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Phillips DNA News

www.phillipsdna.com

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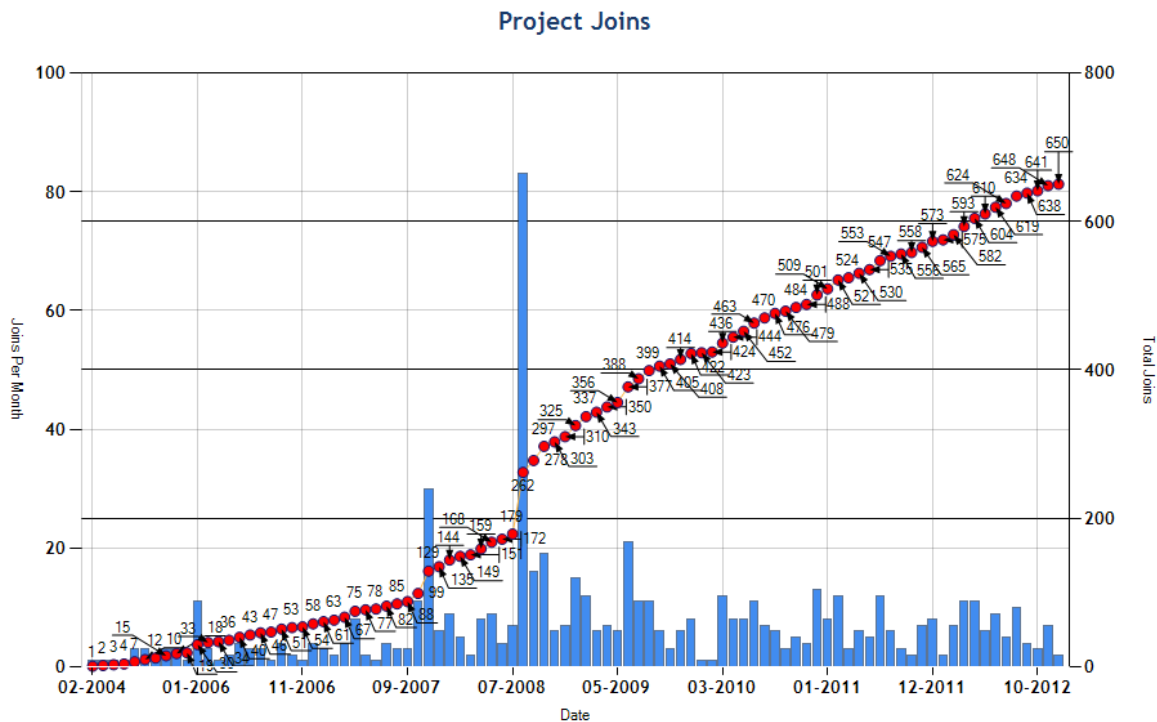
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Editor: [Nancy Kiser](#)

Please submit news articles or ideas for articles to the editor. Questions about Genetic Genealogy can always be sent to the editor.

Project News

As we embark on a new year, it is an appropriate time to review the status of our Phillips DNA Project. At the end of December, 2012, we have 650 participants who have ordered DNA tests from Family Tree DNA. In addition, we have more than 50 participants who have gotten tested elsewhere and sent their DNA results to us to add to the project. We continue to enjoy being one of the largest surname Y-DNA projects. Here is a chart showing how the Phillips DNA Project has grown since it was formed in 2004:



In addition to our family groups, we have over 170 Phillips men in the project who do not match any other Phillips men in the project. We call these men Singletons and they represent approximately 26% of the membership. The percentage of unmatched Singletons has been remarkably stable right from the beginning of the project and may partially reflect the accumulated impact of non-paternal events over the course of time. Although population scientists believe non-paternal events such as illegitimacy and adoption only occur at a rate of approximately 3% per generation, the effect of that 3% snowballs over time so that at the end of 10 generations, as many as 28.5% of the men in any given family group may no longer carry the Y-DNA of that group.

