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# Phillips DNA News

[www.phillipsdnaproject.com](http://www.phillipsdnaproject.com)

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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

Last month an article written by several scientists was published on a website called Sense About Science (<http://www.senseaboutscience.org/data/files/resources/119/Sense-About-Genetic-Ancestry-Testing.pdf>). The article discussed using autosomal DNA to determine your ethnicity or deep ancestry and it was rather disparaging. Here are some quotes from the introduction to the article:

*The results of these tests may find a connection with a well-known historical figure. They might tell you whether you are descended from groups such as Vikings or Zulus, where your ancient relatives came from or when they migrated.*

*Adverts for these tests give the impression that your results are unique and that the tests will tell you about your specific personal history. But the very same history that you receive could equally be given to thousands of other people. Conversely, the results from your DNA tests could be matched with all sorts of different stories to the one you are given.*

*It is well known that horoscopes use vague statements which recipients think are more tailored than they really are (referred to as the 'Forer effect'). Genetic ancestry tests do a similar thing, and many exaggerate far beyond the available evidence about human origins. You cannot look at DNA and read it like a book or a map of a journey. For the most part these tests cannot tell you the things they claim to - they are little more than genetic astrology.*

The article explained in an insert box that there are credible ways to use genetic data from mtDNA and Y chromosome tests in individual genealogical testing, as we are doing in the Phillips DNA Project. Here is text from the insert:

*There are some things genetic ancestry tests can tell you quite accurately. There are credible ways to use the genetic data from mtDNA or Y chromosomes in individual ancestry testing, such as to supplement independent, historical studies of genealogy. If, for example, two men have identified - through historical research, possibly involving surnames - a common male line ancestor in the sixteenth century, it would be reasonable to use their Y chromosome data to test this. There are some ancestry testing companies that offer this service.*

Unfortunately, however, the media picked up on the catchy phrase “genetic astrology” and ran with it, painting all genetic DNA testing with the same brush. I was immediately contacted by a British man who had just ordered a Y-DNA test kit and he was very concerned. I explained to him that there is a big difference between testing STRs on the Y chromosome for relatedness within a genealogical time frame and testing autosomal DNA for deep ancestry or ethnicity. In our Phillips DNA Project, we are trying to discover which men with the surname Phillips are related within a genealogical time frame, which basically means within the last one thousand years. We are using Short Tandem Repeat (STR) markers found on the Y chromosome to do this.

Although the authors of the article “Sense About Genetic Ancestry Testing” are correct when they say DNA testing alone usually cannot prove beyond a doubt that you descend from a specific historical person, Y-DNA testing can tell you if you have African-looking Y-DNA or Native American-looking Y-DNA or Scandinavian-looking Y-DNA. That, of course, does not prove that you descend from the Zulu King Shaka, or Apache Chief Cochise, or Lief Erikson, the Viking explorer. You would have to locate those individuals, dig them up and test their DNA in order to say without a doubt whether or not you descend from them. This is, of course, exactly what scientists have recently done with the body of King Richard III.

Deep ancestry or ethnicity is related to haplogroups. Haplogroups are roughly equivalent to nationalities or clans and can indicate the general area where your ancient Phillips ancestors lived. A haplogroup is defined by a mutation called a Single Nucleotide Polymorphism or SNP for short. Your particular haplogroup is determined by a SNP (pronounced “snip”) that occurred thousands of years ago in a single individual. SNP markers mutate much less frequently than STR markers which is why they are used to determine your haplogroup. All members of a haplogroup descend from a very distant common ancestor.

To date, scientists have discovered twenty main haplogroups with regard to the male Y chromosome. These haplogroups are identified by the following letters: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S and T. These main haplogroups are further subdivided into one or more levels called sub-haplogroups or sub-clades, which are labeled by alternating numbers and letters. For example, Haplogroup J is further broken down into J1, J2 and J\*. An asterisk is used to denote those who do not fit into a defined branch. There are many sub-haplogroups, and undoubtedly not all of them have been discovered yet. After all, DNA analysis is still in its infancy.

Haplogroup R is the most common male haplogroup in Europe and it is divided into sub-haplogroups R1 and R2. Haplogroup R1 is further divided into sub-haplogroups R1a and R1b. Haplogroup R1a likely originated in the Eurasian Steppes, and is primarily found in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and South Asia. It is associated with Slavic populations in Europe. R1a is not very commonly found in the British Isles and less than 2% of the members of our Phillips DNA project belong to Haplogroup R1a. This is similar to the estimated percentage of all men in the British Isles who belong to Haplogroup R1a.

