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Phillips DNA News

www.phillipsdnaproject.com

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Please submit news articles or ideas for articles to the editor. Questions about Genetic Genealogy can always be sent to the editor.

Project News

Hello, everyone! This is Nancy Kiser, the volunteer administrator of your Phillips DNA Project. I have decided to try to publish the newsletter every month, instead of every two months, since the newsletters seem to spark a lot of interest and there is a lot going on with the project right now. However, I need everyone's help to keep up that kind of pace. Please send me family stories about your line of Phillips to publish in the newsletter.

Do you have a photo or photos of your Phillips ancestors? Our project has set aside space under yLineages on our new website at www.phillipsdnaproject.com so you can share your old photos with all the project's members. If you would like to submit a scan of your photo or photos, please follow these easy steps for submission.

1. Each photo scan should be no larger than 500KB.
2. If sending more than 1 photo, make sure the total of the file sizes does not exceed 2MB; that is four photos if they are all 500KB.
3. Make sure you include information about each photo. Names, birth dates and marriage dates, parents names if you like, with their vital statistics.
4. Email them to "photos {the '@'sign} phillipsdnaproject.com"
5. Email subject must contain your name and the Family Group with which you are associated. If you are not part of a family group, then use your Haplogroup and where your ancestors resided. Please allow a few days for your photos to be posted.

Two members of the project have generously volunteered to be co-administrators of the Phillips DNA project with me. They are Tom Hutchison of Family Group 5 and Virginia (Jen) Phillips-Smith of Family Group 8. Tom is the young IT whiz kid who built and maintains our new Phillips DNA website and Jen has been helping me with the newsletter for a long time. I asked both of them to send me short biographies to share with you. Jen sent me the following:

My name is Virginia Phillips-Smith. I hyphenated my name so I could keep both my Phillips surname and assume the surname of my husband, Sydney. I have researched many lines of my family since about 1980. All my family lines originate in Virginia.

I worked for over forty years for a couple of companies around Charlottesville, Virginia. My first job was preparing type and copy for printing (typesetting, graphic design, print production). My last job before retirement was as the communications manager for a very large energy firm. My college education was in art, graphic design, advertising, as well as computers and accounting.

I love reading and especially enjoy reading about Virginia, American and Ancient History. In retirement, my husband and I have an antiques business, and we love researching our treasures.

Tom sent me this profile:

My name is Tom Hutchison and I started to become interested in genealogy in 1995/96, which was right about the time my Hutchison Grandfather finished his autobiography. I listened a lot and asked some questions, but I really did not dive into it until the summer of 1998. I have and still do actively research all my family lines, but for some reason that I cannot explain, the Phillips Family is the one that fascinates me the most. I did grow up in the southeast; it must be me trying to stay in touch with my southern roots.

I went to College for computers, but I am not in that industry. I currently own two businesses, one as a builder of custom furniture, cabinets and built-ins; the other in high-end in ground swimming pools. Don't ask, it is a very long story, but the two complement each other for some strange reason. As far as computers go, sometimes it seems like a third business since I am the "go to guy" in the family.

I reside in NJ with my wife, Jane and our two boys, Ben and Sam. Jane is a 6th grade Social Studies teacher, affectionately known as "Mrs. Hutch" by all her students. I like reading books about American History when I have time, and my current book is a biography on General August Valentine Kautz. (Full disclosure-yes, he is a distant cousin). The whole family likes going to Vermont on vacation, and we rent a house there for a week in the summer.

DNA Lessons

The yDNA chart posted on the yResults page at our new Phillips DNA project website is like a window inside of a window, so you may have to expand your computer screen to full size in order to view it properly. There are arrows located at the right side and the bottom of the DNA chart window that allow you to scroll up and down and back and forth to view the entire chart.

At the top of the chart, alleles (commonly called markers) are shown as a series of numbers in black and red. The black numbers are those markers that are believed to mutate at an average rate and the red numbers indicate those markers that are believed to mutate more rapidly. These particular alleles or markers are located on the Y-chromosome which is found only in men.

One question frequently asked is, in the absence of a paper trail, how do we determine which participants probably belong to the same family? The answer is, kinship is determined primarily by counting how many markers match. FTDNA publishes the following rules on their website: in order to be considered related within a genealogically relevant time frame, two men who share the same last name or some variation of it must not mismatch by more than 1 marker out of the first 12 markers, or 2 markers out of the first 25 markers, or 4 markers out of the first 37 markers, or 7 markers out of the first 67 markers.

