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Phillips DNA News

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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

The lovely month of June has arrived, and it's time for Father's Day. Why don't you consider giving a DNA test to that special man in your life for Father's Day? I can't think of a better or more original gift!

Our Phillips DNA project is continuing to add five to ten new members a month and we currently have a grand total of 454 participants. At this rate, we may top 500 participants by the end of the year! Our project has been chosen by a British author to be featured in a future article he is preparing for publication in the Journal of Genetic Genealogy. I will let you know when the article gets published.

Those of you tested by Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) may have noticed the following message from FTDNA on your personal pages:

We are planning an upgrade of all Y-DNA STR (Short Tandem Repeat) related website functions. This NIST-mandated upgrade will include changes to the way in which STR micro-alleles and palindromic STRs are displayed. We will also upgrade the matching algorithm to utilize an enhanced calculation that includes micro-allele and palindromic STR mutations. An estimated 10% of our clients will be affected by these two changes in the database. The benefit to customers will be more accurate matches and TMRCA (Time to the Most Recent Common Ancestor) calculations. We will provide additional information well before the upgrades are implemented. Once this upgrade is complete, the previous lists of matches will no longer be accessible. Therefore, if you want to preserve your historical Y matching results (we don't see why), please download them in advance of any upgrades.

The NIST is the National Institute of Standards and Technology. NIST works with industry to develop and apply technology, measurements and standards. In the past, the various DNA testing companies have not all used the same standards in reporting DNA results. This causes much confusion as people try to convert values back and forth between different test results from different labs in order to make sure that they are comparing apples with apples. Hopefully, in the near future, all the major testing labs will adopt the NIST standards so that it will no longer be necessary to make conversions between labs. In other words, all labs will report DNA test results the same. This will certainly be a huge improvement.

Featured Family Story

Am I my own Grandpa?

By Rex Phillips, Phillips Family Group 3

I recently read an interesting article in the Dick Eastman's Genealogy Newsletter wherein he pointed out that each of us have four grandparents and each of them had four grandparents and so forth such that before 30 generations have passed, it's very likely that you will find an ancestor that you are already related to via another line. I decided to check just what lines I have already researched to see if I found such an instance.

One of the first of my lines that I began working on was my father's maternal line, the Abstons. My father's grandmother was Amanda Belle Davis Abston, the daughter of Ruth Vertner Windle and Nelson Davis of Overton County, Tennessee. She married James Alfred Abston. I really do not know much about Nelson Davis other than that he was born in Kentucky. However, Ruth Windle was the daughter of Joseph Hawkins and Joanna Goad Sevier. Joanna Goad Sevier was the daughter of General John Sevier, the first Governor of Tennessee, and his second wife Catherine Sherrill.

Ruth Windle had a sister, Mary Windle, who married Alfred Cawood Sevier. Alfred was the son of Joseph Sevier and Charity Cawood. Joseph Sevier in turn was the son of General John Sevier and his first wife, Sarah Hawkins. Alfred and Mary Windle Sevier had a daughter named Amanda Sevier. Amanda Sevier married Lipscomb Petit Abston, the father of James Alfred Abston who married my great grandmother Amanda Belle Davis.

In more simple terms, Amanda Davis, my great grandmother and the great granddaughter of Governor Sevier and his second wife, married the great great grandson of Governor Sevier and his first wife. In addition, that great grandfather, James A. Abston, was not only the great great grandson of Governor Sevier and his first wife but because his paternal grandmother was the daughter of Mary Windle, he was also the great great grandson of Governor Sevier and his second wife.

Based upon my experience, it takes a lot less than 30 generations to find the circle closed.

John Sevier was an interesting story in and of himself. Once thrown into prison by the state of North Carolina for trying to secede the area that is now Tennessee into another state, he was eventually freed and this time successfully established the state of Tennessee and became its first Governor. He later became a U.S. Senator from Tennessee and was once asked by the President to go to Alabama and help make peace with an unruly Indian tribe. He died (of natural causes) while there and was interred in Alabama for many years before his remains were finally removed to Nashville, where they are today.

I have also been struck by the "coincidences" that seem to crop up in pursuing genealogy lines. Mike Phillips, a 36 of 37 marker DNA match with me, and whose American Phillips line appears

before the 1700's in Charles City County, Virginia, had one of his ancestors marry a daughter of Francis Irby, a neighbor. A great grandson of that same Francis Irby married one of my Abston ancestors in Pittsylvania County, Virginia.

