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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

It's the Merry Month of May! Happy May Day, Mother's Day and Memorial Day to all!

Last month Family Tree DNA made several big announcements. The first regarded the introduction of their new 111 Y-DNA marker test and the second was about their acquisition of a British firm called DNA Heritage.

In early April, FTDNA increased the available number of markers being offered for Y-DNA comparisons from 67 to 111. Here at our large Phillips DNA project, we made the executive decision not to show these additional markers on the chart that we maintain for our independent website.

If you have tried to view the chart on our independent website, you know it is already hard to view because there are so many columns of existing markers. Adding an additional 44 columns would simply be overwhelming. Instead, we are including a link under our Y-Results tab so that you can view all 111 markers on the automatically generated chart at Family Tree DNA. We welcome all feed-back with regard to this decision.

Also in April, FTDNA announced the acquisition of Alistair Greenshields' company, DNA Heritage. Soon customers of DNA Heritage will be able to opt into the FTDNA database. It looks like there are six men named Phillips in the DNA Heritage database, so we may be gaining some new members! This is exciting, because these Phillips men are likely to be British.

Featured Family Story

Philips of the Heath House in Tean, Staffordshire

By Sara Anderson, Coordinator of Friends of the Heath House

Firstly, let me introduce myself. My name is Sara Anderson and I am the coordinator of Friends of The Heath House, an estate owned by the Philips family in Tean, Staffordshire, England. I heard about the Phillips DNA Project when Alan Phillips emailed me and asked if the family would be willing to participate in a DNA test.



The Heath House is an imposing, early example of Gothic Revival architecture and, along with a Regency Orangery in the parterre garden, is a classified Grade II listed building. Established in April 2010, Friends of The Heath House support the maintenance, renovation and continued existence of The Heath House, its estate and formal gardens.

Left: The Heath House

According to Debretts and Burkes, the Philips family have been resident in Tean since the 1500s and the official pedigree starts with Francis Phylippe who died in 1552. In the 1700s, John and Nathaniel Philips established Tean Hall Mills, a tape weaving mill that was once the largest in Europe.

Other branches of the family spread to Manchester, Warwickshire, Wales and the United States. Notable Philips family members include:

- **Sir George Philips (1766 - 1847)** - George was made a baronet in 1828 due to his lengthy political career as a 'Whig' MP. Philips gained a reputation for his fine oratory, speaking in the House of Commons on one occasion in favour of abolishing slavery in the Colonies.
- **Francis Philips (1771 - 1850)** - In 1812 Francis Philips was one of the nearest persons to Spencer Perceval, the only British Prime Minister to be assassinated, when he was shot by John Bellingham in the lobby of the House of Commons. He died in Francis' arms.
- **Hardman Philips (1784 - 1854)** - Whilst it was Hardman's older brothers, Henry and James, who originally established Philipsburg in Pennsylvania, it was Hardman who improved the town and made it habitable. He also opened the first wood-screw factory in the United States in 1821.
- **Nathaniel George Philips (1795 - 1831)** - Nathaniel was an artist of considerable merit, who had he lived longer would undoubtedly have left a substantial reputation for posterity. In 1825 he became an elected member of the Accademia di San Luca in Rome, where he studied for two years.

- **Mark Philips (1800 - 1873)** - Mark was one of the first MP's for Manchester after the Great Reform Act. A champion of universal education, in 1837 he was the chairman of the first meeting that ultimately led to the creation of the Lancashire Public Schools' Association. He campaigned for public open spaces and in 1846 Philips Park in Manchester, named after him, was opened. He also played an important role in the establishment of the first free public library, opened in 1852. There is a bust of him in Manchester Town Hall and an obelisk, erected by his brother in his memory, stands on the family's former estate outside Stratford-upon-Avon.

As part of my voluntary work, I am researching the early part of the Philips family's history which predates the official pedigree. 'Annals and Antiquities of the Counties and County Families of Wales', written by Thomas Nicholas, says that the patriarch of the family "removed from Wales in the reign of Edward VI (1537 - 1553) and settled at Heath House, Staffordshire, a property which has ever since continued in his descendants."

There are two problems with this theory. Firstly, The Heath House estate was not purchased until the 1680s and secondly, 'Collections for a History of Staffordshire - Volume VII,' published in 1904, provides the following information which places the Philips family in Tean before the 16th Century:

"Henry de Bredeved, William fitz Philip of Tene (Tean) and Thomas de Tene, all occur as jurors of the Hundred of Totmonslowe, 53rd year of the reign of Henry III (1269), to return a verdict whether the vill of Weston under Couremund (Weston Coyney) was situated within the Hundred of Totmonslowe, or the Hundred of Pirehill."

