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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

Hello, everyone! It's time for a little March Madness! Wearin' o' the Green, the spring equinox and some crazy college basketball here in the USA. I love springtime!

Our project has been growing like a weed since the first of the year. We have added over 20 new members in just two months. As Tom Hutchison, one of my co-administrators observed, if we were fishing, they would be jumping in the boat!

Members of the project continue to ask me to write about the use of proper documentation in genealogy as well as why we cannot rely on Ancestry.com or other internet sources for correct information about our family trees. There is an enormous amount of erroneous genealogical information to be found on the internet and it is very difficult to separate the wheat from the chaff.

I believe DNA analysis is the best and sometimes the ONLY way to correct the appalling accumulations of ancestral misinformation currently being presented as fact on many internet websites. Indeed, this is one of the main reasons I got involved with genetic genealogy in the first place. Last month Dick Eastman also mulled over this problem in his online genealogy newsletter. Here is what he published:

A newsletter reader wrote with a question that is asked often. I have paraphrased her questions a bit for readability purposes.

Using the hints function of Ancestry.com's Ancestry Family Trees, it's possible to copy information from other public trees, but I've noticed there's no way to pinpoint the original source of undocumented data to ask how they came about their conclusion.

As a case in point, one of my ancestors is found on 17 different public trees, 15 of those trees name parents for him I've never heard of before, all sourcing 'Ancestry Family Trees.' Clicking on 'view details' it then indicates 9 of the trees are the source of the information. But which of those 9 was the first? Which is the correct tree?

My answer: Who cares which was first to be posted online?

As with ALL genealogy information found online, in books, or anyplace else, you ALWAYS need to look at the original records. In most cases, that means looking in microfilms or at online images of original records.

I love Ancestry.com's user-contributed family trees in order to find CLUES as to what the truth might be. Online information submitted by users can save a lot of time searching "dead ends." However, "Ancestry Family Trees" is not a proper genealogy source citation even if that is what people write in the source fields.

Online sources and books and other secondary records are great CLUES and can save you a lot of time by telling what MIGHT be true. It is quite common, however, to find contradictory claims online and in books that were published years after the facts. All of these records combined are otherwise worthless until you look at the original records.

Online sources have added a lot of convenience over the years but the basic fundamentals of genealogy research have not changed. In fact, old genealogy books printed years ago also often contained similar errors, the same as today's online family trees. Nothing has changed. You still need to verify every claim that you read in order to determine for yourself what is truth versus what is fiction.

PHILLIPS DNA PROJECT WEBSITE NEWS

Tom Hutchison is asking for anyone who has installed and started using Internet Explorer 9 Release Candidate to browse the Internet for feedback on our site's appearance. There are also a few minor improvements in printing pages on the site. If a printer icon is shown on the page you are viewing, you may click it to open a new browser window with a better print layout of the current page's content.

Our forum on the website has been quite popular and active lately, especially in the Records section. I want to extend a special thanks for all the contributions of Mamie Phillips Foerster, who has also agreed to be the Phillips DNA Project's new "Forum Administrator." In case you were wondering, the Records section within our forum is a place where you can add Phillips obituaries, Bible records and marriages. If there are any other categories you would like to see added such as Wills or Probate Records, just let us know.

The forum's software has also been upgraded to the new version and there are some really nice extra features. You can now sign up for category notifications of new posts via email or follow updates with an RSS ([Really Simple Syndication](#)) Reader. The RSS link to the forum's feed is: <http://www.phillipsdna.com/forum/rss>. We are working on trying to integrate this into a mail list type feature in the near future.

Featured Phillips Story

Samuel Phillips Jr. and Phillips Academy

By Nancy Kiser

Panoramic view of the student body of Phillips Andover Academy, Andover, MA, 1910



Merchant, manufacturer and patriot, Samuel Phillips, Jr., is considered a pioneer in American education. He was the great-great-great-grandson of the well known Puritan, Reverend George Phillips, who was the first minister of Watertown, Massachusetts. Reverend George Phillips embarked for America in 1630 on the *Arabella*, in company with Governor Winthrop. Several descendants of Reverend Phillips have been DNA tested and they belong to Phillips Family DNA Group 30.