When there is a mismatching marker, it is also important to consider the magnitude of the mismatch. If the mismatch is a two step mismatch (for example, one person has a value of 12 and the other person has a value of 14 for the same marker), this usually counts as 2 mismatches. However, some markers mutate more frequently than others, and some markers may be susceptible to mutating by more than one step in a single generation. In other words, occasionally a particular marker may mutate by two or more steps when it is passed from the father to the son. If this happens, it is only counted as one mismatch. There are also instances of markers that seem to mutate in step or in unison, so when they mutate it only counts as one mismatch. My dear husband (who is not interested in DNA or genealogy) tells me this is a confusing paragraph, so please ignore it if it confuses you. All I am trying to say here is the markers do not all carry the same weight or importance in determining kinship. Some mismatches are less important than other mismatches.

Another criterion to take into consideration in determining kinship is something called haplogroup. Haplogroup is defined by FTDNA as a genetic population group associated with early human migrations which can today be linked with a geographic region. It is roughly equivalent to nationality. If your markers match or come close to matching someone who does not belong to the same haplogroup as you, then you are not related within a genealogically significant time frame. Your haplogroup is shown on the DNA chart under the column titled Haplo. You can view FTDNA's yDNA Haplogroup Migration Map on our new website by clicking [here](#).

Questions and Answers

Questions: Does Ancestry.com own Genealogy.com? Isn't Ancestry.com somehow related to FTDNA? Is there any reason why the 33 marker test currently being offered for \$79 by Ancestry.com is not a good deal?

Answer: Yes, Ancestry.com owns Genealogy.com. Ancestry.com is not related to FTDNA - in fact, they are direct competitors in DNA testing. The 33 marker test for \$79 is a very good deal and I suspect FTDNA will have to lower their prices to compete. The only drawback to testing through Ancestry.com is their database is much smaller than FTDNA's database, so you are much less likely to find any matches in the Ancestry.com database.

Question: No doubt competition is good between all testing companies, but beyond the costs of the testing, I think standardization should be the most important criterion. Do you know what lab is doing the testing for Ancestry.com?

Answer: I agree that standardization is a problem but there is not much we common folk can do about it. The various labs decide for themselves which markers to test and how to calibrate and report the results. There are conversion tables posted on various websites on the internet, but they are confusing, to say the least. I believe Ancestry.com is using a lab called Sorenson Genomics in Utah to do the testing for them. This is the same lab that processes results for Relative Genetics and Sorenson Molecular Genealogical Foundation. I think it is a good, reliable laboratory.

Question: Are the yDNA tests offered by Ancestry.com compatible with the yDNA tests offered by FTDNA? Have you ever heard of anyone who has been tested by more than one company who obtained conflicting results?

Answer: Both companies test the same first 12 yDNA markers and most of the same 13 through 25 yDNA markers, but not very many of the same 26 through 37 markers. However, it is still possible to make pretty accurate comparisons between people tested by FTDNA and those tested by Ancestry.com. I personally have never heard of anyone who obtained conflicting results from different labs, although I would not doubt that it has happened.

Question: Does the new Phillips DNA website have a way of tracking results for men who have gotten tested by Ancestry.com?

Answer: It is difficult to "track" the results for Phillips men who have gotten tested through Ancestry.com, because Ancestry.com does not publish their results in an easily accessible public database. About all we can do is hope Phillips who have gotten tested by Ancestry.com will contact us and send us their results to add to the new website. Several have done that and their results have been added. They are identified with ANC in front of their ID number on the yLineages page and the yResults page. The fact that various Phillips men are getting tested by different companies is the primary reason we set up the new website. We are hoping to serve as a sort of clearinghouse for Phillips yDNA results.

Question: In my account at Ancestry.com, there is a place where I can add my yDNA results from FTDNA. It has the marker numbers with a drop-down list underneath. Do I put the Locus # or Alleles # from my FTDNA results there?

Answer: You choose the alleles values from the drop-down menu. For example, for DYS393, you would choose a value of 14 if that was the result you obtained from your FTDNA test. There are a few markers that FTDNA and Ancestry.com do not report the same, so you have to convert certain marker values when you go from FTDNA to Ancestry.com. Here are the rules:

- Y-GATA-H4/Y-GATA-H4.1 - add 11 to your FTDNA value
- Y-GATA-A10 - add 2 to your FTDNA value

- DYS-441 - add 1 to your FTDNA value
- DYS-442 - add 5 to your FTDNA value

Question: How can I search the database at Ancestry.com for DNA matches?

Answer: Go to www.ancestry.com. Click on DNA in the gray bar at the top of the page. On the next page, click on View DNA on the left-hand side of the screen. On the next page, click on Edit Results Here on the right-hand side of the screen. On the next page, fill in your yDNA values by hand from the drop-down menus and submit. Then click on Find Matches on the left-hand side of the screen. You will get a message that says it could take up to 24 hours to get your matches if you entered your results by hand, but usually it just takes 5 or 10 minutes. If you find any surprise Phillips matches, PLEASE INVITE THEM TO JOIN THE PHILLIPS DNA PROJECT.