This proves that the Philips origins in Tean go as far back as the 13th Century. An earlier connection with Wales involving the Philipps of Picton Castle can also be dismissed as Meredith Philipps did not assume 'Philipps' as a surname until the 14th Century and William fitz Philip appears in 1269.

'Collections for a History of Staffordshire - Volume VII' goes on to propose the following theory, which brings us to the first option for William's origin:

"The family of Fitz Philip of Tene dropped the "Fitz" in the next generation and occur with the surname of Philip only.... As the family held originally land in Draycote, I believe that they are a younger branch of the family of Draycote, in which the Christian name of Philip occurs in every generation in the thirteenth century."

The Draycotes were descended from William de Malbanc, who was made Baron of Wich Malbanc (now Nantwich) in Cheshire after the Norman invasion by his cousin Hugh d'Avranches (Earl of Chester). Hugh had previously been awarded the land by his maternal uncle, William I of England, as a reward for subduing the Welsh.

The map below is to help readers familiarise themselves with the geographical landscape under discussion. It shows all of the main areas of interest in red, highlighting how close they are to

each other. Totmonslow, located between Draycott and Tean, is the village that the ‘Hundred’ was named after and was its meeting place. A hundred is a geographic division which was historically used to divide a larger region into smaller administrative divisions. The meeting place was where the men of the hundred discussed local issues and judicial trials were enacted.



William II Malbanc’s line shows only two inheriting sons Hugo (Hugh) Malbanc and William Malbanc - there was also a daughter Phillipa. Hugh held the manor of his father and William (junior) moved to the manor of Draycote (Draycott, see the map) and went on to found the Draycote dynasty. There were probably many younger brothers of each generation of the Draycotes who weren’t recorded that could have moved to Tean.

Intermarriage is also a possibility as noble families were constantly trying to increase their estates and consolidate their power through marrying other noble families. This is certainly true of the Draycotes who married into the ‘de Tene’ family and eventually became Lord of the manor of Tean. No men with the forename Philip have been found so far in the de Tene family and have been dismissed as possible relatives of William fitz (son of) Philip. There is also a minor flaw in the Draycote theory as the family weren’t known for including ‘fitz’ in their name and were already establishing Draycote as a surname. This brings us, therefore, to the next contender for a relative of William fitz Philip, which is John fitz Philip of Bobbington.

John's ancestor, Helgot, was awarded Bobbington and Barlaston (see the map) by Robert of Stafford. Mentioned in the Domesday Book, the lineage of this family has been difficult to discover as there are conflicting theories as to whether this is the same Helgot who was awarded land in Shropshire by the Earl of Shrewsbury. Various antiquities of Staffordshire and Shropshire, written in the Victorian era, and modern theses have proved to be a minefield of differing pedigrees. It is the author's personal opinion that they are the same person and for clarity each relevant member of the family is dealt with in chronological order.

Helgot (ca 1040 - ca 1105)

He was called Helgot of 'Reisolent', perhaps from Résenlieu which is a commune in the Orne department of France (Lower Normandy) and was in or near the Earl of Shrewsbury's vicomté of the Hiémois. His eldest son, Herbert, inherited Holdgate Castle, but this line died out in the next generation. There was a second son, Guy, and one theory is that he was succeeded by another Helgot and then by Philip fitz Helgot, father of John. Land in Quatt, which is granted by King Henry II to three men (two of which are sons of Helgot) implies that there was also a third son. Guy donated his share to the Priory of Great Malvern before 1127, which confuses matters as Philip fitz Helgot is declared lord of Quatt later on and there is another line of 'fitz Philips' who also have land there. Philip possibly descends from the third son and not Guy.

Philip fitz Helgot (ca 1144 - 1213)

About 1165 Philip fitz Helgot was granted the estate of Kinver in South Staffordshire, along with stewardship of King Henry II's Royal Forest there. He was also instructed to fortify the King's hunting lodge there, called Stourton Castle. The King provided the financing for some of the construction and also gave permission for Philip to use wood from the Royal Kinver Forest to make a palisade, towers and extensions to the lodge with the final addition to the property being a stone gate and moat. A 13th century effigy (below) in the parish church at Bobbington is conjectured to be that of Philip fitz Helgot, who died in 1213.



