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Phillips DNA News

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Editor: [Nancy Kiser](#)

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

Project News

Happy Easter everyone!

This is Tom Hutchison and I am filling in for Nancy Kiser this month writing the intro. Actually, I filled in last month too. Why you ask? Nancy had shoulder surgery the beginning of February and is working hard in therapy to regain pain free, two-handed typing. Get better soon, Nancy, we all need you!

The last 6 weeks have been busy with results from the December Sale at Family Tree DNA being reported. We have added new members to several family groups. Group emails to the matches have already been made. If anyone is interested, you can always see the DNA tests pending results at our website, www.phillipsdnaproject.com. A post is made once a week to the blog sidebar with the title, *DNA Tests in Progress at FTDNA*.

A few weeks ago, one of the members asked a question about the Earliest Known Ancestors of our family groups.

I'm wondering if there is some easy way to set up a statistical grid from the EKA's submitted and listed in the Y-DNA database. What I have in mind is a breakdown by years and geography. Columns in a format of pre-1600; 1600-1650; 1651-1700; 1701-1750; 1751-1800; 1800-1850; 1850-1900. Then rows by either U. S. State, Canadian Province; European nation. I think it would be interesting to see where our project members who have shared their ancestry with us are finding their brick walls.

As a coincidence, there was another member who asked if an alternative view of Y-DNA results was possible. This view would allow any researcher to see an inconsistency in their family tree or perhaps an incorrect association with another family group. Paraphrasing him, he was asking for an "Ancestral Dictionary" of Phillips lines in family groups and singletons.

An "Ancestral Dictionary" for Phillips families! It is even a bigger coincidence these ideas are very similar to something I have been working on in my 'limited' spare time! What I had in mind and have been doing is something similar to the We Relate Wiki, but focused on just Phillips families. Using semantic searches, someone would be able to search for individual Phillips with multiple parameters. For example, all John Phillips, born in Virginia, before 1800, after 1760, in Richmond County could be listed. Then someone could list if the paternal line is

a DNA tested line, branches untested, oldest paternal ancestor of a matched family group. The possibilities for displaying or grouping are endless!

If you have any suggestions or comments about this idea, please let us know. You can send us a message through the Contact feature on our website at www.phillipsdnaproject.com. Just click on the Contact tab in the blue bar at the top of the page.

My Fourth Success Story

By Roger Phillips, Group 1

This is my fourth success story regarding the use of Y-DNA to identify distant Phillips relations of mine, many of whom were only related to me via a Phillips who was born in England in 1720. In these cases I used Y-DNA to confirm a somewhat sketchy paper trail linking me to Phillips's as distant as sixth cousins and details were previously reported on this website. I can now report a significant breakthrough in that Y-DNA has confirmed to my satisfaction that a brother of my fourth great grandfather Phillips had an illegitimate son who was given the surname Parker and whose current day descendants had no inkling that they were Phillips by bloodline.

Here is the tale of my detective work. I had determined that my fifth great grandfather Thomas Phillips (1720-63), a pub owner and gin still operator in greater London, had four children who reached maturity and had children to carry on the line. Over time I have pretty well identified all of their descendants with the exception of a few who were hidden behind "brick walls" so I decided a further scrub of the documents I had accumulated about each of the four lines was in order.

William Phillips (1752-1828), the older brother of my fourth great grandfather had always intrigued me. Orphaned at the age of 11 one newspaper report of his death many years later suggested that at about age 16 he had been tried and acquitted of the then capital offence of highway robbery, but I could find no other reference to the trial. I was able to determine that he had been a wine merchant, a gaming house operator (we now call them casinos), and had perfected what we would now call a "numbers game" operation which he ran in London till it was made illegal. He invested his earnings in property, chiefly in London, and seemed to have become a successful land speculator.

William kept a low profile during his lifetime and his death was reported in a single sentence in the Times of London. But behind the scenes he seems to have had a certain amount of influence. He was on friendly terms with Colonel John McMahon, Private Secretary to the Prince Regent in England from 1811 to 1817, and letters to William exist in which the writer requests William to intervene with McMahon for various favors. Two of William's grandchildren, born after 1811, were given McMahon as a middle name. William's oldest daughter married a seemingly poor person named Francis Wilder (Francis's father died in debtors' prison) who rose from Ensign in the army at age 19 to Lieutenant Colonel five years later - there is strong suspicion that a combination of William's influence and wealth were

major factors involved in the purchase of Francis's military commissions (Francis eventually became a Lieutenant General). William had an acknowledged son born out of wedlock named John William Phillips Marshall who rose to Rear Admiral and was knighted at age 46 but there is little evidence to suggest his father's influence was an influence in his career.

