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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, and welcome to the November 2010 edition of the Phillips DNA Project Newsletter. I hope everyone is excited and full of anticipation for the upcoming holiday season. I know I am!

Two months ago Bob Phillips, one of our members, asked me to write something about the use of proper documentation in genealogy as well as a description of primary resources versus secondary resources in genealogical research. Last month another member, John Phillips, suggested that I write about why we cannot rely on Ancestry.com or other internet sources for information on our family trees because those trees tend to be full of errors. John said we need to know how to spot those errors and how to correct them, if possible, with the goal of raising awareness with regard to how bad data is harmful to all of our efforts.

I searched the internet and found some articles that had already been written on both topics and posted links to those articles on our website's Phillips blog. However, since two members had similar requests, I decided to also write about them here in the newsletter. I agree that the enormous amount of genealogical misinformation found everywhere on the internet these days is a problem and I believe DNA analysis is the best and perhaps 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.

Here is a link to an article in About.com by Kimberly Powell on the subject of documenting your genealogy research: <http://genealogy.about.com/od/citing/a/sources.htm>

Here are some excerpts from the article:

When researching your family it is very important that you keep track of every piece of information. This is important both as a means of verifying or "proving" your data and also as a way for you or other researchers to go back to that source when future research leads to information which conflicts with your original assumption. In genealogy research, any statement of fact, whether it is a birth date or an ancestor's surname, must carry its own individual source.

- **Primary vs. Secondary Sources**

Referring to the quality of the record, [primary sources](#) are records created at or near the time of an event by a person who had reasonably close knowledge of the event. [Secondary sources](#), by contrast, are records created a significant amount of time after an event occurred or by a person who was not present at the event. While both types of sources are important in genealogy research, primary evidence usually carries more weight than secondary evidence.

- **Original vs. Derivative Sources**

Referring to the provenance of the record, [original sources](#) are records that contribute written, oral, or visual information not derived - copied, abstracted, transcribed, or summarized - from another written or oral record. [Derivative sources](#) are, by their definition, records which have been derived - copied, abstracted, transcribed, or summarized - from previously existing sources. Original evidence usually carries more weight than derivative evidence.

Here is a link to an article on rootsweb by Bettie Cummings Cook about both the good and bad aspects of internet genealogy: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vaugust/cook.htm>

Here are some excerpts from that article:

The Internet has developed a new group of family searchers. Unfortunately, the experienced genealogist is in the minority. There is a new group of persons who know first how to use a computer and second want to locate others who can give them information about their families. Notice I do not call the second group genealogists because they are lacking in the skills to prepare them for productive research. Before the Internet, this person would have been the beginner genealogist sitting across the table from you in a library. The computer-user/researcher cruises the Internet hoping to find his family tree, unaware there is a more accurate way to find it using primary records. The cruiser, who in the past would have had no recourse except to go to a genealogical library and learn the skills, now sets up a webpage or a newsgroup in quest of the answers. He contributes uncited "merry-go-round" bits to others. His heart is in the right place but his ability to do research is not. He is totally oblivious to the fact he is doing more harm than good both to himself and others.

The flood of incorrect data making the rounds on the 'Net is growing. It is comparable to undocumented family genealogies, early DAR records, and early LDS family files. Both DAR and LDS are making efforts to correct their early files. The 'Net has no one to guide it except experienced genealogists who care. We can no longer afford to ignore the unskilled query. Few of us have the inclination, or want to take the time, to deal with the unskilled and the inexperienced 'Net searchers. Someone is going to have to step up to the flood and help with the sandbags. If each of us concentrates on improving the site concerning our surname, or a site under the

sponsorship of our local group, together we can make a difference. We must make an effort to deal with this growing problem. Get on your soapbox for the sake of good genealogy on the Internet!

Guest Column

A Sad Tale of a Computer Virus

By Richard W. Eastman

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>.

Here is an important lesson for all of us. I received an email message from a newsletter reader who shall remain nameless. He wrote:

As you might have been made aware, my email accounts were hacked and false emails asking for money were sent. Also all my contacts were deleted and I am hoping to have them restored soon, so you may get another email like this one.

Please ignore any requests for money or the like. Also, I was unaware that they had added a reply to email address so none of the emails announcing my problems actually were coming back to me.

If you have an email coming from [my email address], it is not coming from me. Delete this email from your contact list. Also delete my Hotmail and gmail addresses if you have them as I will not be using them anymore to contact you.

I wrote back and questioned if his accounts really had been compromised or if someone had simply forged his email address when sending email messages. He replied:

Actually, Dick, I had a virus that retrieved my passwords, three weeks afterwards they hacked into my financial records, Gmail, Hotmail, and YahooMail accounts at the same time.

They changed the passwords on all the accounts, redirected the reply addresses on all the email accounts, deleted all the contacts and emptied my inbox, even changed my security questions on my Hotmail account which I can't delete or access now.