It is also interesting to look at the different haplogroups found in our Phillips DNA project. Haplogroup is similar to nationality and refers to a group of people who can be associated with a particular geographic area. You might want to think of haplogroups as the limbs of the tree of Homo sapiens, keeping in mind that people who belong to different haplogroups cannot share a common paternal or maternal ancestor within thousands of years. There are Y-DNA or male haplogroups and mtDNA or female haplogroups.

About 71% of the male participants in the Phillips DNA Project belong to various subclades of Haplogroup R1b, which is the most common haplogroup in Western Europe and the British Isles. Our second biggest haplogroup is Haplogroup I and its subclades, comprising about 21.5% of our participants. Haplogroup I is considered to be a Scandinavian and/or Central European haplogroup. The presence of Haplogroup I in the British Isles is thought to be the result of Viking and Anglo-Saxon invasions over the centuries. The remaining 7.5% of the members of our Phillips DNA Project belong to an assortment of different haplogroups including Haplogroups A, E, G, J, Q, R1a and T. Descriptions of these different haplogroups can be found on our website at this link:

<http://www.phillipsdnaproject.com/faq-sections/27-dna-questions-faqs/114-haplogroup-migration-map>

On December 12, 2012, Family Tree DNA introduced a new look for the myFTDNA home page, which is also known as your personal page for those of you who got your DNA tested at FTDNA. Each personal page should now have a new badge that displays the Haplogroup of an mtDNA or Y-DNA test that has been completed. There are three new quick-links at the top of the page that will suggest needed actions like taking a survey or adding surnames. An option has also been added to select Y-DNA 111 with regard to the matches maps. This feature used to only go up to Y-DNA 67. As we went to press, the new myFTDNA home page is still in beta testing and you can elect to return to the former page if you prefer.

Featured Phillips Family Story

Tobias Phillips and Margaret Lawrence

By Nancy Kiser, with input from Darren Lay

Joe Payne and I wrote an article for the December 2010 issue of our Phillips DNA Project's newsletter about a family story regarding Tobias Phillips of Phillips Family DNA Group 17. Here is a reprise of that article:

“Tobias Phillips was a second generation tobacco planter who lived in Old Rappahannock County, Virginia, now known as Richmond County, Virginia. He was the son of John and Elizabeth Phillips and his 12 January 1687 birth is recorded in the North Farnham Parish records. Tobias married a woman named Hannah by 1715, because the birth of their first child, Elizabeth, is recorded in the same parish records on 18 November 1715.

Margaret “Peggy” Lawrence was indicted on a felony charge of thievery on 9 July 1729 in Middlesex County, England. She was tried and convicted in the Hall of Justice of Old Bailey, London, on 25 February 1730. For her sentence, she was given “his Majesty’s royal mercy on condition of transportation to some parts of America for a spare of fourteen years.” Her transportation bond was issued on 9 March 1730.

Margaret became one of 106 prisoners whom Jonathan Forward contracted to transport on the “Patapscoe Merchant” commanded by Darby Lux from the City of London’s Newgate Prison to Maryland. According to family stories, Tobias learned of the ship arriving in Baltimore, Maryland, and traveled 100 miles to meet Captain Lux and inspect the 94 prisoners who had survived the journey. Tobias purchased Margaret’s bond, which entitled him to seven years of her service, and brought her back to his tobacco plantation in Old Rappahannock County, Virginia.

While living at the tobacco plantation, Margaret supposedly bore Tobias two illegitimate sons, John Lawrence born about 1731 and Thomas Lawrence born about 1733. One of the members of our Phillips DNA project, Joe Payne, has a website on which he has posted the following information from correspondence with a Lawrence descendant named Sandra Cole:

Sandra Cole explains of the following letter; “The letter is not signed, and apparently was not mailed. It was found in a large collection of family correspondence of John Lawrence’s family from 1840 through 1870. The letter contains some inaccuracies, for instance, Lord Trent was really Henry Trent. Other proof has been found for all the names except Baldwin, they remain elusive. A group of Lawrence descendants pooled our money and hired an English genealogist to find out more about Margaret Lawrence, but not much was found other than a Transportation Bond dated 9 March 1730. Margaret and nine others were convicted of several thefts and larcenies and transported for fourteen years. The

court documents for a short period of time surrounding March 1730 have been lost so the nature of the thefts is unknown.”

