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My Patrilineal Ancestors and Y-DNA Haplogroup Q-M242

BY K. O. GHETTSON

Both my paternal grandfather (*farfar*) and my paternal uncle (*farbror*) were genealogists. Through their research they were able to trace the direct male line back to a man named *Anders Högström* who was born in the 1760s in Risinge parish, Östergötland. Anders Högström was a soldier in the Swedish army. He enlisted in 1788 as soldier #12 of the Östanstång Company which was a company belonging to the Östergötland Infantry Regiment (*Östgöta infanteriregemente*). My grandfather and uncle were not able to find when and where Anders Högström was born. The reason for this is that the church books and military records contain conflicting information about when and where he was born.

In the 18th century most Swedes used patronymic surnames. When men enlisted in the Swedish army they were often given new surnames which is what happened to Anders Högström. His patronymic surname is not mentioned in the military

records. This, combined with the conflicting information about when and where he was born, caused my grandfather and uncle to hit a brick wall in their research. I believed it was possible to solve this genealogical riddle as long as I left no stone unturned.

The earliest mention of Anders Högström in the Swedish church books is found in the moving records from 1789 for Löt parish, Östergötland. I decided to look up and track every person with the name Anders that lived in Löt parish in the 1780s. One boy in particular caught my attention. His name was *Anders Bengtsson* and he was born on 20 September 1765 in Hult, Risinge parish. Around the same time, I found a note made by my uncle that mentioned the possibility of Anders Bengtsson and Anders Högström being the same person. This further convinced me that I must be on the right track.

Anders Bengtsson's father, *Bengt An-*

dersson, died on 9 November 1780 in Löt parish. His mother, *Maria Hansdotter*, died on 7 January 1810 in the same parish. This caused me to realize that if I was able to find the estate inventories (*bouppteckningar*) of both his parents, I might be able to solve the riddle. If my hypothesis was right he would be referred to as Anders Bengtsson in his father's estate inventory and as Anders Högström in his mother's. I contacted the regional archive in Vadstena and found that they were in possession of these documents. I asked them to send the estate inventories of both parents. When I received the copies I was able to confirm that Anders Bengtsson and Anders Högström were one and the same.

Anders and his family lived as dependent tenants, which means another family was paid by the parish to accommodate them. This was the common procedure in many rural parishes at the time, which often lacked poorhouses and needed other ways to accommodate the poor. Often, the elderly or people with disabilities became dependent tenants. These individuals and families were in the hands of the compensated families. One can only speculate why the family ended up as dependent tenants. Anders was 15 years old when his father died.

Anders Högström fought in the Russo-Swedish War (1788-1790). According to a family story that has been passed down through the generations he was captured by the Russian army and transferred to a prisoner-of-war camp in Siberia. It is said that he somehow managed to escape and walked all the way back to Sweden. It is difficult to know if there is any truth to the story.

Anders Högström also fought in the Franco-Swedish War (1805-1810). In the household examination records from 1802-1807 for Kullerstad parish, Östergötland,



Grandfather Erik Daniel Högström (left) in his office in Linköping garrison.

where he then lived, one can read that Anders Högström suffered from a gunshot wound to his right thigh. He probably received this injury during the Battle of Lübeck in 1806 because he retired from the army on 28 May 1807. It was determined that he should receive 8 riksdaler annually in veteran's pension (*gratial*). 1,000 Swedish soldiers were captured by the French army at the Battle of Lübeck. It is possible that Anders Högström was captured by the French army and that this story and the story about the Russo-Swedish War merged into one story over time.

After his retirement he moved to a cottage in Kvästad in Skärkind parish, Östergötland. He first rented the cottage but later managed to save enough money to buy the plot with the cottage. There is a map of Kvästad from 1852 that has the plot marked as "Högström's plot." He ended up getting married four times because his first three wives all died at a young age. I have done extensive research about my ancestors but I have never come across any other person that was married that many times.

Anders Högström died on 8 January 1842 at Kvästad Mellangård in Skärkind parish. His second wife was *Brita Hansdotter* (1772–1800). I descend from their only son, *Nils Gustaf Glad*, who was born on 18 August 1797 at a soldier's croft (*soldattorp*) in Högstad, Kullerstad parish. Gustaf also enlisted in the Swedish army. Just like his father he was given a new surname (Glad [merry]) when he joined in 1818. Gustaf Glad died of a stroke on 17 November 1821 in Östra Ryd parish, Östergötland. He and his wife Maja Greta Jonsdotter had only one child, a son named Anders Johan Gustafsson who was born on 3 April 1820 in Östra Ryd. In the estate inventory of Anders Högström one can read that Anders Högström became the legal guardian of the little boy after his father died. Anders Johan Gustafsson's patrilineal great-grandson Erik Karlsson, my paternal grandfather, readopted the surname Högström. Interestingly enough, my paternal grandfather was a sergeant in the Swedish army.



