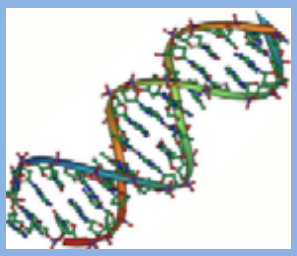

Phillips DNA News

www.phillipsdnaproject.com
June 2009
Volume 1 Issue 5
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

Hello, everyone! This is Nancy Kiser, volunteer administrator of your Phillips DNA project. Our project is continuing to grow at a nice clip, and we are attracting more and more European participants. We are planning to hand out flyers about our project at some genealogy fairs in the UK this summer and we have been accepted as a registered project by the Guild of One-Name Studies, a British organization. More and more Phillips families are finding European yDNA matches, including Family Group 1, Family Group 2, Family Group 8, Family Group 21, Family Group 37 and Family Group 41. If you have not found your European roots yet, just hang in there! Your day is coming.

Family Tree DNA held their 5th International Genetic Genealogy Conference in Houston on March 14th and 15th of this year. Although I was not there, another project administrator named Doris Wheeler wrote a report on the conference and has graciously allowed me to reprint it here. (Thanks, Doris!)

From Doris Wheeler

Last weekend I had the good fortune to attend the fifth annual conference of project administrators sponsored by Family Tree DNA in Houston. This is always a worthwhile event, and I'd like to share with all of you some of what I learned.
Websites: I'm sure most of you have already noticed that the FTDNA website has had a significant upgrade and is much easier to navigate and use. (Of course, the same is true of our World Families Network site.)

Haplogroups: *The haplogroup tree (also known as phylogenetic tree or tree of mankind) is constantly growing as new SNPs are discovered. Some of you have had the Deep Clade test, which refines your individual placement on the tree (determines the subgroup to which you belong and, therefore, the smallest twig so far identified on your branch). To explore where you now are placed, go to your personal page at FTDNA and click on the Haplotree tab. There are also advanced tests to further refine your placement in subgroups. There is a bit of overlap among the various panels of Advanced Tests now, but this is undergoing careful examination and will be minimized if not eliminated soon.*

Some of the advanced tests can be helpful in establishing break points in lineages in order to assign descendants within a family to a specific common ancestor.

Projects: *Effective immediately, everyone tested at Family Tree DNA may join as many projects as he or she wishes. (Click the Join tab on your personal page and scroll through the options.) You are certainly encouraged to join your haplogroup project, of course, since you can only match someone who has the same haplogroup that you do.*

You may also join geographic projects that interest you. For example, if you have German roots, you may want to join the Germany-DNA and the Colonial German DNA project as well as the Palatine project if you fit within the parameters of all three groups. Or join the British Isles and Lancashire groups if that is your place of origin.

Of course, the surname project continues to be the primary project for everyone if one exists for your name. Remember to look for alternative spellings, too.

Legal Concerns: *Legislation has been passed in California, New York and Maryland that prevents the sale of DNA kits direct to consumers. They require that a medical professional place the order. More legislation is threatened in other states. FTDNA is working with authorities to help disassociate genealogical testing from medical testing. There is much confusion among the public, which often does not distinguish between them. As you know, genealogical testing is not autosomal testing. That is, it does not deal with 22 of the 23 chromosomes we inherit from each parent. We look only at the non-recombining 23rd chromosome, the Y chromosome for men and the mitochondria for women.*

The position that we project administrators all agree on is that we should not be prevented from learning as much as we wish about ourselves. A genealogical DNA test is certainly less revealing than a paternity test or, indeed, a pregnancy test, both of which are readily available over the counter. Results from these can produce far more anguish than dealing with ancestry issues in most cases. A bill was introduced in Congress, but it is not actively being considered now. Most proposed legislation is aimed at companies like 23andMe and DeCodeMe that are medically oriented and test the other 22 chromosomes, but there is a potential risk for confusion between them and Family Tree DNA.

Testing Standards: *FTDNA has always worked closely with the National Institute of Standards, which has finally taken a position that should help to standardize test results nomenclature across testing companies. Some labs have always taken a proprietary approach, and they may continue to do so, but standards are now in place. Each of you may see some of your marker values change over the coming weeks as FTDNA implements changes to three of its markers. This does not mean there is any underlying change, only in the nomenclature.*

National Geographic/Genographic Project: *This project will continue to recruit participants until sometime next year. At that time, they will destroy all samples submitted to them. If you know anyone who has tested with National Geographic, be sure to encourage them to authorize their transfer to Family Tree DNA to allow future testing. As you may know, FTDNA does all the testing for this project. Therefore, they have physical possession of the samples to be destroyed. Transfer to FTDNA's repository is FREE and very simple to*

accomplish. The testee simply signs into his page at National Geographic/Genographic, scrolls to the bottom of the page where it says "More information", clicks on it and finds the link to authorize transfer.