Sir John fitz Philip I (ca 1173 - 1238)

After Philip's death in 1213, a charter by King John dated at Hereford on the 27th of November, grants to John, son of Philip Fitz Helgot, and his heirs, the vill of Kinver and custody of the Forest thereof. It is around this time that Sir John is described as "the King's Valet" and in 1214 he accompanied the King on his disastrous expedition into Poitou to reclaim Normandy and protect England from a French invasion. It appears that Sir John was not involved in the rebellion of the Barons in 1216 as he was granted confiscated lands as a reward for being faithful to the King. In May 1234, Sir John was made a steward of William de Raleigh, who was a medieval judge, administrator and bishop and had been appointed to the more senior position of Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

During this period Sir John married Petronilla de Prewes (Preaux), who was undoubtedly from the very important de Preaux family of Upper Normandy and Great Tew in Oxfordshire. King John had nominated Pierre de Preaux "Lord of the Islands" of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, and the dependencies in 1200; at the same time giving him other lands both in England and in Normandy. Pierre retired to his English estates in 1204 after being defeated by the French and died around 1212.

Known children of Sir John and Petronilla are Sir John fitz Philip II, who was born around 1229, Edelina who was born circa 1227 and married Roger Corbet and Hamond fitz Philip who managed the estates near Grimsby in Lincolnshire and married Olive. It is amongst these children that William fitz Philip could possibly fit.

There are definite similarities in land ownership between the two families. Further research from the Staffordshire Plea Rolls (transcripts from the Assizes which were periodic criminal courts held around England and Wales until 1972), shows that William fitz Philip held land in Hilderstone along with his land in Tean. The heirs of fitz Philip also had interests in Hilderstone and Richard Philips (1628 - 1686) resided at Woodeaves in Barlaston. It was his son, Nathaniel Philips (1659 - 1737) who purchased the present Heath House estate in the 1680s.

William fitz Philip sat on a number of juries for the Assizes during his life before disappearing in 1305. Sitting on a jury is a position which shows that he must have been a freeholder of considerable local importance at that date - another clue that he was linked to an already established, important Staffordshire family.

Sir John fitz Philip II (ca 1229 - ca 1316)

John fitz Philip died in 1238 and his heir, John, was not old enough to inherit. In December 1238 John le Savage was appointed custodian of John fitz Philip's manor in Barnetby, Lincolnshire and then, in 1243, all of John's lands whilst his heir was still a minor (under 21.) On the 25th November, 1243 the Sheriff of Shropshire and Staffordshire was given orders to obtain from the widow of John fitz Philip his son and heir. John reappears in 1248 in the custody of Gwillelme, one of the Queen's Maids of Honour.

John finally comes of age in 1250 and reclaims all of his property. Around 1260 he grants seven acres of land in Barlaston to Trentham Priory on the condition that they burn a lamp for the soul of his mother, Petronilla de Prewes, who must have died.

Sir John Junior wasn't as faithful to the Crown as his father and was involved in the rebellion of 1264 led by Simon de Montfort. It was only due to the intercession of the Queen in 1266 that King Henry II "remits all his indignation and rancour against John fitz Philip, and restores his lands to him."

At some point he married Sara and they have the following known children: Gilbert (who marries Emma de la Leaton), Johanna and Alice. During the 1280s he issues a number of grants that provides them with land. Land contracts and inheritance of property seems to be very complex at this time, with the Plea Rolls containing many entries of people arguing over who owns what. It appears that due to whatever contracts had been made, the main estates would pass out of John's family upon his death.

John lived to a very old age and concerns grew about his ability to perform his duties at Kinver. It had been agreed with the King that his role would be passed onto somebody else upon his death, but Prince Edward of Caernarvon (later to become King Edward II) wrote to him in 1305 asking him to retire in exchange for a fee:

"To Monsire John Fitz-Philip, health and good love. Whereas our lord the King, our father, at our request has given the bailiwick of Kynefare, after your decease, unto our dear servant Master Richard de Clebury, our cook; and we have heard that you are in so feeble a state of body that you cannot help yourself in safely keeping the bailiwick; we do pray you in especial that you will make him certain of the bailiwick in such manner as your friends and his shall look upon as reasonable for yourself and for him. And whatever you shall do for him at our request, we shall be much bound to thank you for the same and to acknowledge ourselves indebted therein. For know that we have his interests and his advancement much at heart, for the good and praiseworthy services that he has done us heretofore, and still does from one day to another. And as to what you shall be pleased to do at this our request, you will send us word by your letters, by the bearer hereof. Given under, &c, at the Park of Wyndesore, this third day of September 1305."

Sir John must have died before March 1316, when John de Vaux was recorded as Lord of Kinver, Hugh de Hulpham of Bobbington, and Roger Corbet of Barlaston.

