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# Phillips DNA News

[www.phillipsdnaproject.com](http://www.phillipsdnaproject.com)

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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

On February 9<sup>th</sup> of last month our independent website's domain, [www.phillipsdnaproject.com](http://www.phillipsdnaproject.com) turned 3 years old. There are probably a very few who can remember what the site looked like in the beginning. The first design lived for just 6 short weeks until it was realized we needed a website which was able to grow in pace with the project. It was then when the design you have all become accustomed to sprang forth.

Many may have noticed at the bottom of every page a website counter. At the time of writing the draft for this newsletter there have been almost 237,000 views of various pages on the website in the past 3 years. When you stop and think about it, almost a ¼ of a million page views! To add to the statistics, the website has had over 72,000 visitors in past three years, too.

Most of our web traffic comes from the United States. The chart below shows the top four countries over the past year.

Country	New Visitors	Total Visitors	Percentage of Traffic
United States	22,026	28,820	82%
United Kingdom	1,272	1,512	4.3%
Canada	829	1,092	3.1%
Australia	551	679	1.9%

What is being looked at? Of course our number one page being viewed is our Home Page or Welcome Page. In 2<sup>nd</sup> place, the Newsletter's Main Page, followed by the Forum's Obit pages, Categories in the Forums and yLineages by Family Groups. Member-submitted photos are in the top 10 as well as all yLineages. Oddly, our Haplogroup Migration Map is a big hit on the web. Google loves it, so there are a lot of people searching the web who love it too. It holds the number one spot in Google search for Haplogroup Migration and a steady number eight in our most popular pages being accessed over the past year.

Our project has grown along with the website too. In these past 3 years, we have gone from just over 300 members to over 600 members. The Phillips DNA Project is a great success because of all the member participation. There are always members posting to the Ancestry

boards and mail lists promoting the project. Many have helped make it a great success just by sharing their experiences and success with genetic genealogy. Quite a few have written articles for the newsletters too!

Then there are the members such as Sally Phillips and Mamie Phillips Foerster. Sally Phillips is the creator and now maintainer of our Newsletter Index. Every month Sally goes through the coming newsletter to extract and organize the names mentioned. She then adds them to the index to be uploaded to the website. It is a very valuable resource since the website maintains back issues of every newsletter published since the January/February 2009 issue in PDF format. This newsletter by the way is number 37. Mamie is single handedly responsible for growing our website's Forum. Because of Mamie, the website has almost 400 obituaries posted along with many other records such as Military, Wills & Probate, Marriage and general Phillips information. These posts have all gotten numerous direct views from Google searches for their Phillips information.

Wonder where we will be in 3 more years? If we continue to grow at the same pace, we should have almost 1000 participants!

## Genealogical Fault Lines

*By Bob Phillips, Family Group 11*

Since joining the Phillips DNA Project and ordering a test kit from FTDNA back in December 2007, I have learned that I have Phillips cousins whom I never met nor would have suspected. The reason I ordered the Y-DNA test kit and joined was that I have a genealogical brick wall with my g-g-grandfather, Jonathan **PHILLIPS** (1794-1868) of Hastings County, Ontario, Canada. There are now twelve of us in Group 11. Eight have provided us with their "earliest known ancestor" and given their lineages. Four have not submitted this information to the project, as of yet. Four of us are stuck at a brick wall in the late 1700's to early 1800's. Three trace their earliest known ancestor to Michael **PHILLIPS** and his wife, Barbara, of Newport, Rhode Island, in the 1600's. Four out of twelve members match my 37 marker test within 1 marker, one of whom also traced her ancestry to Michael and Barbara of Rhode Island; one has managed to trace her ancestry only to Jason **PHILLIPS** 1767-1828 of Richfield, Medina County, Ohio; and one whose earliest known ancestor is not given.

Nancy Kiser, the volunteer administrator of the Phillips DNA Project, alerted us to the fact that two members of Group 36 also trace their ancestry to Michael and Barbara of Rhode Island. I started a Yahoo Group called Phillipsgroup11 to facilitate discussion in the hope of resolving the conflict, and sharing of information between the members. To date the issue has not been resolved, and we have not furthered the purpose of locating more recent common ancestors.

In the hope that I might be able find more recent connections, I decided to try to help climb over a brick wall for one of our members, Dorothy Krueger, who has only gotten back to Jason and Anna, in Medina County, Ohio. Dorothy was able to provide me with an outline of the

names of Jason's and Anna's children, with dates of birth, some information on marriages and deaths, as recorded in a family Bible. The following are our findings to date.

**Jason PHILLIPS & Anna KING**

**Jason PHILLIPS**

born: 28 Feb 1767

married: Anna **KING**

died: 6 Feb 1828, Richfield, Medina Co., Ohio

**Polly PHILLIPS**

born: 18 Apr 1798

married: Matthew **McCoy**; 11 February 1823, Medina, OH

died: 28 Aug 1869, Georgetown, MI

**Lydia PHILLIPS**

born 24 Apr 1800

married: Horace **Ingersoll**; 27 April 1820, Medina, OH

died 31 Aug 1857, Warsaw, Berrian Co., MI ?

