

Description

Peder Pedersen Winstrup, the Bishop of Lund and founding father of Lund University, died in the mid-17th century and was buried in a coffin lined with hops and other herbaceous plants. This unintentional combination triggered a natural air-drying mummification process, leaving his remains among the best preserved of any 17th-century person in Europe. When his tomb was reopened for study, CT scans and genomic analysis of sample LUND1n revealed far more than his own biography — they uncovered a family secret hidden at his feet.

Winstrup lived through the Thirty Years' War and the dramatic expansion of the Swedish Empire, navigating the shifting political and religious landscape of Scandinavia with considerable influence. He was a luminary of the Lutheran church, a royal chaplain, and the founder of one of Scandinavia's great universities. His preserved features remain remarkably intact.



17th-century oil portrait of Peder Pedersen Winstrup, Bishop of Lund (1605–1679).

The most striking discovery was hidden beneath the Bishop's feet: a premature male fetus, analyzed as sample win002, tucked into his coffin. Genetic testing confirmed a second-degree kinship. The child was Winstrup's grandson, the last male heir of the Winstrup noble line, buried

secretly alongside his grandfather. No public record documents the placement. The discovery reframes the burial entirely: what appeared to be a monument to institutional power turns out to also be a private family interment, marking the biological end of a noble line. It is among the more unusual genomic findings of recent years: two generations, the last of their name, sharing a coffin in silence.

Modern population	Distance
Norwegian	2.393
German	2.419
Danish	2.431
Icelander	2.460
Orcadian	2.617
Dutch	2.655
Swedish	2.663
Irish	2.728
Scottish	2.734
Welsh	2.764

Source

Date: 1743–1793 CE

Y-DNA: R-BY54766

mtDNA: H3b7

Location: Sweden

Research: Related in Death? Further Insights on the Curious Case of Bishop Peder Winstrup and His Grandchild's Burialta

Sample(s): win001