William lived in an era where divorces were basically non-existent and effective contraceptive methods did not exist. Scouring the internet one day someone discovered that I had a family tree that suggested to them that my William Phillips was the ancestor of theirs through a daughter Ellen born about 1773. Descendants of that Ellen shared similar (incorrect) family lore with William's Phillips descendants that I had located and Ellen (who turned out to be an Ellen Davis) popped up as a witness at many Phillips family weddings of that era and received a bequest in the will of one of William's legitimate sons. Descendants of Ellen also had Phillips family heirlooms in their possession. None of this is iron clad proof that Ellen was William's illegitimate daughter but the evidence is strongly circumstantial.

About two years later William's first child by his first wife was born (we have not been able to locate the marriage record of William to her mother nor her birth date, the latter being calculated from her declared age on her death certificate). William's wife died in 1784 after bearing two daughters and a son; in 1885 his acknowledged natural son John William Phillips Marshall was born, mother unknown (unfortunately JWPM's male line died out so we cannot check the Y-DNA). In 1897 William married his son-in-law's widowed mother but she died about 6 months later. Then in 1815 at age 63 William married a 25 year old who bore him two children.

Clearly William was not lacking in sex drive. But upon examining wills and the names of witnesses at various family weddings the suspicion arose that a certain George William Henry Parker, whose baptismal record showed him to have parents "Wm. & Martha Parker" and who had been born in January 1783 was also an illegitimate son. Apart from financial benefits that are thought to have come the way of GWHP's children it was noted that William and one of William's legitimate sons were executors of GWHP's will (he predeceased William) and that *all* of GWHP's children were given the middle name Phillips. Fortunately, I was able to locate a male Parker descended from George William Henry Parker - he agreed to have his Y-DNA analyzed and wonder of wonders, he matched 37 out of 37 markers with a known Phillips descendant of William.

Who? What? Where? When?

By Bob Phillips, Group 11

A few years ago, after my wife and I were both retired, we bought a home in Arizona and planned on moving permanently, to live in Arizona year round. It took a few months between the decision and the actual move. In the meantime, a friend back in Ohio heard through the proverbial grapevine that we were moving. He immediately thought, "They have already moved!" He panicked, got on the phone, and immediately began to call every "Bob Phillips"

he could locate in the Phoenix, Arizona, area. Needless to say, he did not find us and became very frustrated. Finally, he discussed the experience with another mutual friend and was much relieved to learn that we had not yet moved and he was able to get in a visit with us before we actually moved.

What I am getting at here is the fact that “Phillips” is a very common surname, and you will likely find at least a dozen “Bob Phillips” in your local phonebook, if not more. There is another Phillips in the church we now attend, who asked, “You don’t happen to have any relatives from West Virginia, do you?” I told him, “No, I’m Canadian. ” There is even a popular Christian humor writer by the name of “Bob Phillips. ” But I assure you, none of them are me! In fact, I am not even listed in our local phonebook here, two years after the move. I like to joke that I have become invisible.

The Phillips surname is the 45th most common surname in the U. S. , the 47th most common in Canada, and the 43rd most common in the U. K. The chances are that if your surname is “Phillips”, you have been mistaken for someone you are not; perhaps by a bill collector, on a credit report, in a lien, or just a phone call from someone looking for someone else by your name. And if you are dealing with a loan application or any legal papers, you will end up signing a whole lot of affidavits stating the fact that you are not the Phillips with whom you share a very common name.

Something very similar happens in genealogy when utilizing the popular genealogy websites such as RootsWeb, Ancestry, FamilySearch, and others internet sources; if just because the name is the same, the place looks right, the date appears possible and it is tacked onto the family tree. These resources are very good and good for clues, but they are not conclusive. Much of what is found on the internet has been transcribed and submitted, perhaps copied multiple times by multiple people. It is still necessary to go to the source to check for errors, and to search for other documentation which will assist in evaluating the evidence. Also, we need to be aware that only a very small percentage of the available records can be accessed online.

When you do run across information that appears to be plausible, make a full notation of it, along with the source. It may contain clues about where to research further, in other records, local histories, or other resources. They may be regarded as “suspects” worthy of further investigation. Also, note names of any siblings or other relatives mentioned. Those too might lead to further research or sharing with others researching the same name.

Unless we are looking at the original source, assume that errors might have been made in transcription. When looking at birth certificates, marriage registers, death records or other sources such as census reports, bear in mind that the person making out the record, even an original record, can make a mistake, and even their source for that information might not know the facts. On my grandfather’s death certificate, there was a notation that his “nationality” was “Irish. ” Yet, he was born in Canada; his father was born in Canada, and his grandfather was reportedly born in the U. S. The earliest documentation yet to be found was my g-g-grandfather’s discharge from the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles, at Adolphustown,

Ontario, in 1815 which stated he was born “in or near Claverack, in the Parish of Albany, Province of New York. ” His obituary states that he was born in Dutchess County, New York. Neither of these “leads” has proven helpful to date. Perhaps he lied to the military, or it was a made up entry by the person making the entry. Generally, the earliest evidence is the most likely to be correct.

