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Phillips DNA News

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

Hello, everyone! It is finally March, time for St. Patrick's Day, the spring equinox and basketball's March Madness! It has been a long winter with some crazy roller coaster temperatures for our weather in the United States. I am definitely looking forward to springtime.

Last month, our Phillips DNA Project's web site turned 4 years old and this month our newsletter is celebrating its 50th! Yes, this is our 50th published newsletter. Our newsletter has covered many of our "Family Groups" with articles shared by our project members. Of course our web site keeps all the old newsletters in PDF or XPS format and available for downloading. The link to the newsletter archive is:

<http://www.phillipsdnaproject.com/news/archived-newsletter>

Sally Phillips has done a great job of keeping an index to all the past articles of names mentioned in each newsletter. The index is available in [PDF format](#) and [XPS format](#). Just use Adobe Reader or Microsoft's XPS viewer to search for a name and you will get the month and year it appeared in one of our newsletters.

Here is a little background on our project's web site for new members. Most of the Phillips DNA Project's members tested with Family Tree DNA or FTDNA for short. Every FTDNA project is given basic web pages to provide information to the project's members. They are limited in scope and content. In 2009, the phillipsdnaproject.com web site was created as a way to provide a lot more specific information to our project's members and at the same time include Phillips testers who tested through another DNA company to be included in the project.

Our web site is 'not connected' to the FTDNA's web site, Ancestry.com's or any other web site our members use to manage their DNA test kits. Our web site is a completely 'independent web site' so if you are interested in checking your matches or updating your contact information at FTDNA or Ancestry.com, you should do so on those web sites. While our web site does have a registration feature, it is only beneficial for those who wish to post on our forum or be automatically added to the email list for important notifications.

Web site traffic data might sound a bit boring, but taking a look back over the past year it can reveal who is interested in the Phillips DNA Project. The data the project collects is by anonymous users, and is not collected by individual users. Some of the data is pertains to

screen resolution, browser type used, but the most valuable piece of data is country (region) of a requested page.

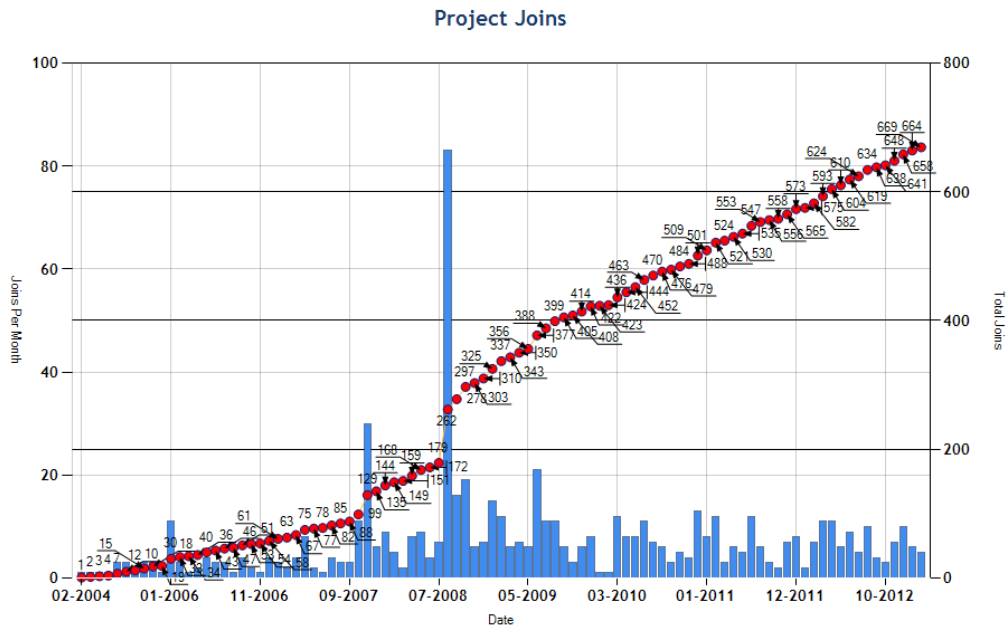
Using the regional data, your project's administrators can see what reach the Phillips DNA Project is having in countries besides the United States. Most project members know one of the goals of the Phillips DNA Project is to involve more participation from the United Kingdom and its Commonwealth countries. With matches, this would allow current Family Groups to connect with their UK/Commonwealth cousins.