Some scientists believe Haplogroup R1b originated prior to or during the last Great Ice Age 10,000 years ago, when it became concentrated in refuge areas in southern Europe. Haplogroup R1b is the most common haplogroup of Western Europe and the British Isles and it contains the most sub-haplogroups. About 70% of the members of our Phillips project belong to Haplogroup R1b. Because so many men of Western European ancestry share this haplogroup, if you belong to Haplogroup R1b, you cannot rely on only the 12 Single Tandem Repeat (STR) marker test to prove kinship with another man of the same surname. You will likely have many random or false positive matches at the 12 STR marker level.

The term random or false positive match is something of a misnomer; what it really means is that a match at the 12 marker level may be only a very ancient match. If you belong to the Western Atlantic Modal Haplotype (WAMH), the most common haplotype of R1b, it is actually possible to match another man named Phillips on all 12 of the first 12 markers and still turn out to not be related within 1,000 years. We have seen this happen several times in our DNA project. So it is necessary for you to upgrade your DNA test to at least 25 markers, if not 37 or 67 or even 111 markers, in order to confirm for certain that you belong to a particular family group.

In addition, you may want to consider ordering specific tests of certain SNPs, which are different from STR markers. For the past several years, genetic scientists have been concentrating on discovering SNPs in men who belong to Haplogroup R1b in the hope of identifying more subclades that may help pinpoint more exactly where in Europe their ancient ancestors lived.

The next largest haplogroup among Phillips men who have been DNA tested is Haplogroup I, generally considered to be a Scandinavian and/or Central European haplogroup. Approximately 20% of the members of our Phillips DNA Project belong to Haplogroup I. It is possible that the presence of Haplogroup I in the British Isles may be the result of invasions of England by Vikings and Anglo-Saxons during early times.

Approximately 2% of Phillips men in our project belong to Haplogroup E1b1b1, which is considered to be Mediterranean in origin. The presence of this haplogroup in the British Isles might reflect the early Roman occupation of England. Haplogroup J, which is a Mediterranean-Middle Eastern haplogroup frequently associated with Jews, comprises about 1.5% of the members of our Phillips DNA Project.

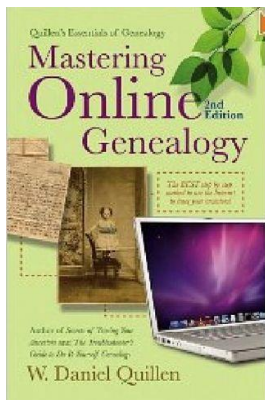
In addition, we have six members who belong to Haplogroup G which is generally found around the Mediterranean in small numbers, three members who belong to sub-Saharan African Haplogroup A, two members who belong to the Native American Haplogroup Q and one who belongs to enigmatic Haplogroup T, believed by some to have originated in ancient Phoenicia.

## **Book Report**

*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>.*

### **Mastering Online Genealogy.**

by W. Daniel Quillen. Published by Cold Spring Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY. 2011. 143 pages.



This is one in a series of Mr. Quillen's Essentials of Genealogy books.

Mastering is a general guide to getting started in computerized genealogy. Mr. Quillen begins by describing computers in general and moves on to using search engines, finding online vital records, looking into the familiar online genealogy services, and comparing the free versus the subscription online genealogy websites.

The latter half of the book has a chapter on government records, explaining how to find the federal census, state census records, immigration, and related records.

Mr. Quillen's current publications include Mastering Family, Library and Church Records; Tracing Your European Roots; and the Troubleshooter's Guide to Do-It-Yourself Genealogy. His publications in progress include: Mastering Census & Military Records, Second Edition; Tracing Your Irish & British Roots, Second Edition; and a sixth edition of Secrets of Tracing Your Ancestors.

Mastering Online Genealogy is available from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and other book stores.

## Featured Phillips Family Story

### **Biography of Jeremiah Phillips, 1745 - 1805**

From "Pioneers & Patriots of Anderson County, Kentucky, Revolutionary War thru WW1"

By Luther Davenport of Anderson County, Kentucky

Jeremiah Phillips was born about 1745, in either England or the Colony of Virginia, settling in Amherst County where he married Mourning Mitchell about 1770. Together they were parents of George Mitchell, William, Mary and Cathrine. In 1774, in response to Indian raids along the frontier, Virginia's Colonial Governor, Lord Dunmore, authorized the militia to be raised to march against the Ohio Valley tribes. Jeremiah was quick to answer this call, and volunteered as a private to serve in Capt. Daniel Morgan's company. Dunmore's War climaxed with the fateful Battle of Point Pleasant which was fought Oct. 10, 1774 near the confluence of the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers. As part of the Northern Division of the army, Morgan's company was miles away from the battlefield and not among those listed as active combatants of this battle. However, Capt. Morgan was listed in attendance for the signing of the Treaty of Camp Charlotte, and we can assume that Jeremiah was there by association.

