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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

One of our members, Melinda Fry Moore of Texas, submitted the following picture and report:



The First International PHILLIPS of Nance Cornish Clan Gathering was held in April in Cornwall, England. My fabulous Co-chair and Local Arrangements new cousin, Dr. Anthony Phillips of Flushing, Cornwall, did an outstanding job of coordinating socializing, eating, and traveling for our group. It was the reuniting of the Phillips spirit, that began with the marriage of our MRCAs (most recent common ancestors) WILLIAM (II, as I identify him for my file) PHILLIPS and his wife, ELIZABETH 'BETSY' WITHIELL who married 16 February 1809 in Perranzabuloe, Cornwall, England. They had a known total of 14 children and reared 8 children to adulthood. I have found living descendants of 6 of those siblings. In fact, my Family Tree Maker file has

documented over 10,000 descendants of this couple, and I am in email and snailmail contact with over 50 of them today. We had almost 30 of that number come from around the world for the Clan Gathering. We came from several places in England, several parts of the USA, Switzerland, Chile, New Zealand and Australia.

During the three day Clan Gathering, the group visited the church in Perranzabuloe where William Phillips and Betsy Withiell married; Illogan where their children were baptized; Nance Farm (now the outbuildings are a youth hostel) where their children were reared; and St. Euny, Redruth where they were buried. We laid flowers at their grave and prayers of thanksgiving were offered for their lives. Although our Withiel line was not documented as being from Withiel, Cornwall, many of the Phillips descendants were given the middle name of Withiel for 3 and 4 generations. So we also visited the historic church in Withiel and were entertained with a lovely Cornish Cream Tea given by the women of the church.

William II was baptized February 1779 in Illogan, Cornwall, and his parents were William the First Phillips (as I call him) and his wife, Elizabeth. I believe her to have been surnamed Verran. William II's wife, Elizabeth Betsy Withiell, born about 1784, was the daughter of Robert Withiell and his wife, Anne Johns, who married 18 April 1782 in St. Clement, Truro, Cornwall, England. All this information is documented by parish and county records. William and Betsy's surviving children were as follows:

1) Elizabeth 'Betsy' Withiel Phillips, b. 14 Jan. 1810, christened 13 Feb. 1810, in Illogan, Cornwall. She married William HOSKING on 11 May 1831, St. Uny, Redruth, Cornwall and they had 14 children. Among them were several doctors and some of their descendants immigrated to New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. A grandson of theirs became a dentist about 1880 in Philadelphia, returned to New Zealand, married a Maori Princess, and they populated at least half of the Cook Islands, it seems! We had two of the descendants of Betsy Phillips Hosking attend the Clan Gathering from New Zealand, Alastair Hosking and his son, James.

2) William Withiel Phillips was the second child of William and Betsy Withiell Phillips. He was born 2 April and christened 21 October 1811, in Illogan. He married Ann Parkyn FRANCIS in St. Marys, Truro, Cornwall on 03 September 1838. They had 10 children, all of whom remained in England excepting their first born John Henry Phillips, who migrated to Glamorgan, Wales. Our Dr. Anthony Phillips, noted author and retired C of E Dean, mentioned as my right hand in planning this event, is a descendant of William and Ann, and we were delighted to have a number of cousins from this Phillips line attend. They included Dr. Anthony's daughter, Lucy, his son James and his grandson Jake; Robert Prance, David Sharman and his brother Frank Sharman, all of the UK; and Angela Phillips Thorne of Australia. (Lovely wives of the gentlemen also attended.)

3) Mary Ann Phillips, born June 10, christened 19 October 1812. She married late in life, no children, and died in the second quarter of 1854. One of our attendees, Alastair Hosking, has a couple of pieces of needlework done by this Mary Ann when she was 10 years old. She passed them to a daughter of her sister, Betsy Phillips Hosking, and the heirlooms were passed down the line in the Hosking family. What a fabulous treasure!