After comparing the numbers from the past year with those from the previous year, the good news is the project is generating more traffic outside the United States. Actually, quite a bit traffic as shown in the chart below.

Country	Last Year	This Year	Change
United States	82%	74%	-8%
United Kingdom	4%	6%	+2%
Canada	3%	9%	+6%
Australia/New Zealand	2%	3%	+1%
Other (Europe, Asia, etc.)	9%	8%	-1%

The figures for more UK and Commonwealth traffic is up a total of 9%. The Phillips DNA Project's web site is now averaging 100,000+ page views a year. Factoring the 9%, that is 9,000 more page requests were generated by people living in the UK or a UK commonwealth country.

The project has continued to grow in members too. Over the past year we added approximately 90 more members to our existing membership. The chart on the next page shows the project's FTDNA only increases, which top out at 669.



I'm pleased to say now have over 700 members when you include project members who tested with Ancestry.com or another testing company. We already know the UK event for Who Do You Think You Are? added another project member who tested on the spot! Hopefully next year our 'year in review' will tell our members about 800+ project members.

Featured Phillips Family Story

MARY JANE PHILLIPS-MATZ, 1926 - 2013

By Martha Marble, Phillips Family DNA Group 5



Mary Jane Phillips was born in 1926 in Lebanon, Ohio, to William Mason and Mary Hazel Frances Spencer Phillips, and died on January 19, 2013, at her home in Manhattan, New York, after a long illness. She was 86 years young. She lived just a few blocks from her 2nd home away from home, The Lincoln Center, and a short bus ride from the main New York City Library's Genealogical Collection, her 3rd home away from home. She received her undergraduate degree in medieval literature from Smith College and went on to earn her master's from Columbia in the same field.

Mary Jane grew up in a family that loved both music, especially the opera, and family history. She made her living writing and lecturing across the world in the field of opera, specializing in Verdi and Puccini, and was considered the world's foremost authority on both, especially Verdi. She published "Verdi: A Biography" in 1993 through Oxford University Press as a result of her research of some 30 years and the book was critically acclaimed as the finest biography ever written on Verdi. In 2002, she published "Puccini: A Biography," which also well received by critics. She wrote for "The Opera News" for over 50 years as well as many other opera publications and books. Up until a few years ago, she spent half of each year in Busseto, Italy, researching her subjects. She lived in an old church that lacked what most of us would require in a home and she loved it, calling it her 1st home away from home. One of her children still lives in Italy.

As well known as she was in the opera field, those of us who read the Phillips Newsletter knew her for her love of family history and for her expertise on her branch of the Phillips family. Her father taught her well and she inherited his large collection of family notes and added to them. Mary Jane's father was from Clay County, now Owsley County, Kentucky, where the family migrated after living in Craven (became Dobbs, then Lenoir) County, North Carolina; Buncombe County, North Carolina; Newberry County, South Carolina; McMinn County, Tennessee; and finally on to Clay County, Kentucky. She could prove her Phillips line back to married cousins, Charles Phillips born circa 1770 - 1775, in either Craven or Dobbs County, North Carolina and his wife Jemima Hardy born circa 1775 who was the daughter of John and Mary Phillips Hardy.

Mary Phillips Hardy was the proven daughter of John and Elizabeth (surname unknown) Phillips and circumstantial evidence indicates that Charles was the grandson of Mason Phillips, the proven brother of John Phillips. John and Mason were the sons of Thomas Phillips who died in 1743 and Isabelle (surname unproven) Phillips who moved from Prince George County, Virginia to Craven County, North Carolina, and are represented by Group 5 in the Phillips DNA Project. The name Mason comes down Mary Jane's line even today as it does in other branches of Group 5.

