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# Phillips DNA News

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

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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

Happy New Year, everyone! Let's all make a resolution to recruit at least one new participant for our Phillips DNA project this year. If each of us did that, our project would double in size in 2010.

Three and a half years ago in June of 2006, we had 68 participants and 12 family groups had been identified through DNA analysis. In addition, we had 24 members who had no matches in the project, representing approximately 35% of the membership. Except for a couple of Canadians, a couple of Brits and one member who lived in Mexico, we were entirely an American project.

Today we have around 460 participants and we are six times as big as we were in June of 2006. Although the majority of our participants are still Americans, we have become much more international. We have twenty four members who live in the United Kingdom and Ireland, six Canadians, three Aussies, three Costa Ricans and two New Zealanders. In addition, we have one American who lives in Mexico, one who lives in Thailand and one who lives in Japan. We also have several soldiers who are stationed various places around the world.

The Phillips DNA project has focused on trying to recruit British men named Phillips because it is generally believed that the surname Phillips originated in Great Britain. It is interesting to note that our British match rate is lower than our match rate for the entire project. The overall match rate for our project is 73%; in other words, 27% of the members of our Phillips DNA project do not match any other men named Phillips and 73% do have matches.

With regard to our British participants, 13 of them match other men in the project (54%), and 11 of them do not (46%). This is probably due to at least two factors: 1) Since the surname originated in the British Isles, the UK probably has the largest number of original Phillips family founders or patriarchs, and 2) Only a subset of all the original Phillips family lines immigrated to America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and all the other colonies of the United Kingdom. The match rate for our British participants will likely increase as more Brits join the project.

It is fun to try to guesstimate exactly how many different, unrelated men adopted the surname Phillips as surnames gradually came into existence. In the June 2007 edition of our project newsletter, I made the following observation: *When all is said and done, we will doubtlessly discover there were several hundred (perhaps thousand) unrelated men who adopted the last name Phillips or one of its variations from 1000 AD to 1400 AD and who have living descendants worldwide today.* In our next newsletter, I will write about various semi-scientific ways to estimate how many different, unrelated Phillips founders might have originally existed.

## Questions and Answers

**Question:** When will the 1940 US census be made public?

**Answer:** The 1940 census will not be released until 1 April 2012. Here is a link to an explanation: [http://www.1930census.com/1940\\_census\\_countdown.php](http://www.1930census.com/1940_census_countdown.php)

**Question:** On my DNA matches, there are two Gordons who match me on 24 out of 25 markers. Do you think there is a possible connection there to look into?

**Answer:** Although you have several matches with men named Gordon at 25 markers, those matches go away at a higher number of markers. This means you are only very distantly related to those Gordon men. You might share a common paternal ancestor with them who existed 1000 years ago before the existence of surnames, but it is very difficult to investigate matches that are so distant.

**Question:** I have an "Exact Match" at the 37 marker level and a 67 marker match at a Genetic Distance of -2 with someone surnamed Williams. The likelihood of a common ancestor 4 generations back equals 47%; at 8 generations = 86%; at 12 generations = 97% and at 16 generations = 99%. So, I'm wondering if you have some Williams in your database for my particular Phillips Family Group. I have written Mr. Williams, hoping to gain some information and insight into this unexpected DNA match. Of course, my first thought was: You don't suppose this may represent yet another Phillips liaison from the past, this time a Phillips male and a Williams female. Good grief. Any thoughts or comments?

**Answer:** Yes, this could represent another liaison in the past but no, I don't have any Williams connections for your family group in my files. Hopefully, Mr. Williams will respond with his Williams pedigree and you will be able to see if his Williams line lived in the same areas as your Phillips line. But sometimes these things are irresolvable. My Kiser husband has a 65/67 match with a Canadian man surnamed Heath. As far as we know, the two families never even lived in the same country at the same time!

**Question:** I keep getting duplicate notices of matches from FTDNA. Why is this happening?

**Answer:** Each notification sent out by FTDNA should have a unique ID. You will see this at the bottom of an email, for example:

**GUID: 7a7232df-754c-4041-90bb-72d87742a5d1**

If all of the messages have the same ID, it may be something is duplicating the messages on your end. However, I am guessing that these are all separate emails with different IDs, because you have over 1,000 combined 25 marker matches. This means whenever results are uploaded, there is a good chance FTDNA will find a new match for you. You belong to a very common yDNA signature.

**Question:** I would like to make a donation to the project for my specific Phillips family group. How can I do this?

**Answer:** That is very nice of you! There are several different ways to accomplish this. You could buy a kit and hold it in reserve until a potential member of your family group comes along who is not willing or able to buy his own kit. If you don't want to spend that much, you could make a donation to the Phillips General Fund and specify that you want it to be used to help purchase a kit for a potential member of your specific family group. Here is a link to a page where you can make an online donation:

<http://www.familytreedna.com/group-general-fund-contribution.aspx>

Or you could do nothing for now and we will let you know when and if we get contacted by a potential family member who needs help purchasing a DNA kit.