Svärdsstecknet instituted the 26th of June 1850 by King Oscar I, together with Svärdsmedaljen as a new class in the Sword Order (Svärdsorden) and was a deserving medal for the day-to-day merits of the non-commissioned officers of the army and the navy. From 1896 it was also awarded to civilian employees. The awardees were called Sword-men (svärdsmän). (Wikipedia). This was awarded to Erik Daniel Högström at his retirement.

Patrilineal ancestors of Anders Högström (b. 1765)

Anders Högström's paternal grandfather (*farfar*) *Anders Bengtsson* was born on 8 June 1685 in Hult, Risinge parish. His father, *Bengt Hansson*, was in turn born c. 1647 in Olstorp, Risinge parish, and died on 25 January 1719 in Viberga in the same parish. The birth records between 1647 and 1658 are missing or were never recorded to begin with. Bengt Hansson's estimated year of birth is based on the information found in the death records. Bengt Hansson's father, *Hans Gottskalksson*, was born c. 1600 in Olstorp and died on 2 July 1664 in the same village. Hans Gottskalksson was a miner (*bergsman*) just like his father who is only referred to as *Gottskalk* in the Swedish church books. Gottskalk is mentioned in the church account records from 1606 where his house mark (*bo-märke*) also can be found. Gottskalk's other son, *Lars Gottskalksson* was a charcoal burner (*kolare*). Lars Gottskalksson also lived and died in the same village. Charcoal

was essential when smelting iron ore into pig iron so it is likely that the two brothers worked hand in hand.

My Y-DNA results

I have taken several genealogical DNA tests through the years and use genetic genealogy to both estimate and confirm kinship between individuals. The Y-chromosome (Y-DNA) is passed down from father to son nearly unchanged and is, therefore, a good tool to trace a man's patrilineal ancestry since the small mutations (SNPs) which occur on the Y-chromosome from time to time are unique to that particular male line. I have learned the craft of genetic genealogy over the years and nowadays help administrate several DNA projects on the Family Tree DNA website. One of them is the Q-M242 Y-DNA project which focuses on haplogroup Q-M242 and its subgroups.

Normally, one would have to take a more detailed Y-DNA test, such as Big Y, to be able to determine one's terminal SNP. I, however, was able to analyze and compare the data from my less detailed Y-DNA tests with the data of other project members resulting in the prediction of a likely terminal SNP.

I tested SNP BY15847 which defines one of the outermost branches known as Q-YP6072 and it was confirmed that I indeed carry this mutation.

