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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

The holiday season has arrived! 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. 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 of the screen.

The sale ends December 31, 2013 and all tests must be paid by then. With any test that includes the Family Finder test, you receive a \$100 Restaurant.com gift certificate. Here are the details with regard to the holiday promotion:

Basic Tests:

Y-37 for \$119 (reg. \$169)

Y-67 for \$189 (reg. \$268)

Y-111 for \$289 (reg. \$359)

MT-Full for \$169 (reg. \$199)

Family Finder for \$99 and a free \$100 Restaurant.com gift certificate

Combination Tests:

Family Finder + Y-37 for \$218 (reg. \$268) and a free \$100 Restaurant.com gift certificate

Family Finder + Y- 67 for \$288 (reg. \$367) and a free \$100 Restaurant.com gift certificate

Family Finder + mtFull for \$268 (reg. \$298) and a free \$100 Restaurant.com gift certificate

Y-37 + mtFull for \$288 (reg. \$366)

Y-67 + mtFull for \$358 (reg. \$457)

Comprehensive for \$457 (reg. \$566)

Transfer: Autosomal DNA Transfer for \$49 (reg. \$69)

Upgrades:

Y-Refine 12 to 37 for \$69 (reg. \$109)

Y-Refine 12 to 67 for \$148 (reg. \$319)

Y-Refine 25 to 37 for \$35 (reg. \$59)

Y-Refine 25 to 67 for \$114 (reg. \$59)

Y-Refine 37 to 67 for \$79 (reg. \$109)

Y-Refine 37 to 111 for \$188 (reg. \$220)

Y-Refine 67 to 111 for \$109 (reg. \$129)

MT-HVR1 to Mega for \$149 (reg. \$169)

Featured Phillips Family Story

William Ballard Phillips, Master Builder

This short sketch of William Ballard Phillips is based on the architectural history master's thesis of Amy Ross Moses, University of Virginia, on-line in 2013 at <http://www.virginia.edu/architectoffice/pdf/MosesWilliamBPhillips.pdf>, the Sunnyside entry in the National Register of Historic Places, and Virginia local records available from the Library of Virginia in Richmond. Submitted to the Phillips DNA Project for publication by member Sally Phillips who belongs to Phillips Family DNA Group 32.

William Ballard Phillips, wrote Thomas Jefferson, "executed much of the bricklaying at the University [of Virginia], and [much] of the best work done there. I can truly recommend him for the excellence of his work and correctness of his conduct." Such a recommendation, coming from such an esteemed figure, enabled him to travel throughout Virginia and West Virginia building beautifully designed and beautifully executed homes, institutions, and businesses.

William Ballard Phillips, born January 20, 1788, was the son of Richard Phillips and Elizabeth Waddy and the grandson of Richard Phillips and Catharine Smith of Louisa, Virginia. He had six brothers and sisters and lived on 107 acres on the Pamunkey River adjoining his grandparents in Trinity Parish in Louisa County, according to Louisa land records. The family owned numerous slaves, according to Louisa records. When his father died about 1790, his uncle William Phillips, who lived nearby, became his guardian, according the Louisa County Chancery Records.

The Phillips and Anderson Family Bible Record, as reproduced in *Virginia Vital Records: From the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, the William and Mary College Quarterly, and Tyler's Quarterly* cites the birth of another William Ballard Phillips on April 29, 1768. He was the son of William Phillips, the bricklayer's guardian, and Frances Gregory, and grandson of Richard Phillips and Catharine Smith of Louisa, Virginia, and an older cousin of the bricklayer.

William B. Phillips left Louisa and traveled to Richmond about 1804, when he was about 16 years old. He apprenticed under bricklayer Anthony Turner for seven years and worked under his supervision for an additional seven years. In 1816, while still working in Richmond, he married Barbara O. Pendleton with whom he had grown up in Louisa.

Phillips was not an educated man, and there is some evidence that he was not able to read or write, other than his signature. However, he clearly understood arithmetic; he could not have constructed his projects or run his business without this skill.

While he was still in Richmond in 1819, a national economic depression ended the period of prosperity that had offered him the opportunity to build many homes and businesses. Fortunately, at about this same time Thomas Jefferson advertised for workers to build the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville in Albemarle County. Jefferson's advertisement solicited "perfect skill in their ... business and ... good faith and punctuality in their" habits. Phillips applied in person with three letters of recommendation which declared him "one of the best workers" with a "moral character ... of the best." He was hired!



Pavilion X, University of Virginia (Library of Congress, LC-D4-18431)

At the University of Virginia, Phillips built or helped to build Pavilions I, IX, and X, a hotel, the Proctor's House, the Overseer's House, the Anatomical Theatre, and the Rotunda, working from 1819 to 1826. During this time he learned from Jefferson neoclassical design principles and the fine detailing that distinguish a well-built brick building. A letter written by the bursar of UVA credits Phillips with laying "half a million" bricks and says "that [it is] as good work as any in the United States."



