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Phillips DNA News

www.phillipsdnaproject.com

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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 at FTDNA

Hello, everyone, this is Nancy Kiser, the volunteer administrator of the Phillips DNA Project. Welcome to the March 2009 newsletter of the Phillips DNA Project. Is everyone ready for a little March madness? There have been huge changes to our Phillips DNA Project. In February, Family Tree DNA conducted a poll to determine whether or not to merge the two major Phillips DNA projects being hosted by FTDNA. They also asked everyone to indicate whom they would prefer to retain as administrator. I won with 96% of the vote! Therefore, on Monday, February 23, the two databases were merged, and I spent the rest of the week sorting through results, making sure everyone was put into the correct DNA group. I also tried to contact anyone who might not have been informed of matches he had in the FTDNA database or elsewhere. This merger is a good thing, because it helps ensure our DNA matches will not continue to fall through the cracks. Our project now contains 270 participants and we are the 12th largest surname project at FTDNA!

In addition, with the help of a gifted IT whiz kid who prefers to remain anonymous, we set up a new, free website for the Phillips DNA Project in February, www.phillipsdnaproject.com. This new website is more sophisticated and flexible than the free website provided by FTDNA, so it will allow the publishing of much more information than can be posted on the website at FTDNA. For example, there are many different companies that offer DNA testing, but only the results of those people tested at FTDNA can be posted on the Results page at FTDNA. At our new website, we can post yDNA results from all the different yDNA testing companies. The new website also has a page called yLineages that lists the Phillips pedigrees of our participants and it has a Discussion Forum where you can post queries and information about your Phillips family. There is a sidebar on the home page that provides a list of DNA Tests in progress and also spotlights new matches. The newsletter will be posted under the News tab, where a down-loadable PDF and XPS version will also be available. Our new website also has many other cool features and links, so be sure to spend some time there checking everything out.

I want to thank everyone for your support and your confidence in my ability to lead this DNA project. I also want to acknowledge Shannon Phillips and Paul Lozo as the original founders of the various Phillips DNA projects at Family Tree DNA. If you have any suggestions for improvements or any complaints, please do not hesitate to let me know. If you want to volunteer to help with the project, please do not hesitate to let me know. The primary thing that everyone can do to help is advertise the project by word of mouth and on the internet to recruit more participants. Also, if you notice that your Phillips pedigree has not been posted

on the yLineages page at our new website and you want it to be posted, be sure to send it to me. DNA results do not mean very much if they cannot be associated with pedigrees and Phillips families. I am still very enthusiastic about Genetic Genealogy, which is the application of DNA analysis to traditional genealogical research. I truly believe Genetic Genealogy can help us break down or climb over those proverbial brick walls in our family research!

Questions and Answers

Question: Why do some scientists claim Haplogroup I is the Celtic haplogroup and other scientists claim Haplogroup R1b is the Celtic haplogroup?

Answer: I am not a trained anthropologist or geneticist, but here is my layman's analysis of the situation. The most dominant haplogroup in the British Isles is R1b, and most (but not all) genetic scientists consider R1b to contain the "Celtic" subclade. Back before the advent of DNA, some anthropologists thought the Celts originated in Central Europe. However, it has now been established through DNA that R1b is much more common in Western Europe and the British Isles than it is in Central Europe. So now it is believed by most scientists (but not all) that R1b and therefore the Celts originated in the northern part of the Iberian Peninsula (ie, the northern part of Spain and Portugal). This is where you see the highest percentage of Haplogroup R1b.

Other anthropologists don't want to give up the theory that the Celts originated in Central Europe, so they claim Haplogroup I is the true Celtic haplogroup. Haplogroup I and its subclades are most frequently found in Scandinavia and Central Europe. However, since Haplogroup I only makes up about 15% of the population of the British Isles and Haplogroup R1b makes up 75% of the population of the British Isles, I personally tend to agree it is more likely that R1b contains the Celtic subclade. Of course, the word "Celtic" is hard to define. In my mind, it means the original inhabitants of the British Isles - in other words, the people who first re-populated the British Isles after the end of the last Ice Age 10,000 years ago. If this is who the Celts are, then it seems likely that Haplogroup R1b contains the Celtic subclade. Scotland, Ireland and Wales have the highest percentage of R1b in the British Isles.

Question: Our main goal is connecting with others who may be directly related to our own Phillips lines. How do we go about finding potential candidates and encouraging them to get DNA tested?

