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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

Members of the Phillips DNA project frequently ask me what we can do about all the erroneous Phillips family information that gets passed around on the internet. One solution is DNA testing. Another is research. Here is an excerpt from a message posted by professional genealogist Richard Ripley on the Phillips genforum message board back in 2003:

The Phillips families of America derive from Philip, Llŵch Llawen Fawr (which means in Welsh, Philip, Lord of Cilsant') - he was a descendant of Cadivor Vawr, cousin of Aaron, mentioned above. The son of this Philip was Maredudd Phillips (b. 1382), who was the first in the family to actually tack on the surname 'Phillips'.

Maredudd Phillips began the long line of Knights, Lords, and Baronets, the Phillips family of Wales, from whom the American Phillips are descended. For example, Sir Erasmus Phillips (1699-1743), Fifth Baronet of Pembroke, while residing at the castle in Wales, was also Governor of Georgia in the USA. When he died prematurely, his brother Sir John Phillips (1702-1764) became 6th Baronet, and was the next Governor of Georgia. He lived in Georgia for several years. Some of his children remained in the USA and have lineage now living in America.

As many of you know, Richard Ripley is a Canadian genealogist who claims most Canadian and American Phillips families descend from the aristocratic Philipps family of Picton Castle, Wales. He sells a CD containing that misinformation to anyone naïve enough to buy it. Our unbiased, scientific Phillips DNA project has now made it abundantly clear that all Canadian and American Phillips families are not related and do not all descend from a single Philipps family that lived in Wales. So far, our project has identified 73 different Phillips families (most of whom are American or Canadian) who do not share a common paternal Phillips ancestor within 1,000 years. The 1,000 year benchmark is important, because European men did not use permanent surnames more than 1,000 years ago. In other words, the Philipps family of Picton Castle were not using the permanent surname Philipps 1,000 years ago.

In his first paragraph, Mr. Ripley made several grievous mistakes. Llŵch Llawen Fawr does not mean Philip, Lord of Cilsant, in Welsh. It means Llŵch, most mirthful, in Welsh (see <http://histfam.familysearch.org/getperson.php?personID=119258&tree=Welsh>). Llŵch was the

man's given name, not Philip. Llawen Fawr means "most mirthful". Moreover, Maredudd was not the son of Lluch Llawen Fawr. Maredudd was the seventh great-grandson of Lluch Llawen Fawr (that's right, his ggggggggrandson). It is thought that Lluch was born around 1000 A.D., and Maredudd was born almost 400 years later. One thing that Mr. Ripley did get right is the fact that Maredudd was the first person in this family to assume the permanent last name of Phillips, although Mr. Ripley decided to spell it Phillips instead of Philipps. Note that this family assumed the permanent last name Philipps around 600 years ago. The 73 different Phillips families identified in our project through DNA analysis do not share a common Phillips paternal ancestor within 1,000 years.

In his second paragraph, Mr. Ripley made a claim that is very easy to research for accuracy. He stated that Sir Erasmus Philipps and brother Sir John Philipps both served as Governor of the American colony of Georgia (although once again he spelled their last name Phillips instead of Philipps, which is the way they spelled it). If you simply google the words "governors of colonial Georgia", you will find the following list of the governors (originally called trustees or presidents) of the Colony of Georgia:

Order	Name	Title	Dates	Notes
1	General James Oglethorpe	Resident Trustee	1733– 1743	namesake of Oglethorpe County and Oglethorpe University
2	William Stephens	President	1743– 1751	
3	Henry Parker	President	1751– 1752	
4	Patrick Graham	President	1752– 1754	
5	Admiral John Reynolds	Governor	1754– 1757	
6	Henry Ellis	Governor	1757– 1760	
7	James Wright	Governor	1760– 1776	

As anyone can see, neither Sir Erasmus Philipps nor Sir John Philipps appear on this list - in fact, no men named Phillips or any variation of Phillips are on this list at all. Perhaps you are asking yourself, why did Mr. Ripley invent such a story? I don't know, but I am guessing he thought it would encourage more people to buy his CD. He probably also thought most people would take him at his word and make no attempt to verify his statements.