In Prince George County, adjacent to Charles City County, there were two prominent families named Sturdivant and Slaughter. The Phillips of Second Swamp in Prince George County married into the Sturdivants who owned one of the big mills there. Some of the Sturdivants migrated to North Carolina and married a Lockhart whose daughter Tabitha Lockhart married my maternal GGGG grandfather, Robert B. Jennings, Jr., in Fairfield District of South Carolina. Robert B. Jennings, Jr. had migrated there from Nottoway/Amelia County in Virginia.

Tina Phillips' cousin is another one of my Group 3 close DNA matches, and whose oldest known Phillips ancestor was in Kentucky in 1824. Her Phillips ancestors married into the Slaughter family who came from Prince George County, Virginia, to North Carolina and then Kentucky. Together the Slaughters and Phillips migrated west to Texas.

I am sure that there are more such coincidences and family interconnections that I will find as I continue my research. If nothing else, it helps to keep the work interesting!

Guest Column

Identifying Your Chesapeake Ancestor(s) who were Indentured Servants

By Nora J. Probasco

Group Administrator:

Probasco/Bartoszewski/Bartos DNA Project

Brookshire/Brookshier/Brookshaw DNA Project

A conversation began on the International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) mail list about researching immigrants to the Chesapeake area (Maryland and Virginia). It was stated that most of these early immigrants were indentured servants and a discussion began regarding the best way to research these ancestors. A lively dialog commenced. Many have found their genealogical research led them to the Chesapeake area (Maryland and/or Virginia), only to be mired there.

One source that was suggested for beginning Virginia research was Carol McGinnis' book, "Virginia Genealogy: Sources and Resources." Though dated, it should still be valuable in navigating through the counties including those whose records have been destroyed. It should be noted here that James W. Petty commented that those county court records that existed for the 17th century, of the 24 counties that existed prior to 1700, relatively complete records remain for 11 counties, and partial records remain for 5 others. Eight of the early counties have lost all their records for that time period. Several of the counties that have lost their colonial records were predominant counties in the Virginia population and land picture during

the preliminary times for indentured servants. Per the Library of Virginia, research in these pre-1700 counties has been labeled as hopeless for James City, New Kent, King and Queen, Warwick and Henrico; almost hopeless for Elizabeth City and Gloucester; and difficult for Charles City and Stafford.

For Maryland, a good source for beginning research is Henry C. Peden, Jr.'s book, "A Guide to Genealogical Research in Maryland." It should be noted that in Maryland, some early records were destroyed in the original counties of Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, and Talbot, and others who have lost most early records include Calvert, Anne Arundel, and St. Marys.

Suggested records to check on the county level include:

Land Records
Probate Records
Court Records

Unfortunately, quite a few of the counties have suffered devastating record losses. Though some were abstracted, the quality of these abstracts varies. Many of the available records for the Maryland and Virginia courthouses have been filmed by the LDS church, including some of the abstracts. There are also church parish records which include baptisms and marriages for some areas. State records include the Maryland and Virginia land patents.

The next challenge, once an immigrant ancestor has been identified, is to find what country he or she migrated from. This is where research becomes complicated. Though many lists exist, they are by no means comprehensive, and many do not list country of origin. This further illustrates a need for research to be made in the mother countries for other record sources.

The majority of lists involve those of British headrights, where a person claimed payment of passage of a person to America and received land for each one claimed, or were entitled to a headright for transporting themselves. However, the current lists are not complete. Many more were shipped than the current lists cover and more research needs to be done in England to identify other possible lists and sources. The English lists that exist today mainly come from indentured servant records at the various ports, and they are not extant.

The origin of headrights can be found in the London Company's "Greate Charter" of 1618:

"That for all persons...which during the next seven years after Midsummer Day 1618 shall go into Virginia with the intent there to inhabite, if they continue there three years or dye after they are shipped there shall be a grant made of fifty acres for every person... which grants shall be made respectively to such persons and their heirs at whose charges the said persons going to inhabite in Virginia shall be transported..."

The Act of Parliament in 1651 for the settlement of affairs in Virginia confirmed "the privilege of having ffiftie acres of land for every person transported in that collonie shall continue as

formerly granted." In Virginia fifty acres of land went to the person paying for transportation of another, or a person paying his own passage. In Maryland, the indentured servant whose transportation was paid for by another was also entitled to fifty acres of land once their term of indenture was complete. This was not the case in Virginia.

