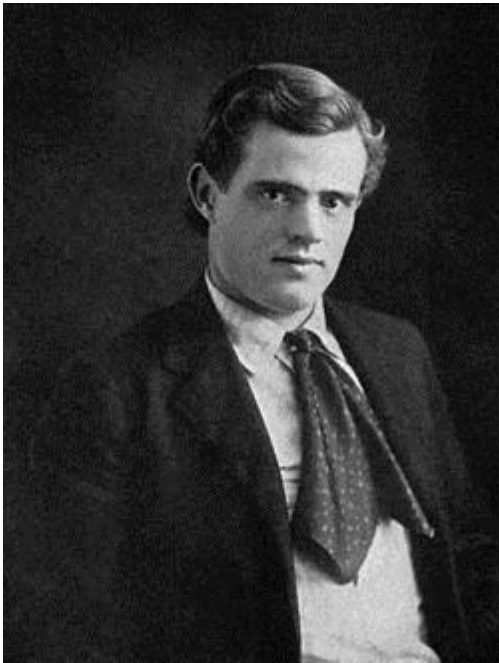
*Moby-Dick; or, The Whale* was dedicated to Melville's friend Nathaniel Hawthorne. It was not a financial success; the book never sold its initial printing of 3,000 copies in his lifetime, and total earnings from the American edition amounted to just \$556.37 from his publisher, Harper & Brothers.



"Spreading it out like a sail."

# Jack London

**John Griffith "Jack" London** (born **John Griffith Chaney** January 12, 1876 – November 22, 1916) was an American author, journalist, and social activist. He was a pioneer in the then-burgeoning world of commercial magazine fiction and was one of the first fiction writers to obtain worldwide celebrity and a large fortune from his fiction alone. He is best remembered as the author of [\*The Call of the Wild\*](#) and [\*White Fang\*](#), both set in the [\*Klondike Gold Rush\*](#), as well as the short stories "[To Build a Fire](#)", "An Odyssey of the North", and "Love of Life". He also wrote of the South Pacific in such stories as "The Pearls of Parlay" and "The Heathen", and of the San Francisco Bay area in [\*The Sea Wolf\*](#).



London was a passionate advocate of unionization, [socialism](#), and the rights of workers and wrote several powerful works dealing with these topics such as his dystopian novel [\*The Iron Heel\*](#), his non-fiction exposé [\*The People of the Abyss\*](#), and *The War of the Classes*.

Jack London's mother, Flora Wellman, was the fifth and youngest child of [Pennsylvania Canal](#) builder Marshall Wellman and his first wife, Eleanor Garrett Jones. Marshall Wellman was descended from [Thomas Wellman](#), an early [Puritan](#) settler in the [Massachusetts Bay Colony](#). Flora left Ohio and moved to the Pacific coast when her father remarried after her mother died. In San Francisco, Flora worked as a music teacher and [spiritualist](#) claiming to channel the spirit of an [Indian](#) chief.

Biographer Clarice Stasz and others believe that London's father was [astrologer](#) William Chaney. Flora Wellman was living with Chaney in San Francisco when she became pregnant. Whether Wellman and Chaney were legally married is unknown. Most [San Francisco](#) civil records were destroyed by the extensive fires that followed the [1906 earthquake](#); it is not known with certainty what name appeared on his birth certificate. Stasz notes that in his memoirs, Chaney refers to London's mother Flora Wellman as having been his "wife" and also cites an advertisement in which Flora called herself "Florence Wellman Chaney".

On July 12, 1897, London (age 21) and his sister's husband Captain Shepard sailed to join the [\*Klondike Gold Rush\*](#). This was the setting for some of his first successful stories. London's time in the [\*Klondike\*](#), however, was detrimental to his health. Like so many other men who were malnourished in the goldfields, London developed [scurvy](#). His gums became swollen, leading to the loss of his four front teeth. A constant gnawing pain affected his hip and leg muscles, and his face was stricken with marks that always reminded him of the struggles he faced in the Klondike. [Father William Judge](#), "The Saint of [Dawson](#)," had a facility in Dawson that provided shelter, food and any available medicine to London and others. His struggles there inspired London's short story, "[To Build a Fire](#)", which many critics assess as his best.

London's most famous novels are [\*The Call of the Wild\*](#), [\*White Fang\*](#), [\*The Sea-Wolf\*](#), [\*The Iron Heel\*](#), and [\*Martin Eden\*](#).

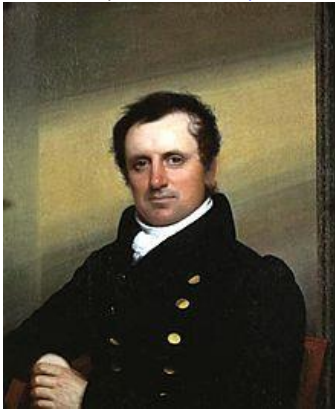
In a letter dated Dec 27, 1901, London's Macmillan publisher [George Platt Brett, Sr.](#) said "he believed Jack's fiction represented 'the very best kind of work' done in America."

Critic Maxwell Geismar called [\*The Call of the Wild\*](#) "a beautiful prose poem"; editor Franklin Walker said that it "belongs on a shelf with [Walden](#) and [Huckleberry Finn](#)"; and novelist [E.L. Doctorow](#) called it "a mordant parable ... his masterpiece."

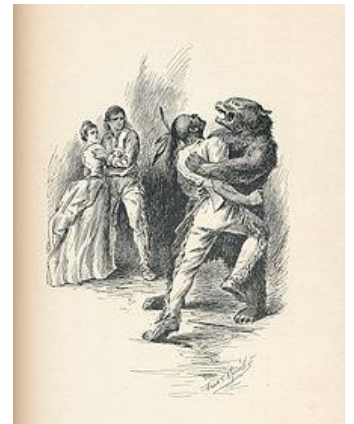
# James Fenimore Cooper

**James Fenimore Cooper** (September 15, 1789 – September 14, 1851) was a prolific and popular American writer of the early 19th century. His historical romances of frontier and Indian life in the early American days created a unique form of American literature. He lived most of his life in [Cooperstown, New York](#), established by his father William. Cooper was a lifelong member of the [Episcopal Church](#) and in his later years contributed generously to it. He attended [Yale University](#) for three years, where he was a member of the [Linonian Society](#), but was expelled for misbehavior. Before embarking on his career as a writer he served in the [U.S. Navy](#) as a Midshipman which greatly influenced many of his novels and other writings. He is best remembered as a [novelist](#) who wrote numerous sea-stories and the [historical novels](#) known as the [Leatherstocking Tales](#). Among naval historians his works on early U.S. naval history have been widely received but were sometimes criticized by Cooper's contemporaries. Among his most famous works is the [Romantic](#) novel [The Last of the Mohicans](#), often regarded as his [masterpiece](#).

Portrait by [John Wesley Jarvis](#) of Cooper in naval uniform



James Cooper was born in [Burlington, New Jersey](#), to [William](#) and Elizabeth (Fenimore) Cooper, the eleventh child of twelve children, most of whom died during infancy or childhood. He was descended from James Cooper, of [Stratford-upon-Avon](#), England, who emigrated to American colonies in 1679. James and his wife were [Quakers](#) who purchased plots of land in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Shortly after his first birthday, his family moved to [Cooperstown, New York](#), a community founded by his father, who was a United States [Congressman](#). Their house was in the wilderness on the shore of [Otsego Lake](#), an area in central New York that was surrounded by the [Iroquois of the Six Nations](#).



At the age of 13, Cooper was enrolled at [Yale](#), but, after inciting a dangerous prank that involved blowing up another student's door, Cooper was expelled in his third year without completing his degree. Disenchanted with college, Cooper obtained work in 1806 as a sailor and at the age of 17 joined the crew of a [merchant vessel](#). By 1811, he obtained the rank of [midshipman](#) in the fledgling [United States Navy](#), conferred to him on an [officer's warrant](#) signed by [Thomas Jefferson](#).

*The Last of the Mohicans, Illustration from 1896 edition*

In 1820, Cooper's wife Susan wagered that he could write a book better than the one she was reading. In response to the wager, Cooper wrote the novel [Precaution](#) (1820). Its focus on morals and manners was influenced by [Jane Austen](#)'s approach to fiction. He anonymously published *Precaution* and soon wrote several other novels. In 1823, he published [The Pioneers](#), the first of the [Leatherstocking series](#). The series features [Natty Bumppo](#), a resourceful American woodsman at home with the [Delaware Indians](#) and their chief Chingachgook. Bumppo was also the main character of Cooper's most famous novel, [The Last of the Mohicans](#) (1826). Written in New York City, the book became one of the most widely read American novels of the 19th century. It is the second book of the [Leatherstocking Tales](#) pentalogy and the best known. [The Pathfinder](#), published 14 years later in 1840, is its sequel.



The story is set in 1757, during the [French and Indian War](#) (the [Seven Years' War](#)), when France and Great Britain battled for control of North America. During this war, the French depended on its [Native American](#) allies to help fight the more numerous British colonists in the Northeast frontier areas.

[Classic Comics](#) #4, *The Last of the Mohicans*, first published 1942.



# Jane Austen

**Jane Austen** (16 December 1775 – 18 July 1817) was an [English novelist](#) whose works of [romantic fiction](#), set among the [landed gentry](#), earned her a place as one of the most widely read writers in [English literature](#). Her [realism](#) and biting social commentary have gained her historical importance among scholars and critics.

*A watercolour and pencil sketch of Austen, believed to have been drawn from life by her sister Cassandra (c. 1810)*



Austen lived her entire life as part of a close-knit family located on the lower fringes of the English [landed gentry](#). She was educated primarily by her father and older brothers as well as through her own reading. The steadfast support of her family was critical to her development as a professional writer. Her artistic apprenticeship lasted from her teenage years into her thirties. During this period, she experimented with various literary forms, including the [epistolary novel](#) which she then abandoned, and wrote and extensively revised three major novels and began a fourth. From 1811 until 1816, with the release of [Sense and Sensibility](#) (1811), [Pride and Prejudice](#) (1813), [Mansfield Park](#) (1814) and [Emma](#) (1816), she achieved success as a published writer.

Austen's parents, George Austen (1731–1805), and his wife Cassandra (1739–1827), were members of substantial gentry families. George was descended from a family of woollen manufacturers, which had risen through the professions to the lower ranks of the landed gentry. Cassandra was a member of the prominent [Leigh](#) family; they married on 26 April 1764 at Walcot Church in [Bath](#).

*Steventon rectory, as depicted in A Memoir of Jane Austen, was in a valley and surrounded by meadows.*



Austen was born on 16 December 1775 at [Steventon](#) rectory and publicly christened on 5 April 1776. After a few months at home, her mother placed Austen with Elizabeth Littlewood, a woman living nearby, who [nursed](#) and raised Austen for a year or eighteen months. In 1783, according to family tradition, Jane and Cassandra were sent to [Oxford](#) to be educated by Mrs. Ann Cawley and they moved with her to [Southampton](#) later in the year. Both girls caught [typhus](#) and Jane nearly died. Austen was subsequently educated at home, until leaving for boarding school with her sister

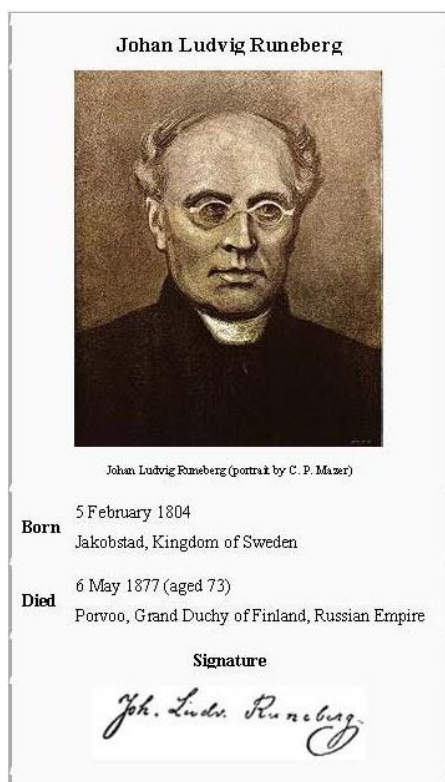
Cassandra early in 1785. The school curriculum probably included some French, spelling, needlework, dancing and music and, perhaps, drama. By December 1786, Jane and Cassandra had returned home because the Austens could not afford to send both of their daughters to school.

Perhaps as early as 1787, Austen began to write poems, stories, and plays for her own and her family's amusement. Austen later compiled "fair copies" of 29 of these early works into three bound notebooks, now referred to as the [Juvenilia](#), containing pieces originally written between 1787 and 1793.

As Austen grew into adulthood, she continued to live at her parents' home, carrying out those activities normal for women of her age and social standing: she practised the [fortepiano](#), assisted her sister and mother with supervising servants, and attended female relatives during childbirth and older relatives on their deathbeds. She sent short pieces of writing to her newborn nieces Fanny Catherine and Jane Anna Elizabeth. Austen was particularly proud of her accomplishments as a seamstress. She also attended church regularly, socialized frequently with friends and neighbours and read novels — often of her own composition — aloud with her family in the evenings. Austen began work on a second novel, *First Impressions*, in 1796. She completed the initial draft in August 1797 when she was only 21 (it later became [Pride and Prejudice](#)); as with all of her novels, Austen read the work aloud to her family as she was working on it and it became an "established favourite".

# Johan Ludvig Runeberg

**Johan Ludvig Runeberg** was a Finnish poet, and is the national poet of Finland. He wrote in the Swedish language.

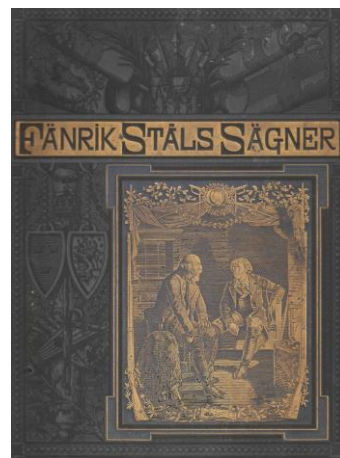


Runeberg studied first in the cities of Vaasa and Oulu, later on at the Imperial Academy of Turku, where he befriended Johan Vilhelm Snellman and Zacharias Topelius. His studies concentrated mainly on the classical languages of Latin and Greek. From 1837 onwards he lived in Porvoo, where he served as professor of Latin literature in the Gymnasium of Porvoo (Borgå). He was married to his second cousin Fredrika Runeberg, née Tengström, with whom he had eight children and who wrote poems and novels, too.

Many of his poems deal with life in rural Finland. The best known of these is *Bonden Paavo*, (*Farmer Paavo*, *Saarijärven Paavo* in Finnish), about a [smallholding](#) peasant farmer in the poor parish of [Saarijärvi](#) and his determination, "[sisu](#)" (guts) and unwavering faith in providence in the face of a harsh climate and years of bad harvests. Three times, a frosty night destroys his crops. Every time, he mixes double the amount of [bark](#) into his [bread](#) to stave off [starvation](#) and works ever harder to dry off marsh into dryer land that would not be as exposed to the night frost. After the fourth year, Paavo finally gets a rich crop. As his wife exults, thanks God and tells Paavo to enjoy full bread made entirely out of grain, Paavo instructs his wife to mix bark into grain once more, because their neighbour's crop has been lost in a frost and he gives half of his crop to the needy neighbour.

Runeberg's most famous work is *Fänrik Ståls Sägner* (*The Tales of Ensign Stål*) written between 1848 and 1860. It is considered the greatest Finnish epic poem outside the native Kalevala tradition and contains tales of the Swedish War of 1808-09 with Russia. In the war, Sweden ignominiously lost Finland, which became a Grand Duchy in the Russian empire. The poem, which is composed episodically, emphasizes the common humanity of all sides in the conflict, while principally lauding the heroism of the Finns.

The first poem in *Fänrik Ståls Sägner* became the Finnish national anthem **Vårt Land** (**Maamme laulu**, **Our Land**). The patriotic heroism of the poems colored Finnish consciousness and attitudes toward Russia in the following decades. The relatively harmonious political situation in autonomous Finland as part of the Russian Empire started later to shake, and Runeberg's poems were adopted by promoters of the independence movement. Runeberg's work also served as a cultural weapon in the Civil War (1918) and again in the Second World War.



A line from *The Tales of Ensign Stål*, "*Let not one devil cross the bridge*", became a slogan directed against the Russians.



Below is a YouTube link to one version of the first verse of "Our Land" sung in Finnish and Swedish.

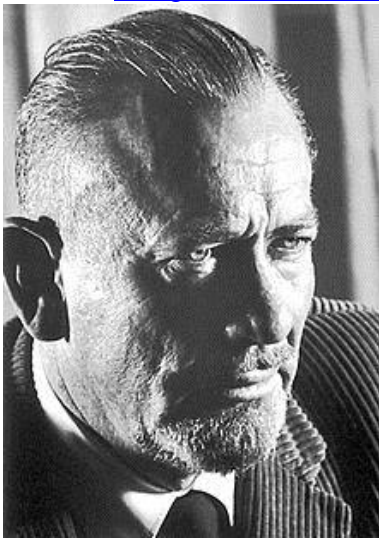
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x31ZWU0-DV0&feature=related>

# John Steinbeck

**John Ernst Steinbeck, Jr.** (February 27, 1902 – December 20, 1968) was an American writer. He is widely known for the [Pulitzer Prize](#)-winning novel *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939) and *East of Eden* (1952) and the novella *Of Mice and Men* (1937). As the author of twenty-seven books, including sixteen novels, six non-fiction books, and five collections of short stories, Steinbeck received the [Nobel Prize for Literature](#) in 1962.

His father, John Ernst Steinbeck, served as [Monterey County](#) treasurer. John's mother, Olive Hamilton, a former school teacher, shared Steinbeck's passion of reading and writing. He spent his summers working on nearby ranches and later with migrant workers on [Spreckels](#) ranch. He became aware of the harsher aspects of migrant life and the darker side of human nature, which supplied him with material expressed in such works as *Of Mice and Men*. He also explored his surroundings, walking across local forests, fields, and farms

In 1943, Steinbeck served as a [World War II war correspondent](#). Steinbeck accompanied the commando raids of [Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.](#)'s [Beach Jumpers](#) program, which launched small-unit diversion operations against German-held islands in the [Mediterranean](#). In 1944, wounded by a close munitions explosion in [North Africa](#), the war-weary author resigned from his work and returned home.



Steinbeck achieved his first critical success with *Tortilla Flat* (1935), a novel that won the California [Commonwealth Club](#)'s Gold Medal. It portrays the adventures of a group of classless and usually homeless young men in Monterey after [World War I](#), just before U.S. [prohibition](#). They are portrayed in ironic comparison to mythic knights on a quest and reject nearly all the standard mores of American society in enjoyment of a dissolute life centered around wine, lust, camaraderie and petty theft. In presenting the 1962 Nobel Prize to Steinbeck, the Swedish Academy cited "spicy and comic tales about a gang of *paisanos*, asocial individuals who, in their wild revels, are almost caricatures of [King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table](#). It has been said that in the United States this book came as a welcome antidote to the gloom of the then prevailing depression." *Tortilla Flat* was adapted as a [1942 film](#)

[of the same name](#), starring [Spencer Tracy](#), [Hedy Lamarr](#) and [John Garfield](#), a friend of Steinbeck's.

Steinbeck followed this wave of success with *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939), based on newspaper articles about migrant agricultural workers that he had written in San Francisco. It is commonly considered his greatest work. According to *The New York Times*, it was the best-selling book of 1939 and 430,000 copies had been printed by February 1940. In that month it won the [National Book Award](#), favorite fiction book of 1939, voted by members of the [American Booksellers Association](#). Later that year it won the [Pulitzer Prize for Fiction](#)<sup>[16]</sup> and it was adapted as a film directed by [John Ford](#), starring [Henry Fonda](#) as Tom Joad; Fonda was nominated for the best actor Academy Award.

The day after Steinbeck's death in New York City, reviewer Charles Poore wrote in the [New York Times](#): "John Steinbeck's first great book was his last great book. But Good Lord, what a book that was and is: *The Grapes of Wrath*." Poore noted a "preachiness" in Steinbeck's work, "as if half his literary inheritance came from the best of [Mark Twain](#)— and the other half from the worst of [Cotton Mather](#)." But he asserted that "Steinbeck didn't need the Nobel Prize— the Nobel judges needed him."

Many of Steinbeck's works are on required reading lists in American high schools. In the [United Kingdom](#), *Of Mice and Men* is one of the key texts used by the examining body [AQA](#) for its [English Literature GCSE](#). A study by the Center for the Learning and Teaching of Literature in the United States found that *Of Mice and Men* was one of the ten most frequently read books in public high schools.



# Jonathan Swift

**Jonathan Swift** (30 November 1667 – 19 October 1745) was an [Anglo-Irish](#) [satirist](#), [essayist](#), political [pamphleteer](#) (first for the [Whigs](#), then for the [Tories](#)), poet and cleric who became [Dean](#) of [St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin](#).



He is remembered for works such as [Gulliver's Travels](#), [A Modest Proposal](#), [A Journal to Stella](#), [Drapier's Letters](#), [The Battle of the Books](#), [An Argument Against Abolishing Christianity](#), and [A Tale of a Tub](#). Swift is probably the foremost prose satirist in the [English language](#), and is less well known for his [poetry](#).

Jonathan Swift was born in [Dublin](#), Ireland. He was the second child and only son of Jonathan Swift (1640–1667) and his wife Abigail Erick (or Herrick), of [Frisby-on-the-Wreake](#). His father, a native of [Goodrich, Herefordshire](#), accompanied his brothers to [Ireland](#) to seek their fortunes in law after their [Royalist](#) father's estate was brought to ruin during the [English Civil War](#). Swift's father died at [Dublin](#) before he was born, and his mother returned to [England](#). He was left in the care of his influential uncle, Godwin, a close friend and confidante of [Sir John Temple](#), whose son later employed Swift as his secretary. Swift's family had several

interesting literary connections: His grandmother, Elizabeth (Dryden) Swift, was the niece of [Sir Erasmus Dryden](#), grandfather of the poet [John Dryden](#). The same grandmother's aunt, Katherine (Throckmorton) Dryden, was a first cousin of [Elizabeth](#), wife of [Sir Walter Raleigh](#). His great-great grandmother, Margaret (Godwin) Swift, was the sister of [Francis Godwin](#), author of [The Man in the Moone](#) which influenced parts of Swift's [Gulliver's Travels](#). His uncle, Thomas Swift, married a daughter of the poet and playwright [Sir William Davenant](#), a godson of [William Shakespeare](#).

In February 1702, Swift received his Doctor of Divinity degree from Trinity College, Dublin. During his visits to England in these years Swift published [A Tale of a Tub](#) and [The Battle of the Books](#) (1704) and began to gain a reputation as a writer.

From 1707 to 1709 and again in 1710, Swift was in London, unsuccessfully urging upon the [Whig](#) administration of [Lord Godolphin](#) the claims of the Irish clergy to the [First-Fruits and Tenthings](#) ("Queen Anne's Bounty"), which brought in about £2,500 a year, already granted to their brethren in England. The incoming Tory government conducted secret (and illegal) negotiations with France, resulting in the [Treaty of Utrecht](#) (1713) ending the [War of the Spanish Succession](#).

Also during these years, he began writing his masterpiece, *Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World, in Four Parts, by Lemuel Gulliver, first a surgeon, and then a captain of several ships*, better known as [Gulliver's Travels](#). Much of the material reflects his political experiences of the preceding decade. For instance, the episode in which the giant Gulliver puts out the Lilliputian palace fire by urinating on it can be seen as a metaphor for the Tories' illegal peace treaty; having done a good thing in an unfortunate manner.

In 1726 he paid a long-deferred visit to London taking with him the manuscript of *Gulliver's Travels*. During his visit he stayed with his old friends [Alexander Pope](#), [John Arbuthnot](#) and [John Gay](#), who helped him arrange for the anonymous publication of his book. First published in November 1726, it was an immediate hit, with a total of three printings that year and another in early 1727.

# Laura Ingalls Wilder

**Laura Elizabeth Ingalls Wilder** (February 7, 1867 – February 10, 1957) was an American author who wrote the [\*Little House series\*](#) of books based on her childhood in a [pioneer](#) family. Laura's daughter, Rose, inspired Laura to write her books.