For a long time, I suspected that my Phillips line might be related to one of the United Empire Loyalists, a Phillips who fought on the side of the British during the American Revolution. The Loyalists became refugees following the conclusion of that conflict, many if not most settling in Canada. After submitting a Y-DNA test kit, and learning the results, I learned conclusively that I was not related to one of those families who also had submitted a Y-DNA test. Yet, if we take into account the Y-DNA evidence, it appears probable that the common ancestor of those of us in Group 11 may have been in North America since the mid to late 1600's; and if I understand the haplogroup for Group 11 correctly, we are likely of Anglo-Saxon origin, according to some DNA experts.

Finally, sooner or later we will all run into the proverbial brick wall due to many possible causes. The most common cause is the simple fact that there are no records. You can keep trying to find what might be found, or you can move along to another lineage that proves easier. If you have not already done so, you can get a Y-DNA test done. You might find that you match others in our Phillips DNA Project, with whom you can collaborate and share. Celebrate the small victories, and the journey into a deeper understanding of where you come from and who you are. Share your passion and joy with others. After all, it has been fun!

Guest Column

The End Of Windows?

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyrighted by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

Writing in the *Windows Secrets Newsletter* at <http://goo.gl/gRNeI>, well-known PC expert Woody Leonhard describes the new "consumer preview" version of Windows 8. Woody is a dyed-in-the-wool Microsoft fan, so I was surprised when he wrote, "If you download and install Windows 8 Consumer Preview, released late last week, I can almost guarantee that you won't like it. " He goes on to say that Microsoft is slowly abandoning the individual Windows users and is focusing on corporate sales. As he writes, "Microsoft is not building Windows 8 for the garden-variety Windows expert. You and I aren't being ignored, exactly, but we're not at the top of the Win8 food chain. As perplexing as it might sound, aiming Windows 8 at a different

demographic is probably a good decision. But it still might lead to Windows' demise. "

I haven't seen the Windows 8 preview version yet. However, I have Windows 7 and Macintosh OS X systems sitting on my desk, side-by-side, installed on two different laptop computers of similar specifications. From what I have seen, I think Woody is correct. Microsoft appears to be focusing less and less on the individual, in-home user and more and more on their corporate customers.

Apple has long ignored corporate sales and has focused on individuals. To be sure, a few Macs are installed in corporate offices, but I bet most of them were brought in by employees who are Mac die-hards, not sold by Apple salespeople. The Windows world is the opposite: Microsoft salespeople work hard to sell Windows systems to large corporations and are generally successful.

Windows outsells Macintosh by ten to one, according to most reports. I don't have access to detailed numbers, but I'd bet that corporate sales by Microsoft salespeople outnumber Apple's sales team's sales by ninety-nine to one. However, in-home sales of units purchased in local computer stores probably lean more in Apple's favor. Windows still outsells Macintosh, even in in-home sales, but obviously not by a ten-to-one ratio.

So, will Macintosh eventually take over the computer world? I don't think so. In fact, I will suggest that the total sales of both Windows AND Macintosh desktop and laptop systems will decline. In fact, desktop sales have already been declining for years. Laptop systems have sustained some growth, but according to most published reports, even that is now slowing.

In fact, the future of computing appears to be in handheld devices: smartphones, iPhones, Android phones, tablets, Blackberry devices, and similar tiny mobile computers. I am fascinated by the fact that more iPads were sold in the fourth quarter of 2011 than desktop computers. And that doesn't even count the Android tablets.

The iPads have been dominating the market, and the new iPad announced this week will only continue that trend. Everywhere I go, I see iPads outfitted with external keyboards; most of them are connected via Bluetooth. One popular external keyboard made by Apple, however, is hard-wired. I know several people (who are NOT genealogists) who no longer use desktop or laptop computers. Instead, they use only an iPad with an added external keyboard or perhaps an iPad supplemented with an iPhone.

With this week's announcement of an iPad with a better display screen than most laptops, a faster processor than most laptops, a faster 4G LTE wireless network system than most laptops, and less weight and bulk than most laptops, who needs a laptop? In fact, who needs a desktop system? After all, the newly-announced iPad is more powerful than the desktop computers of only five or six years ago. Today's tablets have either less or more storage capacity, depending upon your viewpoint. Today's tablets certainly have less internal hard disk space than that found in desktop computers for a decade or more. Yet, the tablets also have access to cloud storage. In effect, every laptop computer that is connected to the cloud has terabytes or even

petabytes of storage space available, should you care to use it. Of course, the same is true for laptop and desktop computers as well.

