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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

The holiday season is upon us! Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Joyous Kwanzaa to one and all! Keep in mind that Family Tree DNA is running a big holiday promotion on DNA tests and a DNA test kit makes an interesting and unusual Christmas present. If you need help ordering one as a present, please don't hesitate to contact us. Remember that you have to order through a DNA project like the Phillips DNA Project in order to obtain these prices. Here are the details with regard to the holiday promotion:

New Kits	Current Group Price	SALE PRICE
Y-DNA 37	\$149	\$119
Y-DNA 67	\$239	\$199
mtFullSequence (FMS)	\$299	\$199
SuperDNA (Y-DNA 67 and mtFullSequence)	\$518	\$398
Family Finder	\$289	\$199
Family Finder + mtDNAPlus	\$438	\$318
Family Finder + mtFullSequence	\$559	\$398
Family Finder + Y-DNA 37	\$438	\$318
Comprehensive (FF + FMS + Y-67)	\$797	\$597

Upgrades	Current Group Price	SALE PRICE
Y-Refine 12-67 Marker	\$189	\$148
Y-Refine 25-37 Marker	\$49	\$35
Y-Refine 25-67 Marker	\$148	\$114
Y-Refine 37-67 Marker	\$99	\$79
Y-Refine 37-111 Marker	\$228	\$188
Y-Refine 67-111 Marker	\$129	\$109
mtDNAPlus	\$149	\$129
mtHVR1toMega	\$269	\$179
mtHVR2toMega	\$239	\$179
mtFullSequence Add-on	\$289	\$199

To order a new test through our Phillips DNA Project, go to this page at Family Tree DNA:

<http://www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?Group=Phillips>

To order an upgrade to an existing account, log in to your personal page and click on the Order An Upgrade button in the upper right corner.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED AND PAID FOR BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2012 11:59:00 PM CST TO RECEIVE THE SALE PRICES.

Featured Phillips Family Story

The Elvis Connection

By Rex Phillips, Phillips Family DNA Group 3



Sam Phillips and Elvis Presley

Samuel "Sam" Cornelius Phillips was born January 5, 1923, on a farm near Florence, Alabama, near the Tennessee and Mississippi borders. The son of a tenant farmer and youngest of eight children, Sam attended Coffee High School in Florence where he was Band Captain. He said that while he was not a good musician, he was a good conductor and was able to recognize talent in others and to bring it out of them.

After his depression-bankrupted father died in 1942, Sam was forced to go to work to support his mother and deaf mute aunt. He worked first at a grocery store and then a funeral parlor, places where he said he learned "people skills." He wanted to study law but financially wasn't able.

In his youth, Sam worked in the fields along with the black field workers who often sang while working and he was particularly musically influenced by an old black sharecropper named Silas Payne. Sam often said that "music moves the soul." He also loved the radio and how it allowed him to "travel in his mind."

In 1939, while traveling through Memphis with his family, Sam visited famous Beale Street. He said that he immediately fell in love with its life and vitality and that on every corner someone was playing or singing. He stated that "Beale Street convinced me that with the talent coming out of the Delta, especially the black artists, I really wanted to do something with that. I saw a great association between country music and black blues in the South."

In 1942, Sam married Rebecca Burns of Sheffield, Alabama. He and Becky had two sons, Knox and Jerry. Sam worked at a couple of radio stations in Alabama and Nashville before moving to Memphis and going to work for WREC Radio Station in June of 1945. Working under the name of "Pardner", he hosted a daily show and also hosted the Saturday afternoon "Tea Dance" from

the Skyway Room of the Peabody Hotel where he played jazz, blues and pop records which aired nationally over the CBS network.

By January 1950, the then 27 year-old Sam leased an auto upholstery shop and opened Memphis Recording Service (MRS) where he would, according to his business card, "record anything, anywhere, anytime." He recorded weddings, funerals and other events and sold the records to the participants. He also recorded amateur musicians and sold the records to larger record labels. In 1952, Sam used the MRS studio to launch his own record label, Sun Records.



Sun Studio, at junction of Sam Phillips Avenue, Memphis

It has often been said that Sam Phillips discovered Elvis Presley; however in fact it is more like Elvis discovered Sam Phillips. Elvis walked into Sam's studio and sang a couple of songs. While Sam had many black singers that he had recorded, there was just no broad acceptance of their records across the country. He felt if he could get that same sound out of a white singer, it would open many of the closed doors.