**Laura Elizabeth Ingalls** was born February 7, 1867, seven miles north of the village of [Pepin](#), in the "Big Woods" of Wisconsin, to [Charles Phillip Ingalls](#) and [Caroline Lake \(Quiner\) Ingalls](#). She was the second of five children; her siblings were [Mary Amelia](#), who went blind; [Caroline Celestia](#), Charles Frederick, who died in infancy, and [Grace Pearl](#). Her birth site is commemorated by a [log cabin](#), the [Little House Wayside](#).<sup>[4]</sup> Her life here formed the basis for the book [\*Little House in the Big Woods\*](#).

A paternal ancestor was Edmund Ingalls born on June 27, 1586, in Skirbeck, [Lincolnshire](#), England. He died on September 16, 1648 in [Lynn, Massachusetts](#). She is also a descendant of the [Delano family](#) and [Edmund Rice](#), a 1638 immigrant to [Massachusetts Bay Colony](#).

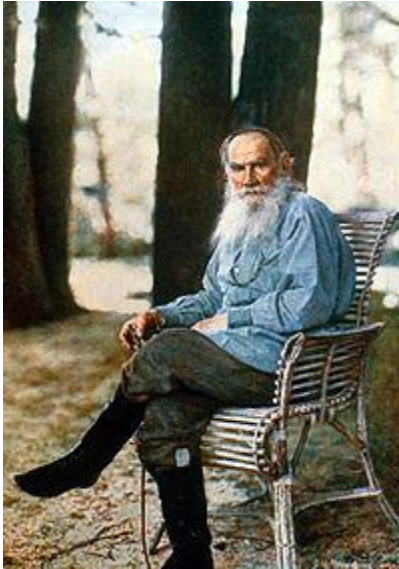
In Laura's early childhood, her father settled on land not yet open for homesteading in what was then [Indian Territory](#) near what is now [Independence, Kansas](#)—an experience that formed the basis of Ingalls' novel [\*Little House on the Prairie\*](#). In the years subsequent to this move, her father's restless spirit led them on various moves to a preemption claim in [Walnut Grove, Minnesota](#), living with relatives near [South Troy, Minnesota](#), and helping to run a hotel in [Burr Oak, Iowa](#). After a move from Burr Oak back to Walnut Grove, where he served as the town butcher and Justice of the Peace, Charles Ingalls accepted a railroad job in the spring of 1879 which led him to eastern [Dakota Territory](#), where he was joined by the family in the fall of 1879. Charles filed for a homestead over the winter of 1879–1880; [De Smet, South Dakota](#) was home for the rest of his, Caroline, and Mary's lives. After spending the mild winter of 1879–1880 in the Surveyor's House, the Ingalls family watched the town of DeSmet rise up from the prairie in 1881. The following winter, 1880–1881, one of the most severe on record in the Dakotas, was later described by Wilder in her book, *The Long Winter*. Once the family was settled in DeSmet, Wilder attended school, worked several part-time jobs and made many friends, most importantly the bachelor homesteader [Almanzo Wilder](#) (1857–1949), whom she later married. This time in her life is well documented in the books [\*Little Town on the Prairie\*](#), and [\*These Happy Golden Years\*](#).

In 1894, the hard-pressed young couple moved to [Mansfield, Missouri](#), using their savings to make a down payment on a piece of undeveloped property just outside of town. They named the place [Rocky Ridge Farm](#). The ramshackle log cabin was eventually replaced with an impressive 10-room farmhouse and outbuildings. The couple's climb to financial security was a slow process. Initially, the only income the farm produced was from wagonloads of firewood Almanzo sold for 50 cents in town, the result of the backbreaking work of clearing the trees and stones from land that slowly evolved into fertile fields and pastures. The apple trees did not begin to bear fruit for seven years. Barely able to eke out more than a subsistence living on the new farm, the Wilders decided to move into nearby Mansfield in the late 1890s and rent a small house. Almanzo found work as an oil salesman and general delivery man, while Laura took in boarders and served meals to local railroad workers. Wilder's parents visited around this time, and presented to the couple, as a gift, the deed to the house they had been renting in Mansfield. This was the economic jump start they needed; they added acreage to the original purchase, eventually owning nearly 200 acres. Around 1910, they sold their house in town and using the proceeds from the sale, were able to move back to the farm permanently, and to complete Rocky Ridge Farmhouse.

# Leo Tolstoy

**Count Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy**; known in the [Anglosphere](#) as **Leo Tolstoy**; September 9, 1828 – November 20, 1910) was a [Russian](#) writer who primarily wrote [novels](#) and [short stories](#). Later in life, he also wrote [plays](#) and [essays](#). Tolstoy is equally known for his complicated and paradoxical persona and for his extreme moralistic and ascetic views, which he adopted after a moral crisis and spiritual awakening in the 1870s, after which he also became noted as a [moral thinker](#) and [social reformer](#).

His literal interpretation of the ethical teachings of [Jesus](#), centering on the [Sermon on the Mount](#), caused him in later life to become a fervent [Christian anarchist](#) and [anarcho-pacifist](#). His ideas on nonviolent resistance, expressed in such works as [The Kingdom of God Is Within You](#), were to have a profound impact on such pivotal twentieth-century figures as [Mohandas Gandhi](#) and [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)



Tolstoy was born in [Yasnaya Polyana](#), the family estate in the [Tula](#) region of Russia. The [Tolstoy](#)s were a well-known family of old [Russian nobility](#). He was the fourth of five children of [Count](#) Nikolai Ilyich Tolstoy, a veteran of the [Patriotic War of 1812](#), and Countess Mariya Tolstaya (Volkonskaya). Tolstoy's parents died when he was young, so he and his siblings were brought up by relatives.

Tolstoy is one of the giants of Russian literature; his works include the novels [War and Peace](#) and [Anna Karenina](#) and [novellas](#) such as [Hadji Murad](#) and [The Death of Ivan Ilyich](#). His contemporaries paid him lofty tributes. [Fyodor Dostoyevsky](#) thought him the greatest of all living novelists. [Gustave Flaubert](#), on reading a translation of *War and Peace*, exclaimed, "What an artist and what a psychologist!" [Anton Chekhov](#), who often visited Tolstoy at his country estate, wrote, "When literature possesses a Tolstoy, it is easy and pleasant to be a writer; even when you know you have achieved nothing yourself and are still achieving nothing,

this is not as terrible as it might otherwise be, because Tolstoy achieves for everyone. What he does serves to justify all the hopes and aspirations invested in literature."

Later critics and novelists continue to bear testament to Tolstoy's art. [Virginia Woolf](#) declared him the greatest of all novelists. [James Joyce](#) noted that, "He is never dull, never stupid, never tired, never pedantic, never theatrical!". [Thomas Mann](#) wrote of Tolstoy's seemingly guileless artistry: "Seldom did art work so much like nature". Such sentiments were shared by the likes of [Proust](#), [Faulkner](#) and [Nabokov](#). The latter heaped superlatives upon [The Death of Ivan Ilyich](#) and *Anna Karenina*; he questioned, however, the reputation of *War and Peace*, and sharply criticized [Resurrection](#) and [The Kreutzer Sonata](#).

***Anna Karenina*** is the tragedy of married aristocrat and socialite Anna Karenina and her affair with the affluent Count Vronsky. The story starts when she arrives in the midst of a family broken up by her brother's unbridled womanizing—something that prefigures her own later situation, though with less tolerance for her by others.

A bachelor, Vronsky is willing to marry her if she would agree to leave her husband Karenin, a government official, but she is vulnerable to the pressures of Russian social norms, her own insecurities and Karenin's indecision. Although Vronsky and Anna go to Italy where they can be together, they have trouble making friends. Back in Russia, she is shunned, becoming further isolated and anxious, while Vronsky pursues his social life. Despite Vronsky's reassurances she grows increasingly possessive and paranoid about his imagined infidelity, fearing loss of control.



# Lewis Carroll

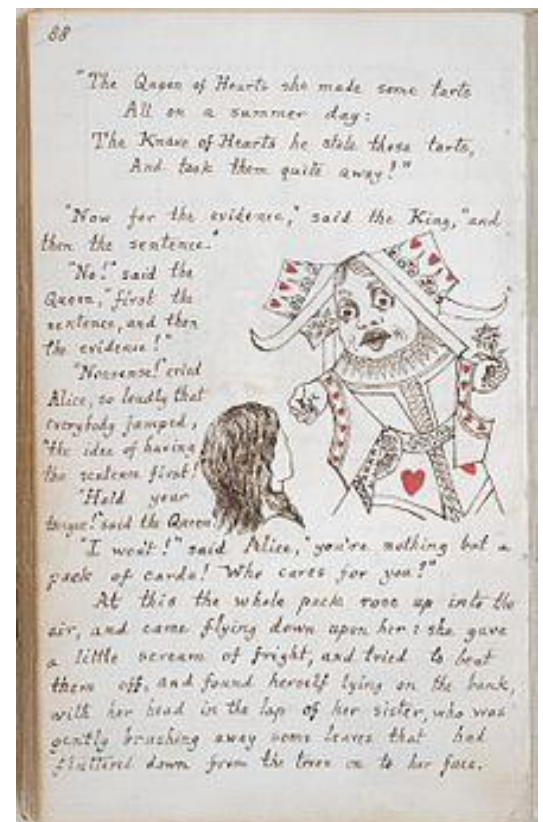
**Charles Lutwidge Dodgson** (27 January 1832 – 14 January 1898), better known by the [pen name](#) **Lewis Carroll**, was an English writer, [mathematician](#), [logician](#), [Anglican deacon](#) and photographer. His most famous writings are [Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#) and its sequel [Through the Looking-Glass](#), as well as the poems "[The Hunting of the Snark](#)" and "[Jabberwocky](#)", all examples of the genre of [literary nonsense](#). He is noted for his facility at [word play](#), logic, and fantasy, and there are societies in many parts of the dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of his works and the investigation of his life.



Dodgson's family was predominantly northern English, with Irish connections. Conservative and [High Church](#) Anglican, most of Dodgson's ancestors were army officers or [Church of England](#) clergy. The elder of these sons – yet another [Charles Dodgson](#) – was Carroll's father. He reverted to the other family tradition and took [holy orders](#). He went to [Westminster School](#), and then to [Christ Church, Oxford](#). He was mathematically gifted and won a double first degree, which could have been the prelude to a brilliant academic career. Instead he married his first cousin in 1827 and became a country [parson](#).

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (commonly shortened to *Alice in Wonderland*) is an 1865 [novel](#) written by English author Charles Lutwidge Dodgson under the [pseudonym](#) [Lewis Carroll](#). It tells of a girl named [Alice](#) who falls down a rabbit hole into a [fantasy world](#) ([Wonderland](#)) populated by peculiar, [anthropomorphic](#) creatures. The tale plays with [logic](#), giving the story lasting popularity with adults as well as children. It is considered to be one of the best examples of the [literary nonsense](#) genre, and its [narrative](#) course and structure, [characters](#) and imagery have been enormously influential in both [popular culture](#) and literature, especially in the [fantasy](#) genre.

*Alice* was published in 1865, three years after the Reverend Charles Lutwidge Dodgson and the [Reverend Robinson Duckworth](#) rowed in a boat, on 4 July 1862, up [the Isis](#) with the three young daughters of [Henry Liddell](#) (the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University and Dean of Christ Church. The journey began at [Folly Bridge](#) near [Oxford](#) and ended five miles away in the village of [Godstow](#). During the trip the Reverend Dodgson told the girls a story that featured a bored little girl named Alice who goes looking for an adventure. The girls loved it, and Alice Liddell asked Dodgson to write it down for her. He began writing the manuscript of the story the next day, although that earliest version no longer exists. The girls and Dodgson took another boat trip a month later when he elaborated the plot to the story of Alice, and in November he began working on the manuscript in earnest.



Page from the original manuscript copy of *Alice's Adventures Under Ground*, 1864

# Louisa May Alcott

**Louisa May Alcott** (November 29, 1832 – March 6, 1888) was an [American novelist](#) best known as author of the novel [Little Women](#) and its sequels [Little Men](#) and [Jo's Boys](#). Raised by her [transcendentalist](#) parents, [Abigail May](#) and [Amos Bronson Alcott](#) in New England, she grew up among many of the well-known intellectuals of the day such as [Ralph Waldo Emerson](#), [Nathaniel Hawthorne](#), and [Henry David Thoreau](#). Nevertheless, her family suffered severe financial difficulties and Alcott worked to help support the family from an early age. She began to receive critical success for her writing in the 1860s. Early in her career, she sometimes used the pen name **A. M. Barnard**.



Published in 1868, [Little Women](#) is set in the Alcott family home, [Orchard House](#), in [Concord, Massachusetts](#) and is loosely based on Alcott's childhood experiences with her three sisters. The novel was very well received and is still a popular [children's novel](#) today. Alcott was an [abolitionist](#) and a feminist. Never married, she died in Boston.

Alcott was born on November 29, 1832, in [Germantown](#), which is now part of [Philadelphia](#), Pennsylvania, on her father's 33rd birthday. She was the daughter of [transcendentalist](#) and educator [Amos Bronson Alcott](#) and social worker [Abby May](#) and the second of four daughters: [Anna Bronson Alcott](#) was the eldest; [Elizabeth Sewall Alcott](#) and [Abigail May Alcott](#) were the two youngest. The family moved to Boston in 1838, where Alcott's father established an experimental school and joined the [Transcendental Club](#) with [Ralph Waldo Emerson](#) and [Henry David Thoreau](#). Bronson Alcott's opinions on education and tough views on child-rearing shaped young Alcott's mind with a desire to achieve perfection, a goal of the [transcendentalists](#). His attitudes towards Alcott's sometimes wild and independent behavior, and his inability to provide for his family, sometimes created conflict between Bronson Alcott and his wife and daughters.

Poverty made it necessary for Alcott to go to work at an early age as an occasional teacher, [seamstress](#), [governess](#), domestic helper, and writer. Her sisters also supported the family, working as seamstresses and governesses, while their mother took on social work among the [Irish immigrants](#). As an adult, Alcott was an [abolitionist](#) and a feminist. In 1847, she and her family served as [station masters](#) on the [Underground Railroad](#), when they housed a [fugitive slave](#) for one week and in 1848 Alcott read and admired the "[Declaration of Sentiments](#)", published by the [Seneca Falls Convention](#) on women's rights, advocating for [women's suffrage](#) and became the first woman to register to vote in [Concord, Massachusetts](#) in a school board election.

In 1860, Alcott began writing for the [Atlantic Monthly](#). When the [American Civil War](#) broke out, she served as a nurse in the Union Hospital at [Georgetown, D.C.](#), for six weeks in 1862–1863. Her letters home – revised and published in the *Commonwealth* and collected as [Hospital Sketches](#) (1863, republished with additions in 1869) – brought her first critical recognition for her observations and humor. It was originally written for the Boston anti-slavery paper *The Commonwealth*. She speaks out about the mismanagement of hospitals and the indifference and callousness of some of the surgeons she encountered.

Alcott became successful with the publication by the [Roberts Brothers](#) of the first part of [Little Women](#): or *Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy* (1868), a semi-autobiographical account of her childhood with her sisters in Concord, Massachusetts. Part two, or *Part Second*, also known as [Good Wives](#) (1869), followed the March sisters into adulthood and their respective marriages. [Little Women](#) was well received, with critics and audiences finding it suitable for many age groups. A reviewer of *Eclectic Magazine* called it "the very best of books to reach the hearts of the young of any age from six to sixty," It was also said<sup>1</sup> to be a fresh, natural representation of daily life

# Margaret Mitchell

**Margaret Munnerlyn Mitchell** (November 8, 1900 – August 16, 1949) was an American author and journalist. One novel by Mitchell was published during her lifetime, the [American Civil War](#)-era novel,



*Gone with the Wind*. For it she won the [National Book Award](#) for Most Distinguished Novel of 1936 and the [Pulitzer Prize for Fiction](#) in 1937. In more recent years, a collection of Mitchell's girlhood writings and a novella she wrote as a teenager, *Lost Laysen*, have been published. Margaret Mitchell was a Southerner and a lifelong resident and native of [Atlanta, Georgia](#). She was born in 1900 into a wealthy and politically prominent family. Her father, Eugene Muse Mitchell, was an attorney, and her mother, Mary Isabel "May Belle" (or "Maybelle") Stephens, was a [suffragist](#). Mitchell's family on her father's side were descendants of Thomas Mitchell, originally of [Aberdeenshire](#), Scotland, who settled in [Wilkes County, Georgia](#) in 1777, and served in the [American Revolutionary War](#). Her grandfather, Russell Crawford Mitchell, of Atlanta, enlisted in the [Confederate States Army](#) in July 1861, and was later severely wounded at the [Battle of Sharpsburg](#).

Mitchell's maternal great-grandfather, Philip Fitzgerald, emigrated from Ireland, and eventually settled on a slaveholding plantation near [Jonesboro, Georgia](#), where he had one son and seven daughters with his wife, Elenor. Mitchell's grandparents, married in 1863, were Annie Fitzgerald and John Stephens, who had also emigrated from Ireland and was a Captain in the Confederate States Army.

Margaret Mitchell was born in her grandmother Annie Stephens's house on Cain Street in Atlanta, just around the corner from the Mitchells' home on Jackson Street. During her early childhood, the Mitchell family lived in a two-story [Victorian house](#) on Jackson Hill, east of downtown Atlanta. Jackson Hill was an old, affluent part of the city. At the bottom of Jackson Hill was an area of African American homes and businesses called "[Darktown](#)". The mayhem of the [Atlanta Race Riot](#) occurred in September 1906 when she was five years old. The sounds of gunshots could be heard throughout the night. At Margaret's suggestion, her father, who did not own a gun, stood guard with a sword.

One of Mitchell's most vivid memories of her mother was a [women's suffrage](#) rally. Margaret sat on a platform wearing a [Votes-for-Women](#) banner blowing kisses to the gentlemen while her mother gave an impassioned speech. Mitchell was nineteen years old when the [Nineteenth Amendment](#) was ratified, which gave women the right to vote.

Mitchell wrote a romance [novella](#), *Lost Laysen*, when she was fifteen years old (1916). The novella was published in 1996, eighty years after it was written, and became a [New York Times Best Seller](#)

In May 1926, after Mitchell had left her job at the *Atlanta Journal* and was recovering at home from her ankle injury, she wrote a society column for the *Sunday Magazine*, "Elizabeth Bennet's Gossip. Meanwhile, Marsh was growing weary of lugging armloads of books home from the library to keep his wife's mind occupied while she hobbled around the house; he emphatically suggested she write her own book instead:

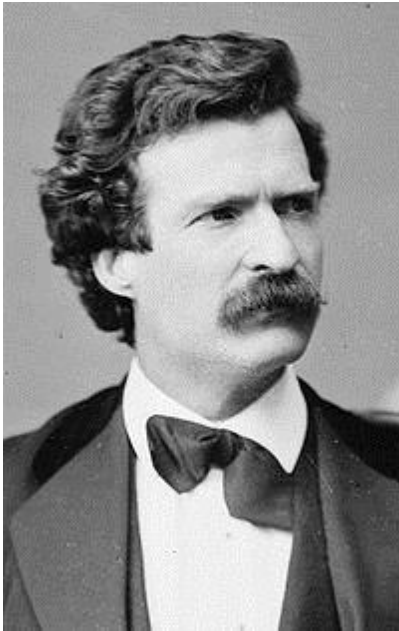
For God's sake, Peggy, can't you write a book instead of reading thousands of them?

To aid her in her literary endeavors, John Marsh brought home a Remington Portable No. 3 [typewriter](#) (c. 1928). For the next three years Mitchell worked exclusively on writing a Civil War-era novel whose heroine was named Pansy O'Hara (prior to publication Pansy was changed to Scarlett). She used parts of the manuscript to prop up a wobbly couch.



# Mark Twain

**Samuel Langhorne Clemens** (November 30, 1835 – April 21, 1910), better known by his [pen name Mark Twain](#), was an American author and [humorist](#). He wrote [The Adventures of Tom Sawyer](#) (1876) and its [sequel](#), [Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#) (1885), the latter often called "the [Great American Novel](#)".

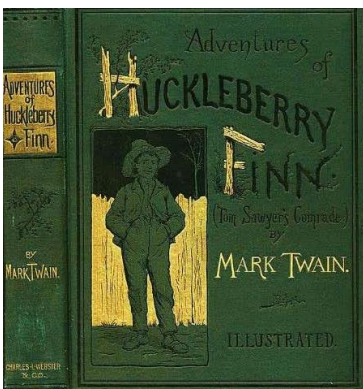


Twain grew up in [Hannibal, Missouri](#), which provided the setting for *Huckleberry Finn* and *Tom Sawyer*. After an apprenticeship with a printer, he worked as a typesetter and contributed articles to the newspaper of his older brother, [Orion Clemens](#). He later became a riverboat pilot on the [Mississippi River](#) before heading west to join Orion in Nevada. He referred humorously to his singular lack of success at mining, turning to journalism for the [Virginia City Territorial Enterprise](#). In 1865, his humorous story, "[The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County](#)", was published, based on a story he heard at [Angels Hotel](#) in [Angels Camp, California](#), where he had spent some time as a miner. The short story brought international attention, and was even translated into classic Greek. His wit and satire, in prose and in speech, earned praise from critics and peers, and he was a friend to [presidents](#), artists, industrialists, and European royalty.

Though Twain earned a great deal of money from his writings and lectures, he invested in ventures that lost a great deal of money, notably the [Paige Compositor](#), a mechanical typesetter, which failed because of its complexity and imprecision. In the wake of these financial setbacks, he filed for [bankruptcy](#), overcame his financial troubles. Twain chose to pay all his pre-bankruptcy creditors in full, though he had no legal responsibility to do so.

Twain was born shortly after a visit by [Halley's Comet](#), and he predicted that he would "go out with it", too. He died the day following the comet's subsequent return. He was lauded as the "greatest American humorist of his age", and [William Faulkner](#) called Twain "the father of [American literature](#)".

When he was four, Twain's family moved to [Hannibal, Missouri](#) a port town on the [Mississippi River](#) that inspired the fictional town of St. Petersburg in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Missouri was a [slave state](#) and young Twain became familiar with the [institution of slavery](#), a theme he would later explore in his writing. Twain's father was an attorney and judge. The [Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad](#) was organized in his office in 1846. The railroad connected the second and third largest cities in the state and was the westernmost United States railroad until the completion of the [Transcontinental Railroad](#). It delivered mail to and from the [Pony Express](#).



Twain describes in [Life on the Mississippi](#) how, when he was a boy, "there was but one permanent ambition" among his comrades: to be a steamboatman. "Pilot was the grandest position of all. The pilot, even in those days of trivial wages, had a princely salary - from a hundred and fifty to two hundred and fifty dollars a month, and no board to pay." As Twain described it, the pilot's prestige exceeded that of the captain. The pilot had to "get up a warm personal acquaintanceship with every old snag and one-limbed cottonwood and every obscure wood pile that ornaments the banks of this river for twelve hundred miles; and more than that, must ... actually know where these things are in the dark..." [Steamboat](#) pilot [Horace E. Bixby](#) took on Twain as a "cub" pilot to teach him the river between [New Orleans](#) and St. Louis for \$500, payable out of Twain's first wages after graduating. Twain studied the Mississippi, learning its landmarks, how to navigate its currents effectively, and how to "read the river" and its constantly shifting

channels, reefs, submerged snags and rocks that would "tear the life out of the strongest vessel that ever floated". It was more than two years before he received his steamboat pilot license, in 1859. This occupation gave him his pen name, Mark Twain, from "mark twain", the leadsman's cry for a measured river depth of two fathoms, which was safe water for a steamboat.

Library of [Twain House](#), with hand-stenciled paneling, fireplaces from India, embossed wallpapers, and hand-carved mantel purchased in Scotland



Twain joined Orion, who in 1861 became secretary to [James W. Nye](#), the governor of [Nevada Territory](#), and headed west. Twain and his brother traveled more than two weeks on a [stagecoach](#) across the [Great Plains](#) and the [Rocky Mountains](#), visiting the [Mormon community](#) in [Salt Lake City](#).