Answer: First, you need to recognize the fact that it is easier to get someone who is already interested in genealogy to participate in a DNA project. With that in mind, it makes sense to try to find potential candidates by using the various genealogy-related internet websites. If someone has taken the time to post his family tree or a genealogical inquiry on the internet, he will probably be more interested in participating in a DNA study than a person who has absolutely no interest in his family history.

There are many genealogy-related message boards and mailing lists on the internet. One approach is to post a message on the Phillips message boards at both rootsweb and genforum advertising that you are looking for a male descendant of a certain person who would be willing to have his DNA tested. You should give enough details about the ancestor so that he will be easy to recognize by a potential descendant.

I have found it is even more effective and faster to proactively search the message boards for the name of your ancestor. If you find someone has posted a message about him, directly contact that person and ask if he or she has a male Phillips relative who would be willing to be DNA tested. Explain how DNA testing has helped you and the fact that it is a painless and private test. You may also have to offer to pay for all or part of the test.

Another effective method is to search the family trees that have been posted on Ancestry.com, rootsweb, familysearch and all the countless other websites on the internet. If you find one that seems to pertain to your Phillips family, ask the owner of the file if he or she knows any living male Phillips of that particular Phillips family who might be willing to get DNA tested. Once again, you should explain how easy and painless the testing procedure is and be prepared to pay for all or part of the test.

Question: I have heard there is a new advanced test for marker DYS464 a, b, c, and d called the DYS464x test. What does it do?

Answer: DYS464 is a multi-copy Y chromosome STR that is perhaps the most unstable and fast-moving of all the STR markers. It typically contains four copies and is very useful both in distinguishing families and for predicting haplogroup. Recently an extended test of DYS464 has been developed that tests for a further mutation called recombinatorial loss of heterozygosity, or RecLOH for short. The mutation rate for SNPs (which are used to determine haplogroup) is about once every 50,000,000 generations and the mutation rate for STRs is about once every 500 generations. RecLOH events are believed to have an intermediate frequency between mutations of SNPs and STRs. This makes the DYS464x test a “quazi-SNP” test. In other words, it is less variable than an STR, but more variable than a SNP, so it has value for exploring both genealogy and anthropology. The nice thing about the DYS464x test is that it is pretty inexpensive; it only costs \$18 at FTDNA. However, I question its usefulness at this point in time, because not many people have done the DYS464x test. The DYS464x test appears to be perhaps most useful as a method to check your R1b haplogroup subclade without the necessity of an expensive SNP test.

Question: I mismatch my cousin by four steps on DYS464 a, b, c, and d, but FTDNA is only counting it as a genetic distance of one. Why is this? Here is how the markers compare between the two of us:

12, 15, 15, 16

11, 12, 15, 16

Answer: DYS464 a, b, c and d are not counted the same way as other markers. Any genetic distance at this marker is counted as a genetic distance of one because it is just as likely to jump by several steps as it is to mutate one step at a time. In addition, the marker values are artificially ordered from smallest to largest, so they must be compared horizontally as a group as well as vertically. In this case, both kits have a value of 12, 15 and 16. The only value that is not shared in common is 11. Therefore, the total genetic distance is one.

Question: Should I take the new advanced CCR5 test?

Answer: According to the newsletter "Facts & Genes" published by FTDNA, CCR5 is a gene on Chromosome 3. Some people have a major deletion within this gene on one or both chromosomes. The deletion is believed to be associated with immunity or resistance to the Black or Bubonic Plague, thought to have wiped out over half of Europe's population during the Dark Ages. The deletion is found in up to 20% of Europeans, but is rare in Africans and Asians. Today, some scientists believe you may be resistant to AIDS as well as the Black Plague if you have this mutation. Therefore, you may be interested in taking the test if you want to find out whether you might be resistant to AIDS. However, it will not help you with your genealogical research.

Featured Articles

I decided to print two Phillips family stories in this edition of the newsletter, because these two Phillips families have frequently been confused and mixed up with each other. Many family files on the internet claim that Ann Burden married John Phillips of Loudoun County, Virginia. In fact, Ann Burden married a different John Phillips who lived in Connecticut. DNA analysis has now proven that these two different Phillips families are not related within 1,000 years, or since the adoption of surnames in Europe.