Mr. Ripley used to have a website called "The Roads Taken: Some Founders of the New World" and a Phillips family file posted on World Connect at RootsWeb.com called "verdego". He

posted the following information on those websites, which has been copied and reposted by many gullible Phillips researchers on the internet:

John Phillips is a direct ancestor of both Presidents George Bush, and many other notable people. He is the progenitor of many Phillips who came to America via New England after 1630. For the progenitor of most Phillips who came to America via Pennsylvania, see the file of Griffinus Phillips, Pennsylvania Progenitor. For another major progenitor of American Phillips families, see the file of John Phillips, Sir, Fifth Baronet. For a fourth, see the file of John Phillips, Virginia Progenitor, descended from this John. All of these families are somewhat interwoven, deriving from the titled family of Picton Castle, Wales... While several other lines of Phillips emigrated to America and Canada, it is the descendants of this John Phillips (with both of his wives) who most profoundly weave through the settlement and history of early New England.

“The Roads Taken” and “verdego” both stated that this John Phillips, hypothetical progenitor of many Phillips who came to America, was born on 21 May 1539 in Northam, Devon, England and died in 1626 in Sussex, England. According to Mr. Ripley, John’s father was Simon Phillips born about 1520 in Llwyngwair, Pembroke, Wales. Also according to Mr. Ripley, Simon’s father was Sir Owen Philipps of Picton Castle. The only problem is Sir Owen (or Owain, to use the Welsh spelling) Philipps of Picton Castle never had a son named Simon.

Because the Philipps family of Picton Castle was a wealthy aristocratic family, there are many documents still in existence with regard to the family and their family tree has been well researched. Here is a link to an exhaustively researched and well documented file on Owen Philipps of Picton Castle that lists all his known children, none of whom are named Simon: <http://histfam.familysearch.org/getperson.php?personID=138689&tree=Welsh>.

Unfortunately, there are now over 2,000 Phillips family files posted on Ancestry.com alone that contain the erroneous information that Owen Philipps of Picton Castle had a son named Simon. This misinformation is still contained on Mr. Ripley’s new website, which is called NFFG Investigational Genealogy Service (www.heritageregistry.net). I have sent messages to 1,000 of the people on Ancestry.com who have posted this erroneous information in their own family files and have only received responses from about 25 people. It is very discouraging to realize how difficult it is to correct bad information once it has been posted on the internet.

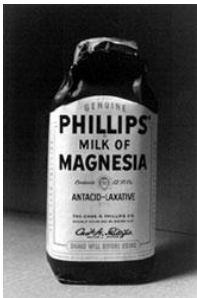
Mr. Ripley also claimed on his old websites that John Phillips born in 1539 was the ancestor of Nicholas Phillips of Dedham, Essex, England, Rev. George Phillips of Watertown, Massachusetts, Michael Phillips of Rhode Island, and John Phillips of Richmond, Virginia. We have tested the Y-DNA of descendants of all these men and none of them have matching Y-DNA. Nicholas Phillips belongs to Phillips Family DNA Group 18. Rev. George Phillips belongs to Phillips Family DNA Group 30. Michael Phillips belongs to either Phillips Family DNA Group 11 or Group 36. John Phillips belongs to Phillips Family DNA Group 17. None of these family groups share a common Phillips paternal ancestor within 1,000 years. It is simply not possible that they all

descend from John Phillips born in 1539, although Mr. Ripley still sells this false information to anyone who will buy it.

The moral to this story: Before you trustingly accept all the Phillips misinformation that is floating around on the internet and innocently incorporate it into your family tree, I recommend you do two things. Research the information for yourself and arrange for a male Phillips member of your family to take a Y-DNA test.

“PHILLIPS” IS A TRADEMARK THAT COMMANDS RESPECT

Reprinted from the Tercentenary Edition, Stamford Advocate, 1941, with permission from the Stamford Advocate



The name “Phillips” has been honorably known to more than three generations of physicians, dentists and pharmacists. It is always interesting to trace the origin and progress of successful pharmacol specialties and the owners take pardonable pride in calling attention to those of The Charles H. Phillips Chemical Co.