Dear Nephew,

Your letter arrived a few days ago. The postmaster says he had been derelict of duty, I could not then attend to it. John, your request almost shames me.

Our name comes to us a little out of the order of things. My great grandmother called herself Lawrence and I have been told that she emigrated from Europe in the early part of the last century to old Virginia, and was there sold to a tobacco planter owning a plantation 8 or 10 miles from home for seven years to pay her passage. Her master settled her at that out place, she being almost his wife and remained there united. She raised two sons. John, I think was the eldest and Thomas was my grandfather. He was uneducated but was a man of good mind. He spelled his name Laurence. But I, understanding he did not know them to have been the letters used by his progenitors, altered it to Lawrence which sound is the same. Thomas sometime before the Revolution moved from Dinwiddie County to Goochland County, Virginia where they lived when Uncle John joined the army. He then moved to Wilkes County, North Carolina where he died.

His consort's maiden name was Lucy Wammac whose mother was a Puckey, whose mother was the daughter of Lord Trent. My mother was a Cate. I am not aware how many generations there are of them in America or whether the name started here or not. Grandmother's name was Baldwin who was a crop of what used to be called Low Dutch on a Walsh Lady.

I have been told that Great Grandmother sought every opportunity to come to America and consented to be sold. No doubt severe family oppression drove her.

But it seems to me the link is either broken or becomes very slender. My recollection about Grandfather's brother is that some time after he was married and before the Revolution he being yet single went south I think to North Carolina and if they ever heard of each other afterwards I am not aware of it.

Although family legends often sound believable, they are still just family legends. Today in the 21st century, we finally have the means to prove whether or not they are true. Several months ago, a descendant of Thomas Lawrence, one of the sons of Margaret Lawrence, joined the Phillips DNA project and got his yDNA tested. Lo and behold, his yDNA matches the yDNA of Phillips Family Group 17! This is the family group that contains other descendants of Tobias Phillips. Of course, as in the case of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings, the matching DNA does not conclusively prove that Tobias was the father of Margaret's children, because one of his brothers could have also been the father. However, given the family stories and the proximity of Tobias and Peggy, it seems very, very likely.”

Apparently the English genealogist hired by the group of Lawrence descendants did not look very carefully for the court documents involving Margaret's thefts and larcenies, because I was contacted by another researcher last month, Darren Lay, who sent me links to some online records that spell out Margaret's thefts and larcenies very clearly. The English genealogist may have been looking in the wrong place and for the wrong spelling of her last name, since it appears Margaret "Laurence" was tried and convicted on 27 August 1729, not on 25 February 1730. So here is the rest of the story.

MARGARET LAURENCE, THEFT FROM A SPECIFIED PLACE, 27TH AUGUST 1729
Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 7.0, 12 December 2012),
August 1729, trail of Margaret Laurence (t17290827-32)

Margaret Laurence, of St. Andrew's Holborn, was indicted for that she, together with Esther Morgan, not taken, did feloniously steal a Gold Watch, Chain, and Seals, value 24 £, a Gold Snuff-Box, value 18 £, a Diamond Ear-ring, one Velvet Gown and Petticoat, and other Suits of silk Cloaths, and divers other wearing Apparel, Silk and Linen, as Head-Dress, Ruffles, Laces, &c. to the Sum of 80 £ and 40 Guineas, the Goods of Martha Thorold, in the Dwelling-House of the said Martha Thorold, the 9th of July last.

