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Phillips DNA News

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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

Our Phillips DNA Project has now been in existence for more than five years, and we have been publishing a newsletter for the last four years. Sometimes it is fun to look back at early editions of the newsletter. Here is part of an article I wrote for the newsletter in 2007 that will give you an idea of how far we have come:

As of May 2007, we have 147 participants in the Phillips Worldwide DNA Project and 140 kits have been returned from the lab. Using DNA analysis, we have identified 23 Phillips families that do not appear to be related to each other within a genealogically significant time frame. This means these Phillips families probably are not related to each other since the advent of surnames, which happened from about 1000 AD to 1700 AD in Europe. In addition, we have 43 participants whose DNA does not match anyone else in the Phillips Worldwide DNA Project to date, although most of them will very likely find matches as more participants join our project.

What do all the mismatches mean? In the simplest terms, this means not everyone named Phillips is related in a genealogically significant time frame. In other words, there is no such thing as a composite Phillips DNA profile. This also most likely means at least 66 (23+43) unrelated men adopted the last name Phillips from 1000 AD to 1700 AD. When all is said and done, we will doubtlessly discover there were several hundred (perhaps thousand) unrelated men who adopted the last name Phillips from 1000 AD to 1700 AD and who have living descendants worldwide today. A certain percentage of the mismatches may also be due to adoption, illegitimacy or some other form of name change, all of which are called non-paternal events.

We also have six different yDNA haplogroups represented in our project. Haplogroups are roughly equivalent to nationality and indicate the general area where your ancient Phillips ancestors originated. You might think of haplogroups as the limbs of the tree of Homo sapiens. Keep in mind that people who belong to different haplogroups cannot be related to each other within many thousands of years. Also, just as there are two different types of DNA that can be tested for genealogical purposes (paternal or yDNA and maternal or mtDNA), there are also different haplogroups for yDNA (male DNA) and mtDNA (female DNA). I will discuss some mtDNA or female

haplogroups in a future newsletter article. Several participants in our Phillips Worldwide DNA Project have taken the mtDNA test (including my own mother), but as I explained in an earlier article, mtDNA cannot be tied to any specific surname. This is because women traditionally change their surnames with every generation.

Some of the major yDNA or male haplogroups are generally described as follows:

<u>Haplogroup</u>	<u>Description</u>
R1b	Western European
R1a	Eastern European
I	Nordic or Scandinavian
N	Finnish
G	Continental Europe
J1	Middle Eastern and/or Semitic
J2	Mediterranean and/or Semitic
E1b1b	Mediterranean and/or Semitic
E1b1a	African
Q3	Native American
O	Chinese
C3	Mongolian
A	African

About 76% of the yDNA participants in Phillips Worldwide belong to Haplogroup R1b, which is the most common Western European haplogroup. Haplogroup R1b is believed to average 78% of all men in the British Isles. Our next biggest yDNA haplogroup is Haplogroup I, which comprises about 15% of our participants. Haplogroup I is considered to be Scandinavian and/or Central European, but the name Phillips is not a traditional Scandinavian surname. It is possible some of our Haplogroup I participants are descendants of Vikings who raided and plundered the British Isles during the Dark Ages from 500 AD to 1000 AD. Some of these Vikings liked the British Isles and decided to stay and make permanent settlements. Also, some of our Haplogroup I participants may be the descendants of the Anglo-Saxons who invaded England after the fall of the Roman Empire.

The remaining 9% of our Phillips Worldwide yDNA participants belong to Haplogroups E3b, J2, G2 and R1a. We do not have any yDNA participants who belong to African or Native American haplogroups thus far in our project.