A PHILLIPS FAMILY OF LOYALISTS *By Paul Lozo (Phillips Family Group 19)*

"This is a brief history of just one family of Loyalists who settled in Ontario after the 'American Revolution.' Not a prominent family, not well known, but they are mine (and ours). Records and information on the family have not been easily found, especially during the early Ontario period, where records are scant. It is not certain from where the family first arrived in America, but suspicion directs us to England."

The previous paragraph, other notes and family information was obtained from the booklet on the Phillips Family by Arthur Richard Phillips, Agincourt, Ontario, which is available at the Belleville Library. It was this booklet and an outline of information from Goldie and Blanche Phillips that started my research into the Phillips family. Unfortunately, Goldie and Blanche died as the result of an automobile collision while they were researching in Owosso, Michigan, in 1993 and their outline sources are no longer available.

I am also indebted to Linda Prince Smith of Wainfleet, Ontario, for the wealth of information that I received from her. I would also like to thank Bob Phillips of Columbus, Ohio, Sharon Burnett of Bancroft, Ontario, and Wendy Schultz of Calgary, Alberta, for their assistance. Armed with all this information, I started down the genealogy trail and I have successfully traced the family to William Phillips of Massachusetts and I have documented all of the sources.

William Phillips was born 1588 in England. He was one of the first purchasers in Taunton, Massachusetts, in 1637 or 1638. Taunton, (once called Cohannet), was bought from Massasoit, a friendly Indian Chief. William was a surveyor in 1653 and his name is listed as

one of those "who had taken up freedom in 1648." He died circa 1654 and his will dated 16 April 1654 said that he was then three score and ten (70) at the least. William married Elizabeth Parker and their son James was born c1628.

James married Mary Richmond and had at least six children. He was one of the original purchasers of Taunton, Massachusetts, North Purchase in 1668. He was killed by Indians in 1676 during the King Philips War. His sons James, Seth and some of the other children were mentioned in the Letters of Administration for his Will. In the Record Book, Town Records, Taunton, Massachusetts, I found a list of the children of James Phillips and one of those children was Seth Phillips who was born August 14, 1671. Seth married Abigail Unknown. I was not able to locate their marriage but I did find a record for the birth of their son Elisha in the Record Book, Town Records, Little Compton, Rhode Island, page 12.

Elisha married Innocent Butts in Little Compton, Newport, Rhode Island on September 30, 1736. Their marriage can be found in the Record Book, Town Records, Little Compton, Rhode Island, page 41. Their son John was born May 28, 1737, in New Milford, Connecticut.

John married Ann Burden on November 18, 1757. Their marriage was found in the Records of Marriages for the Congregational Church, Town of New Milford, Litchfield County, Connecticut, Volume A 1716-1805, page 29. The record of the baptisms for their sons Elisha and Ziba can be found in the Church Records, Society of Friends, Oblong Monthly Meetings 1745-1783, page 191.

When the American Revolution commenced, John Phillips and his family were living near Kingsborough, New York. In the National Archives of Canada, Microfilm B2188 #120, the Memorial of John Phillips states that he is formerly of Kingsborough in Charlotte County in Province of New York and now residing near St. John's in the Province of Canada. He joined under General Burgoyne in June 1777. On October 2, 1777, his farm was seized by rebels and he came to Canada and joined Major Rogers as a soldier. He stated that he had a wife and 11 children and four of his sons also served as soldiers in the Royal Army. (They would be Elisha, Ziba, Seth and Almon). After the troops disbanded at St. John's, Quebec, John Phillips and his family settled in the Missisquoi Bay area against Governor Haldimand's wishes. This area was intended to be settled by French Canadians. Although many Loyalists did settle there, it is predominantly French today. Elisha drew lots in Fredericksburgh, Ontario, and settled there.

Ziba Marcus settled in Augusta Township, Grenville County, and Seth stayed in the Missisquoi area at Caldwell Manor.

Elisha married Elizabeth Bell in Fredericksburgh, Ontario. I was not able to find a record of their marriage but the obituary of Elizabeth can be found in the book, *More Notices From Methodist Papers 1830 - 1857*, by Rev. Donald A. McKenzie, published by Hunterdon House, Lambertville, New Jersey, in 1986. The notice is recorded on page 334: "Phillips, Mrs. Elizabeth - Elizabeth Bell, relict of the late Captain Phillips, was born in Scotland, and came to Canada with her parents who were amongst the first settlers in the Midland District. She and her sister, the late Mrs. Sills, united with the first Methodist class formed in Upper Canada. Her marriage to Captain Phillips began and ended in Fredericksburg. (Elisha Phillips was a Captain in the Lennox Militia during the War of 1812). Soon after his death, she moved to Thurlow. She died at the house of her son, George Phillips, in Thurlow Township, Feb 8,

1857, in her 89th year." (Reference is also made to a nephew, Rev. W. Sills). The article was dated February 25, 1857.