Madam Thorold depos'd, that the Prisoner had been her Servant, but had been gone from her about a Fortnight; and that she went out to pay a Visit about half an Hour after Five a-Clock in the Afternoon, the 9th of July last, and returning Home about half an Hour after Eight, could not get any Entrance; whereupon her Footman went round about, and got in the Back-way, where he found the Doors backwards all open, and opening the fore-Door, let her in, saying, Madam you are robb'd; that she going into her Rooms, found her Cabinet broken open, and the Drawers, &c. all thrown about the Room, and the Goods and Money mention'd in the Indictment, gone, and finding her Servants, and examining them; Betty Loyd pretended to have been bound, and that the Robbery was committed by two Persons, who they did believe were Men in Women's Cloths; and that the Servants did not own for a considerable time that they knew who the Persons were that had committed the Robbery.

Elizabeth Loyd depos'd, That the Prisoner came about a Fortnight after she had left Madam Thorold's Service, along with Hester Morgan, to their House; that they ask'd them to stay all Night, which they did, and all the next Day, 'till her Mistress were gone out; after which, Margaret Laurence pull'd her into the Men's Room, telling her, She had her Mistress and thrown her down on the Bed, took off her Garters, and tied her Hands, &c. with her Garters, and then they went and rifled the House; that they were busy in doing it for about 3 quarters of an Hour, and afterwards she saw them go out at the Back-Door, having each of them a large Bundle under their Riding-Hoods; but she could not tell what was in them.

Lucy Hart depos'd, That She being busy in getting up Mrs. Thorold's Head-cloaths, heard Betty Loyd shriek out, and presently the Prisoner and Hester Morgan came into the Room, and told her, They had a mind to rob Mrs. Thorold of her Money; that she desir'd them not to talk of any such thing; her Conscience would not let her consent to it; that the Prisoner replied, If Taylor and Weldon (two former Servants) had been there, they would have been glad of the

Opportunity; that she not consenting, but crying out, Hester Morgan damn'd her, and threatened her, that if she made any Noise or Opposition, she would kill her; that they at first ty'd her, but afterwards let her loose again, and lock'd her up.

Thomas Booth, the Constable, depos'd, That the Prisoner being apprehended, did at last own the Fact; that she had pawn'd a Pair of Stays, a Gown and Petticoat of Mrs. Thorolds, and told them where Hester Morgan lodged, at one Forster's, a Shoemaker in Tash-Street; that he went thither, and Hester Morgan being gone out, he demanded the Key; but that not being deliver'd, he search'd the Room, but not finding them; after menacing the People of the House, was told, that the Goods had been carried to a Trunkmaker's in Holborn, which by Enquiry being found, they were inform'd, that Morgan having bought a large Trunk the Things were put into it, and carried away by a Porter; that the Porter being found, he carried him to one Mr. Busby's, where it was found; but Hester Morgan was not there, nor had they yet had an Opportunity of apprehending her.

Mr. Busby depos'd, That she had known Hester Morgan several Years, and took her for an honest Person; that meeting with her, she said she was coming out of Place, and desir'd her to recommend her to a Lodging in an honest House, whereupon she told her she might lodge with her, and the Trunk and a Bundle was brought in: The Constable added, That the Prisoner being ask'd the reason why she had robb'd Madam Thorold? she replied, That she did it not for Want, but for Spite, she having us'd her ill.

Mr. Chambers, the Pawn-broker, depos'd, That having heard of Madam Thorold's being robb'd, and suspecting that the Stays, Gowns, &c. which the Prisoner had pawn'd to him, were Madam Thorold's, he went and acquainted her he had such Things, which she having own'd, they were produced in Court, own'd by the Prosecutor, and sworn to be pawn'd by the Prisoner.