In comparison, the Phillips DNA Project now has over 550 participants. Using DNA analysis, we have identified 73 different Phillips families that do not appear to share a common direct paternal ancestor within a genealogically significant time frame, which means within less than 1,000 years of present. We also have more than 150 men named Phillips who do not match any

other men named Phillips. Ten different major haplogroups are now represented in our project, including R1a, R1b, I1, I2, E1b, J1, J2, A, G and Q. Most of the men in our project (about 75%) continue to belong to Haplogroup R1b, the most common haplogroup of Western Europe and the British Isles. And I continue to believe when all is said and done, we will doubtlessly discover there were several hundred unrelated men who adopted the last name Phillips from 1000 AD to 1700 AD and who have living descendants worldwide today.

Featured Family Stories

Henry F. Phillips and the Phillips screwdriver

Compiled by Nancy Kiser



Henry F. Phillips (1890-1958) was a U.S. businessman from Portland, Oregon, but he was born and raised in Polk County, Missouri. The Phillips-head ("crosshead") screw and screwdriver are named after him. The following information is from the Phillips-screw.com website:

Like everyone else, you've undoubtedly used countless Phillips screws, with their distinctive cruciform driving recesses. But did you ever wonder why such a new and innovative screw driving method came about in the first place, and why it became so universally used?

The answer emanates from the old but true axiom "invention is born of necessity". In the 1920's, traditional slotted screws were becoming a hindrance to American industry's move toward mass production. The alignment time of the driver within the slot became significant when multiplied thousands of times in a factory, and as tightening torques increased, the driver inevitably "cammed" out of the slot, damaging the screw and often the component they were attempting to assemble.

Manufacturers needed an improved and more efficient screw driving design. An Oregon inventor named J.P. Thompson received a patent in 1933 for a cruciform-recessed screw that possessed self-centering of the driver to create correct engagement of the driver in the screw recess.

Over the next six months, Thompson approached many screw manufacturers, all of which said his screw was impossible to reproduce because the punch needed to create the recess would destroy the screw head. Thompson decided the whole idea was not doable. He revealed his

idea to an acquaintance named Henry Phillips, who became intrigued with the idea and offered to buy the rights to the patent.

Phillips, an engineer, immediately formed the Phillips Screw Company and in 1934 began revisiting many of the same manufacturers that had rejected Thompson. He recontacted the nation's biggest screw operation, a Providence Rhode Island company called American Screw, where a new president named Eugene Clark had taken over. Clark was captivated by the design despite his engineer's reservations.

By 1936, after some modifications by Henry Phillips that earned him several patents of his own, the improved cruciform recess fastener patent was issued and quickly became known as the "Phillips® Screw". The American Screw Company and Phillips Screw Company consolidated their efforts to introduce the Phillips screw to various industries and began licensing screw and driver manufacturers to produce the new fastener system. Eugene Clark reportedly said "I finally told my head men that I would put on pension all who insisted it could not be done".

Industry had been clamoring for an improved screw, so the Phillips design was rapidly welcomed into American factories. General Motors became a quick convert by using the system in its 1937 Cadillac automobiles. By 1940, 85% of the screw manufacturing companies had a license to produce the Phillips screw recess design. As testimony to its success, almost the entire automotive industry shifted to using it. Usage of the Phillips drive system continued throughout the Second World War on many wartime products and vehicles.

By that time, however, Henry Phillips was out of the picture. Deteriorating health forced his retirement in 1945, and he maintained a low profile until his death in 1958. The following obituary appeared in The Oregonian newspaper in April 1958:

Henry F. Phillips Sr., founder of the Phillips Screw Co, died Sunday at his Portland home in the Lone Plaza Apartments. Mr. Phillips, president and general manager of the company that bore his name until his retirement in 1945, was born in Bolivar, MO, June 4, 1889. He was an honorary member of the University Club and a member of the Catholic Church. Surviving are the widow, Nellie Helen Phillips; four sons, Harry L, Piedmont, Calif.; Norman A, Los Angeles; Henry F. Phillips Jr., Portland; and John Phillips, Baker; a daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Rees, San Francisco, and 20 grandchildren. Funeral arrangements will be by the Colonial Mortuary.