Twain's journey ended in the silver-mining town of [Virginia City, Nevada](#), where he became a [miner](#) on the [Comstock Lode](#). Twain failed as a miner and worked at a Virginia City newspaper, the [Territorial Enterprise](#). Working under writer and friend [Dan DeQuille](#), here he first used his pen name. On

February 3, 1863, he signed a humorous travel account "*Letter From Carson – re: Joe Goodman; party at Gov. Johnson's; music*" with "Mark Twain".

His experiences in the [American West](#) inspired [Roughing It](#) and his experiences in Angels Camp, California, in Calaveras County, provided material for "[The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County](#)".

Twain moved to [San Francisco, California](#), in 1864, still as a journalist. He met writers such as [Bret Harte](#) and [Artemus Ward](#). The young poet [Ina Coolbrith](#) may have romanced him.

His first success as a writer came when his humorous [tall tale](#), "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County", was published in a New York weekly, [The Saturday Press](#), on November 18, 1865. It brought him national attention. A year later, he traveled to the [Sandwich Islands](#) (present-day Hawaii) as a reporter for the [Sacramento Union](#). His travelogues were popular and became the basis for his first lectures.

In 1867, a local newspaper funded a trip to the [Mediterranean](#). During his tour of Europe and the Middle East, he wrote a popular collection of travel letters, which were later compiled as [The Innocents Abroad](#) in 1869. It was on this trip that he met his future brother-in-law, Charles Langdon. Both were passengers aboard the *Quaker City* on their way to the [Holy Land](#). Langdon showed a picture of his sister [Olivia](#) to Twain; Twain claimed to have [fallen in love at first sight](#).

Throughout 1868, Twain and [Olivia Langdon](#) corresponded, but she rejected his first marriage proposal. Two months later, they were engaged. In February 1870, Twain and Langdon were married in [Elmira, New York](#), where he had courted her and had overcome her father's initial reluctance. She came from a "wealthy but liberal family", and through her, he met [abolitionists](#), "socialists, principled atheists and activists for [women's rights](#) and [social equality](#)", including [Harriet Beecher Stowe](#) (his next-door neighbor in [Hartford, Connecticut](#)), [Frederick Douglass](#), and the writer and [utopian socialist](#) [William Dean Howells](#), who became a long-time friend. The couple lived in [Buffalo, New York](#), from 1869 to 1871. Twain owned a stake in the [Buffalo Express](#) newspaper and worked as an editor and writer. While they were living in Buffalo, their son Langdon died of [diphtheria](#) at age 19 months. They had three daughters: [Susy](#) (1872–1896), [Clara](#) (1874–1962) and [Jean](#) (1880–1909). The couple's marriage lasted 34 years, until Olivia's death in 1904. All of the Clemens family are buried in Elmira's [Woodlawn Cemetery](#).

# Robert Louis Stevenson

**Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson** (13 November 1850 – 3 December 1894) was a [Scottish](#) novelist, poet, essayist, and [travel writer](#). His most famous works are [Treasure Island](#), [Kidnapped](#), and [Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde](#).



A literary celebrity during his lifetime, Stevenson now ranks among the 26 most translated authors in the world

Stevenson's parents were both devout and serious [Presbyterians](#), but the household was not strict in its adherence to Calvinist principles. His nurse, Alison Cunningham (known as Cummy), was more fervently religious. Her [Calvinism](#) and folk beliefs were an early source of nightmares for the child, and he showed a precocious concern for religion. But she also cared for him tenderly in illness, reading to him from [Bunyan](#) and the [Bible](#) as he lay sick in bed and telling tales of the [Covenanters](#). Stevenson recalled this time of sickness in "The Land of Counterpane" in [A Child's Garden of Verses](#) (1885), and dedicated the book to his nurse.

*Robert Louis Stevenson at the age of seven*

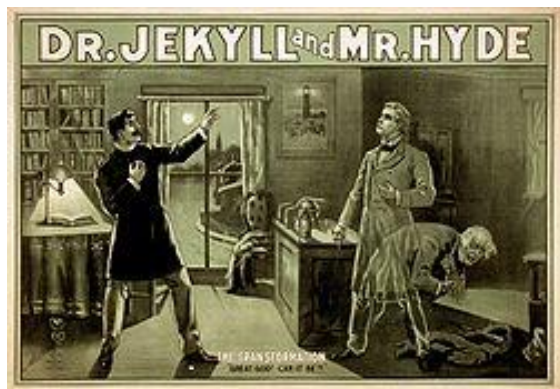


An only child, strange-looking and eccentric, Stevenson found it hard to fit in when he was sent to a nearby school at age six, a problem repeated at age eleven when he went on to the [Edinburgh Academy](#); but he mixed well in lively games with his cousins in summer holidays at [Colinton](#). In any case, his frequent illnesses often kept him away from his first school, and he was taught for long stretches by private tutors. He was a late reader, first learning at age seven or eight, but even before this he dictated stories to his mother and nurse. He compulsively wrote stories throughout his childhood. His father was proud of this interest; he had also written stories in his spare time until his own father found them and told him to "give up such nonsense and mind your business." He paid for the printing of Robert's first publication at sixteen, an account of the [covenanters' rebellion](#) which was published on its two hundredth anniversary, *The*

*Pentland Rising: A Page of History, 1666* (1866).

*Treasure Island* is an adventure novel narrating a tale of "buccaneers and buried gold". *Treasure Island* is an adventure tale known for its atmosphere, characters and action, and also as a wry commentary on the ambiguity of morality — as seen in [Long John Silver](#) — unusual for [children's literature](#) now and then. It is one of the most frequently dramatized of all novels. The influence of *Treasure Island* on popular perceptions of [pirates](#) is enormous, including [treasure maps](#) marked with an "X", [schooners](#), [the Black Spot](#), [tropical islands](#), and one-legged seamen carrying [parrots](#) on their shoulders.

*Poster from the 1880s.*



*The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* was initially sold as a paperback for one shilling in the UK and one dollar in the U.S. The American publisher issued the book on 5 January 1886, four days before the first appearance of the UK edition issued by Longmans; Scribner's published 3000 copies, only 1250 of them bound in cloth. Initially stores would not stock it until a review appeared in [The Times](#), on 25 January 1886, giving it a favourable reception. Within the next six months, close to forty thousand copies were sold.



# Sinclair Lewis



**Harry Sinclair Lewis** (February 7, 1885 – January 10, 1951) was an [American novelist](#), [short-story](#) writer, and [playwright](#). In 1930, he became the first writer from the United States to be awarded the [Nobel Prize in Literature](#), "for his vigorous and graphic art of description and his ability to create, with wit and humor, new types of characters." His works are known for their insightful<sup>[1]</sup> and critical views of American society and [capitalist](#) values, as well as for their strong characterizations of modern working women.

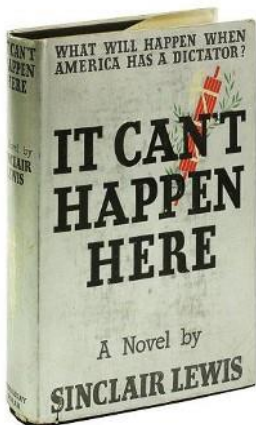
Upon moving to [Washington, D.C.](#), Lewis devoted himself to writing. As early as 1916, he began taking notes for a realistic novel about small-town life. Work on that novel continued through mid-1920, when he completed [Main Street](#), which was published on October 23, 1920. As his biographer [Mark Schorer](#) wrote, the phenomenal success of *Main Street* "was the most sensational event in twentieth-century American publishing history." Lewis's agent had the most optimistic projection of sales at 25,000 copies. In its first six months, *Main Street* sold 180,000 copies and within a few years, sales were estimated at two million. According to Richard Lingeman, "*Main Street* earned Sinclair Lewis about three million current [2002] dollars"

Lewis followed up this first great success with [Babbitt](#) (1922), a novel that satirized the American commercial culture and [boosterism](#). The story was set in the fictional Midwestern town of [Zenith](#), [Winnemac](#), a setting to which Lewis would return in future novels, including [Gideon Planish](#) and [Dodsworth](#).

Lewis continued his success in the 1920s with [Arrowsmith](#) (1925), a novel about the challenges faced by an idealistic doctor. It was awarded the [Pulitzer Prize](#) (which Lewis refused). Adapted as a 1931 [Hollywood film](#) directed by [John Ford](#) and starring [Ronald Colman](#), it was nominated for four [Academy Awards](#).

Next Lewis published [Elmer Gantry](#) (1927), which depicted an [evangelical](#) minister as deeply hypocritical. The novel was denounced by many religious leaders and banned in some U.S. cities. [Adapted for the screen](#) more than a generation later, the novel was the basis of the 1960 movie starring [Burt Lancaster](#), who earned a [Best Actor](#) Oscar for his performance.

In 1930, Lewis won the Nobel Prize in Literature, the first writer from the United States to receive the award. In the [Swedish Academy's](#) presentation speech, special attention was paid to *Babbitt*. After winning the Nobel Prize, Lewis wrote eleven more novels, ten of which appeared in his lifetime. The best remembered is [It Can't Happen Here](#), a novel about the election of a [fascist](#) to the American presidency.



*It Can't Happen Here* is a semi-satirical 1935 political novel by American author Sinclair Lewis. Published during the rise of fascism in Europe, the novel describes the rise of Buzz Windrip, a populist United States senator who is elected to the presidency after promising drastic economic and social reforms while promoting a return to patriotism and traditional values. After his election, Windrip takes complete control over the government and imposes totalitarianism in the manner of Adolf Hitler and the Schutzstaffel. The novel's plot centers around newspaperman Doremus Jessup's opposition to the new regime and his subsequent struggle against it.

# Snorri Sturluson

*Print edition of Snorri's Edda of 1666*



**Snorri Sturluson** (1179 – 23 September 1241) was an [Icelandic](#) historian, poet, and politician. He was twice elected [lawspeaker](#) at the Icelandic parliament, the [Althing](#). He was the author of the [Prose Edda](#) or *Younger Edda*, which consists of [Gylfaginning](#) ("the fooling of Gylfi"), a narrative of [Norse mythology](#), the [Skáldskaparmál](#), a book of poetic language, and the [Háttatal](#), a list of verse forms. He was also the author of the [Heimskringla](#), a history of the [Norwegian](#) kings that begins with legendary material in [Ynglinga saga](#) and moves through to early medieval [Scandinavian history](#). For stylistic and methodological reasons, Snorri is often taken to be the author of [Egil's saga](#).

As an historian and [mythographer](#), Snorri is remarkable for proposing the hypothesis (in the Prose Edda) that mythological gods begin as human war leaders and kings whose funeral sites develop cults (see [euhemerism](#)). As people call upon the dead war leader as they go to battle, or the dead king as they face tribal hardship, they begin to venerate the figure. Eventually, the king or warrior is remembered only as a god. He also proposed that as tribes defeat others, they explain their victory by proposing that

their own gods were in battle with the gods of the others.

Snorri Sturluson was born at Hvammr into the wealthy and powerful [Sturlungar](#) family of the [Icelandic Commonwealth](#), in 1179. His parents were Sturla Þórðarson of [Hvamm](#) and Guðný Böðvarsdóttir. He had two older brothers, [Þórðr](#) Sturluson (the oldest) and [Sighvatr Sturluson](#).

*"Snorri Sturluson" by Christian Krohg (1890s)*

By a quirk of circumstance he was raised from the age of three (or four) by [Jón Loftsson](#), a relative of the Norwegian royal family, in [Oddi](#), Iceland. As Sturla was trying to settle a lawsuit with Father Páll Sölvason, the latter's wife lunged suddenly at him with a knife, intending, she said, to make him like his hero [Odin](#) (who was one-eyed), but bystanders deflected the blow to the cheek. The resulting settlement would have beggared Páll. Jón Loftsson intervened in the Althing to mitigate the judgement and to compensate Sturla, offered to raise and educate Snorri.

Snorri therefore received an education and made connections that he might not otherwise have made. He attended the school of [Sæmundr fróði](#), grandfather of Jón Loftsson, at Oddi, and never returned to his parents' home. His father died in 1183 and his mother as guardian soon wasted Snorri's share of the inheritance. Jón Loftsson died in 1197. The two families then arranged a marriage in 1199 between Snorri and Herdís, the first daughter of Bersi. From her father, Snorri inherited an estate at Borg and a chieftainship. He soon acquired more property and chieftainships.



Snorri quickly became known as a poet, but was also a successful lawyer. In 1215, he became [lawspeaker](#) of the [Althing](#), the only public office of the Icelandic commonwealth and a position of high respect. In the summer of 1218, he left the lawspeaker position and sailed to [Norway](#), by royal invitation. There he became



well acquainted with the teen-aged King [Hákon Hákonarson](#) and his co-regent, [Jarl Skúli](#). He spent the winter as house-guest of the jarl. They showered gifts upon him, including the ship in which he sailed, and he in return wrote poetry about them. In the summer of 1219 he met his Swedish colleague, the [lawspeaker Eskil Magnusson](#), and his wife, [Kristina Nilsdotter Blake](#), in [Skara](#). They were both related to royalty and probably gave Snorri an insight into the history of [Sweden](#).

The reign of [Haakon IV](#) (Hákon Hákonarson), [King of Norway](#), was troubled by civil war relating to questions of succession and was at various times divided into quasi-independent regions under contenders. There were always plots against the king and questions of loyalty; nevertheless, he managed to build up the Norwegian state from what it had been.

Snorri must have had his own ideas about the king's position and the validity of his orders, but at any rate he chose to disobey them, returning to Iceland in 1239. The king was distracted by the necessity to confront Skúli, who declared himself king in 1239. He was defeated militarily and killed in 1240. Meanwhile Snorri resumed his chieftainship and made a bid to crush Gissur by prosecuting him in court for the deaths of Sigvat and Sturla. A meeting of the Althing was arranged for the summer of 1241 but Gissur and Kolbein arrived with several hundred men. Snorri and 120 men formed around a church. Gissur chose to pay fines rather than to attack.

Meanwhile, in 1240, after the jarl's defeat, but before his removal from the scene, Haakon sent two agents to Gissur bearing a secret letter with orders to kill or capture Snorri. Gissur led seventy men on a daring raid to his house, achieving complete surprise. Snorri Sturluson was assassinated in his house at [Reykholt](#) in autumn of 1241. It is not clear that he was ever given a chance to avail himself of the "capture" option. He fled to the cellar. There, [Símon knútur](#) asked [Arni the Bitter](#) to strike him. Then Snorri said: *Eigi skal höggva!*—"Do not strike!" Símon answered: "Högg þú!" — "You strike now!" Snorri replied: *Eigi skal höggva!*—"Do not strike!" and these were his last words.

In a way, Snorri made a comeback into politics long after his death. His writings could be used in support of the claims of later kings concerning the venerability and extent of their rule. Later, "Heimskringla" became important for [Norwegian national independence](#) and identity.

*A page of the Eggertson copy of Heimskringla*



*Heimskringla* is the best known of the Old Norse [kings' sagas](#). It was written in [Old Norse](#) in [Iceland](#) by the poet and historian [Snorri Sturluson](#) (1178/79–1241) ca. 1230. The name *Heimskringla* was first used in the 17th century, derived from the first two words of one of the manuscripts (*kringla heimsins* - *the circle of the world*).

*Heimskringla* is a collection of [sagas](#) about the [Norwegian kings](#), beginning with the saga of the legendary [Swedish](#) dynasty of the [Ynglings](#), followed by accounts of historical Norwegian rulers from [Harald Fairhair](#) of the 9th century up to the death of the pretender [Eystein Meyla](#) in 1177. The exact sources of his work are disputed, but included earlier kings' sagas, such as [Morkinskinna](#), [Fagrskinna](#) and the twelfth century Norwegian synoptic histories and oral traditions, notably many [skaldic](#) poems. Snorri had himself visited [Norway](#) and [Sweden](#). For events of mid-12th century, Snorri explicitly names the now lost work [Hryggjarstykki](#) as his source. The composition of the sagas is Snorri's.

The *Heimskringla* is referenced in the [Jules Verne](#) novel [Journey to the Centre of the Earth](#).



# Stephen Foster

**Stephen Collins Foster** (July 4, 1826 – January 13, 1864), known as the "[father of American music](#)", was an American songwriter primarily known for his [parlour](#) and [minstrel](#) music. Foster wrote over 200 songs; among his best known are "[Oh! Susanna](#)", "[Camptown Races](#)", "[Old Folks at Home](#)", "[My Old Kentucky Home](#)", "[Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair](#)", "[Old Black Joe](#)", "[Massa's in the Cold Ground](#)", "[Nelly Bly](#)", "[Old Uncle Ned](#)" and "[Beautiful Dreamer](#)". Many of his compositions remain popular more than 150 years after he wrote them.

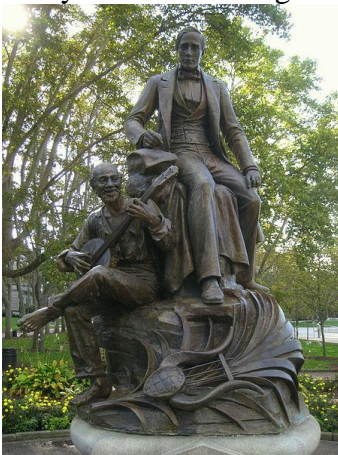


Foster attended private academies in [Allegheny](#), [Athens](#) and [Towanda, Pennsylvania](#). He received an education in English grammar, diction, the classics, penmanship, [Latin](#) and [Greek](#), and mathematics. In 1839, his elder brother William was serving his apprenticeship as an engineer at nearby Towanda and thought Stephen would benefit from being under his supervision. The site of the [Camptown Races](#) is 30 miles from Athens, and 15 miles from Towanda. Stephen attended Athens Academy from 1839 to 1841. He wrote his first composition, *Tioga Waltz*, while attending Athens Academy, and performed it during the 1841 commencement exercises; he was 14.

In 1846, Foster moved to [Cincinnati, Ohio](#), and became a bookkeeper with his brother's [steamship](#) company. While in Cincinnati, Foster penned his first successful songs—among them "Oh! Susanna," which became an anthem of the [California Gold Rush](#)—in 1848–1849. In 1849, he published *Foster's Ethiopian Melodies*, which included the successful song *Nelly Was a Lady*, made famous by the [Christy Minstrels](#). A plaque marks the site of Foster's residence in Cincinnati, where the [Guilford School building](#) is now located.

Then he returned to Pennsylvania and signed a contract with the Christy Minstrels. It was during this period that Foster would write most of his best-known songs: "[Camptown Races](#)" (1850), "Nelly Bly" (1850), "[Old Folks at Home](#)" (known also as *Swanee River*, 1851), "[My Old Kentucky Home](#)" (1853), *Old Dog Tray* (1853), and "[Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair](#)" (1854), written for his wife Jane Denny McDowell.

Many of Foster's songs were of the blackface [minstrel show](#) tradition popular at the time. Foster sought, in his own words, to, "...build up taste ... among refined people by making words suitable to their taste, instead of the trashy and really offensive words which belong to some songs of that order."



Foster is acknowledged as "father of American music." He was inducted into the [Songwriters Hall of Fame](#) in 1970, and he was also inducted into the [Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame](#) in 2010.

"My Old Kentucky Home" is the official state song of [Kentucky](#), adopted by the General Assembly on March 19, 1928. "Old Folks at Home" is the official state song of [Florida](#), designated in 1935, but has been replaced as state anthem by [Florida \(Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky\)](#)

American baritone [Nelson Eddy](#) recorded 35 Foster songs over three recording sessions in July, August and September 1947 on Columbia Records, in 78 format, 2 songs per record.

Listen to Jussi Björling singing "Jeanie with the light brown hair" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09oT6cehVLY>



# Viktor Rydberg

**Abraham Viktor Rydberg** (December 18, 1828 – September 21, 1895) was a Swedish writer and a member of the Swedish Academy, 1877-1895. "Primarily a classical idealist", Viktor Rydberg has been described as "Sweden's last Romantic" and by 1859 was "generally regarded in the first rank of Swedish novelists."

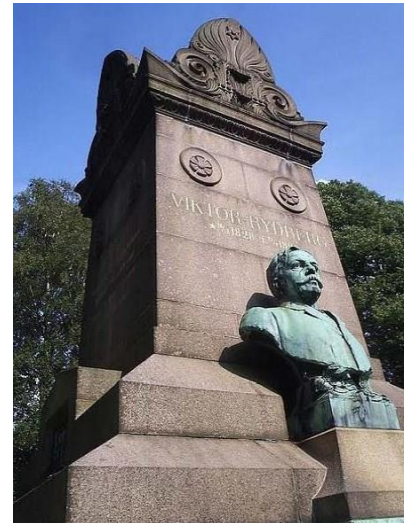
*Rydberg in 1876*



Viktor Rydberg was of humble parentage. One biographer notes that: "He had a hard struggle to satisfy the thirst for learning which was a leading passion of his life, but he finally attained distinction in several fields of scholarship." The son of a soldier turned prison guard, Johann Rydberg, and a midwife, Hedvig Düker. Viktor Rydberg had two brothers and three sisters. In 1834 his mother died during a cholera epidemic. Her death broke the spirit of his father, who yielded to hypochondria and alcoholism, contributing towards his loss of employment and the family's apartment, forcing authorities to board young Viktor out to a series of foster homes, one of which burnt down, further traumatizing the youth.

Despite his economic status, Rydberg was recognized for his talents. From 1838 to 1847, Rydberg attended grammar school, and studied law at the University in Lund from 1851 to 1852. Due to financial reasons his university studies ended after one year, without a degree. Afterward, he took a job as a private tutor. In 1855, he was offered work at the *Göteborgs Handels- och Sjöfartstidning*, a newspaper in Göteborg, where he would remain employed for more than 20 years. It was during this time that his first novels saw print. He soon became a central figure of late Romanticism in Sweden, and Sweden's most famous living author.

Throughout his adult life, Rydberg was active in politics. In 1859, he wrote a pamphlet on national defense, which inspired the "Sharpshooter's movement", a voluntary militia of some political importance during the 1860s. In 1870, he took a controversial pro-German stance during the Franco-Prussian War. Representing the traditional economic system of Sweden, from 1870 to 1872, Rydberg was a member of the Swedish Parliament as a supporter of the Peasant's Party.



*Rydberg grave in Gothenburg*

In 1857, Rydberg's first novel, *Fribytaren på Östersjön* ([\*The Freebooter of the Baltic\*](#); 1857), a historical romance set in the 17th century, incorporating themes of piracy, witchcraft and nautical excursions, was published.

This was soon followed by his first major success, and one of his most popular novels, *Singoalla* (1858), a "romantic story out of the Middle Ages, permeated with a poetic nature-mysticism, about the tragic love between a knight and a gypsy girl."

Rydberg died at the age of 66 on September 21, 1895 due to complications from diabetes and arteriosclerosis. Rydberg's passing was reported as far away as the United States of America, where the *New York Times* published an obituary titled: "Death of Prof. A.V. Rydberg, Career and Remarkable works of one of Sweden's Leading Men." A national day of mourning would ensue all over Sweden. Today, his grave is a national monument. Many of his works have been translated and remain in print. His works are widely read in schools throughout Sweden, and his poem "Tomten" ("Santa" or "The Gnome") is a Christmas favorite. See and listen to this on our homepage at [Viktor Rydberg's "Tomten"](#).

# Walt Disney



**Walter Elias "Walt" Disney** (December 5, 1901 – December 15, 1966) was an American film producer, director, screenwriter, voice actor, [animator](#), entrepreneur, entertainer, [international icon](#), and philanthropist, well known for his influence in the field of entertainment during the 20th century. Disney is particularly noted as a film producer and a popular showman, as well as an innovator in animation and [theme park](#) design. He and his staff created some of the world's most well-known fictional characters including [Mickey Mouse](#), for whom Disney himself provided the original voice. During his lifetime he received four honorary [Academy Awards](#) and won 22 Academy Awards from a total of 59 nominations, including a record four in one year, giving him [more awards and nominations](#) than any other individual in history. Disney

also won seven [Emmy Awards](#) and gave his name to the [Disneyland](#) and [Walt Disney World Resort](#) theme parks in the U.S., as well as the international resorts [Tokyo Disney Resort](#), [Disneyland Paris](#), and [Hong Kong Disneyland](#).