All of you who have already tested with FTDNA may have your results added to the National Geographic Project for a charge of $15. This allows you to contribute to this major population study, which I highly recommend. The option to allow you to do this is on your personal page at FTDNA.

***About mtDNA:** As we all know, it is extremely difficult to trace a maternal lineage because the surname changes every generation. The mtDNA test has been less than useful genealogically because mtDNA mutates so slowly. HVR I reveals one mutation per 20,000 years! The one significant factor is "private SNPs" which can only be discovered in the FGS (Full Genetic Sequence) test. The FGS mutation rate is one per 4,000 years. FTDNA now has 4100 FGS test results in its database. When uploaded to GenBank, these results are an extremely valuable resource for geneticists and population scientists.*

***Work in Progress:** A "walk through the Y" is a new offering that is still experimental. It is a way to participate in advanced testing that is expected to yield new SNPs within haplogroups but geared to specific subgroups of people who might benefit from a deep analysis of the Y. At a cost of $750, it is not expected to attract large numbers of people, but we will watch carefully as work continues.*

The lab is working to develop a new "maximum likelihood" estimated TMRCA (time to most recent common ancestor). Needed are four-generation volunteers and groups of close relatives who all have tested to 67 markers. If anyone is interested in participating, please let me know. The goal is to build a better model taking into account variable mutation rates, asymmetry, multiple steps, and allele-specificity. We were reminded that the present method of estimating TMRCA is highly useful for unknown single events, but is much less so where a pedigree is known from traditional genealogy. In other words, just because a TMRCA estimate suggests a difference of many generations, we should always consider the paper trail as equally important. We should not apply the probabilities to known events.

Ysearch will be redesigned this year. (Everyone should automatically upload his results from his personal page every time he receives any new test results.) For now, you can add any advanced marker results in the Comments field.

***Miscellaneous:** Some of you have asked what the DYS numbers mean in your test results. They are meaningless for all practical purposes and represent the order in which a particular marker was discovered. Similarly, the names of Sub-Haplogroups are formed from the first letter of the laboratory that discovered the SNP and the sequential number of the discovery within that lab.*

Another question that arises sometimes is, what is the difference between a SNP and a STR? The STR (Short Tandem Repeat) is equivalent to DYS numbers (DNA Y-chromosome Segment), the markers we all know and love; a SNP (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism) refers to the entities tested to refine haplogroup placement. (Aren't you glad you asked? GRIN)

If I think of anything else, I'll write again. Questions are always welcome. Write anytime!

Best regards,
Doris Wheeler

Questions and Answers

Question: What determines haplogroup?

Answer: Haplogroups are determined by something called Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs for short), which only mutate (change) about once in human history per SNP. Here is a link to a description of the different haplogroups and a haplogroup migration map at our new Phillips DNA website:

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

Question: Which STRs determine your haplogroup?

Answer: STRs (Short Tandem Repeats, also known as markers) do not determine your haplogroup, but they can be used to predict it in most cases. As I understand it, the prediction is based on the first 12 markers. If you want to confirm your haplogroup, you have to test your SNPs, not your STRs. The SNP test is called a Deep Clade test at FTDNA.

Question: Are German men associated with Haplogroup R1b? I found a match on ySearch last night that lists R1b1b2, but census records clearly indicate he was from Germany.

Answer: Yes, there are certain subclades of R1b1b2 that appear to be Germanic. Specifically, the values of 23 for DYS390 and 11 for DYS391 are seen at their highest frequency in northern Germany, southern Denmark and northern Netherlands. Not a lot of Germans have gotten DNA tested thus far, but it is estimated roughly one third of German men are R1a, one third are R1b, and one third belong to Haplogroup I.

Question: I read there appears to be an Irish subclade of Haplogroup R1b and a Scottish subclade of Haplogroup R1b. What are the markers that denote the Irish subclade and what are the markers that denote the Scottish subclade?

Answer: The Irish subclade of R1b has a value of 25 for DYS390, 11 for DYS391 and 14 for DYS392. The Scottish subclade of R1b has a value of 24 for DYS390 and a value of 10 for DYS391. In addition, the Scottish subclade frequently has values of 19 for YCAIIa and 24 for YCAIIb. Also, the Scottish subclade typically has 13 for DYS389i and 30 for DYS389ii.

Question: The number of men who have had DNA tests as a proportion of the messages posted on genforum probably shows the interest in DNA. My Mullins line is the worst (Hughes next worst) for getting men to do DNA, but close to the best when it comes to the number that can't be assigned a line--of course, none can beat your Phillips in that latter category. All of your Phillips participants are assigned to a line.