Featured Family Story

Who was Moses Phillips? *By Tim L. Daugherty*

You will not find a Moses Phillips on the 1850 or the 1860 census for any of North Carolina. According to the military records for Moses Phillips, he entered the service of the Confederate States Army on July 26, 1861, from the Day Book community of Yancey County, North Carolina. The 1860 census for Day Book of Yancey County does not list a Moses Phillips. There are many Phillips in Yancey County and several in the Day Book community, but no Moses Phillips. In 1873 in Yancey County, a certain Matilda Roland (Rowland) petitioned the Probate Court, claiming to be sole legatee of Moses Phillips. She is stated to be the sister of Moses. This same document and other documents relating to her claim, name Zilpah, Lace (Lazarus) and (Nathan) Penland Phillips as the next of kin for Moses Phillips. There is no mention of a wife and children for Moses Phillips in these documents.

Using circumstantial evidence from these probate records and census records, we discover that Moses Phillips prior to his enlistment into the CSA Army was Moses Kersawn (Cersawn). I will attempt to show using the records and deduction that Moses Phillips was known as (aka) Moses Kersawn (Cersawn).

I will try to keep the explanations simple and will only make assumptions when there is no evidence (real or circumstantial) to make a claim based on documentation.

First, The Census Record. As mentioned previously, there is no Moses Phillips listed on the 1850 and 1860 census in Yancey County, NC. However, there is a Moses Cersawn on the 1850 census and a Moses Kersawn on the 1860 census.

The 1850 census lists the following:

Dwelling 175 Family Number 183

(1850 census continued...)

Henry Rowland, Jr., age 36, farmer, born in NC.

Elizabeth Rowland, age 33, born in NC.

Moses Cersawn, age 17, laborer, born in NC. He attended school within the year.

A near neighbor is Charles Byrd in Dwelling 173 and Family Number 181. This is important to remember.

The 1860 census lists the following:

Day Book Post Office of Yancey County

Henry Rowland, age 46, farmer, born in NC.

Elizabeth Rowland, age 40, born in NC.

Moses Kersawn, age 27, farmer, born in NC. (I believe he was married in 1854 as Moses Phillips and divorced before this census was taken in 1860).

Note: I believe that Cersawn and Kersawn is a corruption of the name Carson, Cossin or Crisson/Cresson.

In the estate papers filed by Moses' sister Matilda Phillips Roland (Rowland) in an attempt to claim his estate, no mention is made of a wife and children for Moses. However, the following names are given as being next of kin to Moses Phillips: *Zelpha Phillips*, *Lace Phillips* and *Penland Phillips*. These people appear in the census records as follows:

The 1850 census lists the following:

William Phillips, age 50, farmer, born in NC.

Zelpha Phillips, age 40, born in NC.

Matilda C. Phillips, age 13, born in NC.

Lazarus Phillips, age 7, born in NC. (This is probably Lace, which is most likely a nickname used for Lazarus).

The 1860 census lists the following:

Ramsey Post Office of Yancey County

Zilpha Phillips, age 52, born in NC.

Lace P. Phillips, age 16, born in NC. (This is probably Lazarus).

Nathan P. Phillips, age 9, born in NC. (This is probably Penland Phillips).

Note: William Phillips is deceased by the time of this census.

Summary

According to the census records, there was no Moses Phillips in Yancey County for the years 1850 and 1860. There is a Moses Kersawn/Cersawn living with Henry Rowland in 1850 and 1860. William and Zelpha/Zilpha Phillips had the following children, Lazarus P. (Lace), Nathan P. (Penland) and Matilda (married Silas Rowland). Matilda is the one who filed the probate papers to claim the estate of Moses Phillips.

Second, Moses Phillips Estate Papers. The name is actually confusing. Matilda Phillips Rowland filed a petition with the Yancey County Probate Court in an effort to claim the estate of Moses Phillips. I will give a transcription of each page highlighting the pertinent information in each one.

Petition of Matilda Roland, wife of Silas Roland. Mrs. Rowland petitions the probate court of Yancey County, making claim that her deceased brother, Moses Phillips, made a will, but that the will was “never proven or recorded as required by law” and that Moses died without issue (children). She further states that she has been “informed” that she was bequeathed all of Moses Phillips personal property and \$500 dollars. She further states that the will was “lost, destroyed or misplaced.” She goes on to request that the court set a date for the next of kin to Moses Phillips, Zilpha Phillips, Lace Phillips and Penland Phillips to appear (October 21,1873) and make just cause why she should not be allowed administration of said will.

Sworn testimony of Mr. C. R. Byrd dated May 20, 1873. Mr. Byrd testifies that he was shown a “paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Moses Philips.” The paper was in his father’s handwriting and was shown to him so that he could testify or prove his handwriting. The will supposedly gave all of Moses Phillips’ personal property to his sister Matilda Roland, the wife of Silas Roland.