Disney was born on December 5, 1901, at 2156 N. Tripp Avenue in Chicago's [Hermosa community area](#) to [Irish-Canadian](#) father [Elias Disney](#) and [Flora Call Disney](#), who was of [German](#) and English descent.

In 1917, Elias acquired shares in the O-Zell jelly factory in Chicago and moved his family back to the city, where in the fall Disney began his freshman year at [McKinley High School](#) and took night courses at the [Chicago Art Institute](#). He became the cartoonist for the school newspaper, drawing patriotic topics and focusing on World War I. Despite dropping out of high school at the age of sixteen to join the [army](#), Disney was rejected for being underage.

Hoping to find work outside the Chicago O-Zell factory in 1919, Walt moved to Kansas City to begin his artistic career. After considering whether to become an actor or a newspaper artist, he decided on a career as a newspaper artist, drawing political caricatures or comic strips. But when nobody wanted to hire him as either an artist or even as an ambulance driver, his brother Roy, then working in a local bank, got Walt a temporary job through a bank colleague at the Pesmen-Rubin Art Studio where he created advertisements for newspapers, magazines, and movie theaters.

## "Disney's Folly": *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*

*Walt Disney introduces each of the Seven Dwarfs in a scene from the original 1937 Snow White theatrical trailer.*



Following the creation of two cartoon series, in 1934 Disney began planning a full-length feature. The following year, opinion polls showed that another cartoon series, [Popeye the Sailor](#), produced by Max Fleischer, was more popular than Mickey Mouse. Nevertheless, Disney was able to put Mickey back on top as well as increase his popularity by colorizing and partially redesigning the character to become what was considered his most appealing design to date. When the film industry learned of Disney's plans to produce an *animated* feature-length version of [Snow White](#), they were certain that the endeavor would destroy the Disney Studio and dubbed the project "Disney's Folly".

The film premiered at the Carthay Circle Theater on December 21, 1937 and at its conclusion the audience gave *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* a standing ovation. *Snow White*, the first animated feature in America made in Technicolor, was released in February 1938.



# Zachris Topelius

**Zachris Topelius** (14 January 1818 – 12 March 1898) was a [Swedish-speaking Finnish author](#), [journalist](#), [historian](#), and [rector](#) of the [University of Helsinki](#) who wrote [novels](#) related to Finnish history in [Swedish](#).



**Zacharias** is his baptismal name, and this is used on the covers of his printed works. However, "he himself most often used the abbreviation Z. or the form Zachris, even in official contexts", as explained in the National Biography of Finland. **Zachris** is therefore the preferred form used in recent academic literature about him.

He came to [Helsinki](#) in 1831 and became a member of the circle of young nationalist men surrounding [Johan Ludvig Runeberg](#), in whose home he stayed for some time. Topelius became a student at the [Imperial Alexander University of Finland](#) in 1833, received his master's degree (*cand. philol.*) in 1840, the [Licentiate](#) degree in history in 1844 and his Ph.D. in 1847.

Quite early in his career he began to distinguish himself as a lyric poet, with the three successive volumes of his *Heather Blossoms* (1845-1854). The earliest of his historical romances was *The Duchess of Finland*, published in 1850. He was also editor-in-chief of the [Helsingfors Gazette](#) from 1841 to 1860. In 1878, Topelius was allowed to withdraw from his professional duties, but this did not sever his connection with the university; it gave him, however, more leisure for his abundant and various literary enterprises.



Of all the multifarious writings of Topelius, in [prose](#) and [verse](#), that which has enjoyed the greatest popularity is his *Tales of a Barber-Surgeon*, (*Fältskärns Berättelser*) episodes of historical fiction from the days of [Gustavus II. Adolphus](#) to those of [Gustavus III.](#), treated in the manner of [Sir Walter Scott](#); the five volumes of this work appeared at intervals between 1853 and 1867. Topelius attempted the [drama](#) also, with most success in his tragedy of Regina van Emmeritz (1854). Topelius aimed at the cultivation of a strong Finnish [patriotism](#).

Together with the composer [Friedrich Pacius](#) he wrote the libretto to the first Finnish opera: [Kung Karls jakt](#).

Topelius is considered to be the first author of Swedish-language literature specifically intended for children. From the 1840s till his death he wrote some 230 poems, songs, stories and fairy tales. He was also the first in Scandinavia to write plays for children. He appeared widely, including in *Trollsländan*, with columns under the heading *Vinterlek* ("Winter play"). He intended the pieces he wrote to become a part of children's play, not to be used as theatrical performances.

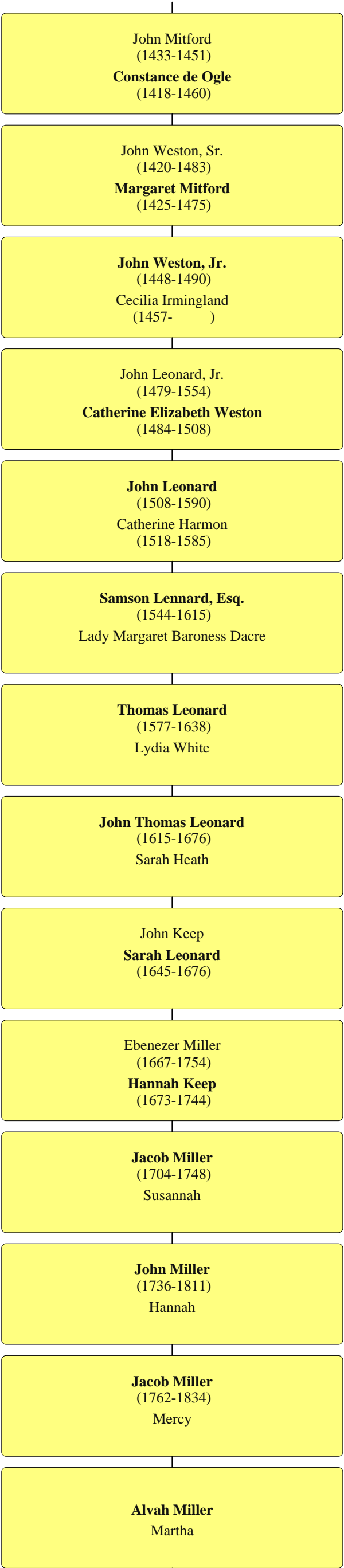
*Sov du lilla vide ung* (English: "Sleep, you little willow young"), otherwise known as *Videvisan* ("Willow song") is a poem by the author [Zachris Topelius](#) which was first published in the ninth issue of the children's magazine *Trollsländan* ("Dragonfly") on February 27, 1869.

See the lyrics at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sov\\_du\\_lilla\\_vide\\_ung](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sov_du_lilla_vide_ung) and listen to it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bk2c4WCdb10>

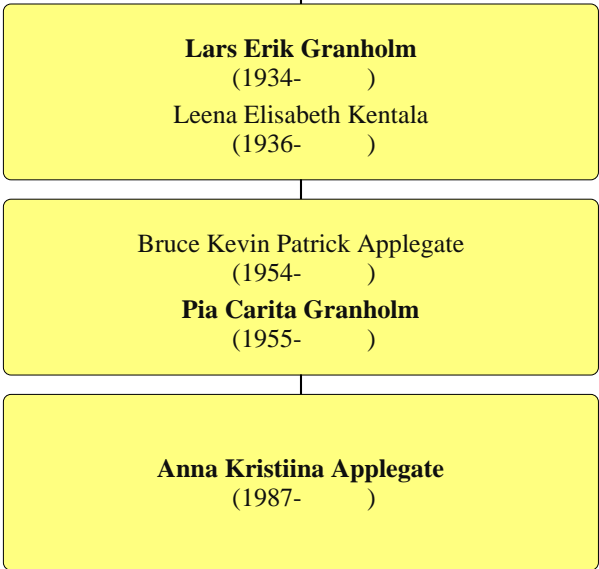


Agatha Christie is the Half 29th Cousin of Anna Kristiina Applegate

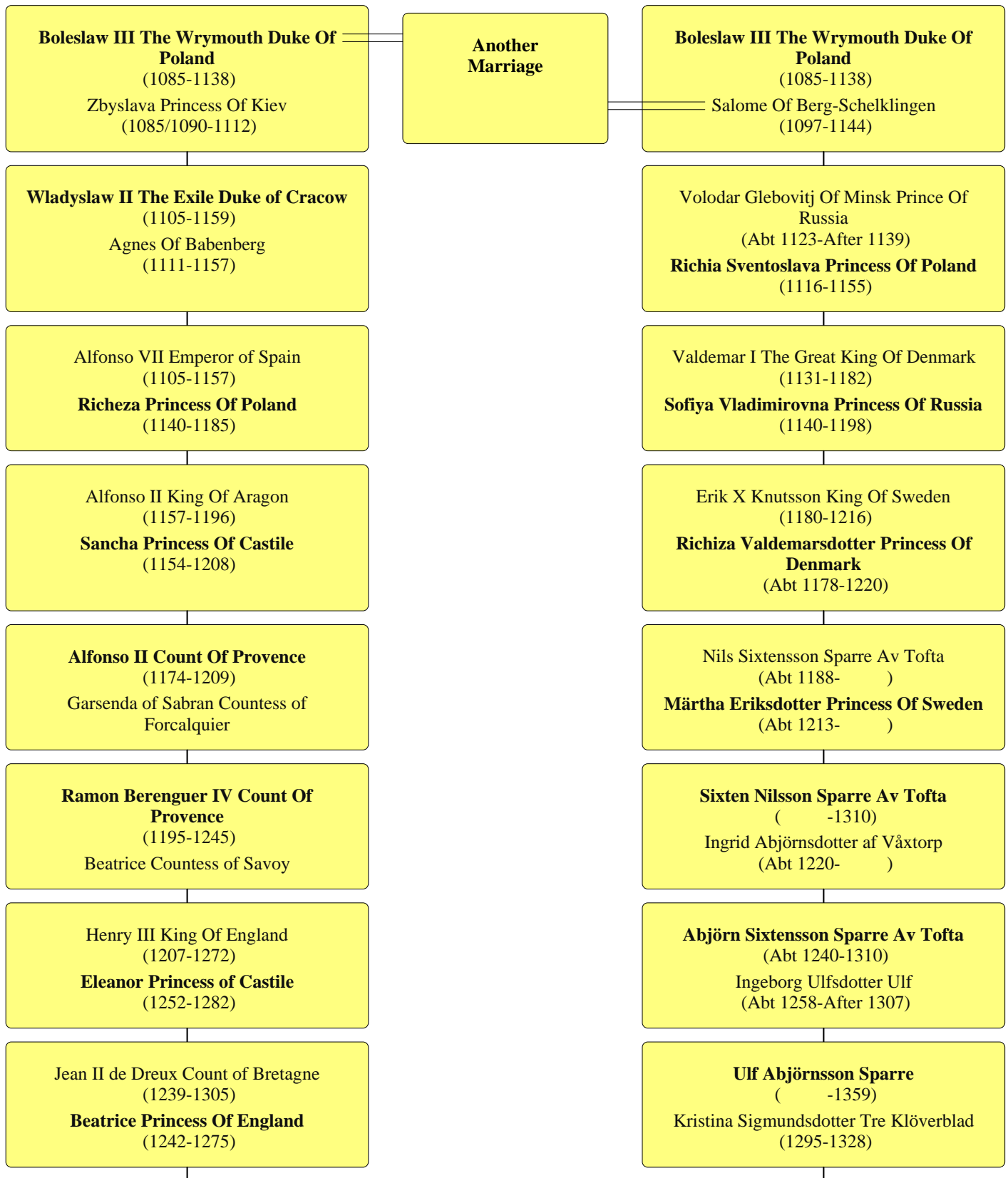








# Anna Kristiina Applegate is the Half 22nd Cousin 6 times removed \* of Alexandre Dumas



Philippe Count Of Artois  
(1269-1298)  
**Blanche Countess of Bretagne**  
(1270-1327)

Jean Count Of Namur  
(1267-1330)  
**Maria Countess of Artois**  
(1291-1365)

**Guillame (Guy) I Count of Namur**  
(1324-1391)  
Catherine de Savoie

Pierre de Breban Seigneur de Landreville  
**Marie of Namur**  
(1358-1412)

Ferri I de Mailly Seigneur de Talmas  
**Marie van Brabant**  
( -1467)

**Adrien de Mailly**  
( -1518)  
Johanna de Glymes

Georges IV Baron de Clere  
**Isabeau de Mailly**

Christophe de Pardieu  
**Anne de Clere**

Pierre Davy de la Pailleterie  
**Anne de Pardieu**

**Karl Ulfsson Sparre Av Tofta**  
( -1407)  
Helena Israelsdotter  
(1340-1410)

Knut Tordsson Bonde  
(Abt 1377-1413)  
**Margareta Karlsdotter Sparre Av Tofta**  
(1381-1429)

**Karl VIII Knutsson Bonde King Of Sweden**  
(1409-1470)  
Unknown in Åbo

Erengisle Björnsson Djäkn  
(1439-1476)  
**Karin Karlsdotter Bonde**  
(1441- )

Johan Henriksson Fleming till Tjusterby  
(1465-1517)  
**Märta Erengisledotter Djäkn**  
(1465-1500)

Olof Pedersson (Wildeman) Lille  
(1489-1535)  
**Anna Johansdotter Fleming**  
( -1545)

Ludolf Boose  
(1465-1535)  
**Karin Olofsdotter Wildeman**  
(1465-1535)

**Johan Ludolfsson Boose**  
(Cir 1500-1596)  
Ingeborg Henriksdotter  
( -1596)

Bertil Von Nieroht  
(1582-1651)  
**Kerstin Johansdotter Boose**  
(1576-1652)



**Charles Davy de la Pailleterie**  
(1576- )  
Marthe

**Charles Davy de la Pailleterie**  
(1608-1691)  
Catherine

**Francios Davy de la Pailleterie**  
(1634- )  
Marie Restout

**Alexandre Davy de la Pailleterie**  
(1674-1758)  
Jeanne Fracose Pautre de Dominion

**Antoine-Alexandre Davy de la Pailleterie**  
(1714-1786)  
Marie-Céssette Dumas (Slave from Haiti)  
( -1772)

**General Thoma-Alexandre Dumas**  
(1762-1806)  
Marie-Louise Labouret  
(1769-1838)

**Alexandre Dumas**  
(1802-1870)

Carl Henriksson Von Lindelöf  
(1605-1668)  
**Maria Bertilsdotter Von Nieroht**  
(1612-1682)

**Carl Carlsson Von Lindelöf**  
(1635-1704)  
N.N. Laurisdotter Laurentz

Ericus Christierni Orenius  
(Abt 1658-1740)  
**Anna Maria Carlsdotter Von Lindelöf**  
(1670-1747)

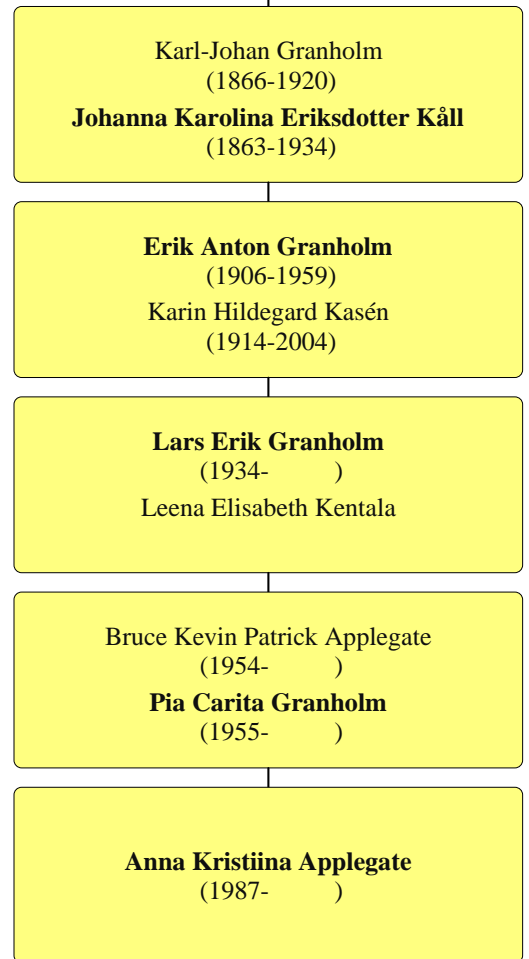
Johan Urnovius  
(1706-1783)  
**Margareta Eriksdotter Urnovius**  
(**Orenius**)  
(1710-1804)

Johan Flinck  
( -1820)  
**Christina Margareta Urnovia**  
(1744-1829)

**Johan (Flinck) Årenius**  
(1787-1823)  
Ulrika Abrahamsdotter Sevon  
(1784- )

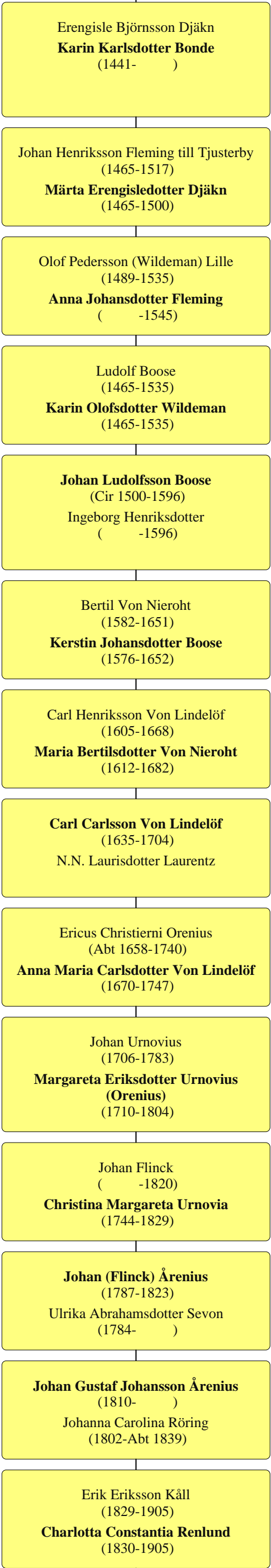
**Johan Gustaf Johansson Årenius**  
(1810- )  
Johanna Carolina Röring  
(1802-Abt 1839)

Erik Eriksson Kåll  
(1829-1905)  
**Charlotta Constantia Renlund**  
(1830-1905)









Karl-Johan Granholm  
(1866-1920)  
**Johanna Karolina Eriksdotter Kåll**  
(1863-1934)

**Erik Anton Granholm**  
(1906-1959)  
Karin Hildegard Kasén  
(1914-2004)

**Lars Erik Granholm**  
(1934- )  
Leena Elisabeth Kentala  
(1936- )

Bruce Kevin Patrick Applegate  
(1954- )  
**Pia Carita Granholm**  
(1955- )

**Anna Kristiina Applegate**  
(1987- )

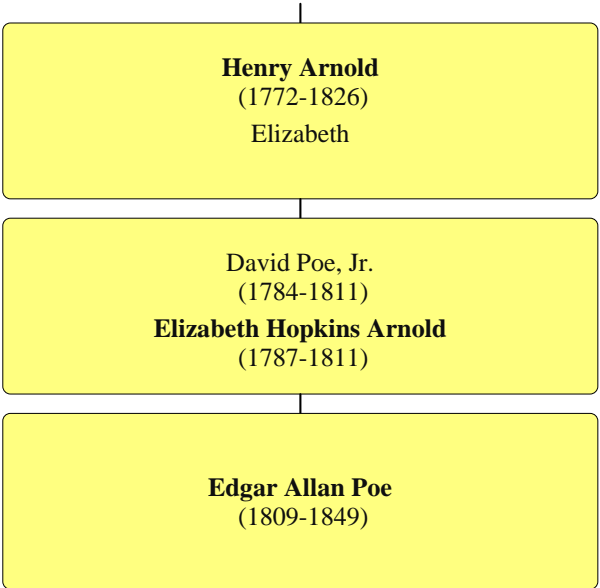
**Alfred Lord Tennyson**  
(1809-1892)

Edgar Allan Poe is the 28th cousin 3 times removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate



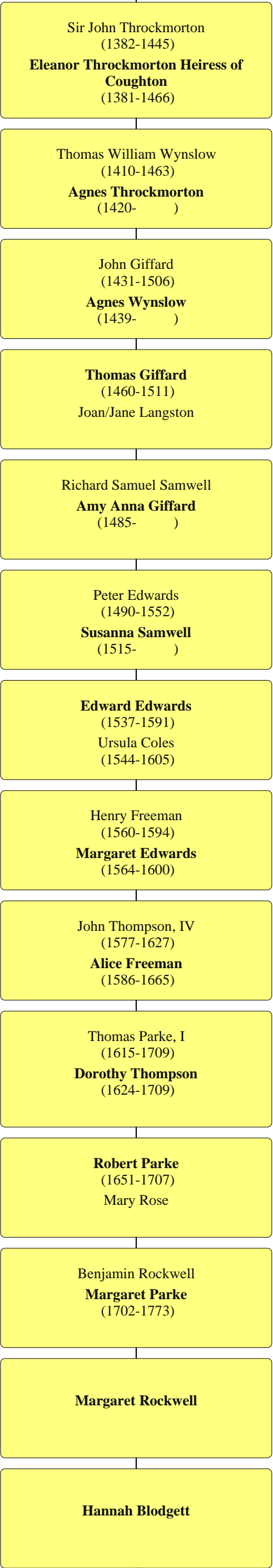
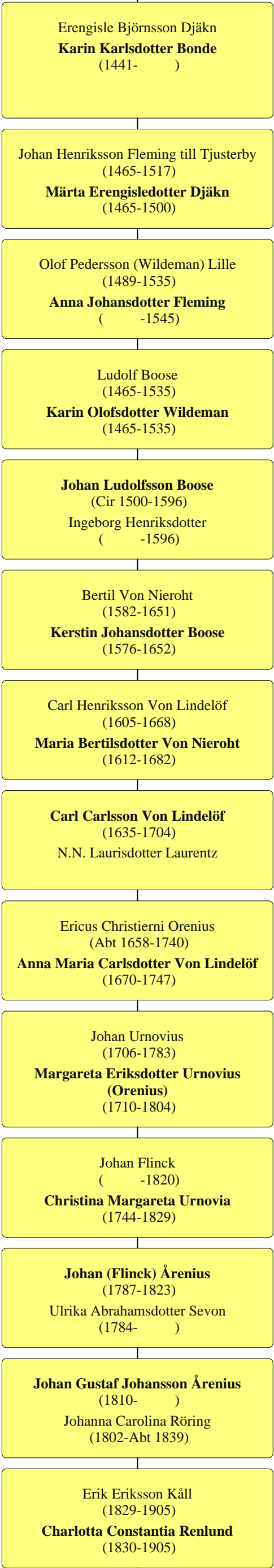