Mary Jane loved to travel and spent time in every area her Phillips family ever lived and actually acquired a 1700's brick from the property on 2nd Swamp in Prince George County, Virginia. She didn't stop with just the Phillips family, knowing full well research on allied families and neighbors in every place they lived could offer a clue to other lines. She also extensively researched in the British Isles but never came to a definite conclusion as to the origins of our family.

Mary Jane was always most willing to share any of her research but above all she was a first class researcher and she expected others to adhere to the known facts as close as possible. Like many older researchers, she started her research long before computers were used by the general public and did her research the old fashion way. Even though she took to computers very quickly, she never learned to use a software program like Family Tree Maker and most of her notes were still handwritten. Actually, I have no notes from her that are not hand written other than what came via emails. She indicated her 941 page Verdi book was written the same way and then someone typed it.

Mary Jane was married and divorced from Charles Albert Matz, Jr., “the principal author of the iconographic scheme for the (National) Cathedral’s eighteen clerestory windows”.⁽¹⁾ She survived two daughters, Catherine Eleanore and Mary Ann, and leaves behind two other daughters, Margaret and Clare Ann, and a son Charles Albert (Carlos).

About 33 years ago, Mary Jane ran a query on the Phillips family in Old Dobbs Trail, a local eastern North Carolina publication. I answered it and we worked together since that time, dividing up the research areas. She visited my husband and me in Washington, D.C., several times and stayed with my family in Lenoir County, North Carolina, and I visited with her in New York City. Mary Jane may have been one of the brightest women I have ever met with all that entails - she was a little eccentric - and until a few years ago, she could multitask better than anyone I ever met. She told me her genealogical papers as well as those of her father would go to a library, but I am not sure exactly where they will be headed. I will miss her both as a friend and as a researcher.

Footnote:

(1) History of the National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.

Guest Column

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyrighted 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>.

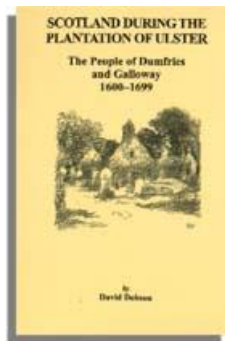
Scotland During the Plantation of Ulster

The People of Dumfries and Galloway

1600-1699

by David Dobson

Printed for Clearfield Company by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore. 2008



The following book review was written by Bobbi King:

We recently published a review of *The People of the Scottish Burghs* by David Dobson in this newsletter.

Scotland During the Plantation of Ulster is a very similar book, similar in format and information provided. It's one of a series of publications for Scottish genealogists authored by David Dobson.

The introduction to Ulster, in just one and one-half pages, gives us a rundown of Scotland history during the seventeenth century. In 1603 James I, King of England, acquired Ulster where he planned to settle Ulster with Protestants, inviting Scots to participate. Consequently, the Plantation of Ulster came to be inhabited by English and Scottish settlers, many of them Scots from southwest Scotland.

The content of this book is derived from primary sources in the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh, including the Court of Session, the Commissary Courts of Dumfries and Edinburgh, the High Court of the Admiralty, Kirk Session Records, burgh records, Registers of Deeds, Retours, Customs records, and monumental inscriptions.

This book is not a comprehensive listing, but rather a set of selections taken from various

sources. Major families included are Irving, Kennedy, Gordon, Maxwell, McKie, McLellan, McDowall, and Johnston.

A sample long entry is: “ADAIR, PATRICK, born 1675, son of William Adair in Corgie, Galloway, educated at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, graduated MA from Glasgow University in 1694, minister of Carrickfergus from 1702, died 12 June 1717. [Fl.89].”

But most entries are short: “STEWART, JAMES, a merchant burghess of Dumfries, testament, 1591, Commissary of Edinburgh. [NAS].”

I'd say there are about 1700 entries. The references are explained in front pages.

Now, I'd like to review the author.

David Dobson is quite a prodigious character. He has 112 books listed at www.genealogical.com, the online home of Genealogical Publishing Company and Clearfield Company, his publisher.