## Featured Phillips Family Story

### **David and Elizabeth Phillips of Surry County, Virginia**

By Rex Phillips  
Family Group 3

It cannot be determined from available data whether David Phillips of Surry County, Virginia, was an immigrant into Surry County or possibly the one who owned land on the Chickahominy River in James City County. I suspect that he came to Surry as an adult immigrant because he first appears in the Surry List of Tithables in 1678 in a household with five other adult males (see below). I think that it is likely that this David Phillips is the one shown in the following 1673 land patent of Richard Parker:

20 December 1673: Patent granted to Richd Parker for 314 acres in Surry County on the main Blackwater Swamp adjoining Mr. Jno Barker for the transportation of 7 persons: Jasper Grantum, David Phillips, Evan Davis, Wm Marriott, Richd Parker twice, Jno Warrin (or Wattin).

In Richard Parker's will of 1744 (see below), he mentions daughter Ann Phillips. Apparently David's son William married Ann Parker, which also strengthens the likelihood that David Phillips is the one mentioned in Parker's patent.

3 April 1744: Will of Richard Parker. Daughters Ann Phillips, Faith Hunt, Judith Clements, Hannah Sisson. Son Richard Parker. Grandson Frederick Parker. Son William Parker. Benjamin Clements, husband of Judith Clements. Wife Mary Parker. Son William executor. Witness: Elizabeth Jones, Jr, Elizabeth Jones, Robert Jones, Jr. Surry County Book 9, Page 680.

Note the name Batle (Battle) in the 1678 tithing list below as that name stays connected with this Phillips clan for many years.

List taken 1678 from Sunken Marsh to ye uper End of Surry County Southwarke Parish By Benj. Harrison

Benj. Harrison, David Phillips, John Batle, Samll Allsebrooke, Samll Nevell, James Bohon 6  
Rich. Hide, Wm. Phillips, Wm. Carpinder, Wm. Knot, Wm. Chivers, Samll. Pellett, a servt. maide  
5

It is not known if there is any connection between William Phillips above and David Phillips. They appear on the same tithing lists but never in the same household. This William Phillips disappears from the tithing lists after 1679, probably either because of death or exemption because of age. William's age would thus appear to at least make him a candidate as father of David. Also David named his eldest son William.

David Phillips appears in the Southwarke Parish of Surry County tithing list until 1696. On 5 June, 1696, Eliza. Phillips made oath to inventory the estate of David Phillips. (Surry Book 5, Page 108.)

List take June 1697 Upper princt of Southwarke Parish above the Stoney Runn By Water fflood  
Eliza Phillips son William 1  
(Eliza = relict of David)  
[This gives William a date of birth of circa 1681]

Note: Elizabeth Phillips, widow of David, married John Bentley, a neighbor, and in the 1698 tithing list, her son William Phillips appears on the list with John Bentley.

In the 1699 list, both William and Thomas Phillips appear with John Bentley. Date of birth for Thomas was thus circa 1683.

List taken June 1699 upper p-cinct of Southwark Parish By Wm. Cock  
John Bentley and his 2 sons in law [stepsons] Wm. and Thomas Phillips, in all 3

29 May, 1683: David Phillips, 85 acs Up Par. Of Surry Co. Adj. Mr Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Batle [Battle], John Battle, Thomas Hix, William Knott --- for trans two persons

#### A. WILLIAM PHILLIPS, SON OF DAVID and ELIZABETH PHILLIPS

1 March 1716, Surry Deed Book #7, 1715-30, page 50  
William Phillips, son and heir of David Phillips, dec'd, to Nathaniel Harrison, Esq. for 5 shillings, 85 acres in Southwarke parish (being granted to David Phillips on 29 May 1683). Recorded 20 March 1716. Signed William Phillips.

8 December 1753, Wills Deeds Etc, Book #9, page 880  
Account of Estate of William Phillips, dec'd, lists Nicholas Faulcon, Thomas Lane, Dr. Adams, John Edmons, Edmond Waller, John Crafford, David Alexander, William Holt, Mrs. Elizabeth

Clinch, Samuel Pritloe, William Edwards, Jr., James Carret, William Clinch, John Ruffin and BENJAMIN PHILLIPS, Heir at Law.

Thus it appears that Benjamin Phillips was the son of William Phillips and grandson of David and Elizabeth Phillips.

Page 189, Wills and Administrations of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, 1647-1800, (Page 443 of records). Dated March 17, 1758, Recorded November 2, 1758.