The pharmaceutical preparations bearing the name “Phillips” had their origin with Charles H. Phillips, manufacturing chemist, who established his laboratories at Glenbrook [Stamford, Connecticut] in 1849, where the preparations have continued to be made without interruption up to the present time.

On arriving in America from his native land, England, where Charles H. Phillips had followed the profession of chemist (pharmacists being called chemists in England), he located at Elizabeth, N. J., where he went into the retail drug business. The dream of almost every pharmacist is to originate projects of his own and someday enter the manufacturing field. This dream came true to Charles H. Phillips when he began his career as manufacturing chemist at Glenbrook.

Among the first products of his laboratory were superfine white wax, refined camphor and a high grade of essential oils. There were followed by Phillips’ palatable cod liver oil emulsion and phosphor-nutritine, a solution containing phosphates similar to those in wheat. The name of phosphor-nutritine was later changed to wheat phosphates (acid). A syrup of wheat phosphates was also put on the market. These phosphate preparations were formulated to

meet a growing demand on the part of physicians for this class of remedies which were freely prescribed at that time in the treatment of wasting diseases.

But the product that marked a milestone in the course of pharmacol specialties was the invention of “milk of magnesia” for which the United States Government granted a patent to Charles H. Phillips in 1873. Although used for centuries, magnesia was losing its rank in the list of efficient remedies on account of the impurities found in commercial products and the difficulty of administering magnesia in powder form. The utility of Phillips’ milk of magnesia is attested by the endorsement of physicians and dentists, which carries with it tremendous weight, and by its favorable reception as a trusted member in the medicine cabinet of discriminating households.

After the death of Charles H. Phillips in 1882, the business was incorporated in 1885 as The Charles H. Phillips Chemical Co. and conducted by his four sons, Drs. A. N. and C. E. H. Phillips and Messrs. W. D. and J. B. Phillips.

In 1923, The Charles H. Phillips Chemical Co. was acquired by Sterling Products (Incorporated), of which organization it is now a part. Since then, its laboratories have developed various new products, among them Phillips’ milk of magnesia tablets and Phillips’ milk of magnesia face creams.

Post script: The last familiar blue bottle of Milk of Magnesia filled in Stamford was in 1976 when production at the Glenbrook plant was phased out. It is currently owned by Bayer.

Guest Column

THREE GENEALOGY POWERHOUSES JOIN FORCES TO PUBLISH THE 1940 US CENSUS INDEX

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>.

An interesting announcement was released December 16, 2011: two companies and one non-profit have combined forces to produce indexes for the 1940 U.S. census. The thing that caught my eye is that one of the companies, findmypast.com, is based in London. It is a division of brightsolid (spelled with all lower-case letters), which is headquartered in Dundee, Scotland and has offices in London, Edinburgh, Ireland and Australia.

I believe this is the first time a non-U.S. company has moved so aggressively into the U.S. genealogy marketplace. The move is not a surprise, however, as brightsolid has been rumored for some time to be looking to expand into North America. The expansion strikes as a great idea; the more competition we see in the marketplace, the more all genealogy consumers will benefit.



The census **IMAGES** will be released on April 2, 2012, as has been mentioned many places. However, those images will not be indexed on the day they are released. Today's announcement involves the later creation of an **INDEX** to that census.

The following announcement was written by Archives.com, FamilySearch International, and findmypast.com:

16 December 2011

SALT LAKE CITY—Three leading genealogy organizations, Archives.com, FamilySearch International, and findmypast.com, announced today they are joining forces to launch the 1940 US Census Community Project. The ambitious project aims to engage online volunteers to quickly publish a searchable, high quality name index to the 1940 US Census after it is released in April 2012 by the National Archives and Record Administration of the United States (NARA). The highly anticipated 1940 US Census is expected to be the most popular US record collection released to date. Its completion will allow anyone to search the record collection by name for free online. Learn more about this exciting initiative or how to volunteer at www.the1940census.com.