My bank informed me that they attempted to transfer money from my credit card to somewhere else. All this in the space of two hours. I caught the banking issue quickly before they could complete anything, but the email issue took a while. Only Gmail stopped the process automatically by noticing the account was being used from North America and Nigeria at the same time. Yahoo says they can restore my contacts, but Gmail, and Hotmail can't. My saved email messages are gone in Gmail, but YahooMail has recovered them.

Hotmail has virtually no help without knowing security question, etc. and no one will respond to my pleas of help.

Thanks for the information and also thanks for the great newsletter you put out. I am wiser and more protected now.

OK, there are several lessons to be learned from this story but here is the most obvious one: Do you have a good anti-virus program installed in your Windows computer? If so, have the virus definitions been updated **TODAY**?

Or you might consider switching to Linux or Macintosh, both of which never seem to have these problems.

NOTES FROM TOM

By Tom Hutchison, Co-administrator of the Phillips DNA Project

The above example is sad story of a common occurrence happening every day. Even those who feel secure are tricked into downloading malicious software designed to harm their system. One of the most common examples is fake virus-checking software which usually opens up while browsing on an infected site. The most common form tells you your computer is at risk or a virus has been found, please click here to check your system or clean it. Unknown to many, when they click the button, they allow the virus to download and install on their system.

The best thing to do when a situation like this occurs is close the browser window and if you are having difficulty doing so, press the CTRL - ATL - Delete keys simultaneously to bring up the task menu. Shut all the browser windows down from there. If there truly was a virus on your system, your virus software will open up a window with its name at the top of the window. It will tell the type of virus, and what your choices are, delete it or quarantine it. After your choice, you will usually get a notice to check the whole system.

Another common type of infection or really a hijacking is a phishing scam for your personal information. I am sure everyone knows, or at least I hope they do, if someone tells you out of all the people in the world, their dead relative has left them money they are willing to share with you, it is a scam. The scary ones are those telling of account closure or access denial and it is usually how the con artists get control of your email accounts.

All of these emails can look pretty authentic, but trust me, Google is not going to send you an email telling you your email account is being closed unless you click a link and verify your identity or your desire to keep it open. Nor for that matter will your Internet Service Provider send you an email asking for you to log on and verify information. The links provided in the emails are fake sites designed to look authentic. Even clicking the link verifies your email is valid, even if you are just curious. Best thing to do is "DELETE THEM" or if you want to be

proactive, set up a free account at www.spamcop.net and forward them to the address provided by spamcop.

One more type of email, perhaps the most dangerous, is from a friend with links to photos or videos. Be very alert as to the types of emails and the content of them, especially if you are registered with a social networking site like Facebook or MySpace. If you get an email from a friend saying they uploaded a new video or “please view my new photos” but you are required to download a newer version of software to view them, DON’T DO IT. The new version of software is a virus and your friends account is probably hijacked.

Now since I probably frightened some of you, here is what you can do to be safe online.

1. Have a virus program on your computer and running in the background with a firewall working and in place.
2. Keep your virus and system up-to-date with the latest patches and virus definitions. Turn on automatic updates for Windows.
3. Run a full system scan of all files at least once a week. Again, this can occur overnight as it may take hours to complete.
4. Stay off of unfamiliar sites.
5. Pay close attention to emails, especially strange ones asking for you to do something to verify your personal information or your account with them.
6. Leave your computer on at all times. Yes, I said leave it on and here is why. There is no reason to turn off your computer; most computers built in the past 10 years or so are fairly green and consume a very small amount of electricity, especially in hibernate or sleep mode. Just turn off your monitor, it is the power hungry device.

Why on earth should you leave your computer on? Because, the computer’s automatic updating and virus definition downloads can be set to occur overnight, this way during the day, your computer is up to date with the latest protection. It is very dangerous to turn on your computer, open your browser and start surfing after your computer has been off. It takes time for virus definitions to update, that small window of time may be all that is needed to infect your computer with a brand new virus.

How do you know when you have a virus or some type of malicious program running on your computer? Pay attention to your computing experience. Are web pages loading slower? Are you overwhelmed with pop-up ads even though you have pop-up blocker on? Did a new toolbar appear on your browser? Is your computer constantly locking up and you have to reboot it? Do strange messages appear when you reboot? Do you see new icons on your screen? If any of these apply, you may have a virus or some type of spyware lurking about.

Featured Family Story

The Early Years of Phillips Family Group 32

By Sally Phillips with research by Ron Phillips

My husband, Lewis Phillips, traces back on paper to George Phillips, a Newcastle, Virginia, mariner, sailing in the late 1600s. Lew ordered his DNA test purely as a lark. Imagine our surprise when his test confirmed him as a Fitzhugh! We didn't know what to think! But just a little research led us to a logical, probable conclusion. Since our test results in 2006, four more Phillips men have tested as Fitzhughs, with their DNA matching my husband's at 37 markers. These men are able to trace back on paper to the same source.