We have attempted to research the ancestry of Henry Phillips, and it appears that he may belong to Phillips Family DNA Group 10, which is our second largest family group. Many of the participants in Phillips Family DNA Group 10 trace their Phillips roots back to Chatham County, North Carolina. Henry Phillips' pedigree probably runs as follows:

1. Probably Sion/Zion Phillips dc 1820 Chatham Co NC, m Polly unknown
2. Thoar/Thrower/Theodore Phillips bc 1790 Chatham Co NC, m Rosanna unknown
3. Allen/Alan Phillips bc 1812/13 NC, m Margaret Ann Ladd
4. Allen Phillips bc 1861 Polk Co MO, m Matilda Florence Forgey

5. Henry Frank Phillips b 4 June 1889 Polk Co MO, m Helen “Nellie” unknown

Here are some census records that help support his Phillips pedigree:

1930 PORTLAND, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON, CENSUS

Page 6A, Enumeration District 509:

Henry F Phillips, head, 40, born about 1890 in Missouri
Nellie Phillips, wife, 38, born about 1892 in Iowa
Harry L. Phillips, son, 15, born about 1915 in Washington
Norman A. Phillips, son, 12, born about 1918 in Washington
Francis H. Phillips, son, 10, born about 1920 in Washington
Dorothy Phillips, daughter, 7, born about 1923 in Washington
Jack E. Phillips, son, 4, born about 1925 in Oregon

1920 SPOKANE, SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON, CENSUS

Page 4B, Enumeration District 172:

H.L. Phillip, head, 31, born about 1889 in Missouri
Nellie Phillip, wife, 28, born about 1892 in Iowa
Harry Phillip, son, 5, born about 1915 in Washington
Norman Phillip, son, 2, born about 1918 in Washington
H.J. Phillip, son, 2/12, born about 1920 in Washington

1900 POLK COUNTY, MISSOURI, CENSUS

Page 1B, Enumeration District 126:

George W. Watham, head, 49, born Oct 1850 in Missouri
Florence Watham, wife, 45, born Aug 1854 in Missouri
Carl J. Phillips, stepson, 14, born Oct 1885 in Missouri
Jason W. Watham, son, 14, born Oct 1885 in Missouri
Minnie A. Watham, daughter, 12, born March 1888 in Missouri
Frank H. Phillips, stepson, 10, born June 1889 in Missouri
Vernie E. Watham, daughter, 8, born Aug 1891 in Missouri

1880 POLK COUNTY, MISSOURI, CENSUS

Page 325C, Enumeration District 117:

Thomas Phillips, head, 32, born about 1848 in Tennessee
Nancy J. Phillips, wife, 26, born about 1854 in Missouri
William A. Phillips, son, 6, born about 1874 in Missouri
Thomas H. Phillips, son, 4, born about 1876 in Missouri
Clayton N. Phillips, son, 2, born about 1878 in Missouri
Nancy J. Phillips, daughter, 1 month, born about 1880 in Missouri
Allen Phillips, brother, 19, born about 1861 in Missouri
Margaret L. Pickering, sister, 13, born about 1867 in Missouri

1870 POLK COUNTY, MISSOURI, CENSUSPage 126B:

Jonathan Pickerin, head, 60, born about 1810 in Tennessee
Peggy Pickerin, female, 48, born about 1822 in Tennessee
Jane Pickerin, female, 19, born about 1851 in Missouri
Jonathan Pickerin, male, 12, born about 1858 in Missouri
William Pickerin, male, 6, born about 1864 in Missouri
Mary C. Pickerin, female, 4, born about 1866 in Missouri
Margaret Pickerin, female, 2, born about 1868 in Missouri
Key R. Phillips, male, 23, born about 1847 in Missouri
Cornelia Phillips, female, 11, born about 1859 in Missouri
Allen Phillips, male, 9, born about 1861 in Missouri