Sam said "when Elvis came in and performed those first two songs, I was blown away by the guy's talent. By that I don't mean that I heard the finished thing but I just heard some instinctive things about this person's intonations. Of course, we didn't talk about intonations in those days but that's what I was hearing and feeling. You know that's how you communicate, and so it did not take a genius to recognize that Elvis had real potential."

"Elvis had sex written all over him from the day he walked in the door. I don't mean about him being good looking because he really wasn't as good looking as he would develop later on, but he had sex written all over him, and the right kind." I don't want to use the word charisma, but this guy - and I'm talking about him in a total, total personal way, in addition to fantastic talent as far as his singing was concerned - had a certain ability for contact, and to a measured degree he could give you that sexual feel, or whatever feeling was needed, if a song indicated that it had that potential."

Working with Elvis for months, the studio and Elvis tried different styles and sounds but the first song resulted when Sam heard Elvis strum his guitar after a session and sing a refrain from an old Big Boy Cruddup record of "That's All Right Mama." The second came from an outtake that Sam overheard, a slightly jazzed-up version of "Blue Moon of Kentucky" (to save money

songs were often taped over old discarded takes). That song was evolving from a lilted country ballad into jumped up "rocker". As musician Jim Dickinson who was present said, "This is what it sounded like 10 minutes before Rock & Roll was invented."

In fact, Sam was overseeing the birth of Rockabilly. Elvis would then record Roy Brown's "Good Rocking Tonight" and Junior Parker's "Mystery Train" (which Sam felt was his masterpiece). Sam would later say "I never liked the term Rockabilly. I preferred the term Rock & Roll as it became all-inclusive of white and black and the whole thing, whereas Rockabilly tended to lend itself so specifically to the white."

Sam not long after sold the contract for Elvis for \$35,000 - a large amount at that time. While he was often asked if he regretted doing so, he always maintained that no, it gave him the financial ability to recruit and record other great artists also, such as Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Roy Orbison, Johnny Cash, BB King, Howlin' Wolf and a smattering of Blues artists during the 1950's.

There will always be a debate as to who was the first rock and roller - Chuck Berry or Elvis Presley, Bill Haley or Bo Diddley, etc. but the "Father" of the Rock and Roll genre will always be recognized as Sam Phillips, the man whose Sun Records launched the careers of Presley, Lewis, Perkins and Orbison. Sam was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2003.

The Genealogy of Samuel Cornelius Phillips

Group 3 of Phillips DNA Project

Joseph Phillips died in Brunswick County, Virginia, in 1777, married Elizabeth (probably Moore) who died 1805 in Brunswick County, Virginia.

Sterling Phillips born January 1775, in Brunswick County, Virginia, died January 1854 in Lauderdale County, Alabama, married Mary Williams who was born October 1772 in Brunswick County, Virginia and died January 1853 in Lauderdale County, Alabama.

Joseph Denton Phillips born 1793 in Brunswick County, Virginia, died September 1858, in Tishomingo County, Mississippi, married Mary (Polly) Duncan born February 1797 in Laurens County, South Carolina, and died December 1832.

Absolum Tucker Phillips born May 1816 in Laurens County, South Carolina, died August, 1882, in Lauderdale County, Alabama. Absolum fathered 16 children by 3 wives. Charles Tucker Phillips was the youngest child of 8 by Absolum and his second wife, a cousin, Isabella Caroline Phillips, daughter of J.S. and Martha Phillips of Lauderdale, Alabama and Wayne County, Tennessee. J.S. is believed to be the son of either John or Josiah Phillips, brothers of Sterling. When Charles was 4 months old, his mother Isabella was riding on a horse with Charles in her arms. The horse was spooked, bolted and threw her into a thicket. She held firmly to her baby to protect him. While she was killed in the incident, the baby survived.

Charles Tucker Phillips born September 16, 1877, in Lauderdale County, Alabama, died January 2, 1942, in Lauderdale County, Alabama, married Margaret (Madge) Ella Lovelace in Lauderdale County, Alabama.

Samuel Cornelius Phillips born 5 January, 1923, in Lauderdale County, Alabama, died 2003, in Memphis, Tennessee.

Guest Column

A VISIT TO BILLY THE KID

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>.



Where does a traveling genealogist go when he has a day off? To the cemetery, of course!

