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

Happy New Year, everyone! As we embark on 2014, I think it is a good idea to review the status of our Phillips DNA Project. By the end of December, 2013, we had 712 participants who have joined our project and gotten tested through the commercial testing company, Family Tree DNA. In addition, we have more than 50 participants who have gotten tested elsewhere and sent their Y-DNA results to us to add to the project. We continue to enjoy being one of the largest surname Y-DNA projects in existence. Here is a chart showing how the Phillips DNA Project has grown since it was formed in 2004:
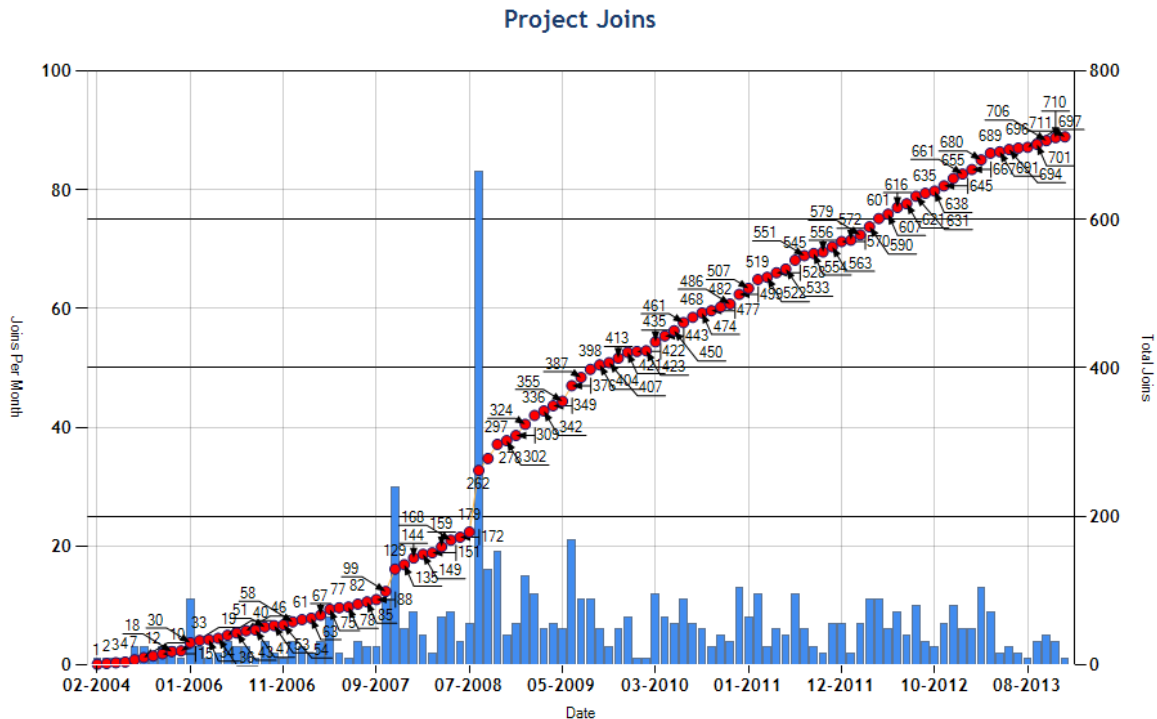
Using Y-DNA analysis, we have identified more than 80 distinct, unrelated Phillips family groups. These Phillips family groups range in size from two to over forty members and DNA analysis indicates these different groups do not share a common paternal Phillips ancestor with each other within 1000 years. This supports the idea that the surname Phillips is a patronymic surname adopted over time by many different, unrelated men who had fathers bearing the first

name Phillip or Philip.

In addition to the Phillips men in our family groups, we have over 180 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 25% 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, adultery and adoption only occur at a rate of approximately 2% to 3% per generation, the effect of that 2% - 3% snowballs over time so that at the end of 10 generations, as many as 18% to 26% of the men in any given family group may no longer carry the Y-DNA of that group.

It is also interesting to study the different haplogroups found in our Phillips DNA project. There are male haplogroups and female haplogroups. 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.

About 70% 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 20% 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 10% 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://phillipsdnaproject.com/faq-sections/27-dna-questions-faqs/114-haplogroup-migration-map

Here's hoping that our Phillips DNA Project continues to grow and prosper in 2014. If everyone would make a resolution to recruit one new member this year, we could double the size of our project by the end of the year. Although we now have over 700 participants in the Phillips DNA Project, this only represents a small percentage of all the men named Phillips in the world. We need to test more Phillips men to fulfill our goal of identifying all the different branches of Phillips families worldwide.