According to a book compiled by Albert M. Phillips in 1885, Reverend Phillips gave early indications of deep piety, uncommon talents, and love of learning. He distinguished himself at Cambridge by his remarkable progress, especially in the theological studies for which he manifested an early partiality. He settled for a time in a ministry in Suffolk County, but suffering from the storm of persecution which then threatened the non-conformists in England, he determined to leave the mother country and take his lot with the Puritans in New England.

His great-great-great-grandson Samuel Phillips, Jr., was born in North Andover, Massachusetts, February 5, 1752. An alumnus of Governor Dummer Academy, Class of 1767, and Harvard University, Class of 1771, Phillips was a very active and able member of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress from 1775 to 1780. He served as a delegate to the state constitutional convention from 1779 to 1780, and was a state senator from 1780 to 1802, holding the office of President of the Massachusetts Senate from 1785 until his death. For a short period before his death, Phillips also served as Lieutenant Governor.

In November, 1789, Samuel Phillips escorted newly elected President George Washington on his progress through Massachusetts to Concord. Beginning in 1775, Phillips aided the revolutionary cause by producing gunpowder for Washington's troops at a mill on the Shawsheen River in Andover. Though plagued by difficulties, the powder mill remained active into the 1790s. During this period, Phillips also ran a paper mill in Andover.

In the midst of the Revolution, with financial backing his uncle and his father, Samuel Phillips founded Phillips Academy in Andover. It opened April 21, 1778. Like the rest of his family and many other Massachusetts settlers, Samuel Phillips was a strict Calvinist. However, he was also a practical visionary concerned about the improvement of society. In the preamble to his constitution for the new school, Phillips wrote: "Youth is the important period, on the improvement or neglect of which depend the most important consequences to individuals and the community."

Phillips set out "to lay the foundation of a School or Academy for the purpose of instructing Youth, not only in English and Latin Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic, and those Sciences, wherein they are commonly taught; but more especially to learn them the Great End and Real Business of Living." From the first, financial aid scholarships were part of the program of Phillips Academy: "This Seminary shall be ever equally open to Youth, with requisite qualification, from every quarter."

Today, Phillips Academy is the oldest incorporated academy in the United States. Three years after Samuel Phillips established the school in 1778, Samuel's uncle, Dr. John Phillips, founded Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire, starting a rivalry that has continued through the centuries. The football teams have met nearly every year since 1878, making it one of the oldest high school rivalries in the country. George Washington spoke at the school in its first year and was so impressed that he recommended that his nephews go there, which they did. John Hancock, the famous signer of the Declaration of Independence, signed the school's articles of incorporation.

The great seal of Phillips Academy was designed by Paul Revere. Revere incorporated bees, a beehive, and the sun into his design of the school's seal, which is masonic in nature. The school's primary motto, *Non Sibi*, located in the sun on the seal, means "not for oneself." This has led to the development of Non Sibi Day, a day when many of Andover alumni and all of its students participate in community service across the world. The school's second motto, *Finis Origine Pendet*, meaning "the end depends upon the beginning," is scrolled across the bottom of the seal. Phillips Academy was chartered to educate "qualified youth from every quarter."

For 100 years of its history, Phillips Academy shared its campus with the Andover Theological Seminary, which was founded on Phillips Hill in 1807 by orthodox Calvinists who had fled Harvard College after it appointed a liberal Unitarian theologian to a professorship of divinity. The Andover Theological Seminary was independent from Phillips Academy but shared the same board of directors. In 1908, the seminary departed Phillips Academy, leaving behind its key buildings: academic building Pearson Hall (formerly a chapel), and dormitories Foxcroft Hall and Bartlet Hall. These buildings later became the heart of the Andover campus, which was expanded in the 1920s and 1930s around this historic core with new buildings of similar Georgian style.