The Phillips descendants then spread to Prince Edward, Hastings and Northumberland Counties while others went to York County, the United States and Western Canada.

Paul Lozo, the author of the above family article, was born in the small Town of Trenton, Ontario, in 1942. His father was a police officer and his mother worked in retail. In 1963, Paul joined the Ontario Provincial Police and received his first posting in Sault Ste. Marie. He married in 1964 and his two children were born in Sault Ste. Marie. In 1979, he was promoted and transferred to Belleville, which is only 10 miles from his home town and 20 miles from Wellington, where his wife used to reside. After he retired in 1993, Paul and his wife toured some western States and when they stopped at Salt Lake City, they took a bus tour of the city. The tour took them to the Latter Day Saints site and they visited the genealogy building. The rest is history. It was Paul's interest in genealogy and DNA that prompted him to start the original Phillips DNA Project at Family Tree DNA in January of 2004.

GENETICALLY CHALLENGED? *By Everette Doyle Phillips (Phillips Family Group 9)*

I hope you are not bedeviled by the genealogist gene: alas, you will spend endless hours and good money in search of missing ancestors. In frustration, you may throw a shoe at the computer but you will soon sneak back to follow the slightest clue that might lead you to the Eureka experience. DNA analysis should add such a marker.

Fortunately for me, my cousin Janie, beginning her family history work while in high school, has produced a well-documented history of our bloodline and so I've not had to invent the old wheel. The best break so far has been the result of DNA research.

My most distant documented DNA ancestor was a John Phillips, born circa 1725 and died 1801 in Rowan County, North Carolina. Janie had his Last Will, listing all his children and a wife, probably his second spouse, Diannah. Tax and Census lists prove that John lived much of his life in Loudoun County, Virginia. Thus I was driven for several years to focus solely on Virginia as his most likely origin. Logical, ain't it?

But then along came DNA. After I posted my results—about 3 years after, if I remember correctly—several other Phillips began popping up with the same bloodline (Group 9). This was especially significant because the most distant DNA ancestor and a direct match to John was married at a specific date and locale prior to the first dated document pertaining to my John.

Namely, the match was one Gabriel Phillips, born circa 1725 and died documented in 1809 in Newberry County, South Carolina. Descendants of Gabriel and John are an exact yDNA 37 marker match. Gabriel was married in 1758 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. His wife was a Hannah Brower (of NY and NJ family). Gabe and Hannah moved a few years later to the same location as John in Loudoun County, Virginia. It is a pretty good assumption that these boys were brothers: each named a son for the other.

But who was the ancestral pop of Gabe and John? On various internet websites there are many postings of diverse parentage—none documented sufficiently. From whence came this pair, Gabriel and John, remains the question of the ages.

At this time I think the line may have been—anciently and originally—from Wales. Many of the yDNA 12 marker matches of Gabe and John have surnames identified with Wales and Bucks County, Pennsylvania, was home to many early Welsh settlers. But the line may have gone to other countries before they arrived somewhere in America.

Maybe the early Phillips kin were Quakers or similar religionists. The reason I think so, but can't prove it, is that I have yet to find any of the descendants owning slaves and the locales of Gabriel and John were significant Quaker settlements. Further, I have found only one instance of claimed military service (John's son Gabriel in the Revolutionary War). Quakers seldom owned slaves and they were pacifists.

Literacy was late in coming to the descendants of both Gabriel and John. Religious ministers or academics do not appear. Both boys signed their wills with the venerable X.

Probably it is the genealogist's gene that compels me to never give up hope and the search for the elusive ancestor. I am not alone: many of my Phillips cousins are on the same compulsive path and—o blessed occurrence—we have on our side the diligent Nancy Kiser. She will try to delete this accolade but without her knowledge and advice, we would have wasted uncounted days following false leads.

Phillips ancestors, arise and make yourselves known!

Doyle Phillips, the author of the above family article, is a recovering Texan now living in central Mexico. Although retired, he works full-time as a so-called artist (whenever his genealogist gene permits). <http://community.how-to-draw-and-paint.com/profile/MexDoyle>