**Nathaniel PHILLIPS**

born: 7 Jun 1803

married:

died: 23 Jul 1840, Williams Co., Ohio

**Anna PHILLIPS**

born: 2 Apr 1806

married: Richard **Spanginberg**; 8 June 1826, Medina, OH

died: 8 Oct 1838, Bath, Medina Co., Ohio

**George King PHILLIPS**

born: 19 Jul 1809

married: Mercy Ann **Edson**; 23 April 1834, Medina, OH

died: 16 Feb 1841, Richfield, Medina Co., Ohio

**Jason PHILLIPS**

born: 22 Apr 1811

married: Alvira **Gillett**; 9 October 1839, Medina, OH

died: 10 Jun 1893

**Lucinda PHILLIPS**

born: 5 Oct 1815

died:

(Marriage source for children of Jason and Anna: *Ohio County Marriages 1790-1950*  
@ familysearch.org)

Jason Phillips; 1 male 16-25, 1 male 26-44, 2 females under 10, 1 female 26-44  
(1800 U.S. Census, Milton, Cayuga County, New York)

*Note: if this is the same Jason Phillips, there is an unknown male born about 1775-1784, perhaps a brother if in the earlier range or a first son if in the later range?*

Land transactions, Cayuga County, New York

April 1796: Jason Phillips . Source; Film: 0850914; liber OD, pg: 384

August 1796: Jason Phillips . Source: Film: 0850914; town 19, liber OE, pg: 158

May 1801: Jason Phillips. Source: Film: 0950914; town 18, liber 4, pg: 432

(<http://nefamilies.com/fam/history.aspx?x=161>)

In 1850 Polly McCoy is listed with spouse, Matthew and children in Richfield, Summit County, OH. (1850 U.S. Census, Richfield, Summit County, OH)

In 1860, Polly McCoy; age 62, born in New York; listed with with son, Matthew, age 25, born in Ohio living in Georgetown, Ottawa County, Michigan. (1860 U.S. Census, Georgetown, Ottawa County, MI)

*Note: Polly's husband, Matthew died between 1850 and 1860.*

Horace Ingersoll, age 52, born in Massachusetts w/wife "Siddy" age 50, born in New York. (1850 U.S. Census, Berrien County, MI)

*Note: "Siddy" likely mistaken in transcription for "Liddy" for Lucinda.*

Jason Phillips, age 48, born in New York w/wife Elvira, age 45, born in New York and children. (1860 U.S. Census Boston Twp., Summit County, OH)

Jason Phillips, age 69, born in New York. Reports father born in Connecticut and mother born in New Jersey. (1880 U.S. Census, Richfield, Summit County, OH)

Lydia Phillips b. about 1813 d. 6 August 1849 buried at Westfield Cemetery, Westfield Center, Medina County, OH.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gsr&GSfn=lydia&GSmn=&GSln=phillips&GSbyrel=before&GSby=1820&GSdyrel=before&GSdy=1850&GScntry=4&GSst=37&GScty=2091&GSgrid=&df=all&GSob=n>

Jason Phillips b. 20 April 1811 d. 10 June 1893 buried at Hershey Cemetery, Richfield, Summit County, OH.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=phillips&GSfn=jason&GSby=1812&GSbyrel=before&GSdy=1894&GSdyrel=before&GSst=37&GScty=2116&GScntry=4&GSob=n&GRid=9799827&df=all&>

All of the above was found on internet websites as cited. Census transcriptions and or photos of pages may be found at Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, and Heritage Quest. Each has their limitations, with some years missing. Keep in mind that Cayuga County, New York, was wilderness prior to the mid to late 1790's as it was just opened up for "military settlement." The same with Medina County, Ohio in the early 1800's, then known as a part of "The Firelands" or "Connecticut Western Reserve." The U.S. Census only listed heads of household until 1850. Only beginning in 1880 does it note the place of birth for the parents.

I have found no source for Cayuga County, New York, births 1798-1815. I find no record of a Jason Phillips born 1767 in the Connecticut records available, nor an Anna King born in New Jersey. Thus, aside from the possibility of finding a probate record for Jason 1767-1828 in Ohio records, listing the names of all of his children, there are no sources to verify their names. Aside from locating in land record transactions place names and given names tying the Jason Phillips of Cayuga County, Ohio, to the Jason Phillips of Cayuga County, New York; we are unable to prove they are one and the same. Further, short of finding a probate record, naming Jason Phillips of either Cayuga County, New York, or of Medina County, Ohio; discovering the names of his parents is problematic. Where was Jason Phillips in 1790? Finally, if the Jason Phillips of Cayuga County, New York is one and the same, identifying the mysterious male aged 16-25 is another puzzle.

Genealogy is not a quick, easy and inexpensive pastime. Trying to connect two lineages with brick walls is like trying to repair a ruptured geological fault line. It is hoped that as more male Phillips submit a DNA kit, we will find more matches for our group, and that they will also submit information on their ancestry. It is also hoped that those who have already submitted DNA kits, yet not submitted their lineage information, will do so. One last plea: please note information on the siblings of your ancestors. Perhaps one day it will be information another researcher is looking for.