Many times the headright, for transports, went to the ship's captain, who also earned a commission on the transportee's indentured service contract.

A major source of headright names is the Maryland and Virginia land patent records. Virginia land patent records are located online at the Library of Virginia, whereas for Maryland "The Early Settlers of Maryland" and "Supplement to the Early Settlers of Maryland" documents most of the names from these patents. The original land patent or transcription records are located at the Maryland State Archives.

-Virginia Land Patent Documents located at the Library of Virginia:

http://ajax.lva.lib.va.us/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b-clas30&local_base=CLAS30

-Maryland Land Patent Documents located at the Maryland State Archives:

<http://www.mdlandrec.net/msa/stagser/s1700/s1741/cfm/index.cfm>

(you must first fill out an application for a password)

Names of the people who filed patents were in many cases different from those who originally earned the headrights, and the names listed in a particular patent may have been culled from several sets of importees, on different ships, at different times. Those who wanted to patent large amounts of land would purchase the headrights they needed to allow for the patent of the land required. There is a caveat. A few people traveled repeatedly back and forth between England and the Chesapeake, and those who did could claim headrights under the same names for multiple passages. After 1699, headright certifications dropped off markedly, though they continued sporadically for the rest of the colonial period. Another reason headright claims dropped off in 1699 is that treasury right patents were introduced, and one could patent land for as little as five shillings per fifty acres.

In Virginia, patents were certified by the county courts, and these records were not consulted in the compilation of lists such as in Cavaliers and Pioneers. Many times the headright certification did not correspond to the patent abstracts found in Cavaliers and Pioneers. This makes it imperative to also check the county records to verify and research the names of headrights. It was suggested that a thorough review of the county court order books, though many are not indexed, are an excellent source. Most of the extant ones are available on microfilm from the LDS church. In Maryland, many deeds and mortgages were also recorded with the Provincial Court and General Courts from 1637 to 1805. The discussion on ISOGG mainly covered the resources of Virginia. Most of the Maryland information in this summation comes from my own Maryland research.

Many of the indentured servants came from the British Isles. Various tools were suggested for

research. London was probably the main shipping port for most of the indentured servants going to America. It was suggested that it would make sense to start putting together resources to assist in researching the shipments from there. Some of those mentioned were:

Docklands Ancestors Ltd. [This will be a good one to watch as it grows.]

<http://www.parishregister.com/searchpage.asp>

Immigrant Servants' Database (Filby's Index):

<http://immigrantservants.com>

However, the origins of the majority of indentured servants to Virginia and Maryland remain unknown. Research in the Bristol archives suggests most were lower middle class people with trades or occupations. This may be the same for London. Some were criminals and orphans and these are well documented because the records survive. It has been suggested that these came from the lowest rank of society, and many of those labeled "criminals and felons" were actually convicted of petty crimes, such as stealing food to feed their family, etc. A minority were younger sons of English landowners.

Many of the ship owners were in league with the captains and there were probably local recruiting agents spread across London. How this network operated and functioned is largely unknown, and unfortunately, the details of how the recruitment process actually worked in London is poorly documented and would be extremely difficult to research.

London was a Mecca for those looking for work, so perhaps when the emigrants found "the streets were not paved with gold," and their lot was not improved, emigration did not seem so bad. London, and to a lesser degree other ports (Bristol, Liverpool which did not take off before 1700, etc.), were staging areas, albeit temporary, from their home county or village in England or Wales to America and a new life.

A suggestion was made on the ISOGG list to concentrate the focus on London and the Home Counties in the 17th century. Two unpublished sources that might transform this field are:

(a) A comprehensive index to all London and Middlesex Wills and Administrations. Some of this is available in published form, but not for all Courts for the 16th and 17th centuries. Many volumes are British Record Society publications. The PCC Wills have been gone through for the Virginia Colonial Records Project and by Peter Coldham in great detail. But there are several other London Courts functioning at this time - which may contain stray references to relatives in Virginia or Maryland. The Commissioner Court of London has some entries in its indexes (important because it covers Stepney - where the vessels sailed from) and there are several other Courts.

(b) The parish registers of London and Middlesex are the biggest missing dataset. An indispensable tool to begin parish register research is the book, "The Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Registers," 3rd ed. by Cecil R. Humphrey-Smith.