Featured Phillips Family Story

Joseph Phillips (1768-1849) and Mary (Stanton) Phillips (1773-1851)
Grafton County, New Hampshire to Northumberland County, Upper Canada
By Bob Phillips, Phillips DNA Project Group 11

While researching my own family roots and attempting to identify the parents of my g-g-grandfather, Jonathan PHILLIPS (1794-1868) of Hastings County, Ontario, I make a habit of noting other Phillips/Philips/Phelps families I encounter in my quest. I also attempt to seek out additional information about these families. One such encounter was that of Joseph PHILLIPS and his wife Polly (STANTON) PHILLIPS who are buried in the Cobourg Union Cemetery in Northumberland County, Ontario. I came across them while exploring the entries at the *Findagrave.com* website.

Joseph PHILLIPS and Polly STANTON were married 17 February 1801 in New Hampshire, according to the New Hampshire state marriage records. Joseph PHILLIPS was located in the 1790 *U.S. Census*, in Plymouth, Grafton County, New Hampshire, with no wife or children listed. Utilizing the census look up available through *Heritage Quest Online*, I located a digitized image of the page in the 1790 census report which shows Joseph PHILLIPS, along with Amos, John and Paul D. PHILLIPS. Amos PHILLIPS family is enumerated with 2 white males age 16 and over, no white males under age 16, and 3 white females. John PHILLIPS family is enumerated as consisting of one white male over age 16, one white male under 16 years of age, and 4 white females. Paul D. PHILLIPS family is enumerated as 1 white male over age 16, no white males under age 16, and no white females. Although these PHILLIPS families are located all in the same geographic region, that in itself does not lead to the conclusion they are related. Even if they are related to one another, how they might relate would need to be established with further documentation.

The *Revolutionary War Pension* applications have a John PHILLIPS, originally from Plymouth, New Hampshire. According to the pension files, this John PHILLIPS was married twice. Both of his spouses survived him. His first wife's name was Anna (Cummings) PHILLIPS, who resided in Plymouth, New Hampshire. John and Anna married December 18, 1783 according to an affidavit signed by Anna's brother, Jonathan Cummings. His second wife was Lucinda STEVENS whom he married about 1819, in Benson, Vermont. It is reported that John PHILLIPS in the winter of 1809 abandoned his family in New Hampshire and moved to Herkimer County, New York.

John PHILLIPS was aged 58 when he first filed for a pension 27 April 1819 at Danville, Vermont. That would put his year of birth about 1761. On 4 December 1839, Anna PHILLIPS of Plymouth, New Hampshire, filed for his pension as a widow, stating that John died at Westhaven, 15 August 1825. Anna PHILLIPS was age 66 when she filed for the pension. On 28 June 1856 Lucinda PHILLIPS of Brooklyn, New York, age 75 years, filed for the pension of John PHILLIPS, also claiming to be his widow. Since John never divorced his first wife, Anna, Anna's petition was awarded. Lucinda's request for his pension was denied. I believe that this John PHILLIPS is

the same John PHILLIPS enumerated in the 1790 census above.   Per the New Hampshire birth records, John PHILLIPS, son of Amos and Abigail PHILLIPS, was born 18 March 1760 in Dunstable Township, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire. Further research may reveal a relationship between this John and the Joseph PHILLIPS who is the subject of this paper.

A secondary source, *History of Plymouth New Hampshire, Genealogies Vol II*; Ezra S. Stears; p. 527-531 lists the family of Seth PHILLIPS and Lydia, from Groton, Massachusetts. Amos PHILLIPS 1719-1801 is listed as a son of Seth and Lydia, along with their family.

PHILLIPS

1. Seth PHILLIPS and wife Lydia lived in Groton, Mass, where ten children were born from 1717 to 1736.

2. Amos PHILLIPS, son of Seth (1), b. Oct. 27, 1719: baptized Apr 24, 1720. He removed to Dunstable before 1745 and there res. over twenty years. He was one of the grantees of Plymouth, and removed to this town, locating at Lower Intervale, 1767. He was an industrious, frugal farmer and a respected townsman. He m. 1746 Abigail Dodge (intentions in Lunenburg, Mass., Feb 8, 1745/46). She was b. in Topsfield, Mass., Dec. 6, 1724, dau. of Noah and Margaret (Crockett) Dodge, of Topsfield, and later of Lunenburg. She was a sister of the wife of Gershm Hobart. He d. Oct. 25, 1801. She d. Feb 15, 1808. The births of seven children are recorded in Dunstable: there is no record of the birth of Abigail and of the three youngest children.