The Rotunda, University of Virginia (<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki>)

Phillips' brickwork is characterized by thin, straight lines of mortar, with the vertical joints thinner than the horizontal joints. He typically used a "bastard tuck" joint which is made by indenting the straight mortar joint with a diagonal indentation at the top and the bottom where the mortar joins the brick. This emphasized the long, thin horizontal nature of the joint. He is also known for building with quoins or half-lengthwise bricks set at ninety degrees to the wall to form a small accent at wall corners and window and door openings. He frequently built with a Flemish bond (or alternating brick lengths and brick ends). He typically "painted" his brick walls with a thin red wash to make all the bricks a uniform color.

After completing his work at UVA, Phillips undertook the construction of many homes and institutions in the Albemarle area. Some of these are Berry Hill, The Farm, Estouteville, Edgehill, the Leitich-Munday House, Dunlora, Edgemont, Christ Church Glendower, an addition to the Western Lunatic Asylum, St. Thomas Church, and The Hill. Nearby he built the Madison County courthouse, the Green County courthouse, and the Orange County jail. The brickwork on these buildings was done by a crew of slaves he trained in the high standards of his trade.



St. Thomas Church, Orange, Virginia (<http://www.stthomasorange.org/default.asp>)

During these years from about 1827 to about 1835, he bought numerous lots in Charlottesville and several acreages in the surrounding Albemarle area. He and his team of bricklayer slaves built homes on the Charlottesville lots which he later sold. He owned additional slaves who worked his land holdings in Albemarle County. At peak, his brick, field, and house slaves totaled 34.

He and his wife Barbara had three children - Joseph born in 1829, Richard born in 1830, and Patty in 1834.

About 1835 Phillips started working in the area of western Virginia which is now West Virginia. Here he built Elmwood, the Sweet Springs Resort, and other projects.

During the 1830s he assembled about 538 acres of land adjacent to President Jefferson's Monticello and President Monroe's Highland home (now called Ashlawn). Here he built Sunnyfields in 1838 and 1839, which became home for him and his family, and for a while, several of his wife's relatives. The National Register of Historic Places describes it as "a two-story brick plantation house" with "the remnants of a large nineteenth-century terraced garden and an informally landscaped park. ... The original portion of the Sunnyfields house is a nearly square two-story structure covered by a low hipped roof of slate. ... The walls are of brick painted white with the façade laid in the very fine Flemish bond with ribbon joints that is a hallmark of William B. Phillips' work. Like most of the brickwork of the period and region, it probably was originally painted red with penciled joints. ... Two interior end chimney stacks project on each side of the house."



Sunnyfields, Albemarle County, Virginia (You can view a slideshow at this URL: <http://www.frankhardy.com/eng/sales/detail/334-l-339-473425/sunnyfields-charlottesville-va-22902>)

Barbara Pendleton Phillips died in 1855. At her death Phillips sold Sunnyfields but remained in the Charlottesville area the rest of his life, building Rose Cottage and the Strange House. He died in 1861 and is buried with his wife at Maplewood Cemetery in Charlottesville.

Guest Column

Genealogist's Christmas Eve

--Author Unknown

'Twas the night before Christmas
And all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
Not even my spouse.

The dining room table with clutter was spread
With pedigree charts and with letters which said...
"Too bad about the data for which you wrote;
Sank in a storm on an ill-fated boat."

Stacks of old copies of wills and such
Were proof that my work had become too much.
Our children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads.

And I at my table was ready to drop
From work on my album with photos to crop.
Christmas was here, and such was my lot
That presents and goodies and toys I'd forgot.

Had I not been busy with grandparents' wills,
I'd not have forgotten to shop for such thrills,
While others bought gifts to bring Christmas cheers,
I'd spent time researching those birth dates and years.

While I was thus musing about my sad plight,
A strange noise on the lawn gave me such a great fright.
Away to the window I flew in a flash,
Tore open the drapes and yanked up the sash.

When what with my wondering eyes should appear,
But an overstuffed sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.
Up to the house top the reindeer they flew,
With a sleigh full of toys and 'ole Santa Claus, too.

And then in a twinkle, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of thirty-two hooves.
As I drew in my head, and bumped it on the sash,
Down the cold chimney fell Santa--KER-RASH!

"Dear" Santa had come from the roof in a wreck,
And tracked soot on the carpet, (I could wring his short neck!)
Spotting my face, good 'ole Santa could see
I had no Christmas spirit you'd have to agree.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work
And filled all the stockings, (I felt like a jerk).
Here was Santa, who'd brought us such gladness and joy,
When I'd been too busy for even one toy.

He spied my research on the table all spread
"A genealogist!" he cried! (My face was all red!)
"Tonight I've met many like you," Santa grinned,
As he pulled from his sack a large book he had penned.

I gazed with amusement--the cover it read
Genealogy Lines for Which You Have Plead.
"I know what it's like as a genealogy bug."
He said as he gave me a great Santa hug.

"While the elves make the sleighful of toys I now carry,
I do some research in the North Pole Library!
A special treat I am thus able to bring,
To genealogy folk who can't find a thing."

"Now off you go to your bed for a rest.
I'll clean up the house from this genealogy mess."
As I climbed up the stairs full of gladness and glee,
I looked back at Santa who'd brought much to me.

While settling in bed, I heard Santa's clear whistle
To his team, which then rose like the down of a thistle.
And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight,
"Family history is Fun! Merry Christmas! Goodnight!"