Other points to consider, which are important, in the general context of emigration from London in the 17th century are:

-The boats left from Stepney - either Ratcliffe or Blackwall (further downstream). Until the 1650s, Stepney was a huge parish - after that it divided - parishes like Shadwell, Wapping came into existence. There is no comprehensive index to their parish registers. The baptisms and marriages for Stepney have been published - but not, alas, the burials. Also the south bank of the Thames, in Surrey and Kent, grew fast - places like Southwark, Rotherhithe and later Deptford where a Royal Dockyard was established. The Custom House where the merchants and captains had to go was just up-river from the Tower of London - so there had to be a constant traffic between there and the wharfs at Stepney.

-London without the Walls was probably as important as the City of London itself within the Walls. Outside the Walls the remit of the London Livery Corporations and Guilds did not run - so if you were trying to set up in business, that is often where the poorer members of society went. There was constant friction between the two. The Guild Records of the major trading companies - the Mercers and the Merchant Venturers are only just starting to be indexed - they are one of the largest collections. The parishes without the Walls tend to cover quite large areas and thus to have large and voluminous parish registers - most are not indexed.

In summation, it is very difficult to research one's Chesapeake (Maryland or Virginia) ancestor(s). It is even more difficult to link these ancestors back their Old World location once you do identify them.

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-Ekirch, A. Roger. *Bound for America: the Transportation of British Convicts to the Colonies, 1718-1775*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, UK, 1987.

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-Calendar of State Papers Colonial which covers the period from 1574 and 1660 and can be searched free of charge on the British History Online website:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=758>

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<http://www.allcensuses.com/early.html>.

-Docklands Ancestors Ltd:

<http://www.parishregister.com/searchpage.asp>

(this is a growing list covering the London Docklands area and are now back to the 1600s with some parishes.)

Census Lists for possible identification of immigrants:

-Inhabitants of London in 1638

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=176>

-London Inhabitants Within the Walls, 1695, available online at:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=31>

Research Websites of Interest:

FindMyPast

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/home.jsp>

Originsnetwork

The premier resource for tracing your British and Irish ancestors

<http://originsnetwork.com/>

British Origins

This site contains useful London records such as apprenticeship abstracts and Boyd's Inhabitants of London (1209-1948):

<http://www.britishorigins.com/>

Society of Genealogists (SoG), London, UK
<http://www.sog.org.uk/index.shtml>

Ancestry.com - World Deluxe
All the London parish registers held at the London Metropolitan Archives are now online on Ancestry:
<http://www.ancestry.com/>

Virginia Research Bibliography

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-Bob Baird - Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet II - Understanding Headrights
<http://www.genfiles.com/legal/Headrights.htm>

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(Also available on FTM CD# 503 or Gen. Pub. Co. 7503)

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-*The Oxford History of the British Empire, Vol. I, Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK, 1998, Chapter 8 is an essay by James Horn titled "Tobacco Colonies: The Shaping of English Society in the Seventeenth- Century Chesapeake."*

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-Virginia Formation Maps
http://www.familyhi story101.com/maps/ va_cf.html

-Virginia Land Patent Documents located at the Library of Virginia:
http://ajax.lva.lib.va.us/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b-clas30&local_base=CLAS30

-Virginia/Maryland Vestry Books
These recorded activities of the Colonial Church Wardens which dealt with illegitimate children of indentured servants, care of them during illnesses and death, and the many common offences indentured men and women were subject to. Also included were similar actions involving paupers, prisoners, and other unfortunates who became "wards" of the parishes. Microfilms of actual books are available through LDS Salt Lake Library; search their catalog by county/state, subject, etc, to find:
http://www.familyse arch.org/ eng/Library/ FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp

-R. F. Walker article entitled "Lists of the Living and the Dead in Virginia Feb 16, 1623" from the "Colonial Records of Virginia," Richmond, 1874. Located online at:
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Newspaper Resources:

-Virginia Gazette from 1736-1780, can be found online at:

<http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/BrowseVG.cfm>

Genealogical Research:

-Magazine of Virginia Genealogy, Volumes 1-40 (1963-2002) on CD. Includes required software for running on PC or MAC. \$33.75. Also available on Ancestry.com

-The Virginia Genealogist, available online to members of the New England Genealogical Society:

<http://www.newenglandancestors.org/>

Vol. 1-27 is available as a CD from Heritage Books, \$60.00:

http://www.heritagebooks.com/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=HBI&Product_Code=CD2323&Category_Code=C1

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Genealogical Research:

-*Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland by various authors, Vols. 1-23. They are available in book or CD format. There are many errors in these works, but they are still worth checking.*

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