The iPad's 4G LTE wireless system means that it can be connected online almost anywhere you are within cell phone range. After all, 4G LTE base stations are installed on cell towers. You are not limited to the short range of wi-fi networks. Some of the Android tablets also have 4G LTE wireless capabilities. Indeed, anyone now can be connected "online, all the time. "

Want to check email? You can now do so anywhere, anytime. Want to look up an ancestor in Ancestry. com's database? You can now do so anywhere, anytime. Want to schedule a meeting with your boss? Make an airline reservation or a dinner reservation? Add a new record to your personal genealogy database? Yes, the answer remains the same: "anywhere, anytime. " You can do so with a two-and-a-half-pound iPad or Android tablet or, if you can tolerate a smaller screen, from any smartphone.

I expect that many genealogists will use large-screen tablet computers for data entry but will frequently check databases and email with smaller, handheld cell phones.

Who needs that behemoth computer on your desk?

I have been living a mobile lifestyle since I moved into my motor home right after New Year's Day. For more than two months I haven't connected once to the Internet via any form of hard-wired connections. I haven't used DSL or cable modems or even fiber optic connections. When available, I have used wi-fi. When wi-fi isn't available or is too expensive, I have used a 4G/3G "air card" that connects to a nearby cell tower. I even used the air card while in a hotel room in London for five nights as that was considerably cheaper than paying the hotel's daily fee for wi-fi connectivity. I even make most of my telephone calls over a 4G wi-fi connection, using either Skype or the new magicJack Pro.

Wireless connectivity has worked well **MOST** of the time. I can usually make a 3G connection, even in rural areas. Most of the higher-speed 4G connections only occur in metropolitan areas.

The one glaring exception was on the beach in St. Augustine, Florida, where the cell phone companies seem to have a dead spot and the only available wi-fi network had extremely short range. Of course, problems like this will slowly disappear as more and more wireless handheld devices are sold and the cell phone companies' customers demand better and better coverage. The 4G and 3G "dead spots" will eventually get covered. New technologies on the horizon promise still faster wireless connections over many miles. However, those promises won't be fulfilled for several more years. Until then, we are limited to 4G, 3G, and wi-fi.

For more than two months, I haven't touched a desktop computer or looked at a large screen. I admit I miss the 27-inch screen on my desk back home, but the limitations have only been psychological. In fact, I have managed to use the smaller screen of the laptop to accomplish everything I needed to do.

I have been using two laptops plus an iPad and an iPhone. In fact, most of what I have done could have been accomplished with an iPad or most any Android tablet that is connected to an external keyboard in some manner. Most of the time, I didn't really need a laptop computer. Almost all my applications are cloud-based, including writing articles for this newsletter. The amount of local hard drive space I have used has been trivial as I store most everything in the cloud where it is safer and more reliable.

Even my backups have been made to a cloud-based backup service located in a data center several thousand miles away, supplemented by short-term backups to flash drives that I typically carry in my pocket. Of course, I don't trust flash drives for long-term storage. In fact, I don't trust any hard drives either. I feel safe only when I have made multiple backups and have stored each of them in multiple locations.

Is the mobile lifestyle with mobile devices for everyone? Definitely not. It remains as an available option for those who prefer it. I suspect that Microsoft and Apple will continue to sell some number of desktop installations for many more years although the numbers may decline a bit every year. Laptop installations will hold steady for a while and then decline within a few years. The high growth in the next five years or so will be in handheld computers.

Who cares about storage space? Our handheld devices effectively can store terabytes and terabytes of data by using disk arrays in the cloud. We don't need to buy these huge arrays; it is now cheaper to rent space on someone else's disk array than it is to purchase your own disk drives. My little cell phone can access more information than what could be printed in ten million encyclopedias! And it can retrieve that information at high speeds, as well.

A tablet computer, supplemented by a Bluetooth keyboard, may suffice for all your needs. After all, it is a more powerful computer than the desktop computer sold only five or six years ago.

Obviously, not everything is perfect just yet. Our wireless networks still have some dead spots, as I discovered in St. Augustine. Tiny screens and tiny keyboards may no longer be an issue on tablet computers but still are difficult to see and use on a cell phone. We have not yet arrived at hardware Nirvana, and I suspect we never will. Nonetheless, the advantages of small, portable devices often outweigh even these disadvantages.

What operating system will your next "computer" use? Windows? Linux? Mac OS X? iOS? or Android?