4) Hugh Phillips, the 4th child and 2nd son, was born November 1813 and baptized at Illogan, 6 January 1814. [NB: This is the Clan Chair, Meli Moore's ancestor] He was a miner and married Elizabeth DONNITHORNE on 03 April 1839 in Perranzabuloe, Cornwall. In 1842 he left her and a young daughter, Lizzie, to forge a new life for his family in Wisconsin, USA. He returned for them and arrived back in America in April 1846, settling in Mineral Point, Iowa Co., Wisconsin. There, in 1855, Hugh built the United States Hotel (which still stands and is used for offices today) in Mineral Point. Sadly, his wife, Elizabeth, died along with an infant son named Hugh, in 1850 from cholera, leaving him with Lizzie and a second daughter, Edith. Hugh married another Cornish immigrant, Pee Priscilla Ellis LADNER on 14 Sep 1851 in Iowa County. Hugh and Priscilla went on to rear an additional 6 children. Regretfully, none of their descendants attended the Clan Gathering, except for their great great granddaughter, Meli. One of Hugh's descendants was his great grandson, Spanky McFarland, the star of the Little Rascal movies so popular in the 1930s and 1940s, which later made it to television in the series known as "The Our Gang Comedies."

5) James Withiell Phillips was baptized 07 May 1818 in Illogan. He married Eliza WADE in the 3rd quarter of 1853 in Redruth, Cornwall. He was about 34 and she was 9 years older. They apparently didn't have children and Eliza died early in 1871. James was a grocer in Redruth and he married again quickly, between Oct and Dec 1871 to Esther/Hester Ann HODGE. She was previously widowed in 1869 and had a daughter Minnie Opie, who died about the age of 8 in 1875. James and Esther/Hester had 4 children of their own, with 3 surviving to adulthood. Three of their descendants, Aubry James Ferris, his daughter Annette Ferris Withers, and his brother Clarence William "Harry" Ferris, of the UK joined us at the Gathering.

6) Nanny Phillips, baptized 29 March 1820 in Illogan, is the only one of the Phillips children that I have not been able to trace successfully. She was single, the age of 31, and living with her mother and 2 siblings in the 1851 England Census. On-line records indicate that a James HARVEY and a Thomas HICKS both married a Nanny PHILLIPS in 1855 in Redruth, Cornwall. But I cannot locate our Nanny under either of those surnames in ensuing censuses. Her brother, Robert Withiell Phillips, wrote in an 1880 letter that one of his siblings married late and moved to Spain. I believe this to have been Nanny, as I have accounted for all the other brothers and sisters. Maybe one day we will be able to access Spanish records.

7) Robert Withiel Phillips, baptised 07 May 1823, son of William & Elizabeth Phillips, of Nance, farmer. So, we know that our common ancestors, William and Elizabeth, had moved to the Nance Farm, near Portreath, by 1823. This son married Mary Pearson PLOMER in the 3rd quarter of 1850 in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Falmouth. They had 3 sons, William, George, and Frank. William immigrated to Concepcion, Chile and established a small Phillips dynasty there. One of William's (known as Guillermo Phillips) descendants was with us at the Clan Gathering, Jorge Phillips and his partner Lisa Stewart Garrison. He had migrated from Chile to the US! Robert's second son George became a stockbroker and married his cousin, Edith Withiel Thomas (daughter of Robert's sister, Edith, the next Phillips child.) Robert and Mary's 3rd son, Frank, became a doctor and specialized in dermatology. His descendant, Liz Phillips Lewis-Cracknell of Suffolk, England, attended also.

8) Edith Withiell Phillips was baptised 15 Jan 1826 in Illogan, her parents farming at Nance. When grown, she went to Wisconsin to visit her uncle Hugh Phillips and family, ostensibly to teach school. However, John Withiel THOMAS, who family tradition says was her cousin on her mother's side (though the connection hasn't been documented), followed her to America and convinced her to return to England and marry him. This she did on 13 Dec 1849 in Bebington, Chester, Cheshire Co. England. Edith W. and John W. Thomas had 10 children, one of whom, Sir Algernon Phillips Withiel Thomas, was a university professor in Auckland and knighted in 1937 for his educational research and achievements. Another distinguished descendant in this line is an Australian astronaut, Dr. Andrew Thomas, now of the USA. Four descendants in the Phillips/Thomas line joined the clan: Peter Thomas and his daughter, Suzy Thomas of New Zealand (and his wife, Philippa); Cristin Thomas of Switzerland (and her stepmother Gillian Thomas of Australia); Bronwen Thomas Sutherland (and her husband Jim), of the USA.