Phillips Academy offers a broad curriculum and extracurricular activities that include music ensembles, 30 competitive sports, a campus newspaper, a radio station, and a debate club.

Phillips Academy's endowment stood around \$787 million in January 2008, the fourth-highest of any American secondary or high school. Phillips Academy admitted only boys until the school became coeducational in 1973, the year of Phillips Academy's merger with Abbot Academy, a boarding school for girls in downtown Andover which was founded in 1829 as the first school for girls in New England.

Phillips Academy is one of only a few private high schools in the United States that attained need-blind admissions in 2007 and 2008, and it has continued this policy through 2010. In 2007, Phillips Academy matriculated 81% of its admitted students, the highest rate among any ESA (Educational Services of America) school. In 2009, it received 2,711 applications and accepted 16.7%, with 77% of those going on to matriculate at the Academy. In 2010, Phillips Academy received a record 2,844 completed applications and accepted 405 students, for a 14.2% admission rate.

Phillips Academy traditionally educated its students for Yale and to a lesser extent, Harvard, but students now matriculate to a wide range of colleges and universities. In recent years, Andover has sent the largest number of its students to Yale, Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, Princeton, and other top-tier colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. Among other notable alumni, Andover has educated two American Presidents, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush. The Phillipian, the school's student-run newspaper, is the oldest secondary school newspaper in the United States, first published on July 28th, 1857. It has published regularly since 1878. Likewise, the Philomathean Society is the oldest high school debate society in the nation, established in 1825.

Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Phillips,_Jr.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phillips_Academy

http://www.archive.org/stream/phillipsgenealog00phil/phillipsgenealog00phil_djvu.txt

Guest Column

THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY - IN SALT LAKE CITY AND NEAR YOU!

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 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>. This article was written primarily for genealogy newcomers. It explains one of the most valuable tools available to you today: how to access the millions of records held by the Mormon Church. In fact, you do not need to travel to Salt Lake City to use these resources.

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City contains a huge amount of information of interest to family genealogists, including you. It contains the largest collection of genealogy material ever assembled under one roof: 142,000 square feet on five floors. What's more, if a trip to Utah isn't your cup of tea, you may find that most of this information is also available within a short ride from your home.

The Family History Library is owned and operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, often referred to as "the Mormons." However, the Library itself operates in a non-denominational manner. The Mormons collect records from all over the world, regardless of the religion of the people involved. Likewise, everyone is invited to use the Library in Salt Lake City, regardless of religious beliefs. In fact, only a minority of the Library's daily visitors are Mormons. Library patrons are never asked to read or to listen to any religious materials. In fact, when you enter the library, you are not asked for your religious affiliation. Mormons, Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Hindus, Muslims, and atheists are all welcomed equally. The only "restrictions" are for no smoking in the library or on the grounds, and no caffeinated beverages are to be consumed on the premises.

The Salt Lake City Family History Library is open to the general public at no charge. Many of the library's estimated daily 1,900 visitors travel from distant lands to use the available materials. I have seen people in the Family History Library from New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Sweden, South Africa, and other countries.

The Family History Library has 125 full-time and part-time professional staff plus another 400 or so trained volunteers. The library also has more than 200 computers available for patron use, 509 microfilm readers, 36 microfiche readers, 28 microfilm and microfiche copiers, 4 microfilm scanners, and 15 book copiers.

The Library's genealogy resources include the following vast collections:

- More than 2.4 million rolls of microfilmed genealogical records
- 727,000 sheets of microfiche
- 356,000 books, serials, and other publications
- 4,500 periodicals
- 3,725 electronic resources
- Hundreds of millions of records of genealogy interest available on computer databases

The majority of the records contain information about persons who lived before 1930. Records available are from the United States, Canada, the British Isles, Europe, Latin America, Asia, and Africa. The Library has overseen the filming and/or digitizing of records in over 110 countries, territories, and possessions. Even now crews are scanning records in more than 45 countries.