But look at the Hughes men that can't be assigned a line (68 = 49.3%). WHY? Is this a reflection of out-of-marriage events? I get the feeling that there were lots of Hughes boys and girls who *thought* they were cousins--they carried the Hughes name, but the DNA of someone not named Hughes. We think that birds mate for life, but DNA analysis has shown that the male bird taking care of what he thinks are his offspring--are often not his.

Answer: You are not exactly correct in your analysis of our Phillips DNA project. Although we have identified 52 separate Phillips family lines, we have over 100 men who have no matches in the project. When someone does not fit into a family group, we put his results into his respective haplogroup. In other words, if we can't assign a man to a family group, we assign him to a haplogroup. Perhaps you thought we have zero unassigned men because of this, but haplogroups are not the same as family groups. Haplogroups are more like nationalities or groups of people who can be associated with a particular location or area.

Approximately one third of the Phillips men who have been DNA tested thus far do not match any other Phillips men. This percentage has been remarkably stable right from the beginning of the project. I believe this is partially due to non-paternal events whose effects have accumulated over time, but it is also a reflection of the fact that many unrelated men adopted the surname Phillips as surnames gradually came into existence from 1000 AD to 1800 AD in Europe.

Featured Phillips Family Story

JOHN PHILLIPS *By Linda Huffman Phillips*
Phillips Family Group 10

In the 1790 census, Stephen Phillips was a resident of Wilkes County, North Carolina. He and his family moved from Wilkes County to Russell County, Virginia, before 1830. In 1830, they were enumerated in the census of Russell County, Virginia. Also, their son,
John Phillips, born in 1807 in North Carolina, was living in Russell County by 1830.

John married Mary (Polly) Robinson in 1826 in Russell County and had a child by October, 1826. John married for the third time in his eighties and listed his parents as Stephen and Sibby Phillips. Four of Stephen's and Sibby's daughters also moved to Russell County. Leonard and Alcey Phillips Burchett, James and Abigail Phillips Logan, Squire and Mary Ann Phillips Harris and Peggy Phillips were living in Russell County by 1830.

Labourne Phillips married Anna Maria Deaton in 1828 in Randolph County, North Carolina and moved to Russell County, Virginia, shortly after his marriage. He was also listed in the 1830 census. There were no other Phillips families in Russell County in 1830. Labourne and Anna Maria Phillips had the following children:

Mary Ann Phillips, born circa 1829, married David Blair
Elizabeth Jane, born circa 1831, married Alfred Holbrook
Nancy E. Phillips, born circa 1832, married John Ervin
Priscilla D. Phillips, born circa 1835, married David Smith
Henry Powell Phillips, born circa 1837, married Katy Yates
Robert Jackson Phillips, born circa 1839, married Matilda Jan Kiser
Nathan Phillips, born circa 1841
Laborn Clark Phillips, born circa 1845, married Lydia Smith
Patsy E. Phillips, born circa 1847, married Daniel Holbrook

In 1830, Stephen and his wife were living with a young boy under the age of 5 and an older female between the ages of 20-30 years of age. I assume this woman was their daughter, Peggy. By the 1840 census, Stephen had died, and Sibby was listed as the head of the family and living with a young boy between the ages of 10-15 and a female between 30-40 years of age. I know this child was not likely Sibby's and Stephen's because Sibby would have been over 50 years old at his birth in 1825-1826.

In 1850, there was no other Phillips approximately 25 years of age in Russell County except John Phillips. John Phillips (I believe him to be the young child raised by Sibby and Peggy), now 25, was working as a laborer for the Gibson family. Labourne and John (Stephen's son) were listed with their families.

In 1850, Peggy was living alone (beside her sister, Abigail, widowed) and Sibby was living with her daughter, Mary Ann Phillips Harris. Sibby was 76 in 1850. Alcey Phillips Burchett, age 60 in 1850, was living in Russell County with her family. I found the marriage bond for Alcey Phillips to Leonard Burchett on 12 December 1816, in Wilkes County, NC. I also found the marriage bonds of Mary Ann (listed as Miriam) Phillips to Squire Harris on 26 August 1820 and Abigail Phillips to James Logan on 31 May 1821 in Wilkes County, NC.

This was proof that all of these Phillips came from Wilkes County, NC and Stephen could be found in the census of Wilkes in 1790-1820. I located another daughter's marriage bond. Milley, minor daughter of Stephen Phillips, married John Evans in 1824. Another possible daughter, Phoebe, married Larkin Manord on 18 December 1811. The Manords moved to Georgia. Larkin Manord was the bondsman on two of the Phillips marriage bonds which connected him to the family. Meredith Phillips who married Judith Snow in 1824 was also most likely their son.