Further research is being conducted to establish links between these families and also, hopefully, to discover more Philips from Tean. Other Philips from the Staffordshire Plea Rolls include so far:

- Thomas Phelip de Tene - who was taxed in the Staffordshire Lay Subsidy of 1327 to meet the expenses of the Scotch War
- Richard Phelip(pe) of Tene - mentioned in 1373 and 1377
- John Felip of Teyne - Husbandman, mentioned in 1452

- Richard Felip of Teyne - Yeoman, mentioned in 1452
- Richard Philipps of Nethertene - Husbandman, mentioned in 1457
- John Phelip of Tene - Yeoman, mentioned in 1473 and 1485
- John Philip of Teyne - Husbandman, mentioned in 1478
- Thomas Philip of Teyne - Husbandman, mentioned in 1478
- Richard Philip, the younger, of Teyne - Husbandman, mentioned in 1478

The current heir of the estate, Benjamin Philips, agreed to participate in a DNA test, the results of which were produced in April 2011. Disappointingly, his DNA did not match anyone named Philips or Phillips in the data bank beyond the 12 marker level. This is not unexpected as not many men in the UK have been tested yet and the male Philips line from Philipsburg, Pennsylvania, died out very quickly. Whilst these results do not support any of the above theories, neither do they disprove them and so we will look forward to more UK men coming forward to be tested.

Guest Column

DNA Discoveries

By Susan C. Meates

The following are excerpts from an article published in the April-May 2011 issue of the Journal of One-Name Studies, the world's leading publication for one-namers:

In part 2 of this article series, more Guild members share their results from their DNA Project, and illustrate how DNA is an important component of their one-name study. Adding DNA testing to your one-name study is an opportunity to make interesting discoveries and discover information not available in the paper records.

You will have success with your DNA Project, regardless of your country of residence. Just as a one-name study is a global endeavor, a DNA Project is also global. The global nature of a DNA Project enables you, if you so choose, to raise funds in migration destination countries, to fund testing in the ancestral country, to help participants find a match. Often a documented link to the ancestral country can't be found for early migrations, and DNA testing will help these persons discover more information about their distant ancestors and a DNA match might provide a location for further research. In addition, regardless of the country, often multiple members of a family tree will contribute to fund testing for their tree. Raising donations is optional, though it is worth considering, since it will make it easier to recruit participants when you can provide a paid test or partially sponsored test kit.

With this Journal issue, another project, the Phillips DNA Project, has passed the 500 member mark, and joins the Wells DNA Project as the only two Guild member projects to reach this point. Many Guild projects have now passed 100 participants, and more are closing in on 100. The number of participants depends on the frequency of the surname, the time the project has

been in existence, and the time devoted to recruiting. In addition, using sales and marketing techniques and material can increase recruiting effectiveness.

Phillips DNA Project and One-Name Study

Family Tree DNA, Ancestry.com, DNA Heritage, and others.

Established 2004.

Participants, 523 at Family Tree DNA.

Nancy Kiser, administrator; Tom Hutchison, co-administrator; Virginia Phillips-Smith, co-administrator

Websites: <http://www.phillipsdnaproject.com/>
and <http://one-name-study.phillipsdnaproject.com/>

The Phillips One-Name Study commenced officially in 2009 when the Phillips surname was registered with the Guild of One-Name Studies, but the roots of the study go back to 2004 when a Phillips DNA project was organized in the United States. Here are the goals of the project, then and now:

1. Help researchers from common or related branches of Phillips families work together to find their shared heritage.
2. Identify how the participants' families are connected, both genetically and through paper trails.
3. Identify and confirm genetic lineages of ancestral families and find our ancestral roots in Europe, or wherever they may be.
4. Ultimately catalog pedigrees and genetic connections of all known Phillips trees.

We believe it would be impractical to do a one-name study of such a common surname as Phillips without the help of DNA analysis, because it would be impossible to sort out and differentiate between all the diverse, unrelated Phillips families worldwide. Thus far, through DNA analysis, we have identified 70 distinct, unrelated Phillips families in the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, United States, Canada and other countries around the world.

There are over 400 different Phillips pedigrees in our database. We maintain a large database of information on Phillips families worldwide and try to help our participants as much as we can with their individual research, but we function mainly as the coordinator of a large networked group of researchers. Every month, one or more of these researchers discovers a Phillips relative or branch that they never before knew existed. Some of the DNA matches have been between Phillips men who live in different countries. This is the reason and rationale for our existence.