1860 POLK COUNTY, MISSOURI, CENSUSPage 236:

Allen Phillips, male, 47, born about 1813 in North Carolina
Margaret Phillips, female, 39, born about 1821 in Tennessee
Ira Phillips, male, 16, born about 1844 in Tennessee
Thomas Phillips, male, 12, born about 1848 in Tennessee
Corelia Phillips, female, 10 months, born about 1859 in Missouri

1850 ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CENSUSPage 402B:

Allen Philips, male, 38, born about 1812 in North Carolina
Peggy A. Phillips, female, 29, born about 1821 in Tennessee
Nelson I. Phillips, male, 6, born about 1844 in Tennessee
Rosanna E. Phillips, female, 4, born about 1846 in Tennessee
Thomas R. Phillips, male, 2, born about 1848 in Tennessee

An affidavit dated November 6, 1878 by Alexander Milliken that states "the said Allen Phillips died in Polk Co. in Jan., 1861, leaving as his heirs a widow, Margaret Ann Phillips, and four children Nelson, Thomas R. Phillips, Allen Phillips and Cornelia O. Phillips, that the said widow afterwards married Jonathan Pickering."

According to a book entitled "Roots of Roane County, Tennessee" written by Snyder E. Roberts, Thrower or Throar Phillips of Roane County, Tennessee was married to Rosannah unknown and his estate was settled in March of 1844 in Roane County. Mr. Roberts wrote that Thrower and Rosannah had a son named Allen Phillips (1812-1861) who married Margaret "Peggy" Ladd.

Mr. Roberts also put forward the theory that Thrower was the son of Clemmon(s) Phillips who was born 18 February 1763 in Dobbs County, North Carolina, but this theory has been disproven through DNA analysis. We have a proven descendant of Clemmon(s) in the project and his Y-DNA indicates he belongs to Phillips Family DNA Group 2. We have two descendants of Thrower Phillips in the project and their Y-DNA reveals that they belong to Phillips Family DNA Group 10.

Finally, there is probate in Chatham County, North Carolina, for a man named Sion or Zion Phillips who died in August of 1820. This probate indicates he had a son named Thrower who was living outside of the state of North Carolina at the time of Pleas and Quarters for 1820.

There is apparently more information on Henry F. Phillips contained in the Polk County Museum in Bolivar, Missouri. A woman named Bertha Annis Ables Lawson kept a huge scrapbook of newspaper clippings concerning her many relatives and friends which was donated to the Museum upon her death.

Sources:

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=DESC&db=jwtrout&id=1782>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_F._Phillips

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Screwdriver>

<http://ask.yahoo.com/20021107.html>

http://www.phillips-screw.com/history_about_phillips.htm

Common Name and Common Mistakes in Genealogy; Untangling Tangled Roots

By Bob Phillips, Phillips Family DNA Group 11

For some time now a few members of both Group 11 and Group 36 have been wrestling with an untenable proposition that each might be descended from Michael Phillips (c. 1635-1676) and Barbara unknown, of Newport, Rhode Island. The majority of members of these groups are unable to trace their ancestry past the late 1700's or early 1800's.

One member proposed that Michael is the son of John Phillips and Mary Street of Duxbury and Marshfield, Massachusetts, further confusing and complicating the issues. However, if it makes everyone feel better, we are not the only ones who seem to share in the confusion.