i. **Sarah**, b. May 12 1747, m. Jacob Marsh [*Per MA birth records, Sarah, daughter of Amos and Abigail, was born 12 May 1747 in Dunstable, Middlesex, MA*].
ii. **Amos**, b. Aug. 3, 1740, was taxed in Plymouth, 1784 to 1790, when he removed to Hancock. He removed, 1803, from Hancock to Vermont. [*Per MA birth records, Amos, son of Amos and Abigail was born 3 Aug. 1749 in Dunstable, Middlesex, MA*].
iii. **Benjamin**, twin, b. Aug 3, 1740 [*Per MA birth records, Benjamin, son of Amos and Abigail was born 3 August 1749 in Dunstable, Middlesex, MA*].
iv. **Noah**, b. Oct 31, 1753 [*Per NH birth records, Noah, son of Amos and Abigail was born 31 Oct. 1753 in Dunstable, Hillsboro NH*].
v. **Abigail** b. 1756. m. John Brown, son of Dr. John. [*No birth record found in MA or NH*].
vi. **Seth**, b. Mar 5, 1758, d. young. [*Per NH birth records, Seth, son of Amos and Abigail was born 5 March 1758 in Dunstable, Hillsboro, NH*].
vii. **John**, b. Mar 18, 1760 [*Per NH birth records, John, son of Amos and Abigail was born 18 March 1760 in Dunstable, Hillsboro, NH*].
viii. **Nehemiah**, b. Mar 3, 1762 [*Per NH birth records, Nehemiah, son of Amos and Abigail was born 3 March 1762 in Dunstable, Hillsboro, NH*].
ix. **Paul Dodge**, b. 1763. Was honored citizen of Danville, VT., and the founder of Phillips Academy, of Danville. He lived and was taxed in Plymouth until 1790. [*Per VT death records, Paul D. PHILLIPS, born 1766, died 22 January 1840 in Danville, VT*].
x. **Joseph**, b. 1768. m. 1801, Polly Stanton, b. Sept. 26, 1773, dau of Isaac W. and Ruth (Ayer) Stanton, of Holderness. He lived in Plymouth, Danville, Vt,. and Coburg, P. Q. Five children. [*No record of birth can be located for a Joseph PHILLIPS, son of Amos and Abigail*].

xi. **Molly**, b. 1771, m. Nov 17, 1791, Jacob Fellows, of Bridgewater. In Bridgewater records he is styled Ensign. Three children b. in Bridgewater. (1) Mary (2) Sally (3) Jacob [*No record of birth can be located for a Molly PHILLIPS, daughter of Amos and Abigail*].

If this listing is correct, then the Amos, John, Joseph, and Paul D. PHILLIPS enumerated in the 1790 census are likely all children of Amos PHILLIPS and Abigail DODGE. Although Joseph and Polly are placed in "Coburg, P.Q.", Cobourg, Upper Canada would be more correct, as in 1791 Quebec, a colony in British North America, was divided into Upper and Lower Canada. Upper Canada became Ontario. Thus "Coburg, P.Q." should be Cobourg, Upper Canada.

At present, there appears to be no representation of this PHILLIPS family in the Phillips DNA Project. Joseph and Polly reportedly had five children, possibly including at least one male child. It would be interesting if a living male descendant from this PHILLIPS family would come forward and agree to submit a test for Y-DNA.

Guest Column

Man traces ancestry to 1st English King – So what?

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.

The wire services recently carried a story about a man who traced his ancestry to King Egbert of England as well as all of the royal houses of Europe. The article makes it sound like something rather unusual. My question is, "So what? Almost everyone else theoretically can do the same."

We all have two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, and so on. To determine the number of ancestors you have, all you have to do is grab a calculator and determine how many generations you wish to go back. That should easy. Or is it?