The Church stores the master copies of all these microfilms and fiche in its Granite Mountain storage facility. This massive vault is literally built into a mountainside, about 25 miles from

downtown Salt Lake City. In this subterranean complex workers make copies of films and fiche for use at the Family History Library and elsewhere.

Travel to Salt Lake City can be time-consuming as well as expensive. Millions of these records have been digitized and are now available at <http://www.familysearch.org>. However, these millions of digitized records still represent only a tiny percentage of the total records available on microfilm and microfiche. If you limit yourself to the only digital records, you will miss the majority of available information! Luckily, you do not need to travel all the way to Utah to use the resources of this great library.

The Family History Library has a vast system of over 4,500 branch libraries, known as Family History Centers ("FHCs" for short), to help people search for the records of their ancestors. The FHCs operate in 88 countries. Each local Family History Center serves as a "catalog store." You visit the local center near you and place an order to rent rolls of microfilm or microfiche. More than 100,000 rolls of microfilm are circulated from Granite Mountain to local Family History Centers around the world every month. Chances are very good that one of these FHCs is convenient to anyone reading this article. For example, there are 74 FHCs in Florida alone! Other Family History Centers are found in England, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, and many other countries.

To find a Family History Center near you, go to <https://library.familysearch.org/>

While your local FHC cannot hold all the records of the main Library, the staff can order any records of interest from Salt Lake City. The records that are available are on microfilm and microfiche as well as on computer databases. The available records include vital, census, land, probate, immigration, and church records, as well as many other records of genealogical value.

There is a modest charge of \$5.50 for each reel of microfilm or collection of microfiche that you order. Orders are usually filled within three weeks or less. Once your rentals arrive at your local FHC, they remain available for your use for several more weeks. You can stop in at your convenience to view the films on the center's microfilm and microfiche viewers. If you need help using a viewer, you simply ask a staff member. You are not allowed to remove the materials from the local Family History Center.

Eventually, the rented records are returned to Salt Lake City.

Many of the records available have been transcribed to computers in the past decade. Each Family History Center has at least one computer; larger centers have multiple computers. Each computer has access to millions of records stored on CD-ROM disks or online. Anyone can use these computers, free of charge. You do not have to be a computer expert to use them; the staff provides assistance for computer novices and genealogy novices alike. Understandably, these computers are quite popular, so you may have to reserve computer time in advance.

The Family History Library's online records are also available to you at home at:

http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/fhlc/library_fhlc_main.asp.

You can learn more about the online catalog at:

<https://fch.ldschurch.org/WWSupport/Courses/LibraryCatalogOverview/Catalog%20Overview/player.html>.

The local centers also provide research outlines that help you zero in on resources from the locations where your ancestors lived. These outlines give detailed advice about how to do genealogical research in a specific state or country, emphasizing what information may be available through the Family History Library. The Family History Library has research outlines for each of the fifty United States, the District of Columbia, most U.S. territories and possessions, each province of Canada, and dozens of foreign countries. The same research outlines are also available online at <http://www.familysearch.org>.

The use of any Family History Center is free; the only charge you might incur is the rental fee for any records you order from the Salt Lake vault. The public is always welcome. These centers are staffed and funded by local Church congregations and are usually located in Church buildings, but a few local centers are in rented quarters elsewhere. Church and community volunteers are on hand to answer questions and lend assistance. The volunteers at these local centers often are a mix of Mormons and non-Mormons alike. If you are concerned that someone at a FHC will impose their religion on you, then don't be! You will get religious information only if you ask for it. Your religious beliefs will not be an issue, and no missionaries will come to your door because you used one of their facilities.

When you start on your family tree research project, you certainly will want to use the facilities of your local Family History Center. Do not make the mistake of many beginning genealogists by assuming that, just because information is on the Web, or just because it is printed in a book, it's a fact. Always draw your conclusions after you view surviving documents (birth, marriage, death, christening, burial, church, military, land, probate, courthouse, census, etc.). Microfilm copies of many of these original records are available through your local Family History Center. Your local FHC can save you substantial time and bundles in travel dollars!