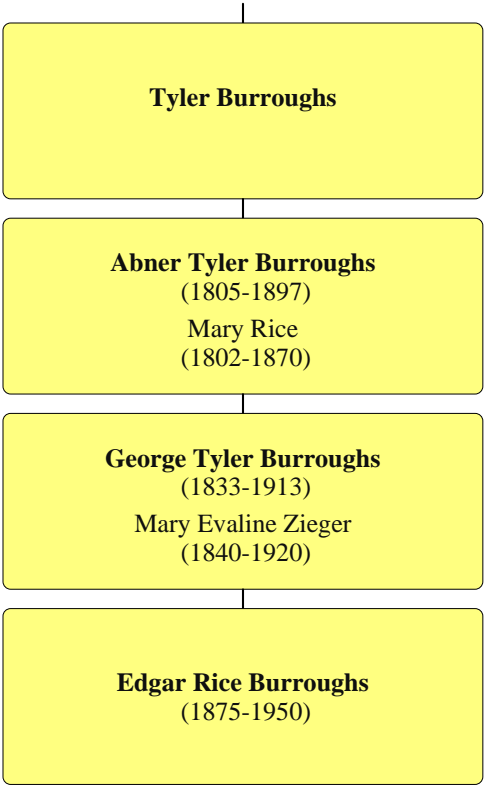




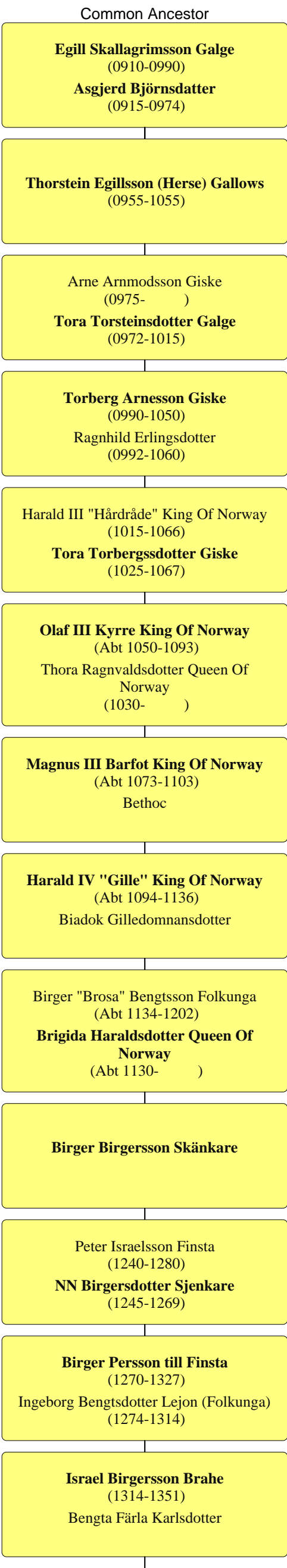








Egill Skallagrimsson Galge is the 32nd Great-Grandfather of Anna Kristiina Applegate

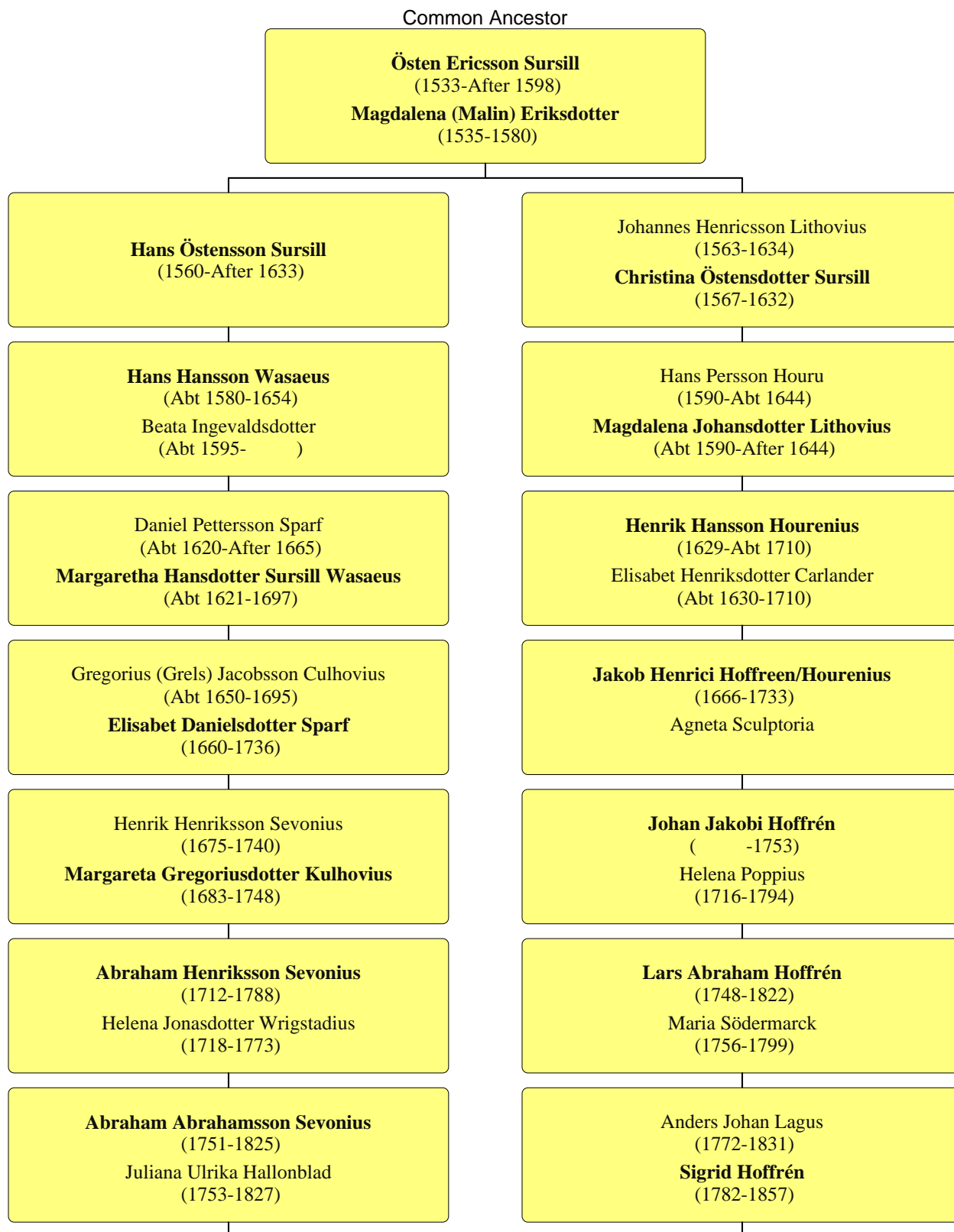








## Eirik Hornborg is the 9th cousin 5 times removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate

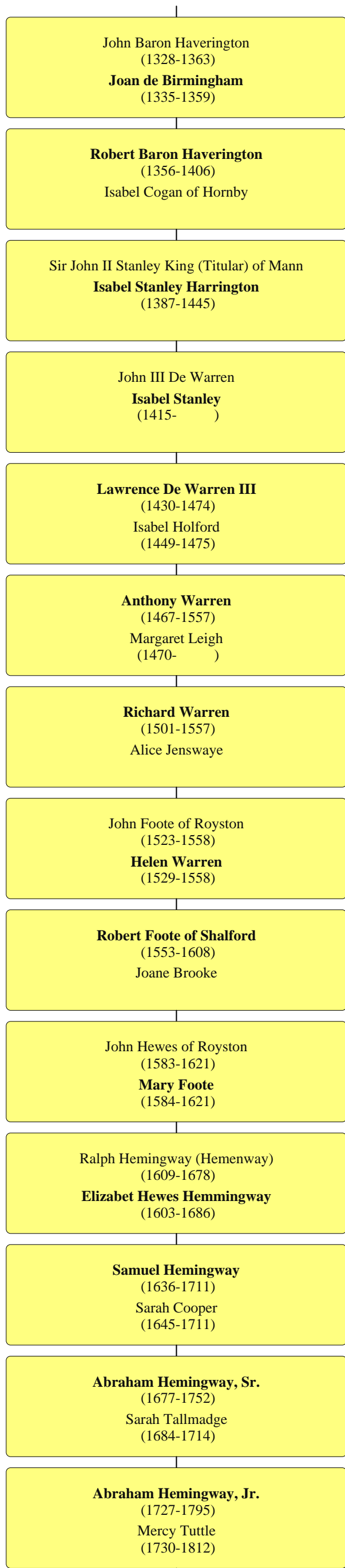






Ernest Miller Hemingway is the 31st cousin once removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate









Evert Axel Taube is the 13th cousin 5 times removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate



Erik Eriksson Kåll  
(1829-1905)  
**Charlotta Constantia Renlund**  
(1830-1905)

Karl-Johan Granholm  
(1866-1920)  
**Johanna Karolina Eriksdotter Kåll**  
(1863-1934)

**Erik Anton Granholm**  
(1906-1959)  
Karin Hildegard Kasén  
(1914-2004)

**Lars Erik Granholm**  
(1934- )  
Leena Elisabeth Kentala  
(1936- )

Bruce Kevin Patrick Applegate  
(1954- )  
**Pia Carita Granholm**  
(1955- )

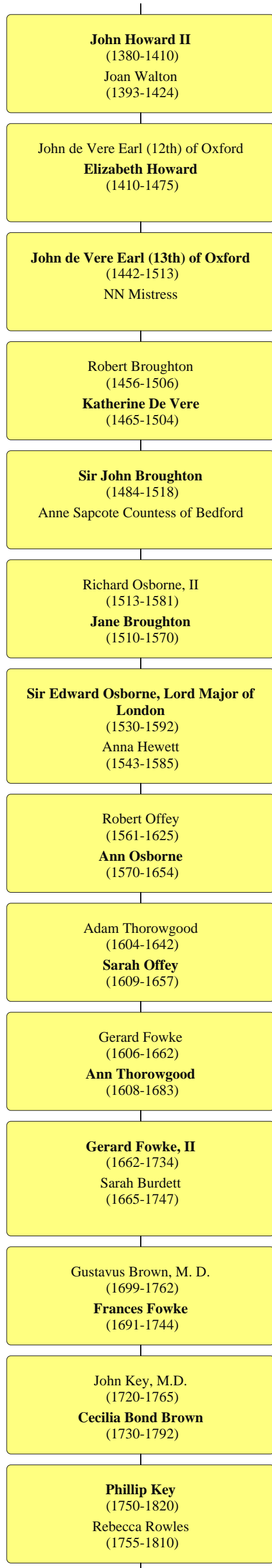
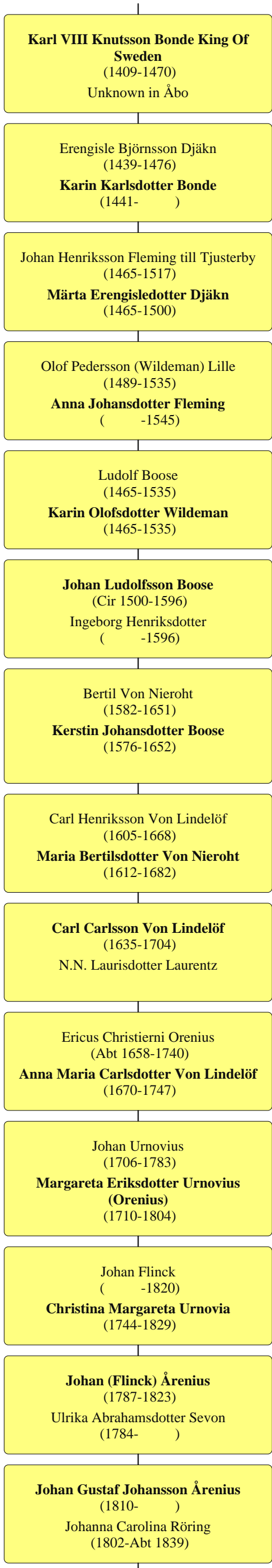
**Anna Kristiina Applegate**  
(1987- )

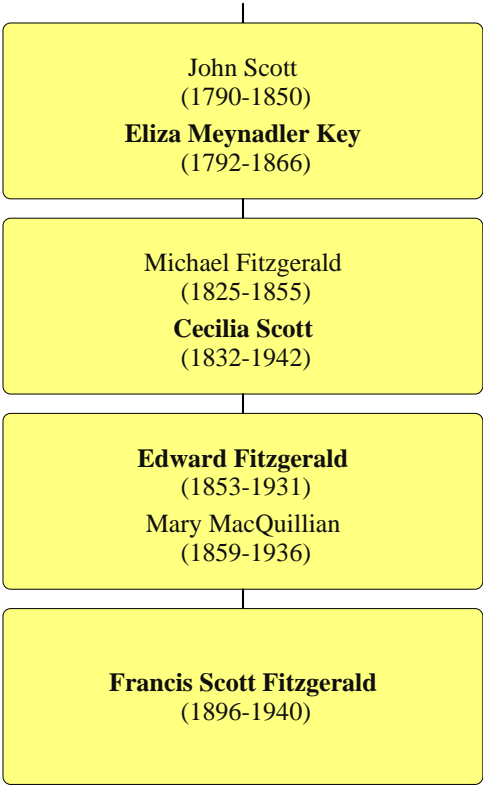
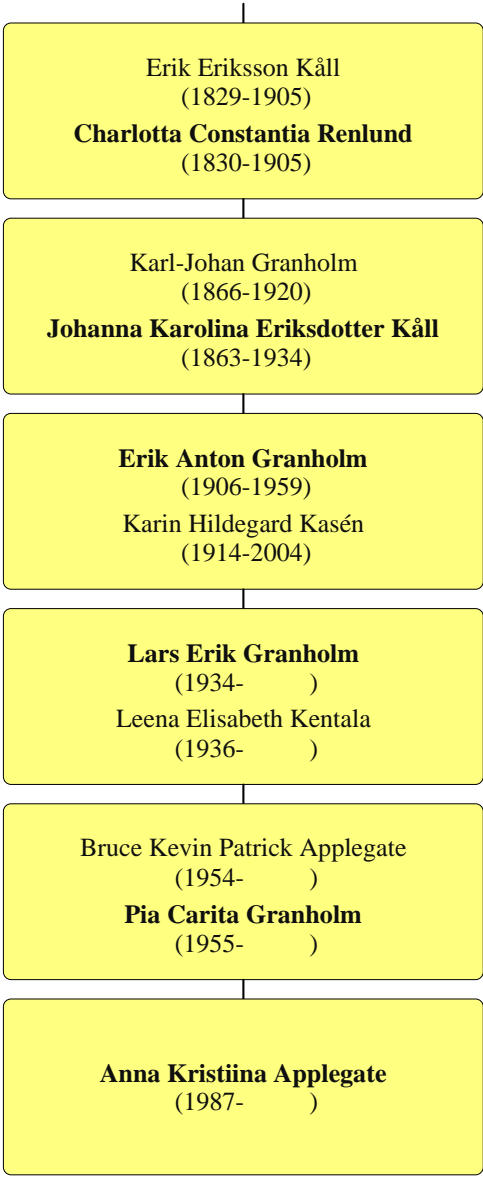
**Evert Axel Taube**  
(1890-1976)

**Francis Scott Fitzgerald is the 28th cousin twice removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate**

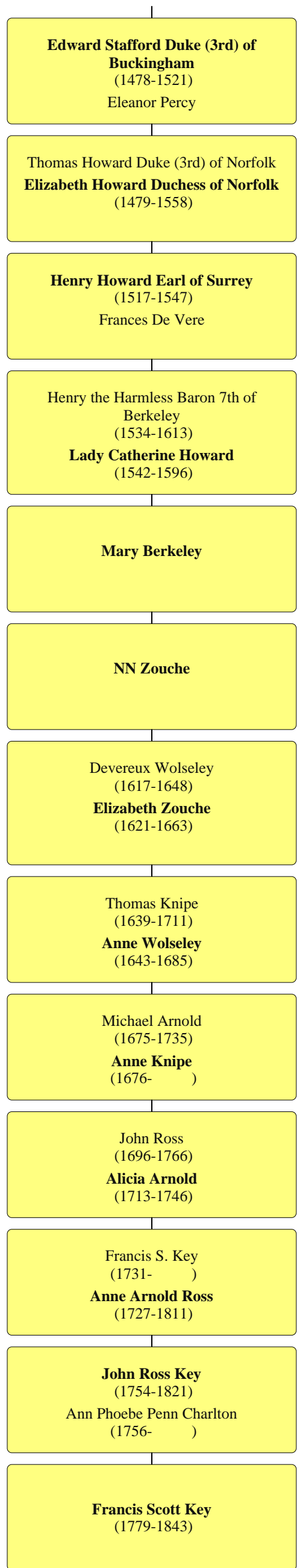




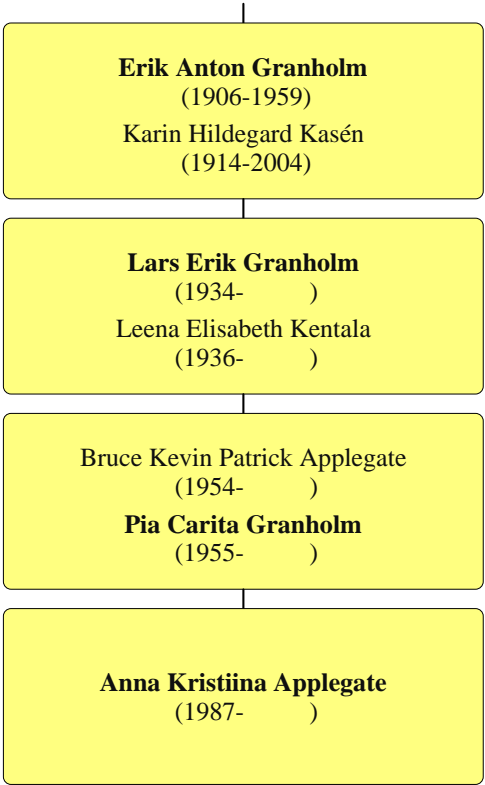






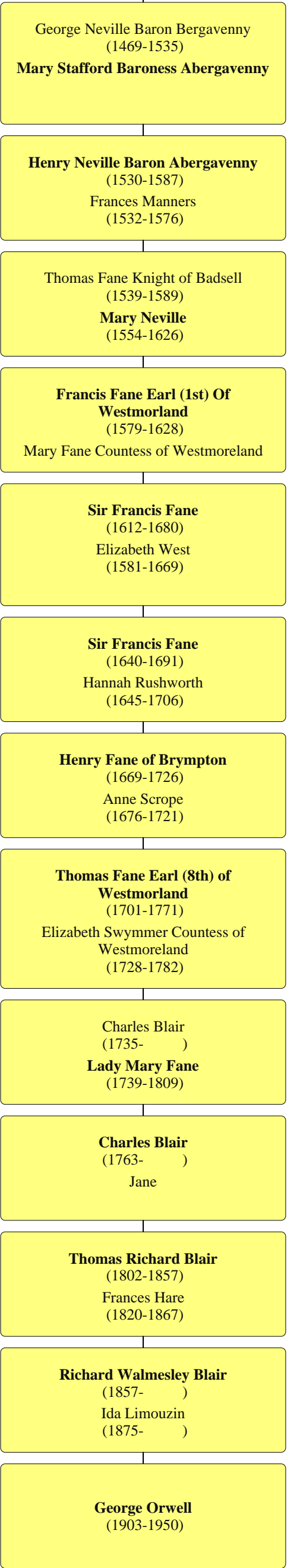


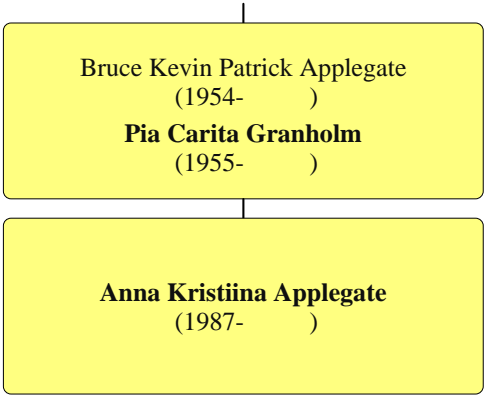




George Orwell is the Half 24th cousin 3 times removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate



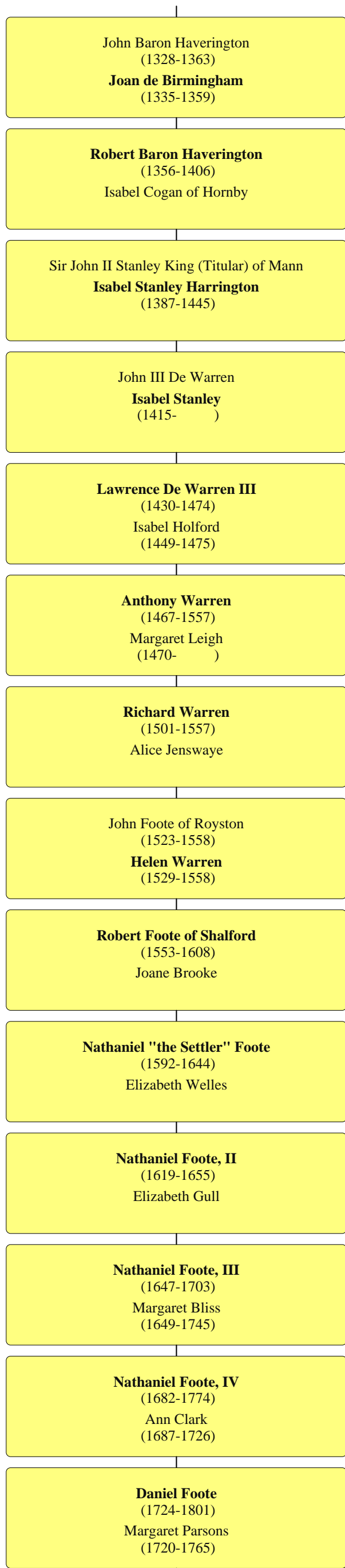






Harriet Beecher Stowe is the 28th cousin 4 times removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate



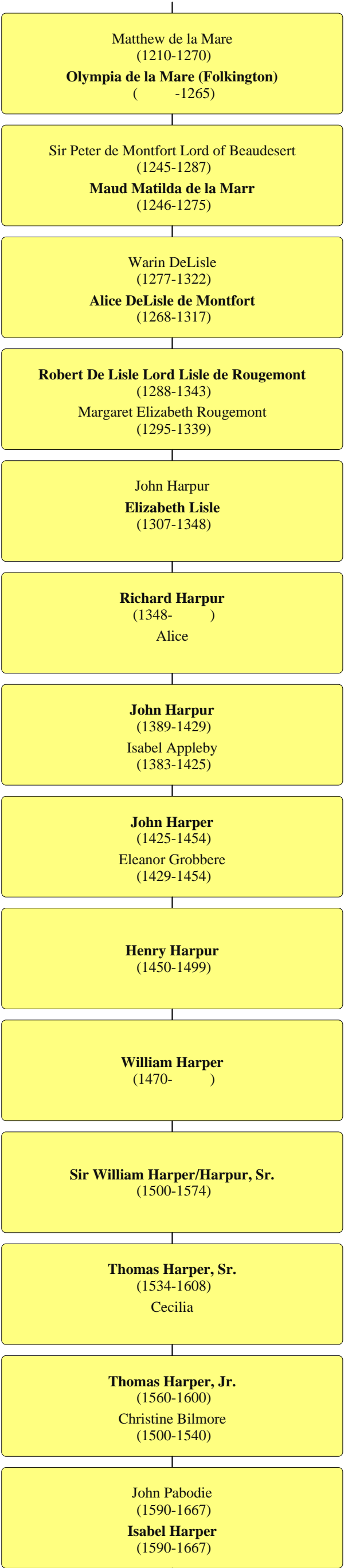




**Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is the 32nd cousin 3 times removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate**









Herman Melville is the Half 24th cousin 7 times removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate



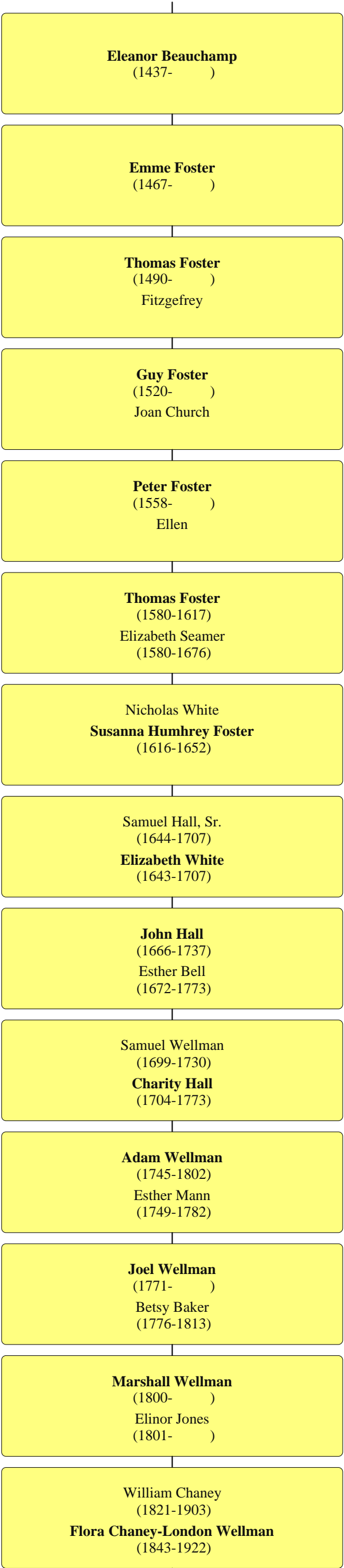






Jack London is the Half 26th cousin twice removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate