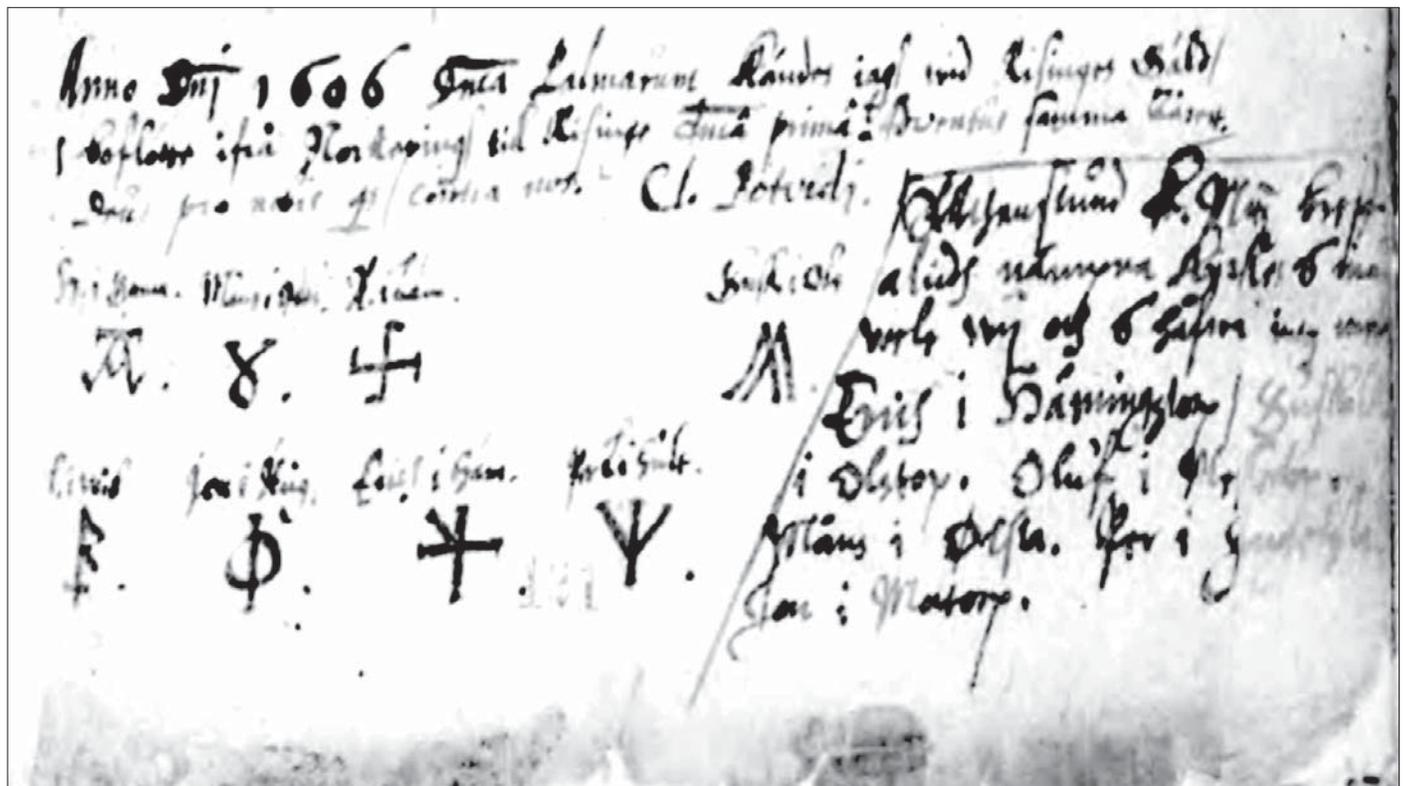
Haplogroup Q-M242 is believed to have originated in South Central Siberia approximately 30,000 years ago. Two subgroups of haplogroup Q-M242: Q-L804 and Q-L527 somehow made it to Scandinavia. It is not known how and when this happened. Both these subgroups are approximately half the age of Q-M242 and emerged at the end of the LGM (Last Glacial Maximum). Q-M242 is the predominant Y-DNA haplogroup among Native Americans. Interestingly enough, Q-L804 is more closely related to the Native American subgroup Q-M3 than it is to Q-L527. The subgroup Q-YP6072 is a smaller branch on the Q-L527 branch. Q-YP6072 is approximately 1,000 years old and Västergötland in Southwest Sweden is a likely birthplace for this subgroup. Q-L527 and its subgroups are predominantly found in Southern Sweden while Q-L804 is predominantly found in Southern Norway.

Since the father noted in birth records is not always the biological father, the only way to be sure that the information in birth records is correct is to combine traditional genealogical research with genealogical DNA testing.

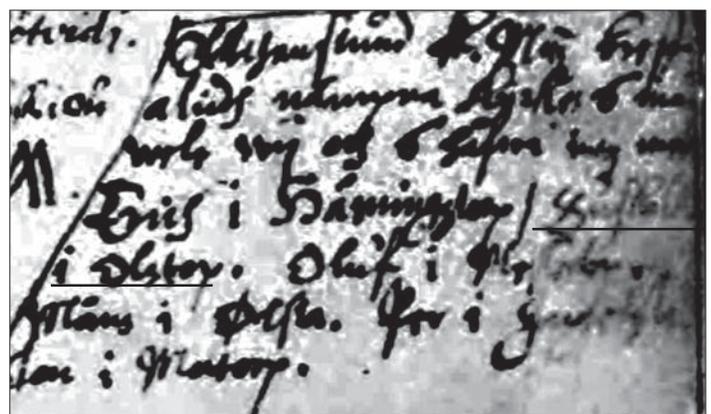
I realized that if I could find living patrilineal descendants from one of the other sons of Anders Högström and convince at least one of them to take a Y-STR test then I could compare his Y-STR results

with mine, thus, being able to confirm a shared patrilineal kinship through Anders Högström. I was able to find several living patrilineal descendants, one of whom agreed to get tested. As I had predicted, the Y-STR results showed that we shared a recent patrilineal ancestor.

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Riksarkivet (SVAR): Risinge kyrkoarkiv. Räkenskaper för kyrkan. Äldre allmän odelad serie samt huvudsräkenskaper. SE/VALA/00306/LIa:1 (1555-1661). BildID: C0017759-00072. (Church accounts for 1555-1661).



The name Gottskalk of Olstorp is underlined. See picture above.

Risinge old church (Sankta Maria's church) was first built in the 1100s, but was enlarged a number of times. It is well preserved and is famous for its delightful chalk paintings from the 1400s. It is still used for services during the summer.