We have had a 37 marker FTDNA test done on a Phillips male direct descendant, but have not had a good hit of more than 12 markers.

221105 William the First Phillips bc 1755 Cornwall

We are very hopeful that eventually some Phillips descendant, perhaps from William the First Phillips line, will be identified and we can share this research with another branch of Cornish cousins!

Blessings, Melinda "Meli" Fry Moore, Texas
G G G granddaughter of William Phillips and Betsy Withiell
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Featured Phillips Family Story

George Philips, Irish Writer and Governor of Londonderry

From the Dictionary of National Biography, 1885-1900, Volume 45

By Leslie Stephen

The Dictionary of National Biography is a standard work of reference on notable figures from British history. It was originally published in 63 volumes between 1885 and 1900. The following transcription is from Wikisource at [http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Philips,_George_\(DNB00\)](http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Philips,_George_(DNB00))

PHILIPS, or PHILLIPS, GEORGE (1599?-1696), Irish writer and governor of Londonderry, born about 1599, was either son or grandson of Sir Thomas Philips, who took a prominent part in the Ulster settlement. George inherited Sir Thomas's estate at Newtown Limavady, near Londonderry. Graham says he was in his ninetieth year in December 1688, but this may well be

doubted. In early life he saw some military service abroad. From June 1681 to September 1684, he was governor of Culmore Fort, and filled about the same time a like post at Londonderry. At the end of 1688, with James II as king and Tyrconnel as minister, it was easy for the Protestants of Ulster to believe that a repetition of the massacre of 1641 was intended. Lord Antrim's regiment of highlanders and Irish appeared at Newtown Limavady on 6 December, and Philips at once wrote to Alderman Norman to put the people of Londonderry on their guard.

On 19 January 1688-9, the sheriffs of that city, in the name of the townsmen, wrote as follows: 'We received the first intelligence of the general insurrection of the papists from our much honoured friend, George Philips, esq. ... who did not only warn us of our danger and advise us to prevent it, but voluntarily and freely put himself among us and adventured his life and estate in our cause and behalf, animating us with his presence, encouraging us with an auxiliary aid of six hundred horses of his tenants and neighbours, and reducing the untrained people of the place into order and discipline, whereupon we did commit the trust and care of this city solely and absolutely to his management and conduct, which trust he did discharge with all fidelity, diligence, and prudence' (Treasury Papers).

It was owing to the hurried warning of Philips that the apprentice boys, 'the younger and brisk inhabitants,' shut the gates of Londonderry against Lord Antrim's men. On 9 December, Philips was sent by Lord Antrim to the town to negotiate with the citizens. At his own suggestion, he was made a nominal prisoner so that he could send a message to say that he was detained, and that it would not be safe for his lordship to attempt an entry. Antrim withdrew to Coleraine, and Philips became governor of Londonderry. On the 11th David Cairns was sent by Philips's advice to represent the case of the citizens in London.

In the negotiations with Viscount Mountjoy, Philips tried in vain to stipulate for an exclusively protestant garrison, permission for the citizens to retain their arms, and a general pardon under the great seal. Less favourable terms were granted; but Mountjoy's good will was thought so important that Philips 'did generously resign the command to him, postponing his own honour and advantage to that opportunity of strengthening the Protestant interest' (ib.) On the 21st Robert Lindy [q. v.] became governor. On 23 March 1688-9 Philips, who was 'well acquainted with proceedings in England,' was sent thither 'with an address to King William, and to solicit a speedy supply' (Walker). Cairnes returned to Londonderry on 10 April with a letter from King William, and this decided the town against surrender.