Lars Erik Granholm  
(1934- )  
Leena Elisabeth Kentala  
(1936- )

Bruce Kevin Patrick Applegate  
(1954- )  
Pia Carita Granholm  
(1955- )

Anna Kristiina Applegate  
(1987- )

Jack London  
(1876-1916)



**James Fenimore Cooper is the 24th cousin 6 times removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate**

## Common Ancestor

**Baldwin V Count Of Flanders**  
(Abt 1012-1067)

**Adele Alix Princess Of France**  
(1009-1079)

**Robert I Le Frison Count Of Flanders**  
(Abt 1038-1093)  
**Gertrude Countess Of Saxony**  
(Abt 1030-1113)

**Saint Canute IV The Holy King Of  
Denmark  
(1043-1086)**

**Adele Of Flandern Queen Of  
Denmark  
(Abt 1058-Abt 1115)**

Folke Den Tjocke Folkunga  
(1070-1130)  
**Ingegärd Knutsdotter Princess Of  
Denmark**  
(1081-1146)

**Bengt (Snivil) Folkesson Minnisköld**  
(Abt 1098- )  
**Ulfhild (Sigrid) Björnsdotter Princess Of**  
**Sweden**  
(1102- )

**Birger "Brosa" Bengtsson Folkunga**  
(Abt 1134-1202)  
Brigida Haraldsdotter Queen Of Norway  
(Abt 1130- )

## Birger Birgersson Skänkare

Peter Israelsson Finsta  
(1240-1280)  
**NN Birgersdotter Sjenkare**  
(1245-1269)

**Birger Persson till Finsta**  
(1270-1327)

Ingeborg Bengtsdotter Lejon (Folkunga)  
(1274-1314)

**Israel Birgersson Brahe**  
(1314-1351)  
Bengta Färla Karlsdotter

Karl Ulfsson Sparre Av Tofta  
( -1407)  
**Helena Israelsdotter**  
(1340-1410)

Knut Tordsson Bonde  
(Abt 1377-1413)  
**Margareta Karlsdotter Sparre Av  
Tofta**  
(1381-1429)

**William I The Conqueror King Of  
England  
(1027-1087)**

**Matilda Of Flanders Queen Of  
England  
(1031-1083)**

**Henry I "Beauclerc" King Of  
England  
(1068-1135)**

**Sybil (Adeliza) Lady of Alcester  
(1075-1157)**

**Reginald de Dunstanville Earl (1st) of Cornwall**  
(1100-1175)  
Beatrice (Mabilia) fitzWilliaim  
(1114-1162)

Ralph de Valletort of Trematon  
**Joan FitzRoy de Dunstanville of Cornwall**  
 (1150- )

**Joel de Valletort of North Tawton**  
(1170-1188)  
Emma de Valletort

**Philip de Valletort of North Tawton**  
(1210-1259)  
Joan de Cornwall  
(1212- )

**John de Valletort of North Tawton**  
(1240-1294)  
NN de Columbers  
(1245- )

**Ralph Edmond Valletort**  
(1262-1310)  
**Lucia le Bret**  
(1275-1310)

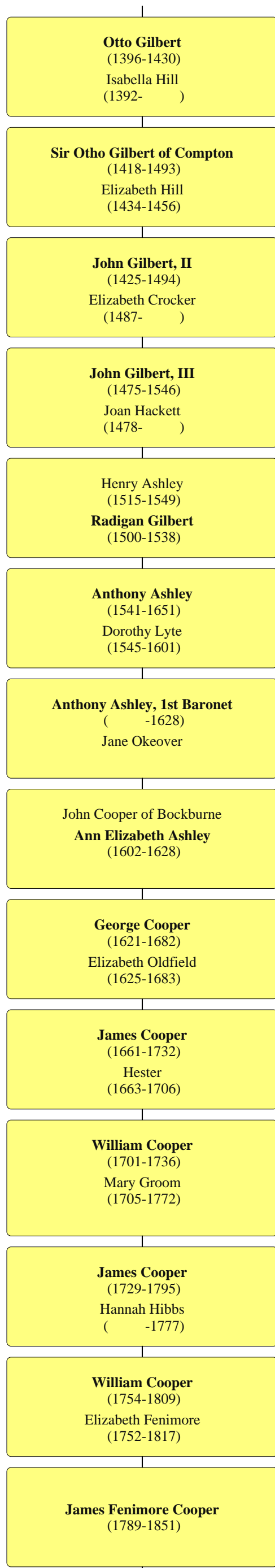
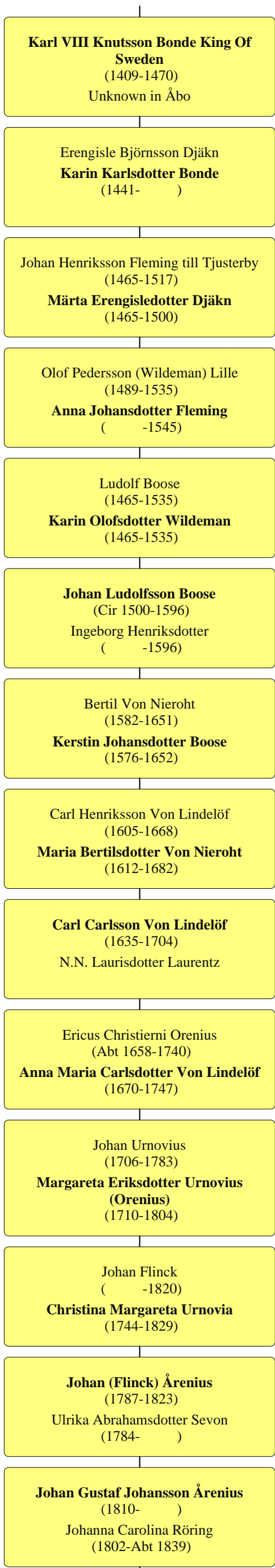
Sir Richard de Champernowne of  
Modbury  
(1284-1338)

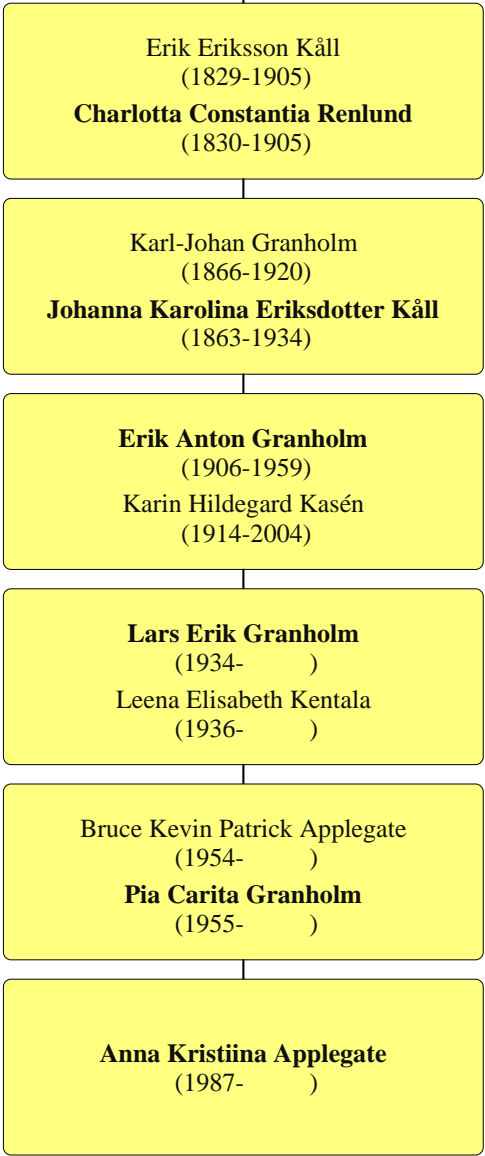
Elizabeth Joan le Bret de Valletor  
(1288-1316)

**Oliver de Champernon**  
(1300-1346)  
Egelin Valletort

William Gilbert, Sir  
(1327-1380)

**Elizabeth Champernowne**  
(1335-1380)





## Jane Austen is the 26th cousin 5 times removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate

## Common Ancestor

**Baldwin V Count Of Flanders**  
(Abt 1012-1067)

**Adele Alix Princess Of France**  
(1019-1079)

**Robert I Le Frison Count Of Flanders**  
(Abt 1038-1093)  
**Gertrude Countess Of Saxony**  
(Abt 1030-1113)

**Saint Canute IV The Holy King Of Denmark**  
(1043-1086)

**Adele Of Flanders Queen Of Denmark**  
(Abt 1058-Abt 1115)

Folke Den Tjocke Folkunga  
(1070-1130)  
**Ingegärd Knutsdotter Princess Of Denmark**  
(1081-1146)

**Bengt (Snivil) Folkesson Minnisköld**  
(Abt 1098- )  
Ulfhild (Sigrid) Björnsdotter Princess Of Sweden  
(1102- )

**Magnus Folkunga Earl Of Minniskiöld**  
N. N.

Sigtrygg Bengtsson Boberg  
(1197-1260)

Frid Magnusdotter Minnesk  
(1178- )

Karl Ingeborgasson Lejonbalk  
(1226-1273)  
**Ulfhild Sigtryggsdotter Boberg**  
(1225-1263)

**Ulf Karlsson Ulv**  
**(Abt 1230-1281)**  
**Karlsson Lejonb**

Abjörn Sixtensson Sparre Av Tofta  
(Abt 1240-1310)  
**Ingeborg Ulfsdotter Ulf**  
(Abt 1258-After 1307)

**Ulf Abjörnsson Sparre**  
( -1359)  
Kristina Sigmundsdotter Tre Klöverblad  
(1295-1328)

**Karl Ulfsson Sparre Av Tofta**  
( -1407)  
Helena Israelsdotter  
(1340-1410)

Knut Tordsson Bonde  
(Abt 1377-1413)  
**Margareta Karlsdotter Sparre Av Tofta**  
(1381-1429)

**Karl VIII Knutsson Bonde King Of Sweden**  
(1409-1470)  
Unknown in Åbo

## Baldwin VI Count Of Flanders (1030-1070)

**Baldwin II Count Of Hainaut**  
(1056-1098)  
Ida Of Leuven

**Baldwin III (VII) Count Of Hainaut**  
(1088-1120)  
Yolande De Wassenberg

Sir Roger de Toeni III Lord of Flamstead  
**Ida (Gertrude) of Hainault**  
 (1110- )

Walkelin de Ferrers  
**Goda de Toeni**  
(1140-1186)

Roger de Mortimer Lord of Wigmore  
(1155-1214)

**Isabel de Ferrers**  
(1172-1252)

Walter II de Beauchamp Baron of Elmley  
**Joane Isabel De Mortimer**  
 (1194-1268)

**William de Beauchamp Baron of Elmley**  
(1215-1268)  
**Isabel Maudult**  
(1214-1268)

Sir Richard Talbot IV Baron of Eccleswell  
(1250-1306)

**Sarah de Beauchamp**  
(1255-1318)

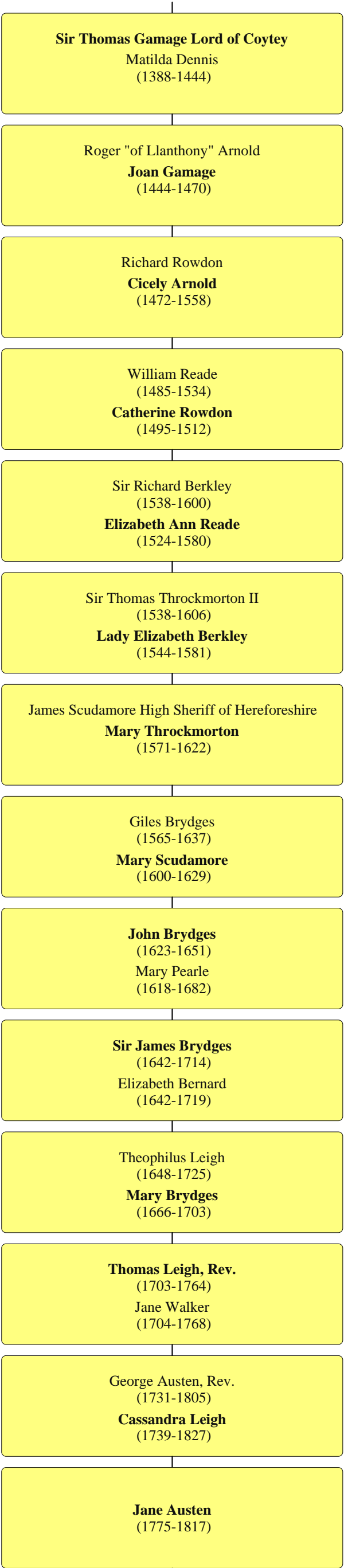
Sir Paine III Baron Tuberville of Coyty  
**Gwenllian De Tuberville de Talbot**  
 (1280-1346)

William Gamage  
(1306-1325)  
**Sarah de Tuberville**  
(1300-1359)

**Gilbert de Gamage of Rogald**  
(1328-1382)  
Lettice Seymour  
(1338-1372)

**Sir William Gamage**  
(1358-1419)  
**Mary Rodburgh**  
(1386- )





Karl-Johan Granholm  
(1866-1920)

**Johanna Karolina Eriksdotter Kåll**  
(1863-1934)

**Erik Anton Granholm**  
(1906-1959)

Karin Hildegard Kasén  
(1914-2004)

**Lars Erik Granholm**  
(1934- )

na Elisabeth Kentala  
(1936- )

Bruce Kevin Patrick Applegate  
(1954- )

**Pia Carita Granholm**  
(1955- )

**Anna Kristiina Applegate**  
(1987- )

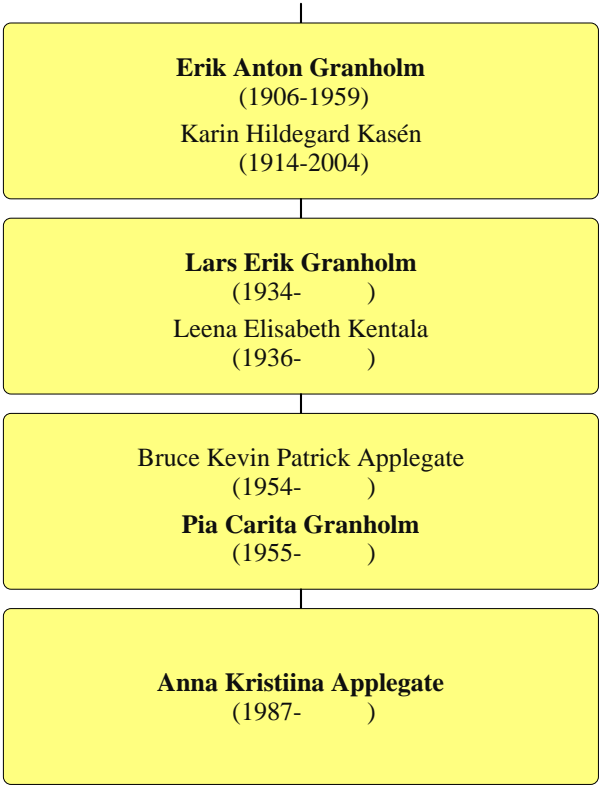
Johan Ludvig Runeberg is the 4th cousin 5 times removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate



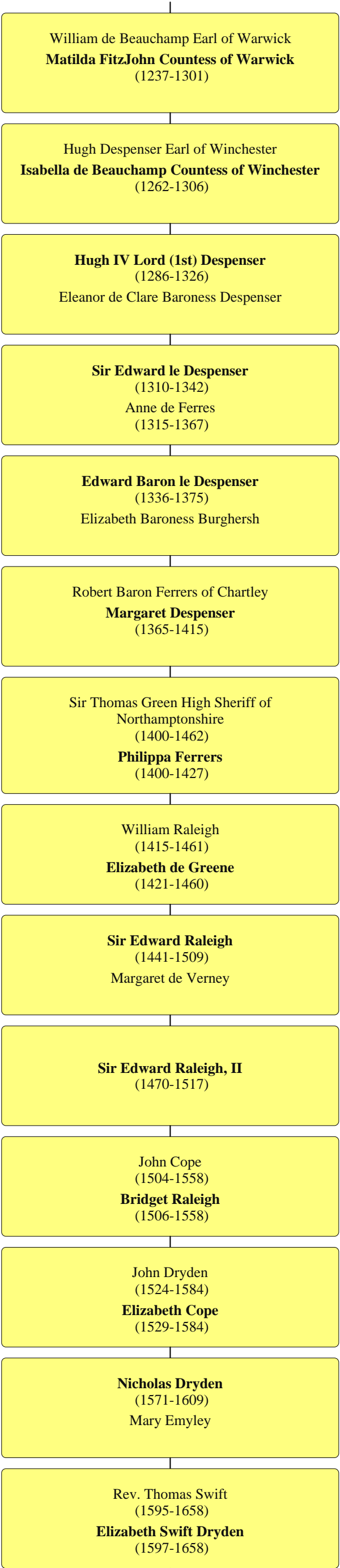


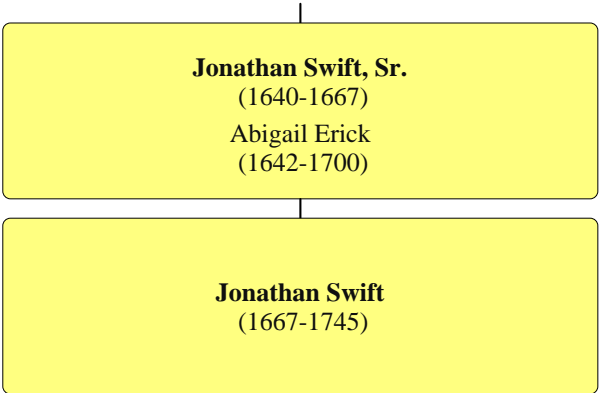










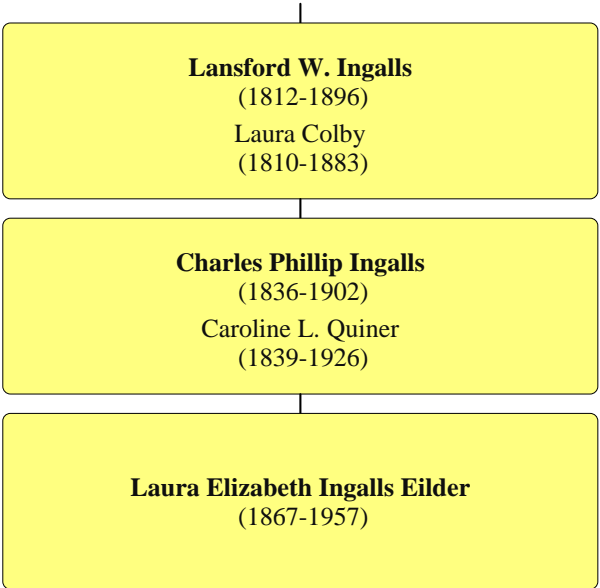


**Laura Elizabeth Ingalls Eilder is the 29th cousin 6 times removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate**







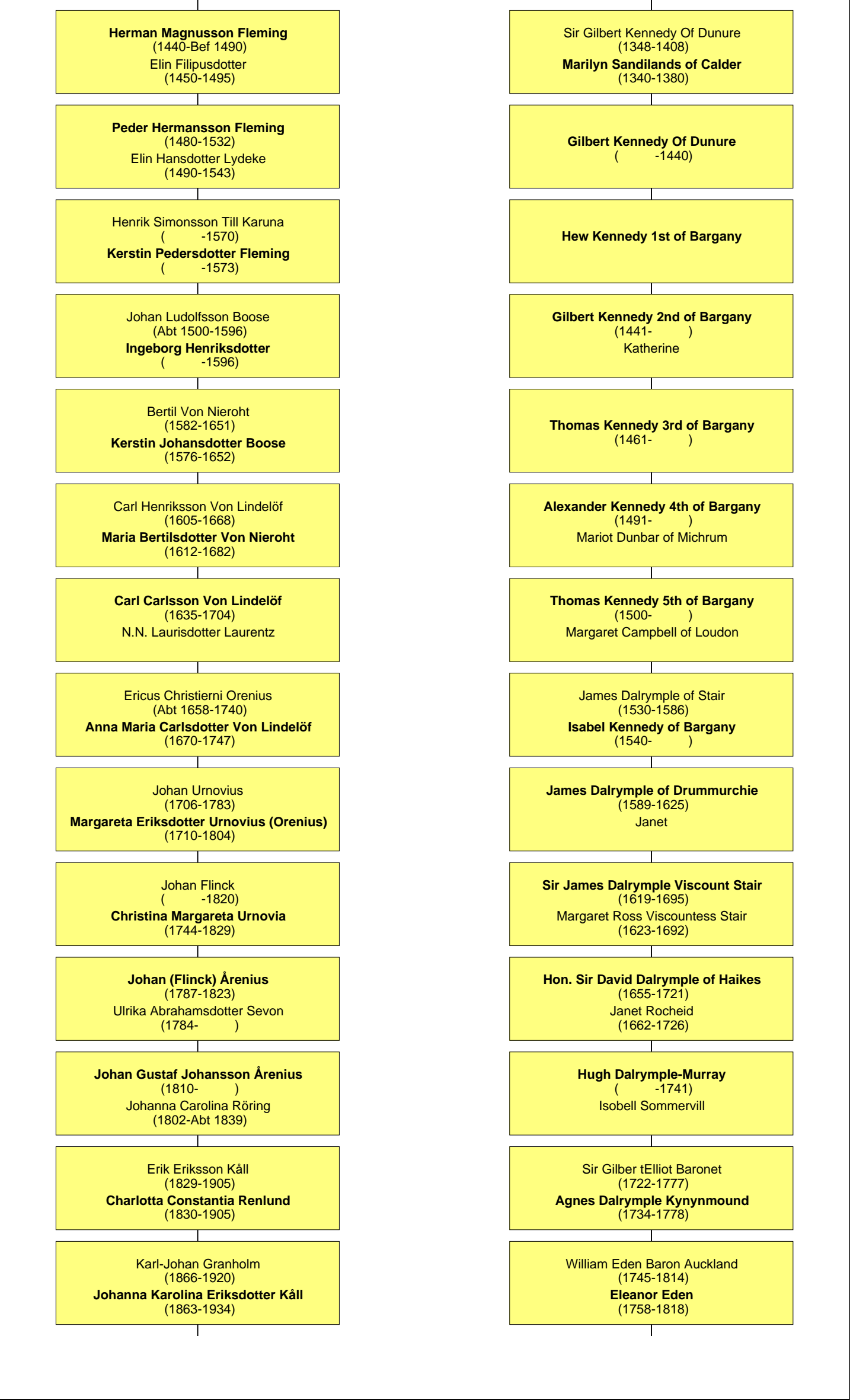


## Relationship Chart

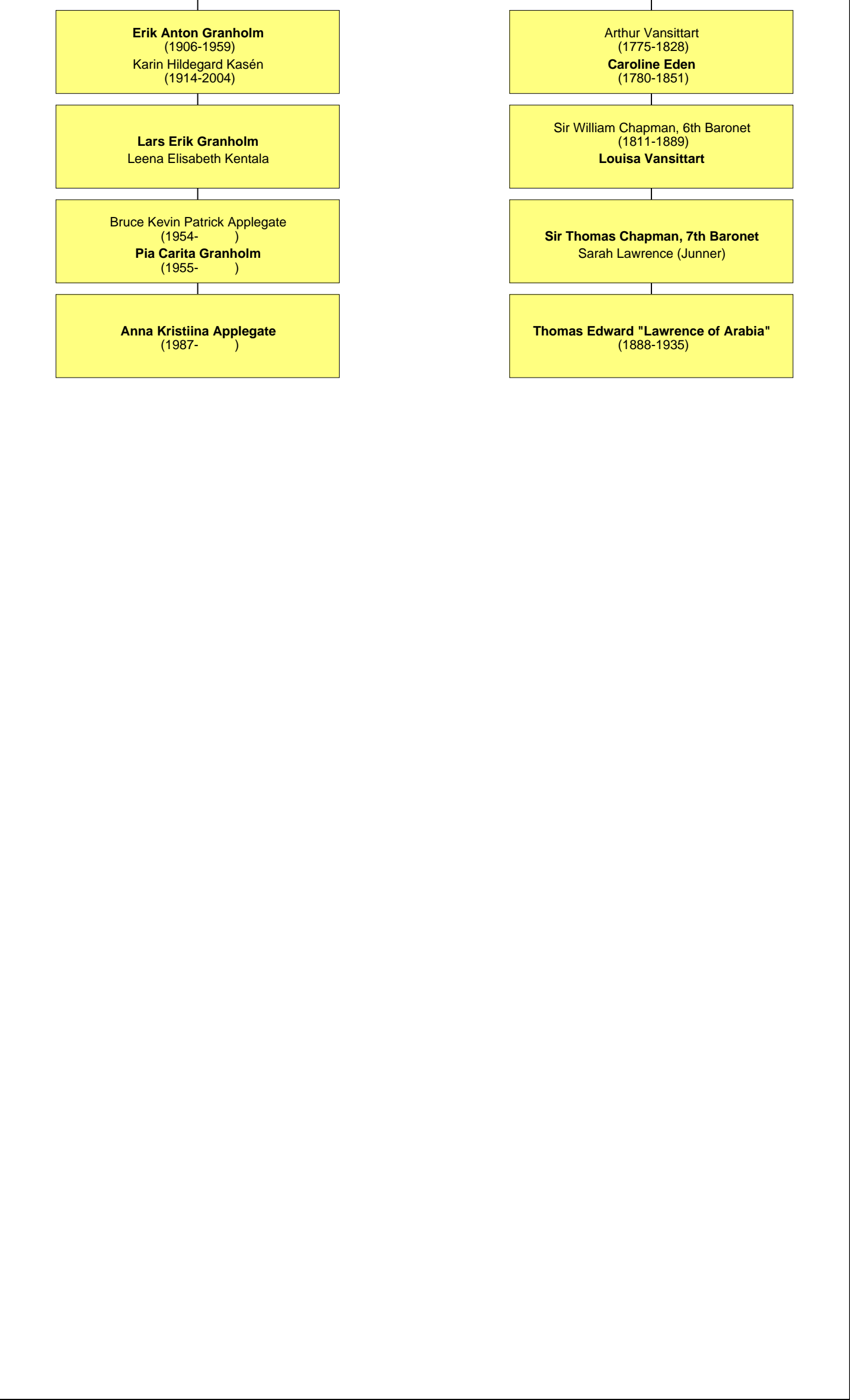
Thomas Edward "Lawrence of Arabia" is the 29th cousin of Anna Kristiina Applegate