It appears that a John Phillips and Mary Street of Marshfield, Massachusetts, were brought forward by Richard Ripley as the parents of Michael of Rhode Island. This appears to be well documented in the notes of several submissions to Rootsweb's World Connect Project. These genealogies of John and Mary of Marshfield serve as a good example of how genealogy is not to be done by conflation of families. I did a simple search at the Rootsweb World Connect website and found the following among 60 submissions contained:

Parentage of John Phillips of Marshfield listed as:

William Phillips & Ann Leeming 77.5%;

Christopher Phillips & Agnes Abram 10%;

Robert Phillips & Elizabeth Sargent 5%;
No parentage given 7.5%

Children listed for John Phillips of Marshfield:

Michael 86.6%;
John 55%;
Mary 31.7%;
Henry 36.7%;
Hannah 5%;
Grace 5%;
Benjamin 5%;
John (a second son with same name) 5%;
Elizabeth 3%;
Desire 3%;
Samuel 3%;
Hannah (a second daughter with same name) 3%;
Joseph 3%;
Jeremiah 3%;
Israel 1.7%;
No children listed 3%

Wives listed for John Phillips of Marshfield:

Mary Street;
Mary Ruth Gerrard;
Ann Hatch;
Grace Halloway;
Faith (Thurston) Clarke
Grace Beal

In one entry, the submitter has John Phillips born in 1602 and being married to Mary Street in 1607! It is very doubtful that John was 5 years old when he married. Now then, I am pretty sure that although several submitters have Michael of Rhode Island as a child of John of Marshfield, not one of them has documentation for that claim, outside of the Richard Ripley records. What I am saying in essence is that in all probability each one of the submitters took what they found uncritically and did not verify the information.

“The family and vicissitudes of John Philips” by Azel Ames (1903), a well documented and analytical account of the subject, has the children of John Phillips of Marshfield by an unnamed wife, possibly all born in England, as John Jr., Samuel, Jeremiah and Mary. On July 6th, 1654 John Phillips married a second wife, a widow, Grace Halloway. By this marriage, John Phillips had two sons, Joseph and Benjamin. By 1667, John’s second wife had passed away, having died in a lightning storm, and he was married to a third wife, another widow, Faith (Clarke) Doty. John and Faith appear to have had no children. Ames notes that she was

48 years of age when they married. At the ripe age of 75, John Phillips again married, and again another widow, Ann (Hatch) Torrey.

Several of the names listed as children of John Phillips, above, were actually children of the various widows by their previous spouse, and were conflated into the family as John's. However, we will note that there was no son named Michael Phillips; nor a son named Henry. Further, it was necessary for Ames to document differentiation between a John Phillips of Boston and the John Phillips of Marshfield, as several previous authors appear to have conflated these two into a single person.

It is entirely possible that lacking actual documentation, many have conflated Phillips families of Rhode Island. There was another early Rhode Island Phillips family, that of Samuel (1655-1736) and Elizabeth Phillips, of Narragansett. I have attempted to connect with descendants of Samuel for DNA testing without any luck thus far.

Genealogy is definitely not an easy hobby, nor does it produce quick results. For many of us, it does appear that there are missing records and we may never find the next link beyond our brick wall. This does not mean we should be discouraged and stop looking. It only means that it will not be easy and may perhaps not be achievable. DNA genealogy is going to prove and disprove many long held beliefs.

In conclusion, let's all try to work together in re-examining what we have, help one another evaluate the available data, and perhaps build some ladders to climb over a few walls. Fair enough?

Guest Column

The Ten Commandments of Internet Genealogy

By Rebecca Moon

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/phillips/messages/5855.html>

1. Never assume that something is true, especially on the internet.
2. Always provide the SOURCE of your information.
3. Always request the SOURCE of another's information.
4. There must be at least THREE independent, reliable sources for every genealogical fact before it can be considered "proved."

5. Reliable sources do NOT include “unsourced” message board postings, personal home pages, or family trees from familysearch.com, ancestry.com, etc.
6. Always check original sources with your OWN EYES. Errors in transcription and interpretation are common, even in published genealogical works and “sourced” family trees.
7. When you obtain an ORIGINAL SOURCE, help out your fellow genealogists by posting it on <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/>
8. When you post an original source, always state WHERE IT CAME FROM (a book, state archives, etc.) so that others can check the original themselves (see Commandment No. 6).
9. Sharing is great, but if you are just repeating hearsay, then say so.
10. Never take credit for another's hard work.