Shelley, Jane: Son Thomas; daughter Ann White; granddaughter Sylvia Carrell; grandson Thomas Phillips; grandson John Shelley; son James. Executor son James Shelley. Witness: BENJAMIN PHILLIPS, Benjamin Carrell, Ann White.

Note: This establishes wife of Benjamin Phillips as Hannah Shelley and also that Benjamin and Hannah had a son named Thomas.

21 April 1761, Recorded 21 April 1761, Surry Deed book 12, page 68

Benjamin Phillips and wife Hannah to William Phillips for 65 pounds current money--- 150 acres in Southwark Parish and bounded by Pocahunk Swamp at John Ruffin, the Green Swamp and John Hunnicut.

Signed Benjamin Phillips, Hannah (X) Phillips

I believe that this William Phillips was the son of Benjamin and Hannah Phillips and that he died in 1778 (see will of William and Estate Account of Benjamin below). According to the book "Virginia Wills and Administrations" by Clayton Torrence, the following will of William Phillips was recorded in 1778:

William Phillips of Southwarke Parish, Surry County

Will dated 23 February 1778, recorded 28 July, 1778, Surry Book 1768/79, page 492 Wife:

Unnamed; Son Zachariah Plantation where Thomas Turner formerly lived known by the name of Lane; Son William Plantation where I live not interrupting his mother in her 1/3; Son Robert. Daughters Elizabeth and Salley Phillips. Mentions child not of age which should be William since he had a guardian in 1779.

Executors: Henry Crafford and Richard Rowell

Witnesses: Edward Wright, Rebecca Wright and Jos. Bishop.

(Note: per other available documents, the wife of this William was named Mildred.)

The Estate of Benjamin PHILLIPS (assumed the son of William who died 1753, see above) deceased in Account Current with Francis PHILLIPS Administrator of Hannah PHILLIPS dec.d

1765 June 24 To Barney and John BAILEY P/ Receipt £ 4.18. 3

Nov.r 15 To John NEWSUM P/ Ditto 2. 5. 3

24 To Matt HOLT P/ ditto 1. 2. 6

Amo.t carried forward 8. 6. o

1769 Feb.y 22 To Coffin &c for Thomas PHILLIPS .16. 4<sup>1/2</sup>

1779 Octo.r 26 To William PHILLIPS's Estate P/ Receipt 12. 4. 1

1783 Sep.t 23.rd Francis PHILLIPS Admr -

In obedience to an Order of the Worshipful Court of Surry bearing date March Court 1783. We the Subscribers find the above Account to be justly stated and settled.

~ John WESSON, Thomas DAVIS ~

At a Court held for Surry County September 23.d 1783 ~

The afore written Account Current of the Estate of Benjamin PHILLIPS dec'ed: was presented in Court; and having been first audited by persons appointed for that purpose, was, together with the Report of the Auditors, ordered to be recorded.

Test Jacob FAULCON Cl Cur:~

Examined [          ]

Thus from the preceding documents we can surmise that Benjamin and Hannah Shelley Phillips had the following children:

WILLIAM PHILLIPS died 1778, married Mildred, had sons Zachariah, William and Robert and daughters Elizabeth and Salley

THOMAS PHILLIPS died 1757

FRANCIS PHILLIPS (male) married Fanny Barham

FRANCES PHILLIPS (female) married Benjamin Barham

The following four documents are somewhat of a mystery. Benjamin Phillips apparently lived his entire life in Surry County east of the Blackwater River, yet on 3 August, 1765, shortly before his death, he purchased 790 acres from the heirs of John Drew in Southampton County, Virginia. He then sold this same property (divided into three separate parcels) five days later. One of the witnesses to one of the sold pieces was Aaron Phillips. I can find no link between Benjamin and Aaron Phillips. It is known that Aaron Phillips was a neighbor of the men who bought the property, and that he appears on numerous records involving those men in Southampton County. I thus believe that it is coincidental and that Benjamin and Aaron were not related. I also know of no links between Benjamin and any of the parties to these records that might explain his involvement in the purchase and sale of this land. Benjamin was a neighbor of the Drews in Surry County and I suspect that the below transactions were done as a favor to the daughters of a friend.