The Prisoner in her Defence pleaded, that she receiv'd those Cloaths from Hester Morgan to pawn for her, who pretended that Madam Thorold had given them to her. She pleaded likewise, that Elizabeth Loyd desir'd her to take off her Garters, and bind her with them and likewise to Gag her, that her Mistress might have no Suspicion of her; that the Evidences, Loyd, Hart, and Morgan, had contriv'd the Robbery, and she had been sent to four Several times to commit it, and that they were all four to have gone down into Wales; and that she had none of the Things but the Gown, Petticoat and Stays before-mention'd, and knew but of 12 Guineas to have been taken by Morgan. The Fact being plainly prov'd, the Jury found her guilty of the Indictment. Death.

At receiving Sentence, the Prisoner did not, as usual, plead her Belly, but begg'd of the Court to consider that she was a young Person, and threw herself upon the Mercy of the Court.

Ordinary's Account, 21st November 1729

Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 7.0, 12 December 2012), Ordinary of Newgate's Account, November 1729 (OA17291121)

Upon Monday the 17th of this Instant November, the Report was made to his Majesty in Council of the above Eleven Malefactors, under Sentence of Death in Newgate. John Showswood of St.

Martin's in the Fields, for stealing 3 gold Watches, val. 75 £, two Diamond Rings, a Pistol, val. 10 s. and other Goods, out of the House of Mr. John Buchan, the 15th of August last; and Margaret Laurence, of St. Andrew's Holbourn, for feloniously stealing a Gold Watch, Chain, and Seals, val. 24 £, a Gold Snuff-Box, val. 18 £, a Diamond Ear-ring, one Velvet Gown and Petticoat, and other Suits of Cloaths, and divers other wearing Apparel, Silk and Linnen, as Head dress, Ruffles, Laces, &c. to the Sum of 80 £ and 40 Guineas, the Goods of Martha Thorold, out of the dwelling House of the said Martha Thorold, the 9th of July last; receiv'd his Majesty's most Gracious Reprieve.

End Note:

During the 1700s, women who claimed they were pregnant at the time they were sentenced to death could "plead their belly." Such women (and there were many) were then examined by a jury of matrons (chosen from women present in the courtroom), and, if found to be "quick with child" (if movement could be detected, signaling the beginning of life), their punishment was respited until after the baby was born. In principle, the punishment could then be carried out, but in practice sympathy for the newborn child (or concern for the cost of caring for it) meant that the mother was often pardoned. It seems likely to me that Margaret may have been pregnant at the time of her sentencing and perhaps this is why she received "his Majesty's most Gracious Reprieve" and was sentenced to deportation to America for 14 years instead of death.

Guest Column

Broadside Concerning the Trial and Sentence of Charles and Margaret McMahon

Probable period of publication: 1820-1830

Reprinted from "The Word on the Street" at

<http://digital.nls.uk/broadsides/broadside.cfm/id/15478/criteria/philips>

In the centuries before there were newspapers and 24-hour news channels, the general public had to rely on street literature to find out what was going on. The most popular form of this for nearly 300 years was 'broadsides' - the tabloids of their day. Sometimes pinned up on walls in houses and ale-houses, these single sheets carried public notices, news, speeches and songs that could be read (or sung) aloud.

The National Library of Scotland's online collection of nearly 1,800 broadsides lets you see for yourself what 'the word on the street' was in Scotland between 1650 and 1910. Crime, politics, romance, emigration, humor, tragedy, royalty and superstitions - all these and more are here.

Here is a transcription of a broadside involving the robbery and death of a man named Alexander Philips.

An account of the Trial and Sentence of Charles and Margaret M'Mahon, accused of the Murder and Robbery of a Jew on the easter road to Leith.

Yesterday Charles M'Mahon, and Margaret M'Mahon, were put to the bar, accused of murder and robbery, or theft, or reset of theft in assaulting Alexander Philips, dealer in furs, and having overpowered him, did strangle him by squeezing his throat with their hands, or by some other means the deceased was deprived of life, and murdered; as also robbing the said Alexander Philips of a green silk shawl, a silver snuff-box, a brown leather purse silver with a steel clasp, three watches, and £40 in notes, gold and silver. The pannels were libelled for the theft of the above articles, or with resetting the same.