In the course of the next three months, Philips remained in London and wrote 'The Interest of England in the Preservation of Ireland, humbly presented to the Parliament of England.' It is a quarto pamphlet of twenty-eight pages, licensed in London on 15 July 1689. Philips says he was 'animated and perhaps transported by a glowing zeal for religion, an anxious sympathy with his friends, and a pungent sense of his own sufferings.' He calls upon England to save the Protestants of Ireland, and dilates upon the danger of letting it fall into French hands. He conjectures that there were one million British Protestants in Ireland in 1685, of which one-fifth were fit to bear arms. This pamphlet contains interesting details as to the capacities of Ireland, and mentions the vast number of salmon on the Ulster coast.

In 1690, according to Harris, Philips published in London an octavo tract, entitled 'Lex Parliamentaria, The Law and Custom of Parliaments of England,' but there is no copy of it in the British Museum or in Trinity College, Dublin. In 1691, he published, in London, in quarto, 'A Problem concerning the Gout, in a Letter to Sir John Gordon, F.R.S.,' an eminent physician. This short treatise, with Gordon's very complimentary answer, is reprinted in the eleventh volume of the 'Somers Tracts.' Philips's remarks are very sensible, not the less so that he disclaims all knowledge of medicine, though in his youth he had been 'conversant in the most delightful study of anatomy.' He bases his claim to be heard on age and experience, and on the fact that he had had the gout once or twice annually for twenty years. 'In the tenets of religion,' he incidentally remarks, 'I desire to be always orthodox.'

Philips was ruined by the war, his house burned down, and the improvements of more than eighty years laid waste. He himself was imprisoned for debt. He had farmed part of the Irish revenue under Joseph Dean and John Stepney in connection with Ranelagh's patent of 1674 [see Jones, Richard, third Viscount and first Earl of Ranelagh]. Dean and Stepney had a mortgage on Philips's estate, but they owed a much larger sum to the crown, and had no great public service to appeal to. In 1692, Philips petitioned that his debt to them should be set off against theirs to the crown, and that he should be released. The lord lieutenant Sidney and the commissioners of revenue in Ireland reported in Philips's favour, but Dean and Stepney protested against the proposed settlement, and Philips remained in debt. The seventh of the articles exhibited in the House of Commons (30 September 1695) against Lord-chancellor Sir Charles Porter [q. v.] was that he illegally released Philips when in prison as a debtor at the suit of Morris Bartley (O'Flanagan, i. 453). Harris says Philips died in 1696. It appears from inquiries made in Ulster that his family severed their connection with Londonderry County soon after 1700.

[Treasury Papers in the Public Record Office, vol. xx. No. 11; Walker's True Account of the Siege of Londonderry, 1689; Berwick's Rawdon Papers; Ware's Irish Writers, by Harris; Witherow's Derry and Enniskillen; Graham's Siege of Derry; O'Flanagan's Irish Chancellors, vol. i.; Macaulay's Hist. of England, chap. xii.]

Guest Column

How Good Are Your Sources?

By John Buczek, Phillips Family Group 18

That's a question you should ask of yourself especially when the source(s) are genealogies written by other genealogists. One might think that the older the source, the more accurate it would be, but that is not necessarily the case. The following is a good example.

From the book "*Genealogical and Personal History of the Upper Monongahela Valley West Virginia*" by James Morton Callahan published 1912, I find written the PHILLIPS genealogy

relating to those who went to West Virginia. Within this section, there is a summary of three brothers, William, Henry and John, arriving in Providence Rhode Island as “pioneer immigrants”. John is stated to have moved to Massachusetts and the following is written of him:

The first trace of John Phillips, the ancestor of the Massachusetts families, is his son Nicholas Phillips (known as Deacon Phillips), of Easton, Massachusetts, and his son Richard, of Weymouth, Massachusetts, of whom further.

This statement does not agree with current records and modern research for Nicholas Phillips, known as Deacon Nicholas. Nicholas and his wife Elizabeth Jewson with daughter Alice (who married in Massachusetts John Shaw) and son Richard (who married in Massachusetts (1) Mary Packard and (2) Elizabeth Edson) came to these shores around 1634 -1635 and probably settled first in Watertown, Massachusetts, for that is where most of his fellow proprietors who removed to Contentment now known as Dedham, Massachusetts, originated. Here he, Nicholas Phillips, first appears in one of the oldest records for Dedham dated August 18, 1636. Nicholas, soon to become a Deacon, and son then removed to Wessagussett, now known as Weymouth, Massachusetts, where he died. Deacon Nicholas never settled in Easton but his son Richard did and became a very prominent man of the community.