This week, I found myself in Eastern New Mexico with an extra day and nothing planned. Knowing there was a lot of history in the area, I decided to go see some of it for myself. I decided to visit the area's most famous resident, William H. Bonney (born William Henry McCarty, Jr. but better known as Billy the Kid) and take some pictures.

Billy the Kid was one of the more famous outlaws of the American Old West. He is believed to have been born November 23, 1859 (his tombstone says 1860), in an Irish neighborhood of New York City. However, no record of his birth has ever been found. It is not known for sure who his biological father was, but his mother was Catherine McCarty, an Irish immigrant. There is some

debate about whether McCarty was her maiden or married name. He also had a brother, Joseph McCarty.

Catherine McCarty and her two young sons appeared in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1868. There she met William Antrim, who was 12 years her junior. In 1873, after several years of moving around the country, the two were married at the First Presbyterian Church in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and settled further south in Silver City. Antrim became involved in prospecting and gambling and was rarely at home with his wife and stepsons. McCarty's mother reportedly washed clothes, baked pies, and took in boarders in order to provide for herself and her sons. On September 16, 1874, Catherine McCarty died of tuberculosis and was buried in the Memory Lane Cemetery in Silver City.

Young McCarty then lived with a foster family, attended school, and earned a reputation as a good scholar, a hard worker, of slight build, athletic, and scrupulously honest. McCarty later moved into a boarding house and pursued odd jobs. In April 1875, McCarty was arrested by Grant County Sheriff Harvey Whitehill for stealing cheese. On September 24, 1875, McCarty was arrested again when found in possession of clothing and firearms that a fellow boarder at the boarding house had stolen from a Chinese laundry owner. Two days after McCarty was placed in jail, the slim, athletic teenager escaped up the jailhouse chimney. From that point on, McCarty was more or less a fugitive.



William McCarty, or Billy the Kid, then followed a career of horse stealing, cattle rustling, gambling, and whatever other means he could find to support himself. He fell in with a "tough crowd," living with and traveling with various thieves, thugs, and other ne'er-do-wells. He reportedly killed between 15 and 26 men although the exact number is not known. He was arrested and jailed but always managed to escape.

He was fluent in Spanish, popular with Mexican girls, an accomplished dancer, and well loved in the New Mexico territory's Hispanic community. The local Spanish-speaking residents did not

view him as a ruthless killer but rather as a defender of the people who was forced to kill in self-defense.

William McCarty was later arrested, jailed, tried, and found guilty of the murder of Sheriff Brady. On April 13, 1881, he was sentenced by Judge Warren Bristol to hang. On April 28, while Sheriff Pat Garrett was out of town, prisoner McCarty killed both of his guards and escaped. The details of the murders and escape are unclear and several different versions of the story have been published over the years.

Sheriff Pat Garrett and two deputies traveled to Fort Sumner almost three months after the escape. On July 14, 1881, Garret found and questioned one of the town's residents, a friend of McCarty's named Pete Maxwell. Close to midnight, as Garrett and Maxwell sat talking in Maxwell's darkened bedroom, McCarty unexpectedly entered the room, apparently unaware that Garrett was there. Garrett drew his pistol and shot the surprised outlaw. Billy the Kid died almost immediately.

Garrett allowed the Kid's friends to take his body across the plaza to the carpenter's shop to give him a wake. At noon of the next day, Billy the Kid was buried at the Fort Sumner cemetery between his two friends, Tom O'Folliard and Charlie Bowdre, only a few yards from where he had been killed. He was just 21 years old.

I visited the cemetery this week and found it to be rather plain looking, a typical dusty cemetery of the Old West. You can click on any of these pictures to see larger images. The tombstone of Billy the Kid has been stolen twice but recovered both times. It lies today in the approximate location of his body. In 1889 and 1904 the Pecos River floods covered the cemetery and all the markers were washed away. The latter flood inundated the cemetery under four feet of muddy water until the cemetery had no grave markers left of any kind. However, old timers who had once lived nearby were able to point out the approximate location of the earlier tombstone.

Looking at the dry, dusty cemetery today, it is difficult to imagine four feet of water anywhere in the area. It is now bone dry and very dusty.

Rumors persist that Billy the Kid was not killed that night, and in fact that Garrett, a known friend of the Kid's, may have staged it all so the Kid could escape the law. That's a great story, but probably not true.