Relationship Chart

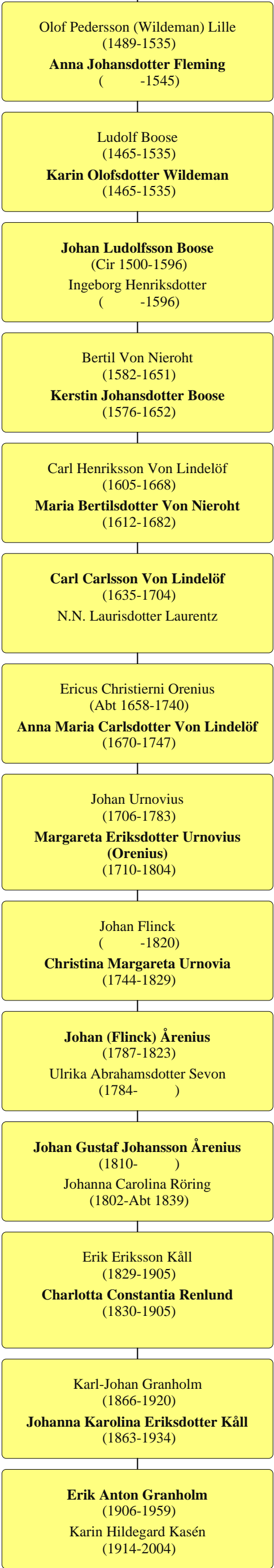


Relationship Chart







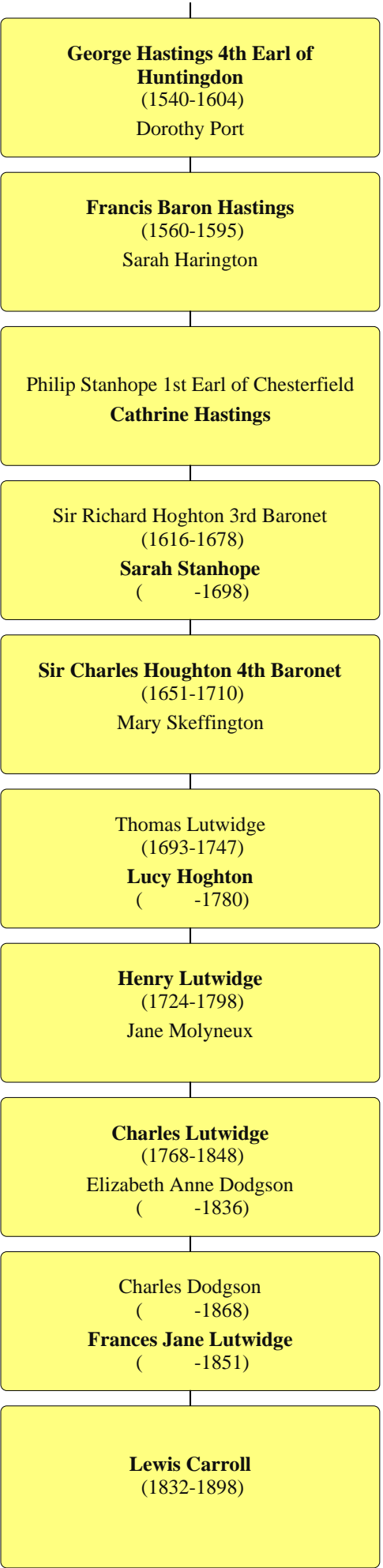
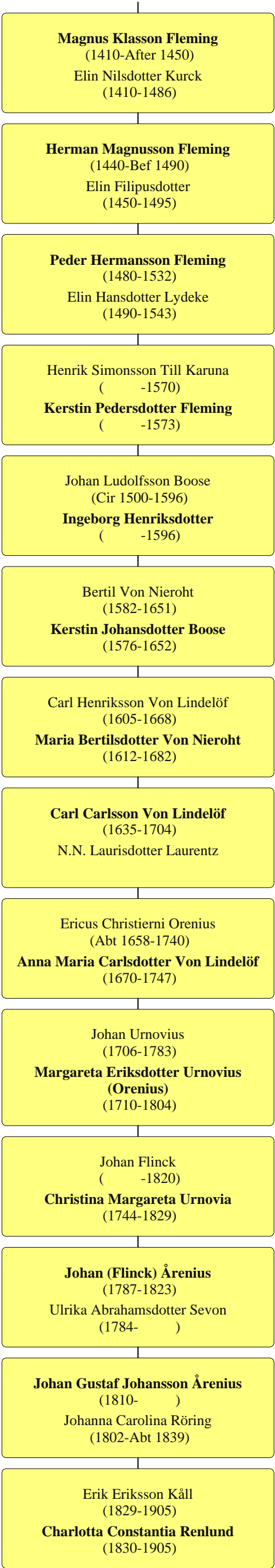


**Lars Erik Granholm**  
(1934- )  
Leena Elisabeth Kentala  
(1936- )

Bruce Kevin Patrick Applegate  
(1954- )  
**Pia Carita Granholm**  
(1955- )

**Anna and Erik Applegate**

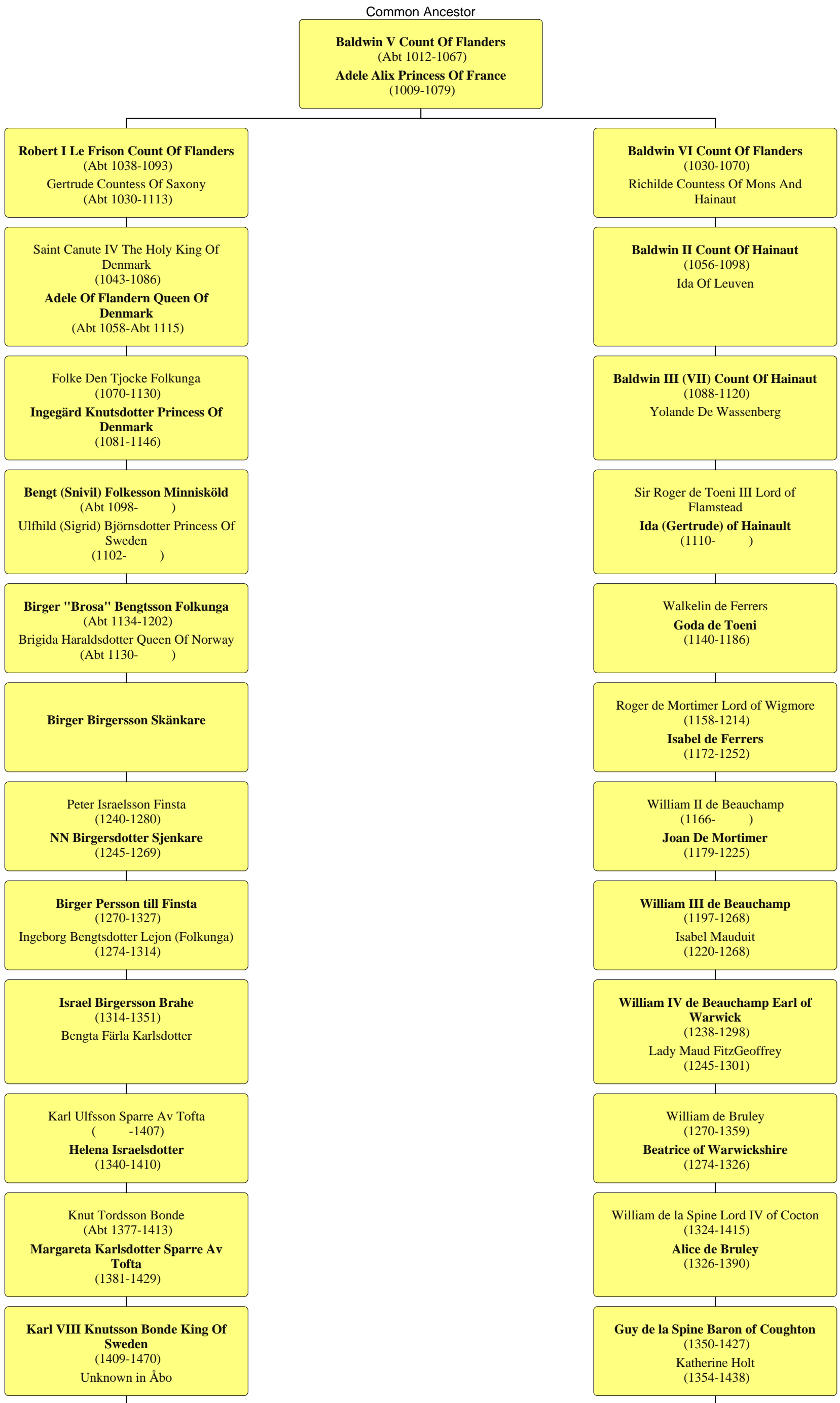


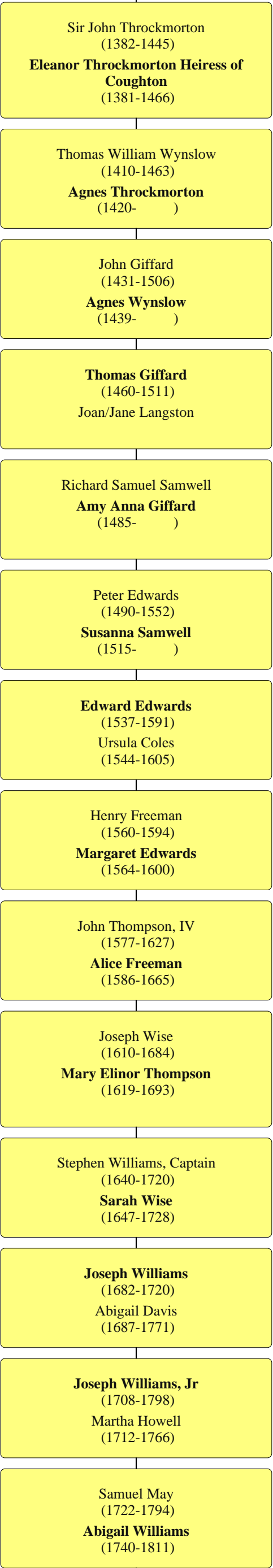
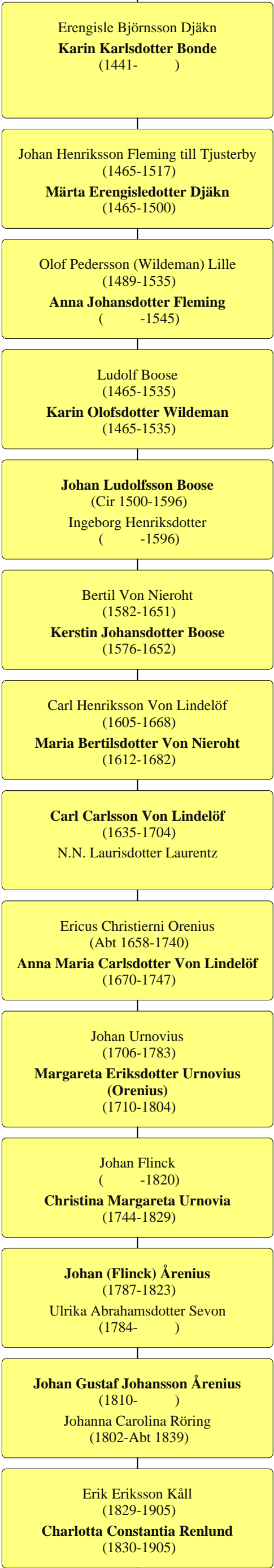


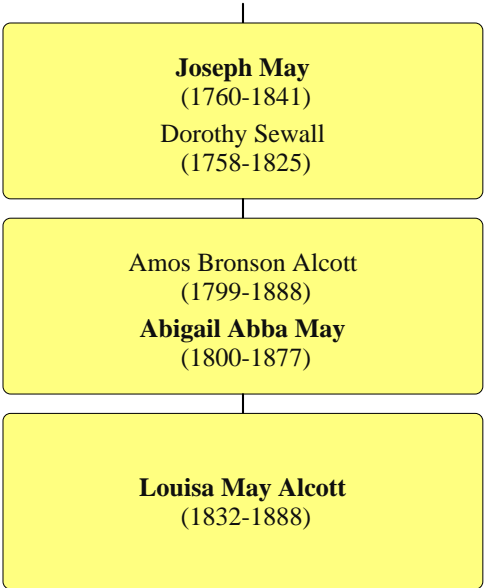




**Louisa May Alcott is the 28th cousin twice removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate**

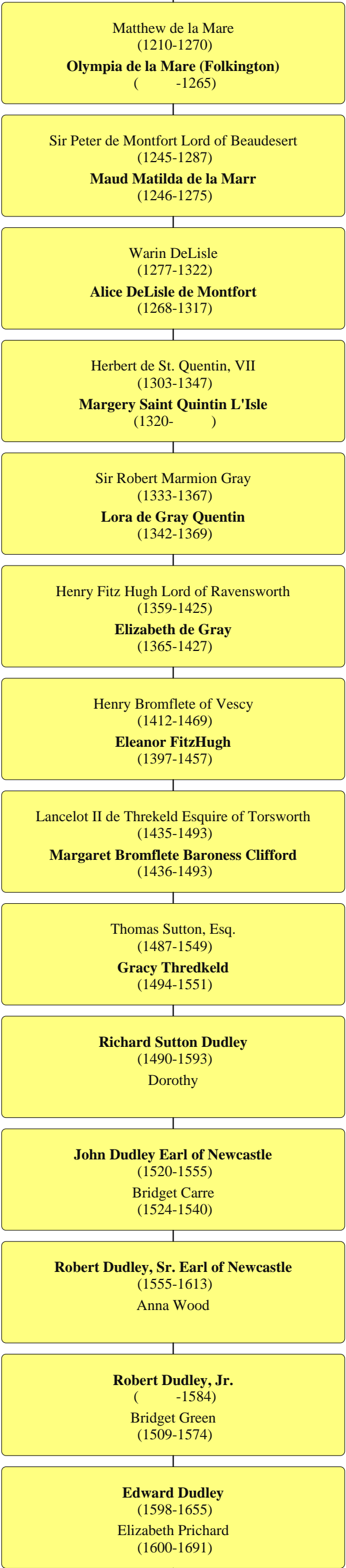


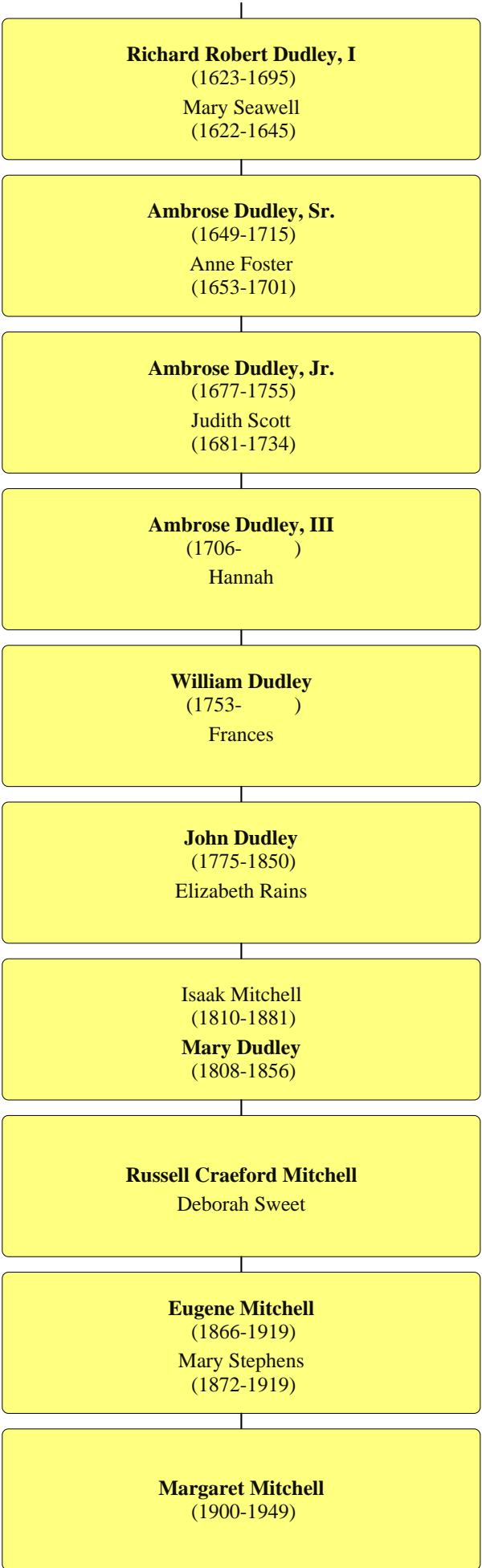




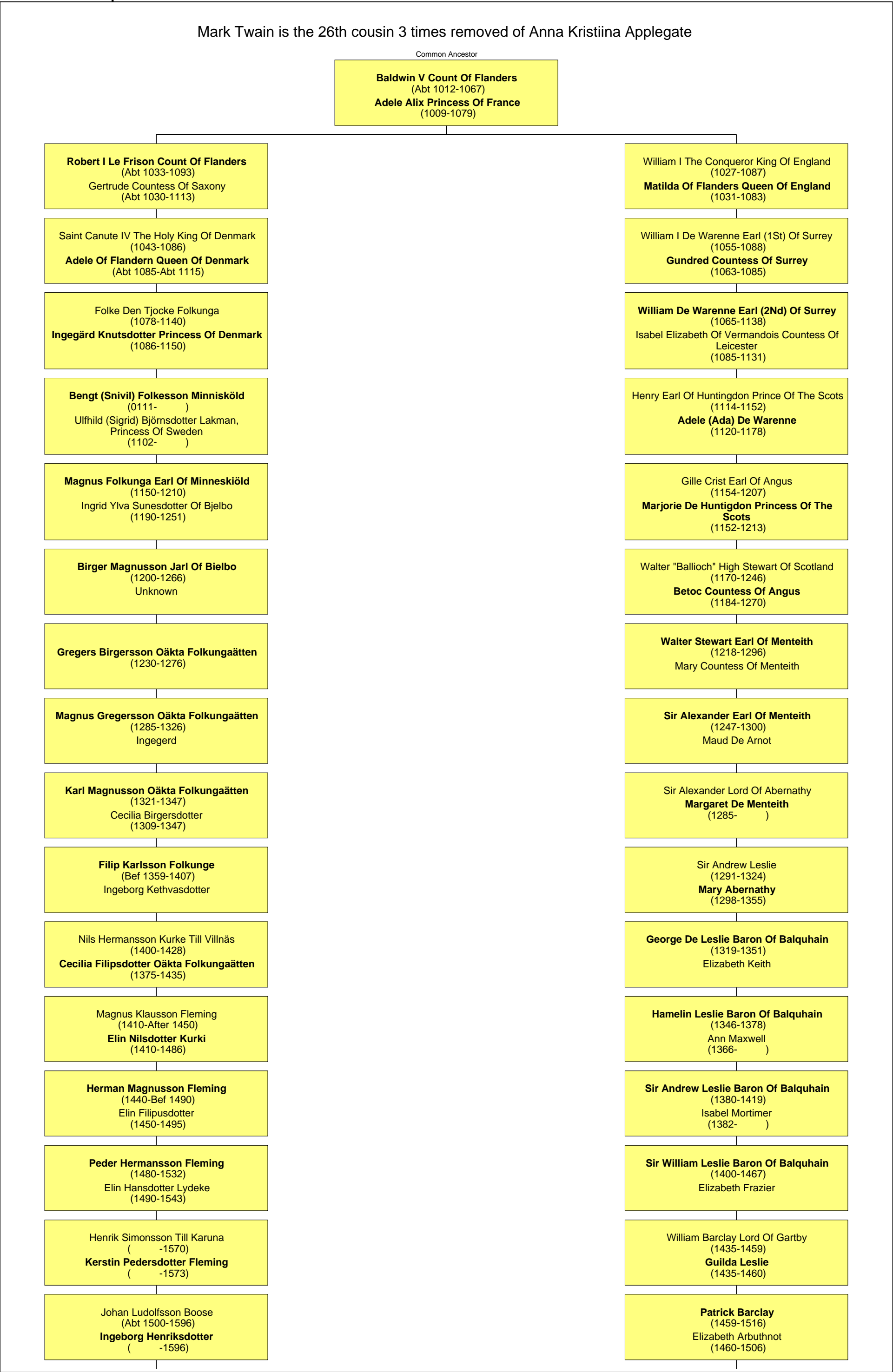




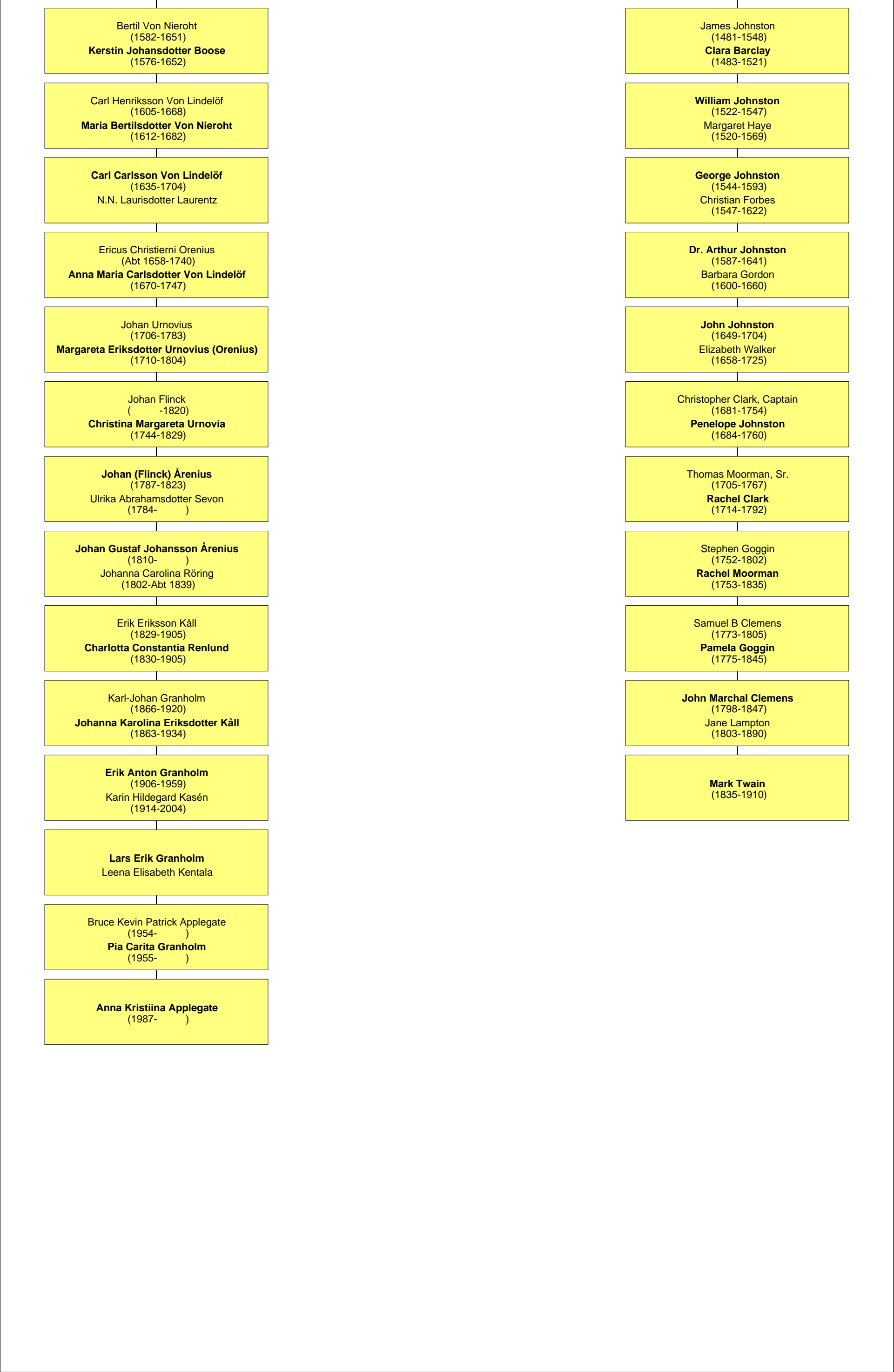




Relationship Chart



Relationship Chart



**Robert Louis Stevenson is the 30th Cousin of Anna Kristiina Applegate**

## Common Ancestor

## Baldwin V Count Of Flanders (Abt 1012-1067)

## Adele Alix Princess Of France (1009-1079)

## Robert I Le Frison Count Of Flanders (Abt 1038-1093)

Gertrude Countess Of Saxony  
(Abt 1030-1113)