For instance, here is a simple chart showing the number of ancestors you have, assuming an average of one generation every twenty-five years:

Number of generations	Approximate years	Ancestors in this generation	Total ancestors
1	25	2	2
2	50	4	6
3	75	8	14
4	100	16	30
5	125	32	62

6	150	64	126
7	175	128	254
8	200	256	510
9	225	512	1,022
10	250	1,024	2,046
11	275	2,048	4,094
12	300	4,096	8,190
13	325	8,192	16,382
14	350	16,384	32,766
15	375	32,768	65,534
16	400	65,536	131,070
17	425	131,072	262,142
18	450	262,144	524,286
19	475	524,288	1,048,574
20	500	1,048,576	2,097,150
21	525	2,097,152	4,194,302
22	550	4,194,304	8,388,606
23	575	8,388,608	16,777,214
24	600	16,777,216	33,554,430
25	625	33,554,432	67,108,862
26	650	67,108,864	134,217,726
27	675	134,217,728	268,435,454
28	700	268,435,456	536,870,910
29	725	536,870,912	1,073,741,822
30	750	1,073,741,824	2,147,483,646
31	775	2,147,483,648	4,294,967,294
32	800	4,294,967,296	8,589,934,590
33	825	8,589,934,592	17,179,869,182
34	850	17,179,869,184	34,359,738,366
35	875	34,359,738,368	68,719,476,734
36	900	68,719,476,736	137,438,953,470
37	925	137,438,953,472	274,877,906,942
38	950	274,877,906,944	549,755,813,886
39	975	549,755,813,888	1,099,511,627,774
40	1,000	1,099,511,627,776	2,199,023,255,550

As you can see, in the last 1,000 years you have a bit more than two trillion ancestors. There is only one problem with this: that number far exceeds the total number of people who have ever lived on the face of the earth!

In fact, there are duplicates in your family tree. If you were able to identify every single person in your family tree, you would find that many ancestors of a few hundred years ago would show up time and time again. This is inbreeding, and we all have it in our family trees.

There are no exceptions; the mathematics involved makes it obvious that we are all the products of inbreeding.

With a theoretical (although impractical) one and a half trillion ancestors in the past 1,000 years, what are the odds that you have royal ancestry? About 99.9999% per cent. Many of the royals had large families with children, grandchildren, and further descendants who were sent far and wide to marry other nobility. In turn, their descendants married minor nobility and wealthy merchants and their children... so on and so forth. Once you can document one royal ancestor, you will probably find hundreds more, thanks to the excellent records kept of nobility marriages.

Now let's go the other way: let's look at a hypothetical individual from 750 years ago and identify the number of descendants he or she has. The numbers are not as mathematically precise since each person has a variable number of descendants. Sociologists tell us that families of many years ago were typically larger than those of today. Indeed, history books record that a few kings and other prominent men often had 50 or more children, thanks to multiple wives. Not everyone had children, however. Many people had zero children. For this exercise, I will pick an average number of five children per family:

Number of generations	Approximate years	Descendants in this generation	Total descendants
1	25	5	5
2	50	25	30
3	75	125	155
4	100	625	780
5	125	3,125	3,905
6	150	15,625	19,530
7	175	78,125	97,655
8	200	390,625	488,280
9	225	1,953,125	2,441,405
10	250	9,765,625	12,207,030
11	275	48,828,125	61,035,155
12	300	244,140,625	305,175,780
13	325	1,220,703,125	1,525,878,905
14	350	6,103,515,625	7,629,394,530
15	375	30,517,578,125	38,146,972,655
16	400	152,587,890,625	190,734,863,280
17	425	762,939,453,125	953,674,316,405
18	450	3,814,697,265,625	4,768,371,582,030
19	475	19,073,486,328,125	23,841,857,910,155
20	500	95,367,431,640,625	119,209,289,550,780
21	525	476,837,158,203,125	596,046,447,753,905
22	550	2,384,185,791,015,620	2,980,232,238,769,530

23	575	11,920,928,955,078,100	14,901,161,193,847,700
24	600	59,604,644,775,390,600	74,505,805,969,238,300
25	625	298,023,223,876,953,000	372,529,029,846,191,000
26	650	1,490,116,119,384,770,000	1,862,645,149,230,960,000
27	675	7,450,580,596,923,830,000	9,313,225,746,154,780,000
28	700	37,252,902,984,619,100,000	46,566,128,730,773,900,000
29	725	186,264,514,923,096,000,000	232,830,643,653,870,000,000
30	750	931,322,574,615,478,000,000	1,164,153,218,269,350,000,000

Your ancestor of 750 years ago had more than a sextillion descendants! Again, this will be true of each king and peasant alike. While this may be claimed as a mathematical "fact," it is obviously impossible. Again, there have not been that many people in the world.

The challenge is to find your royal ancestors. Documentation of the royal families is plentiful, but finding your link back through many generations of commoners may be a challenge. While not every one of us will ever be able to prove descent from royalty, the odds are overwhelming that we all have such connections, documented or not. You just need to spend some time to find them!

Finding such ancestry can be personally satisfying although I question if it rates an article in a national wire service.