Southampton County, Virginia Deed Book 3, 1760 to 1767, Transcribed by Forrest King, Pg 351-361

Deed dated 3 Aug 1765. WILLIAM WARD and wife FAITH, JAMES HOLT and wife ELIZABETH, MARTHA DREW (sd. FAITH, ELIZABETH, and MARTHA are daughters of JOHN DREW, decd., of Surry County, Virginia), and ALICE DREW, relict of sd. JOHN, to BENJAMIN PHILLIPS of Surry County, Virginia. 790 acres on the north side of Lightwood Swamp (included are parts of patents of 530 acres on 5 Sep 1723 and of 270 acres on 9 Jul 1723 to sd. JOHN with 180 acres being sold to ROBERT BOOTH and 100 acres sold to WILLIAM BAILEY). Signed by WILLIAM (signed) WARD, FAITH (+) WARD, JAMES (signed) HOLT, ELIZABETH (+) HOLT, MARTHA (signed) DREW, and ALICE ("X") DREW. Witnessed by ROBERT (signed) BOOTH, JOHN (signed) BAILEY, MOSES (signed) BOOTH, NICHOLAS (signed) FAULCON JR, and WILLIAM (signed) RUFFIN

Southampton County, Virginia, Deed Book 3, 1760 to 1767  
Transcribed by Forrest King, Pg 361-362

Deed dated 8 Aug 1765. BENJAMIN PHILLIPS of Surry County, Virginia to JOHN BAILEY. 290 acres on the north side of Lightwood Swamp adj. Cabin Branch (part of patent to JOHN DREW on 5 Sep, 1723)

Note: Cabin Branch is now in Sussex County. The mouth of Cabin Branch is about 2 1/2 Miles NW of Newville, Virginia and it runs SW about 2 1/2 miles and feeds into Joseph Swamp and Neblett's Pond about 2 miles west of Newville.

Southampton County, Virginia, Deed Book 3, 1760 to 1767  
Transcribed by Forrest King Pg 362-263

Deed dated 8 Aug 1765. BENJAMIN PHILLIPS of Surry County, Virginia to MOSES BOOTH. 200 acres on the north side of Lightwood Swamp adj. JOHN BAILEY (part of patent to JOHN DREW on 5 Sep 1723). Signed by BENJAMIN (signed) PHILLIPS, no witnesses.

Southampton County, Virginia Deed Book 3, 1760 to 1767  
Transcribed by Forrest King, Pg 363-364

Deed dated 8 Aug 1765. BENJAMIN PHILLIPS of Surry County, Virginia to ROBERT BOOTH. 295 acres adj. MOSES BOOTH, JOHN BAILEY, Cabin Branch, and Poplar Branch (part of patents to JOHN DREW on 5 Sep 1723 and 9 Jul 1737). Signed by BENJAMIN (signed) PHILLIPS, W: CHARLES (signed) BRIGGS, AARON (signed) PHILLIPS, and JAMES (signed) MOORE.

B. THOMAS PHILLIPS, SON of DAVID and ELIZABETH PHILLIPS

26 April 1735, Isle of Wight, page 419

Thomas Hunt, Carpenter of Prince George County, to THOMAS PHILLIPS of Isle of Wight - 140 acres on south side of Nottoway River (being a patent granted Thomas Hunt, decd., on 16 July

1714) and bounded by the Reedy Swamp. Witness John Persons (no signature). Recorded 28 April 1735. Signed Thomas Hunt.

Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly > Volume 28 > Number 2

28 Aug 1746 Patent THOMAS PHILLIPS, 300 a, Isle of Wight Co, S. side of Nottoway R., by the side of Raccoon Sw., S side thereof at a c of John Kiquotan's land, (p. 212) c of the sd. Philips's other land, the Spring Sw.

Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly > Volume 30 > Number 4

3 Nov 1750 Patent THOMAS PHILLIPS, 30 a, Isle of Wight Co., on N side of Three Crs, bounded by a corner on his other L, a c of Thomas Moss's L, the side of Great Br.,  
(Note: Three Creeks ran West to East between Meherrin and Nottoway Rivers)

Southampton Deed Book 3, Pages 215-216

THOMAS PHILLIPS to son JOHN PHILLIPS dated 17 Oct 1757. All goods furniture, money, and other items and sd. JOHN is to be executor of his will. Signed by THOMAS (mark) PHILLIPS. Witnessed by SOLOMON (signed) DeLOACH, JAMES (P) PULLEY, and MARY (mark) PULLY

Southampton Deed Bk 3, Pages 294-296

JOHN PHILLIPS and wife ELIZABETH to JAMES BATTLE of Sussex County dated 19 Apr 1763. 370 acres on the south side of Nottoway River (part of a patent to THOMAS PHILLIPS of Isle of Wight County on 28 Aug 1746, 70 acres purchased by THOMAS PHILLIPS of THOMAS HUNT of Prince George County on 26 Apr 1735). Signed by JOHN ( \_\_\_ ) PHILLIPS, W: BENJAMIN (signed) SIMMONS, JAMES (signed) SPEED JR, BENJAMIN (signed) SIMMONS JR, THOMAS (signed) WESTBROOK JR, and JOHN (signed) SIMMONS JR. ELIZABETH did not sign the deed nor come to court.