The 1940 US Census Community Project is also receiving additional support from leading societal organizations like the Federation of Genealogical Societies, National Genealogical Society, and Ohio Genealogical Society.

The population of the US in 1940 was approximately 130 million. NARA's census images will not have a searchable index. The goal of the 1940 US Census Community Project is to create a high quality index online linked to the complete set of census images as soon as possible. The index will allow the public to easily search every person found in the census and view digital images of the original census pages. The collection will be available online for free to the general public at Archives.com, FamilySearch.org, and findmypast.com, the sponsors of the community project. This new collection will open access to family history research like never before for this period in the US.

“The 1940 Census is attractive to both new and experienced researchers because most people in the US can remember a relative that was living in 1940. It will do more to connect living

memory with historical records and families than any other collection previously made available,” said David Rencher, Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch.

The collaborative project will also pool the collective resources, know-how, and marketing reach of [Archives.com](#), [FamilySearch](#), and [findmypast.com](#) to engage and coordinate the volunteer workforce needed to deliver the ambitious project. Additionally, Archives.com and findmypast.com will make substantial financial contributions to make the 1940 US Census online name index possible and work with nonprofit FamilySearch to bring additional new records collections online—making even more highly valued family history resources available to the entire genealogical community.

[Archives.com](#) launched in 2009 with a focus on making family history research simple and affordable. Archives.com was recently awarded the opportunity to host the 1940 census for the National Archives as part of a separate project. Its involvement with the collaborative 1940 US Census project reiterates its commitment to the genealogy community and leadership in the space.

“As a forward thinking company, we understand the critical importance the 1940 Census will have on US family history research. We are proud to be a primary sponsor of this community initiative, giving us another opportunity to take a leading role in the genealogy industry. We’d like to encourage and thank volunteers in advance for their essential contribution to this project,” said Matthew Monahan, CEO of Archives.com’s parent company, Inflection.

FamilySearch has developed an impressive global online community of volunteers over the past 5 years to help create free indexes to millions of the world’s historic records. The scope and size of the 1940 US Census Community Project will require tens of thousands of additional volunteers.

[findmypast.com](#) is one of a series of leading family history websites owned by the online publisher brightsolid, which hosts over a billion records across its genealogy brands. The company, which has been at the cutting edge of online family history since 2002, has a wealth of genealogy experience, including the recently digitized historic newspaper archive for the British Library ([britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](#)), which is set to digitize up to 40 million pages over the next 10 years.

“By supporting this ground-breaking initiative, we hope to capture the imagination of the public to bring millions of people together to create this remarkable document of, and tribute to, the Greatest Generation. At brightsolid we are committed to making family history accessible for all and believe access to these records will transform the family history market in the US,” said Chris van der Kuyl, CEO of findmypast.com’s parent company, brightsolid.

About Archives.com

[Archives.com](#) is a leading family history website that makes discovering family history simple and affordable. The company has assembled more than 1.5 billion U.S. and international

historical records in a single location, including vital, census, newspaper, immigration, military, and more. Archives.com is free to try for seven days, allowing anyone to explore the benefits of membership without risk or obligation. Archives.com is owned and operated by Inflection, a fast-growing data commerce company, chosen by the National Archives to host the 1940 Census. Find more information at <http://www.archives.com/1940census>.

About FamilySearch

FamilySearch International is the largest genealogy organization in the world. FamilySearch is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services to learn more about their family history. To help in this great pursuit, FamilySearch and its predecessor organizations have been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. Patrons may access FamilySearch services and resources free online at FamilySearch.org or through over 4,600 family history centers in 132 countries, including the main Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

About brightsolid and findmypast.com

Since 1994, brightsolid group has been delivering online innovation and pioneering the expansion of the genealogy market with leading family history websites including the findmypast global network, ScotlandsPeople, GenesReunited, and britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk, together servicing over 18 million registered customers worldwide. The sites connect people via their innovative family tree software and deliver access to over a billion records dating as far back as 1200. Family historians can search for their ancestors among global collections, relating primarily to people with UK and Irish ancestry, of military records, census, migration, occupation directories, newspapers, as well as birth, marriage and death records.