In the 1900 census, Sarah Hay Phillips was living with two of her grown children, Riley and Martha, and the census report stated that she had been married 50 years and had given birth to 9 children. Since there is no record of more than 8 children in the census reports, it is quite possible that the first born child died at birth. John and Sarah were married in 1850 and George

Washington Phillips was not born until 1852, which is also an indication that the first born child may have died at birth.

Through DNA testing of Thomas Hoyt Phillips born 18 July 1950, the descendents of John Phillips and Sarah Hay Phillips were definitely proven to be related to Labourne Phillips who lived in Russell County, Virginia, but no connection has been made to Stephen and Sibby Phillips who moved to Russell County in 1826. I do believe that all of these people were related. Labourne Phillips was born in 1794 in Randolph County, North Carolina to Joel and Phoebe Phillips. In the 1790 census, the only two Phillips listed in Randolph County, North Carolina were Joel and Edmund.

According to "Recollection of Southwest Virginia", one of the sons of Labourne Phillips reported that his father was the son of Joel and Phoebe Phillips who never left Randolph County, NC and that Labourne had a brother named Edmund. It is possible that John Phillips, born 1825, could have been the son of Labourne's brother, Edmund. The death certificates of John's and Sarah's sons Charles and Riley and their daughter Mary Jane indicated that John was born in Sera/Sarah County, NC. The only county in North Carolina that resembles Sera/Sarah County is Surry County. Some of the members of our family thought that John was from the Mt. Airy, NC area which is in Surry County, NC. Surry was most likely the county of his birth.

In a discussion with Gay Phillips Moore, she remembered her father, Ira, telling her that one of his grandmothers was a Snow. Meredith Phillips who married Judith Snow in Wilkes, NC in 1824 was most likely Stephen and Sibby's son. Every child of Stephen and Sibby named one of their sons Meredith. This may have been because Stephen's middle name was Meredith or perhaps it was in memory of their brother. If Meredith and Judith Snow were John's parents, I have found no proof of it in the Surry County or Wilkes County documents; however, if they were John's parents, they obviously died shortly after John's birth or died in route to Russell County.

It seems too coincidental that John Phillips was not the grandson or relative of Stephen and Sibby Phillips because they were the only Phillips living in Russell County during the early 1830's. It is possible that John moved to Russell shortly before 1850, but what happened to the boy that lived with Stephen and Sibby? I will continue to research this family but as of now, the only facts are that John Phillips who married Sarah Hay was related to Labourne Phillips who was one of the first settlers in Dante, Virginia called Turkey Foot at that time. He had a little cabin where the old hotel used to be and where the Clinchfield Coal Company office was located.

The author of the above article, Linda Huffman Phillips, graduated from Virginia Tech in 1968 with a degree in Business Administration. She married Thomas Hoyt Phillips in 1971. She worked for several years as a Contract Administrator and Credits/Collection Manager but took time off in 1979 to give birth to her only son, Nicholas. After her son started public school, she became a realtor and retired 2 years ago. Linda and her brother decided to complete their family genealogy started 40 years ago. After completing (although it's never really complete), she took on the project of researching the ancestors of her husband's parents. His mother, Floy Lenna Mullins's line, was not that difficult. A lot of research had already been done; however,

the Phillips line was not easy to research. After six months of research in five different NC counties, Linda turned to DNA for some clues. In January 2009, she compiled the family genealogy using the Heritage program and had it printed. Twenty-two of her husband's family now own one of these beautifully bound books. Someday with the help of many more researchers in Group 10, she hopes to discover the common Phillips ancestor and his birthplace.

Speaking Up

From: Judy Fillerup
Subject: FYI on Ancestry tests
To: "Nancy" <Nancy_kiser@hotmail.com>
Date: Saturday, May 23, 2009, 7:11 AM

Nancy, I think I made a mistake in testing with Ancestry. I thought you might share this with others who might be thinking about testing with Ancestry. I had the 33 marker Ancestry test done for two of my lines, as you know, and only received 30 pertinent markers.

I emailed them and asked how much it would cost to upgrade to 67 markers and they replied that they don't sell the 67 markers test. It will cost $70 to upgrade to 46 markers. I am going to email them and ask what are the 13 additional markers they will test for.

I would have been much better off to have stayed with FTDNA. I emailed FTDNA and asked what, besides sending for a new kit, would I have to do to upgrade to 67 markers and would they eliminate from the test the markers I have already tested for and what would be the costs. I may have to start over with all the markers.

I feel a little like I was duped by Ancestry, but also feel a little trapped to test for the 13 additional markers, as I have found an exact 22/22 marker match on my Bradford line. She is upping her markers to 67 at FTDNA in order to try to see if we continue to match. I have four markers she had not tested for, as Ancestry tests different markers than FTDNA in the various marker groups.

Just venting.

Thanks,
Judy Fillerup