# Saint Canute IV The Holy King Of Denmark (1043-1086)

**Adele Of Flandern Queen Of  
Denmark**  
(Abt 1058-Abt 1115)

## Folke Den Tjocke Folkunga (1070-1130)

**Ingegärd Knutsdotter Princess Of  
Denmark  
(1081-1146)**

**Bengt (Snivil) Folkesson Minnisköld**  
(Abt 1098- )

Ulfhild (Sigrid) Björnsdotter Princess Of  
Sweden  
(1102- )

## Birger "Brosa" Bengtsson Folkunga (Abt 1134-1202)

Brigida Haraldsdotter Queen Of Norway  
(Abt 1130- )

## Birger Birgersson Skänkare

Peter Israelsson Finsta  
(1240-1280)

**NN Birgersdotter Sjenkare**  
(1245-1269)

## Birger Persson till Finsta (1270-1327)

Ingeborg Bengtsdotter Lejon (Folkunga)  
(1274-1314)

## Israel Birgersson Brahe (1314-1351)

Bengta Färla Karlsdotter

Karl Ulfsson Sparre Av Tofta  
( -1407)

## Helena Israelsdotter (1340-1410)

Knut Tordsson Bonde  
(Abt 1377-1413)

**Margareta Karlsdotter Sparre Av  
Tofta  
(1381-1429)**

## William I The Conqueror King Of England (1027-1087)

## Matilda Of Flanders Queen Of England (1031-1083)

William I De Warenne Earl (1st) of  
Surrey  
(1055-1088)

## Gundred Countess of Surrey (1063-1085)

**William De Warenne Earl (2nd) of  
Surrey  
(1065-1138)**

Isabel Elizabeth of Vermandois  
Countess of Leicester  
(1085-1131)

Henry Earl of Huntingdon Prince of the  
Scots  
(1114-1152)

**Adele De Warenne**  
(1120-1178)

## William I the Lion King of the Scots (1143-1214)

Unknown

Patrick I Earl of Dunbar  
(1152-1232)

Ada  
-15

## Patrick II Earl of Dunbar (1185-1249)

## Euphemia

**Patrick III Earl (7th) of Dunbar**  
(1213-1289)

Marjory Carnyn

James Stewart

## Cecilia de Dunbar

**Walter Stewart**

Marjorie Bruce

## Robert II The Steward King of Scots (1316-1390)

Elizabeth Mure  
(1320-1354)



**Karl VIII Knutsson Bonde King Of  
Sweden  
(1409-1470)  
Unknown in Åbo**

Erengisle Björnsson Djäkn  
**Karin Karlsdotter Bonde**  
(1441- )

Johan Henriksson Fleming till Tjusterby  
(1465-1517)

**Märta Erengisledotter Djäkn**  
(1465-1500)

Olof Pedersson (Wildeman) Lille  
(1489-1535)  
**Anna Johansdotter Fleming**  
( -1545)

Ludolf Boose  
(1465-1535)  
Olofsdotter W  
(1465-1535)

**Johan Ludolfsson Boose**  
(Cir 1500-1596)  
Ingeborg Henriksdotter  
( -1596)

Bertil Von Nieroth  
(1582-1651)  
Martin Johansdotter  
(1576-1652)

Carl Henriksson Von Lindelöf  
(1605-1668)  
**Maria Bertilsdotter Von Nieroth**  
(1612-1682)

**Carl Carlsson Von Lindelöf**  
(1635-1704)  
N.N. Laurisdotter Laurentz

Ericus Christierni Orenius  
(Abt 1658-1740)  
**Anna Maria Carlsdotter Von Lindelöf**  
(1670-1747)

Johan Urnovius  
(1706-1783)  
**Margareta Eriksdotter Urnovius  
(Orenius)**  
(1710-1804)

Johan Flinck  
( -1820)  
**Christina Margareta Urnovia**  
(1744-1829)

**Johan (Flinck) Årenius**  
(1787-1823)  
Ulrika Abrahamsdotter Sevón  
(1784- )

**Johan Gustaf Johansson Årenius**  
(1810- )  
Johanna Carolina Röring  
(1802-Abt 1839)

**Robert III King of Scots**  
(1337-1406)

Anabella Drummond Queen Of Scotland  
(1350-1401)

James Kennedy of Dunure  
(1376-1408)

**Lady Mary Stewart**  
(1380-1458)

**Gilbert Kennedy of Dunure**  
(1406-1478)  
Catherine Maxwell of Glamis

Alexander Montgomery, Baron  
(1445-1486)  
**Catherine Kennedy**  
(1445- )

**Hugh Montgomery Earl of Eglinton**  
(1460-1545)

**Helen Isabel Montgomerie of Argyll**  
(1465-1528)

William Lord Sempill  
Margaret Campbell  
(1487-1523)

Alan Lord (3rd) of Cathcart  
( -1547)  
**Helen Sempill**  
( -1547)

NN Robertson  
Margaret Cathcart

**John Robertson**

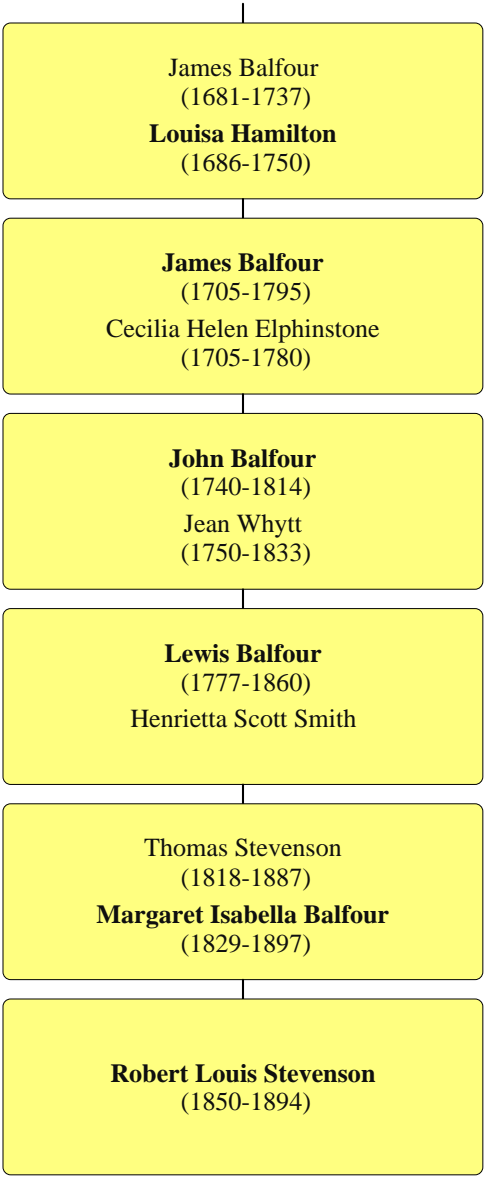
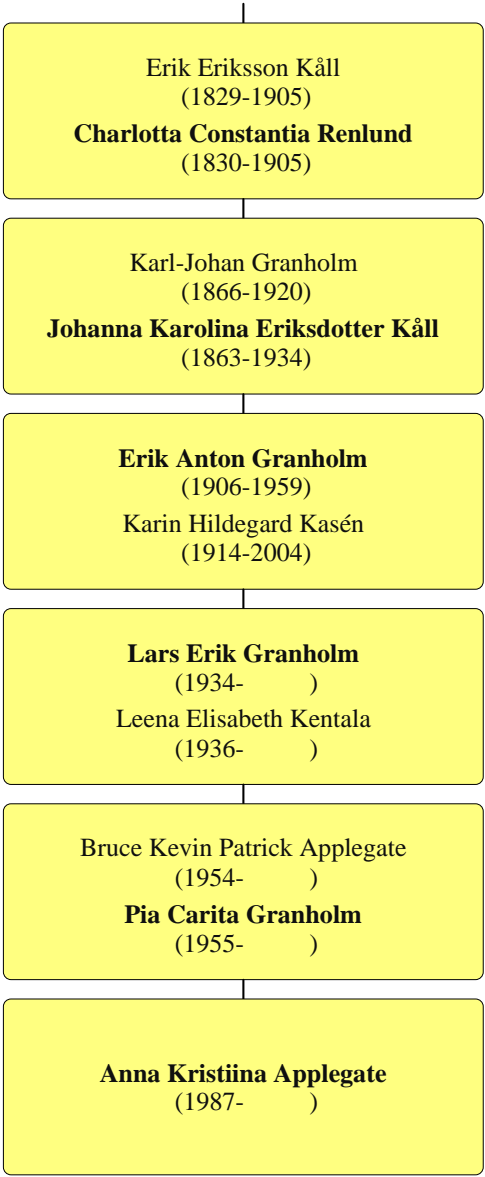
## James Robertson of Earnock

Gavin Hamilton of Airdrie  
( -1591)  
**Isabella Robertson**

**John Hamilton of Airdrie**  
(1569- )  
Janet

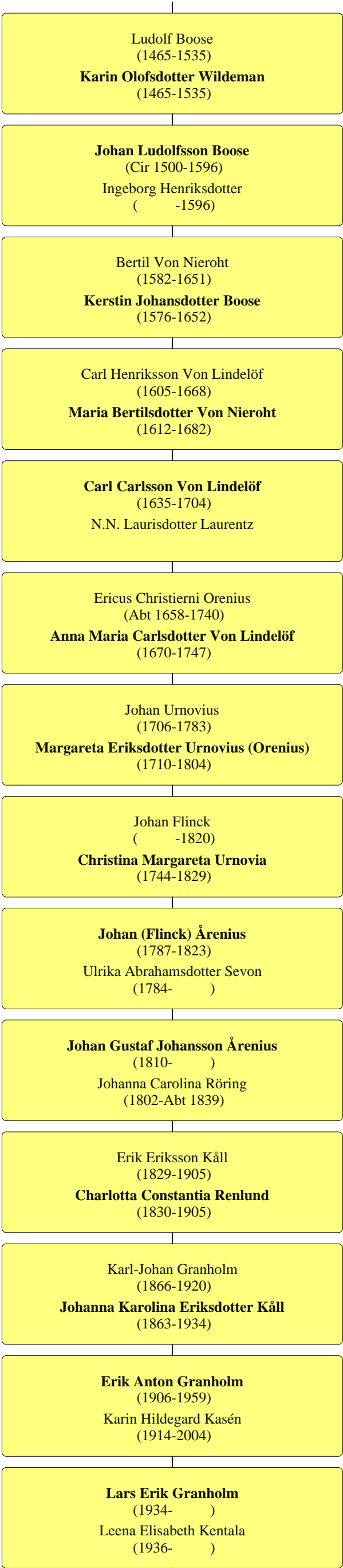
**Gavin Hamilton of Airdrie**  
( -1687)  
Jane Montgomery

**Robert Hamilton Baronet of Airdrie**  
(1645-1705)  
Louisa Cochrane



Sinclair Lewis is the Half 26th cousin twice removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate





Bruce Kevin Patrick Applegate  
(1954- )  
**Pia Carita Granholm**  
(1955- )

**Anna Kristiina Applegate**  
(1987- )



**Snorri Sturluson is the 6th cousin 26 times removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate**

## Common Ancesto

**Thorstein Egillsson (Herse) Galloway**  
(0955-1055)

Arne Arnmodsson Giskur  
(0965-1024)

**Tora Torsteinsdotter Galg**  
(0972-1015)

**Torberg Arnesson Giske**  
(0990-1050)

## Ragnhild Erlingsdotte (0992-1060)

## Harald III "Hårdråde" King Of Norway (1015-1066)

**Tora Torbergssdotter Giske**  
(1025-1067)

## Olaf III Kyrre King Of Norway

Thora Ragnvaldsdotter Queen of Norway  
(1030- )

## Magnus III Barfot King Of Norway

(Abt 1073-1103)

## Betho

## Harald IV "Gille" King Of Norway

Biadok Gilledomnansdotte

Birger "Brosa" Bengtsson Folkung  
(Abt 1134-1202)

**Brigida Haraldsdotter Queen Of**  
**Norway**  
 (Abt 1130- )

## Birger Birgersson Skänkar

Peter Israelsson Finsta  
(1240-1280)

**NN Birgersdotter Sjenkare**  
(1245-1269)

## Birger Persson till Finsta (1270-1327)

## Ingeborg Bengtsdotter Lejon (Folkunga (1274-1314)

**Israel Birgersson Brahe**  
(1314-1351)

# Bengta Färla Karlsdotte

Karl Ulfsson Sparre Av Tofta  
( -1407)

**Helena Israelsdotter**  
(1340-1410)

## Hrifla Torsteinsson

Maefa Thordvardottir  
(0960- )

**Egill Hrifluson**  
(1002- )

Ekk

**Skuli Egilson**  
(1039-1118)

Sigríður Thorarinsdóttir  
(1050- )

## Thordur Skulason (1076-1143)

Valgerdur Markusdottir  
(1076- )

## Bödvar Thordarson (1116-1187)

## Helga Thordardottir

Sturla "Hvamms-Sturla" Thordarson  
Kvam  
(1115-1183)

## Gudny Bödvarsdottir (1147-1221)

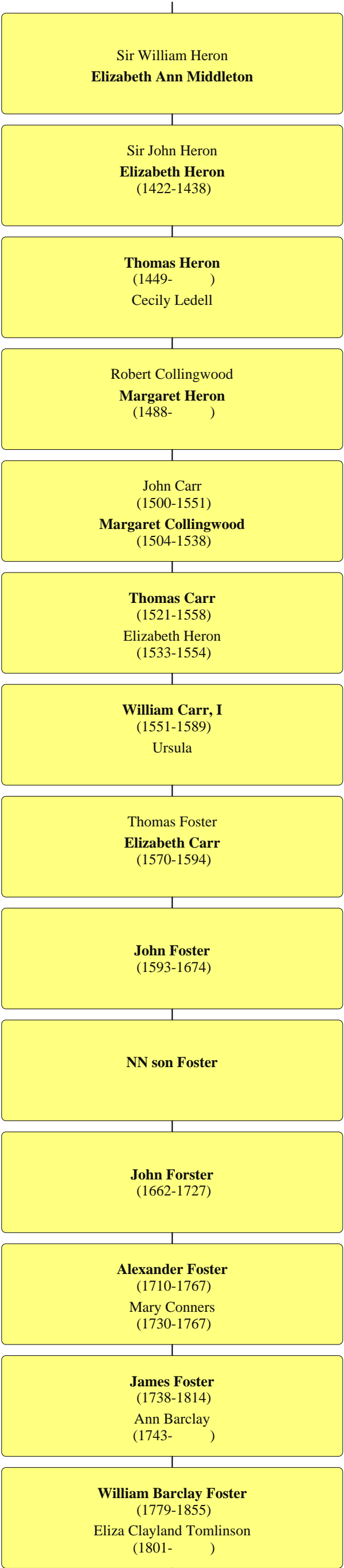
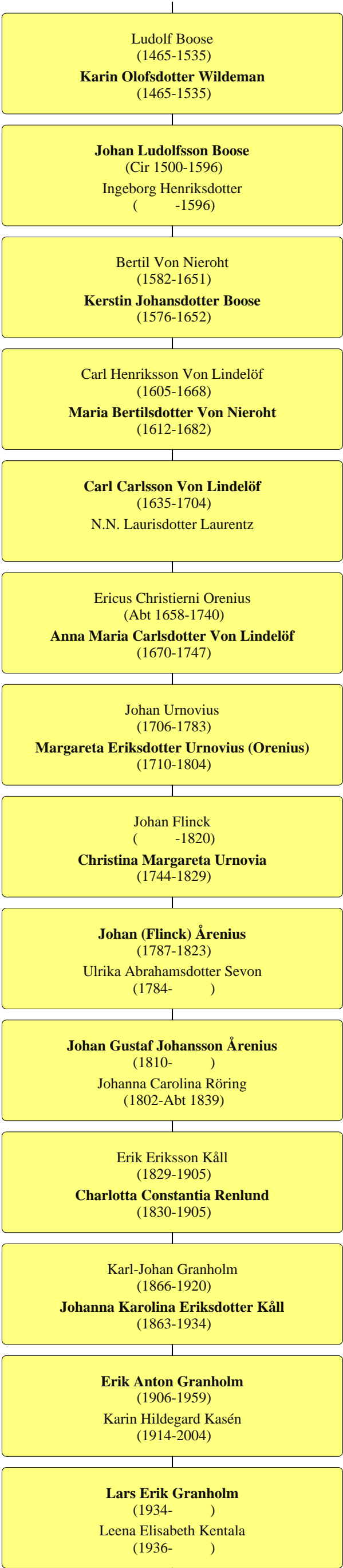
## Snorri Sturluson (1179-1241)



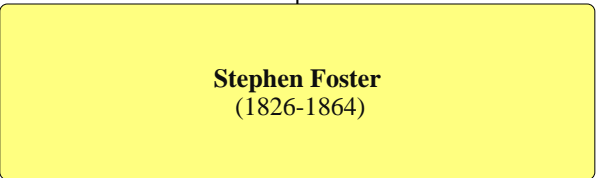
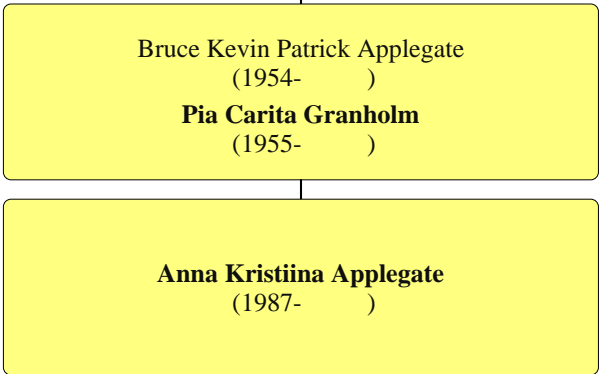


Stephen Foster is the Half 27th cousin once removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate









**Viktor Rydberg is the Half 11th cousin 7 times removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate**

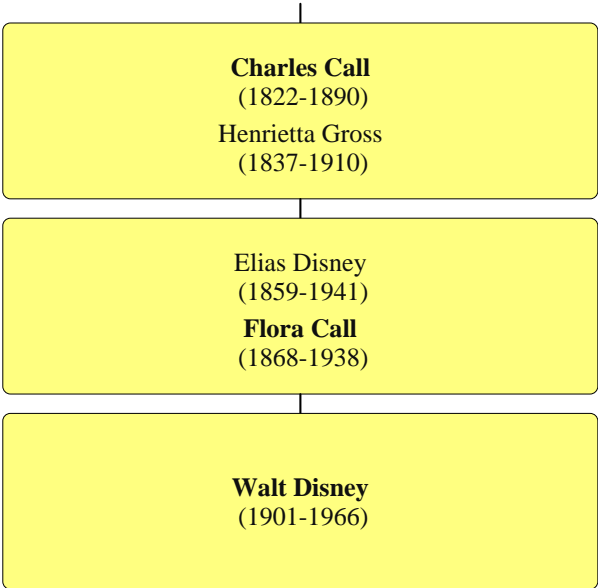
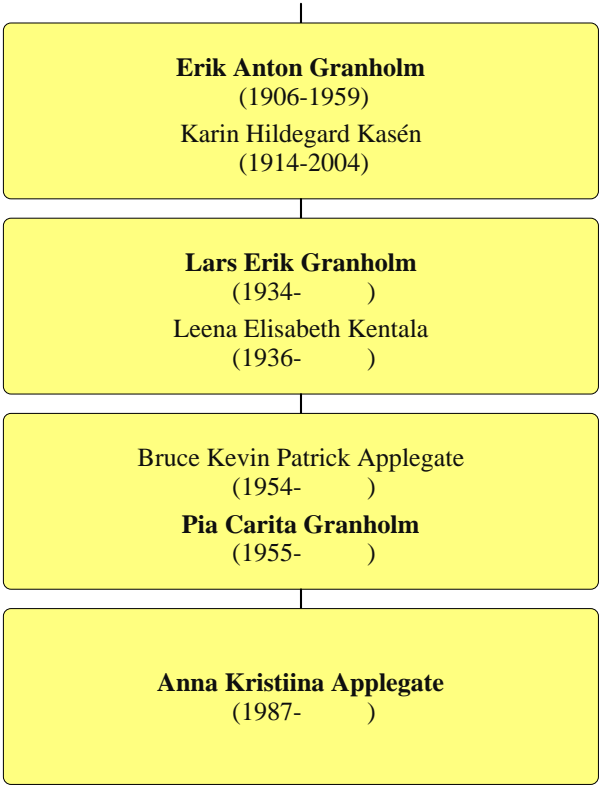












Zachris Zachrissoon Topelius is the 7th cousin 7 times removed of Anna Kristiina Applegate



Bruce Kevin Patrick Applegate  
(1954- )  
**Pia Carita Granholm**  
(1955- )

**Anna Kristiina Applegate**  
(1987- )