## Guest Column

### **FRANK PHILLIPS AND THE PHILLIPS/PHILIPPS FAMILIES OF SOUTH and WEST WALES**

*By Brian Picton Swann*

Nancy Kiser referred in her last Newsletter to the difficulty in finding, recruiting and DNA testing correctly identified descendants of the Phillips/Philipps families associated with Picton Castle in the parish of Slebech, Pembrokeshire, and its surrounding parishes in West Wales. I have had a longstanding interest in my middle name of Picton - and, of course, many people ask me about Picton Castle and were the Picton families coming from West Wales ever associated with it. So over the years I have developed a passing interest in the Phillips surname, its genealogy and its history because of the names being associated. As far as I can tell, there is no documentary evidence for a Picton family ever living in Picton Castle, which then begs the question as to how the Castle acquired its name. But that is another story and not for today.

Over the past 2-3 years, as I have become increasingly appreciative of the huge efforts put in by the Phillips DNA project to reach out to potential "cousins" around the world, I felt an increasing moral obligation to help with trying to get an authentic DNA sample from these Philipps of Picton Castle families and their cadet branches. I believed I had some unique advantages and connections, given my interests in Pembrokeshire families over a long period of time (since 1967, in fact). And I am pleased to report that it looks as though we may have had

our first success in recruiting a valid DNA candidate down this lineage, maybe with more to come. So this is a personal story of how that was achieved.

When I first contacted Nancy Kiser I asked if she had ever heard of a Frank Phillips, and received a negative reply. So let me explain who he was. As family history mushroomed in popularity in the 1970s in Britain, the first Wales group to be set up was a South Wales Family History Society, about 1974/5. This gradually fragmented into the county-based groups which exist today, with the former counties of Carmarthenshire, Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire operating under the Dyfed Family History Society banner. A spin-off from that, instigated by Roland Thorne around 1980, was the formation of a London branch of the Dyfed FHS. He was the first Chairman and Mari Alderman was the first Secretary. I had already encountered Roland through my Picton interests back in 1974. Mari was delightful, and still continues her Welsh family history interests to the present day, is an accomplished speaker and hosts 1-day seminars on Welsh family history at the Society of Genealogists and elsewhere. I attended most of the early meetings, and that was where I first encountered Frank Phillips, who lived in Ealing, West London.

Frank Phillips was recently retired when I first knew him, but he was exceptionally industrious in beavering away tracing various Phillips families with origins in West Wales in particular. This was all done with microfilm and masses of paper, of course, both by way of letters and research documentation. He wrote up many articles on various branches of the surname and had them published in the family history journals of the day.

So, having tried one or two approaches on behalf of this group, with not that much success, I decided to try a heartfelt plea on the Dyfed Rootsweb Bulletin Board, which is the major online discussion forum of folk with an interest in these three former counties in Wales. I felt that with the online documentation available today this had to be a soluble problem, and I asked the list for help to try and solve it. I was able to reference the excellent website put together by the Phillips DNA team and I also mentioned I had a few of Frank Phillips articles, principally via the courtesy of David Ellis. David Ellis lives in Poyston Hall in the parish of Rudbaxton in Pembrokeshire, the former home of Sir Thomas Picton (1758-1815). But he had also taken on recently the Chairmanship of the Board of Trustees for Picton Castle. He has a strong affinity for these old but very important historic houses of Pembrokeshire.

My mention of Frank Phillips and his detailed past work seemed to strike a chord with some other key members of the Dyfed Rootsweb group. The consequence of this is that we have had at least four good offers of assistance in our quest and some very considerable inputs of excellent information on potential leads on various descent lines. Most thorough family historians with interests in Pembrokeshire cannot avoid but running into various Phillips families, most likely as major estate and land owners.

I hope in a future article to tell you a bit more about Frank Phillips personally. We understand he died in 2001 and was never really able to connect his own Phillips line from Lampeter Velfry, a parish lying on the eastern boundary of Pembrokeshire with Carmarthenshire, into the main Phillips of Picton Castle lineages. We are still trying to track down what has happened to

his personal papers after his decease. Nevertheless what has survived is a tribute to his industry, and perhaps with this renewed assault on trying to track down all potential male Phillips lines, branches and twigs that descend from Sir Thomas Phillips of Cilsant (d. 1520), both legitimate and illegitimate, we may be able to bring some closure to his endeavours on this surname in West Wales.

We hope future Newsletters will contain more specific details of the progress we are making, but this article sets the scene as to how we plan to proceed. Drafting up lots of skeleton male descent trees is the next crucial step, followed by detailed discussion amongst a small group of experts as to the validity of each such tree. Some trees may require further research to substantiate the accuracy of the information therein. But the overall prospects have never been brighter for success.

Brian Picton Swann  
Camberley, Surrey  
ISOGG Regional Co-Ordinator, England & Wales