He authored the “Scottish Genealogy Research” handout, part of the “At A Glance” series that GPC puts out. This guy has done a lot of work.

Which may be why I find so little about him (online) personally. He has no web page, has no Facebook, has no obvious LinkedIn page (there are several David Dobsons but I couldn't discern this author/genealogist from any of the other names), has no society associations that I could find; I guess he just doesn't time for such idleness. He's been plugging away compiling the names, the sources, scouring through the records, preparing the manuscripts, and after he submits his work to his publisher, Clearfield prepares a set of first-rate, softbound, laminated books to showcase the work.

Much to our great benefit.

He does have his own author page at www.amazon.com, where he has 53 books listed. Twenty of the books have reviews, which are good reading not so much to find a rating of excellence (or not), but the reviews are very descriptive of the books, a huge help providing clues as to the content of each book, which is a help in determining whether or not to buy.

And nearly all his books have the word “Scottish” or “Scot” in the title. How smart! He's a clever author, making his books easy to find and him, hard to find.

Among his titles are: The Original Scots Colonists of Early America; Scottish Soldiers in Colonial America; Scottish-American Court Records; Directory of Scots in the Carolinas; Directory of Scottish Settlement in North America; Scottish-American Gravestones 1700-1900; Scots in the Chesapeake; and Scottish-American Heirs.

He even wrote a book about the Scots in Poland. I never would have guessed.

His books have a decisive and confident look about them. The covers are simple but of good-quality, laminated and soft covered. There are few images in the books, but the few on the beginning pages are intriguing and represent the nature of the book. The books I've seen have no color, but the black and whites don't detract from the quality of the book. The fonts used are few throughout the books, but are very readable, a task you hardly notice until you pick up a book and you have to nearly pause at each word to read a sentence because a fancy font is so disruptive to the flow that you soon tire of the whole thing and you plop the book down in exasperation.

And you know, I have to hand it to the guy. He knows how to title a book. Have you ever searched for a book that you know exists, maybe a family history book that your cousin found and ordered on the Internet, but for the life of you, you just can't find anywhere, because the author titled it "Our Family History"? You're never going to find it using the usual search engines. (It does, however, give you a reason to call your cousin and talk to him again, and by the way, "where did you get that book?")

Mr. Dobson's book titles are crystal clear, plain and to the point, a tremendous asset to me the searcher. Tell me what it is, tell me where it is, tell me what time period it covers, and I can decide quickly whether or not it's the book for me. (Thank you, Mr. Author!)

These books are simply lists, but if your person happens to be on one of the lists, then you're excited as the dickens. The introductions and explanations offer good background for the records he cites. He provides context of the social, governmental, and economic times represented in the records. I don't need to do Scottish research, but when I read the few pages of introduction in his books, I sit and read them completely through. A determinant of good writing is when it captures the interest of the reader who thought she wasn't interested at all.

I found one of his books, Jacobites of the '15 at the Family History Library online, which can be read online if you're at the Family History Library, a family history center, or a member library with approved computer access.

The idea of buying a book of lists that may or may not contain something of interest to the buyer is a quandary; limited funds, trying to expend our limited dollars in the most effective way possible, watching the pocketbook. I've purchased books where only a small paragraph is about my family and that's the only valuable information I gain.

I generally donate these books to a public library, or a regional genealogy or historical society which maintains a library. I take a charitable tax deduction, and call it done. Occasionally I've donated books to a society which offered the books as door prizes to interested members. And I've just given them away for free to fellow genealogists who can use the material.

It's not a perfect solution to maximizing our dollars, but in a library, such a book is at its best: many people will see the book, for free. Someone will find his or her family in it, maybe a

beginner, get all excited, and go on to find more information based on what was found this little book you donated. After all, we've all gained information from resources someone else paid for, so I just consider it "giving back" when I buy a book, transcribe the information, and pass it on to where it will help someone else.

It makes me feel good both ways. I got, and I gave.

Scotland During the Plantation of Ulster by David Dobson is available from the publisher, [Genealogical Publishing Company](#), from [Amazon](#), and from many other book stores.