Although the colonists and government worked together to subdue the Indian crisis, tensions back home were very near a boiling point, and less than six months after returning home from this campaign, on April 19, 1775, American minutemen stood face to face with the British Army at Lexington Green. The skirmishes at Lexington and Concord were the start of the Revolutionary War, and shortly afterwards, the newly formed Continental Congress authorized the creation of a Continental Army. The middle colonies were requested to raise ten rifle companies to help fill the ranks of this army, and march north in support of the American siege of Boston. Again Virginia called upon Daniel Morgan to raise and command one of these companies, and in less than ten days he had enlisted ninety six recruits, one of which was Jeremiah Phillips.

Having assembled his company at Winchester, Virginia, by July 14, 1775, Morgan's Riflemen marched the 600 miles in only twenty one days, arriving at Boston on August 6, 1775, where Captain Morgan placed his men under the direct command of General Washington. Later that year, Congress authorized an invasion of Canada to be led by General Richard Montgomery. Colonel Benedict Arnold convinced Washington to send a force in support of Montgomery's offensive. Washington agreed to send three companies from his forces surrounding Boston. Morgan's company of riflemen with pvt. Phillips among them was selected to take part in this campaign. Colonel Arnold placed Captain Morgan in command of all three companies, and the men boarded ships that took them to Fort Western on the Kennebec River in southern Maine where they were joined with other units raised from the colonies of Connecticut and Massachusetts totaling about one thousand men.

On September 25, 1775, the army set out in canoes with the Virginians in the advance. After following the river as far as possible, the army then marched overland through the heavily forested mountains of Maine, arriving near the City of Quebec on November 9th. The trek, however, was not an easy task and effectively reduced the army's size by 400 men due to sickness and exposure. The attack of Quebec was a complete disaster for the Americans; Gen. Montgomery was killed and his assault faltered while elsewhere, Colonel Arnold was wounded. Capt. Morgan assumed command from Arnold and managed to breach the defenses, but a renewed effort by the British defenders led to this detachment being overwhelmed and he was inclined to surrender, resulting in 372 patriots, one of which was pvt. Jeremiah Phillips, entering captivity as prisoners of war. The Americans did not have long to suffer in captivity, and were soon exchanged for an equal number of British prisoners, and Jeremiah returned home.

In September 1777, Jeremiah again volunteered, serving this time as a sergeant in Capt. Thomas Buck's company of Minutemen, 8th Virginia regiment under command of Col. Peter Muhlenberg. While serving in this company, he was active September 11, 1777, during the Battle of Brandywine where he was wounded in the leg. Family tradition tells that he was active in other campaigns throughout Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the Carolinas, and in 1780 Captain John P. Wyllis of the Continental Army signed for receipt of thirty nine able bodied men from the command of Colonel Samuel Chapman. These men are listed by name and include Jeremiah Phillips along with other of his former comrades of Buck's company.

After the war Jeremiah returned to Amherst County and settled down to raise his family. He remained a resident of Amherst until the summer of 1800 when he made a purchase of 460 acres of prime farm land in Mercer County, Kentucky, along the Salt River about ten miles north of Harrodsburg (this would put him very near the 2010 line between Anderson/Mercer Counties). Here Jeremiah lived peaceably until his death which occurred in 1805.

Editor's note: A descendant of Jeremiah Phillips joined the Phillips DNA Project and his Y-DNA test results indicate he belongs to Phillips Family DNA Group 17. The majority of the members of this group trace their Phillips lines back to John Phillips who died in Richmond County, Virginia, in 1701. Articles about Group 17 appeared in our December 2010 newsletter and our January 2013 newsletter. Carole Lee Alexander Brady, a relative of the descendant of Jeremiah Phillips who recently got tested, told us she is planning a Revolutionary War Ceremony to honor Jeremiah Phillips and asked us to publish an invitation to the event in our newsletter. Here is the invitation: *(on next page)*

You are Cordially Invited to the  
Dedication of  
Revolutionary War Marker  
for  
Jeremiah Phillips  
1745 to 1805 Mercer Co, Kentucky  
  
Saturday May 18, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.  
Hebron Christian Church Cemetery  
2114 US127, Lawrenceburg  
(off McCalls Spring Rd. SW of Bluegrass Parkway)

Officiated by Rev. Forrest Chilton

with the

Sons of the American Revolution

Luncheon Reception preceding the Ceremony

Family Affair Restaurant 11:00 A.M.  
5509 Louisville Rd., US127, Salvisa 859-865-4096

Everyone Invited      Reservations Requested

Please RSVP by May 14th  
Carole Lee Alexander Brady    J-CBRADY@EARTHLINK.NET