Moses Henry Leiseheim was called, and sworn in the Jewish form, with his hat on his head, and hand upon the old Testament - He kept a public house in Leith last year, his wife attended in his absence; she by this means became acquainted with the prisoners. In May last he moved to Edinburgh, and ill of a dropsy for some days. On the 16th August, witness met Mr. Soloman, (father of deceased), and on the Monday following he went to the house of the pannel, in the Flesh Market Close, to buy of him two gold watches. He was shown two gold watches, which he agreed to purchase. On the Tuesday morning, he gave information to Mr. Scott, the procurator fiscal, and got the necessary assistance. He went to the house alone, the officers remaining outside. His (witness's) girl was to get a signal, which was, "go home and tell your mistress to get my dinner ready." The door being open, he went in, and found the male prisoner in bed, and the female going about the house; he asked her if she had got the watches, she said she had, and he gave his girl the signal. The female prisoner put out her own girl, and locked the door, she then went to a chest, and took out the watches. To gain time he began to bargain about discount, and while doing so a rap came to the door, he (witness) opened it, but before doing so, the woman said, "who can this be". The officers entered the house and asked the pannel if he had any gold watches to dispose off, he said no. Sergeant Sutherland searched a trunk, and took out a red purse, which he gave to Mrs. Mahon, saying she might keep that. Pannel was taken to the Police office. Sergeant Grant desired witness to keep an eye to the woman; He then observed her go to a press, in which stood some cups and saucers; from that the woman took something glittering, and put it into a vessel she was washing in, close by the fireside. Grant searched the water, and took out of it a leather purse, which when witness saw, he said you are the murderer of the Jew, for that's his purse. Grant took the grate out, and, behind it, found a wet cloth; in this was a silver snuff-box, which he (witness) knew to be the Jew's box. Other things were also found, particularly gold and silver watches - he, however, took no particular note of them, but ran off to tell the Jew's friends that the things had been found.

Solomon Philips, father of the deceased, said that his son left his house on a Monday morning in July last, to buy some watches from a man in Leith, this was the last time he saw him alive, knew that his son had £200 in notes, besides £50 in gold, on his person, identified the silver snuff box.

Margaret Dudhope knows the prisoners, they lodged in 10 Coalhill, where she lived; saw a Jew go up the lane where prisoners live and saw him come down again with M'Mahon between eight and nine o'clock, it was sometime after Whitsunday that she saw him there, perhaps two or three weeks before she heard of the body of a man being found on the Lochend road.

Dr. W. Brown and Mr. Charles Watson examined the body when found. The state of the neck was such from decay that they could not say whether the body had or had not been strangled; the brain was in a fluid state; the death must have been sudden.

A pretty long consultation took place between the counsel and the bench, after which, the Jury consulted, and returned a verdict of not proven.

The pannels were then arranged on a second indictment, containing three different charges of theft or reset - the first, stealing or resetting in 24th July, a gold watch, chain, and seals; secondly, with stealing from the London, Leith, Edinburgh, and Glasgow shipping Company's warehouse at Leith, on 22d August, a leather trunk, containing wearing apparel, jewellery, &c. or with resetting the same; and thirdly, - with stealing or resetting on 29th November, a gold watch, chain, and key, &c.

The pannels pleaded guilty to the reset of the articles mentioned in the two first charges, as libelled.

The Jury returned a verdict of guilty in terms of the confession.

The Lord Justice-Clerk addressed the pannels as to their future conduct; after which, sentence of transportation for 14 years was pronounced.

The female prisoner called out, with great bitterness, "Oh, my children - my poor children."

Endnote:

In Scotland, the crime referred to as "reset" is the possession of property obtained by crime, trafficking in property obtained by crime, or possession of property obtained by crime for the purposes of trafficking. It includes property that was taken by theft or robbery as well as property taken by breaches of trust including embezzlement, fraud and willful imposition. The word "panel" under Scottish law means a person indicted or accused of crime.