Sworn testimony of Mr. H. Dellinger dated May 20, 1873. Mr. Dellinger testifies that during the war (Civil War) that he saw in “Burnsville in the hands of Henry Rowland, Sr. a certain paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Moses Phillips.” He further states that the will was read aloud, but he could not remember who read it. In addition, he remembers that the will left all of the personal estate and \$500 to Mrs. Matilda Rowland, the sister of Moses Phillips.

Declaration of Probate Court. The next of kin, Zilpha Phillips, Lace Phillips and Penland Phillips failed to appear in court as summoned. Therefore, the Probate Court of Yancey County granted letters of Administration to Mrs. Matilda Rowland allowing her to take possession of the personal property of Moses Phillips.

Marriage Records of Yancey County, North Carolina.

Moses Phillips married to Adaline Lackey on March 2, 1854 by R. Patterson.

Silas Rowland married to Matilda Casawn on January 3, 1856 by B. B. Whittington.

Note: According to her own sworn testimony, Matilda Casawn Rowland was the sister to Moses Phillips (aka Moses Kersawn/Cersawn).

Summary

Moses Phillips made a last will and testament. It was written by a Mr. Byrd and witnessed by Mr. Byrd's son, C. R. Byrd, and Mr. H. Dellinger. Mr. Dellinger recalled hearing the will read at Burnsville, which is the county seat of Yancey County. The will supposedly bequeathed all personal property and \$500 to Matilda Rowland, wife of Silas Rowland, sister of Moses Phillips. Matilda married to Silas Rowland in 1856. According to Mrs. Rowland, the will was not proven or recorded and was subsequently lost, destroyed or misplaced. Mrs. Rowland petitioned the Probate Court for administration of the estate of Moses Phillips and the Probate Court concurred and issued her the appropriate letters for her to make good on her claim. Next of kin to Moses Phillips was stated to be Zilpha Phillips who was probably his mother, Lace Phillips and Penland Phillips who were probably his brothers. No mention is made of a wife or children of Moses Phillips.

Conclusion

According to the public records of Yancey County and census records for the period, 1850 through 1870, there is only one Moses in Yancey County who could qualify to be our Moses Phillips. The only Moses on the 1850 census for Yancey County who would be the right age for Moses Phillips is Moses Cersawn age 17. He was living in the household of Henry Rowland. On March 2, 1854, Moses Phillips married Lucinda Adaline Lackey. Winnie Elizabeth Phillips was born January 1, 1853. On January 3, 1856, Matilda Casawn married Silas Rowland. On the 1850 census for Yancey County there is no Matilda Casawn, however there is a Matilda C. Phillips age 13 living in the family of William and Zilpha Phillips. Matilda appears on the 1860 census for Yancey County in Burnsville as Catherine M. with her husband Silas and children, William H. and Sarah A. Rowland. Moses shows up on the 1860 census as Moses Kersawn age 27 in the household of Henry Rowland. Between 1854 and 1860, Moses and Adaline are no longer living together as husband and wife. Adaline is living with someone else on the 1860 census and is not using the name Phillips. On July 26, 1861, Moses Phillips (Kersawn) enters the CSA Army from the Day Book community of Yancey County. In 1863, Moses is discharged because of disability at Shelbyville, TN and dies that same year in Yancey County, NC. There is some doubt if Moses Phillips fathered any of Adaline's children. This includes Winnie E. Phillips. However, information provided to Brown funeral home at the time of her death lists Winnie's parents as Moses Phillips and Adaline Lackey. Winnie was born on January 1, 1853, a year before Moses Phillips and Adeline Lackey were married. Perhaps Winnie E. Phillips was born out of wedlock to Moses and Adaline. Adaline did not file or make any claim to a widow's pension as provided by the North Carolina State Legislature in 1885 and renewed in 1901. To qualify for the pensions, she would have to have been married to Moses Phillips at the time of his service and would have had no other means of support. The 1885 act also made available pensions to surviving minor children of veterans living at home with their mothers or other guardians. The absence of a claim by Lucinda implies that she was not eligible for the pensions because she did not meet the

requirements. This tends to indicate that Lucinda and Moses Phillips were divorced by July 26, 1861 and probably before the census of 1860.

We now know that Moses Phillips and Moses Kersawn was the same person and that he had a sister named Matilda Catherine Phillips who was also Matilda Casawn who married Silas Rowland. Why did Moses and Matilda use Casawn/Kersawn/Cersawn at times and Phillips at times? Were they children of Zilpha's before her marriage to William Phillips? Whom was Adeline Lackey Phillips living with at the time of the 1860 census? More questions than answers!