So how did Albert M. Phillips who wrote a genealogy book which was reviewed in last month's issue of the Phillips DNA Project Newsletter do? Well, he had several problems, also. For instance, and no big deal, he has ALICE PHILLIPS, daughter of NICHOLAS PHILLIPS and ELIZABETH JEWSON, as the sixth child when in fact she was the first child born 1631 in Wendover, Buckingham, England. He has HENRY PHILLIPS, butcher and brother to NICHOLAS PHILLIPS, as having eleven children when he had in fact seventeen children in all with three wives; again, no big deal unless you are researching all or a missing member of the family. Again, we find more of the same, missing children; Eleazer, son of Henry, husband of ANN FOSTER, where Mr. Phillips accounts for seven children and records prove there were nine born to this marriage.

However, these are minor problems when considering the following:

Mr. Albert Phillips in his writings of Capt. JOHN PHILLIPS of Weymouth states "There are good reasons for believing that Capt. John Phillips may have been the oldest son, b. 1682, of Benjamin and Sarah (Thomas) Phillips, of Marshfield, and grandson of Joshua of Duxbury....". This is clearly not the case for town records prove that JOHN PHILLIPS born May 7, 1670, Weymouth, Massachusetts, was the son of RICHARD PHILLIPS and MARY PACKARD (*Source: Vital records of Weymouth - PHILLIPS John, s. Richard and Mary, May 7, 1670*); RICHARD PHILLIPS will dated October 27, 1695 and proven December 19, 1698 wherein Richard states "The andirons which my father Packer gave to me I give to my son John Phillips". Son JOHN PHILLIPS was the eleventh child of this marriage.

Mr. Phillips goes on to say "and, if so, the brother of Thomas who sett. in E. Bridgewater about 1735. The coincidence of names and dates points directly to this source. In that case the number of his generation should be (III.) instead of (I.) and the number of each succeeding generation should be changed to coincide."

You, the reader, will find many references to the book "*Genealogy of the Ellis Family*" by E. R. Ellis M.D., published 1888, regarding Captain John Phillips and his children that settled in Huntstown, now Ashfield, Massachusetts. This book is of particular interest for in it there are many references to the Phillipses that lived there.

Dimick Ellis, born November 26, 1776 in Ashfield, was about twenty-one years of age when his grandfather Richard Ellis died (October 7, 1797 Ashfield), and "*he had lived in the same neighborhood and most of the time in the same family with him*" (*Ellis Genealogy*).

About 1847, Dimick removed to Belding, Iona County, Michigan and it was about 1853 that he would start recording information about the family. Mr. Dimick Ellis at one time or other would most surely have met some of the Phillipses, possibly along the roadways, at church or even in their homes while living in Ashfield.

The importance of this to me is that during his time in Ashfield and at the age of maturity, 1797, Dimick would have had an opportunity to socialize with the residents of Ashfield until his removal to Michigan in 1847, the following Phillipses, that are my direct ancestors, were living and of age of maturity: Grandson of Captain John Phillips, Captain Philip Phillips, who died at age 61 in 1800; his son Israel Sr. who was born 1770; and his son Israel Jr. born 1804.

When Mr. Albert Phillips gets into the Ashfield Phillips, those being descendants of Capt. John, we can find agreement with other records.

He states, "For the following statements the compiler is indebted to Mr. Geo. Bassett of Ashfield, a descendant of Capt. John Phillips."

" In the above company there was John Phillips who drew lot No. 6 in the first division. John Phillips drew for Richard Phillips lot No. 13."

I guess I could go on and on proving a point that you just cannot accept someone's genealogy as accurate....BUT.... you can take advantage of someone's work and then prove it.

I believe that I have proven using more than one record that JOHN PHILLIPS was born May 7, 1670, in Weymouth, Massachusetts and he was the son of RICHARD PHILLIPS and MARY PACKARD and not as Mr. Albert Phillips states.