Our documented Family Group history begins in 1673/4 when William Phillips patented 3000 acres in New Kent County, Virginia, "uppon both sides of Totopotomoy Creek" near the Pamunkey River in what is now southeastern Hanover County.¹ In 1679 he was granted an additional "three thousand Acres of Land located and lying and being in New Kent County upon both sides of Totopotomoy Creek."² Nearby lay the land of George Phillips.³ George died in 1687.⁴ George and William may have been brothers, George may have been the father of George, or George may have been the father of William. Living this close, they were undoubtedly related.⁵

The Phillips land⁶ lay a mile or so from Newcastle,⁷ on the south bank of the Pamunkey River.⁸ Newcastle and nearby Hanover town were two ports that handled most of the shipping between Virginia and England.⁹

George Phillips, Sea Captain, probable son of George or William, inherited the land on Totopotomoy Creek. George was a vestryman at St. Paul's Church and participated in the processioning of land ordered by the vestry.¹⁰ He owned at least two ships, the *John and Mary* and the *John and Margaret*.¹¹ An "Order and Instruction" command from the Commissioners of the British Admiralty, on 23 September 1691, calls for "protection [against pirates] to George Phillips, master with 20 unnamed men of the *John and Margaret*, 200 tons, to Virginia, provided she sails with the convoy."¹²

George Phillips, Sea Captain, married (presumably) and had sons George, John, Richard, and James between about 1690 and 1710.¹³ However, DNA testing centuries later indicates that son George was actually the son of one of the mariner's customers, William Fitzhugh the Immigrant.¹⁴

William Fitzhugh arrived in Virginia in the early 1670s¹⁵ and purchased land in Stafford County.¹⁶ In 1674 he achieved prosperity when he married Sarah Tucker, a daughter of wealth.¹⁷ Fitzhugh was a lawyer, a member of the House of Burgesses, and a tobacco planter, shipping his tobacco to London and purchasing household necessities and luxuries in England that were shipped back to Virginia.¹⁸ The ship captains who carried his tobacco to London and brought back various sundries often became his close friends.¹⁹ Fitzhugh's correspondence

includes numerous letters to his agents in London. Ship Captain George Phillips was the subject of several of these letters in 1691 and 1692.²⁰

Fitzhugh was known to drink, frequently too much, on social and business occasions. Of Fitzhugh, it was written that "...every ship departing with a cargo of tobacco had to be sped on its way by a round of toasts with the embarking captain."²¹ Based on DNA testing, we have to assume that, after toasting Captain George Phillips' embarkation, Fitzhugh continued the revelry with Mrs. Phillips. Fitzhugh died in 1701.²²

Two sons of the sea captain, John²³ and James,²⁴ remained in the Totopotomoy area with their father. Either John or James had a son Nathan who inherited his grandfather's land.²⁵

George Phillips' son Richard²⁶ and George, the young man he reared as a son, patented land near Beaverdam in the northwest corner of Hanover County.²⁷ George settled on 400 acres in Pug Swamp in 1724.²⁸ Richard was granted 600 acres north of the South Anna River in 1724.²⁹ Eight years later Richard patented 400 acres just north of George in Pug Swamp.³⁰ Richard married Catharine Smith; they had three sons, William, Richard, and Thomas, and three daughters, Anna, Elizabeth, and Catharine Susanna.³¹

George Phillips, raised as a Phillips but the son of William Fitzhugh, had at least three sons, John, George, and Richard.³² DNA tests have identified five descendants of these sons. Wills and other legal documents connect these descendants back to John, George, and Richard Phillips.

John Phillips (with Fitzhugh DNA) was probably the eldest; he inherited the Pug Swamp land³³ and remained there many years.³⁴ In his later years he moved to Louisa County.³⁵ He had three sons, William, George, and John, and a daughter Ann.³⁶ William married Ann Lewis, daughter of John Zachary and Elizabeth Lewis.³⁷ They had sons William, who moved to Georgia; John Lewis, who moved to North Carolina; and Lancelot, who stayed in Louisa County.³⁸ George married Ann Pettus and settled in Caroline County, Virginia.³⁹ They had sons John, William, and Thomas, and daughter Mary.⁴⁰

Richard Phillips (with Fitzhugh DNA) married Lucy Talbot, daughter of John Talbot and Sarah Haley.⁴¹ They settled in Amelia County, Virginia, and had sons Richard, John, William, Peter T., Barney, and Thomas, and daughters Elizabeth and Tabitha.⁴² Descendants migrated to Prince Edward County, Virginia, and Mecklenburg County, Virginia.⁴³

George Phillips (with Fitzhugh DNA) married Susannah Dyer, daughter of Robert Henry Dyer.⁴⁴ They settled in Lunenburg County, Virginia, and had sons Dyer, Robert, and John and daughters Betsey, Mary, and Martha.⁴⁵ Descendants migrated to Greene County, Tennessee, Arkansas, and South Carolina.⁴⁶

Most members of Phillips Family Group 32 would never have been able to conclusively trace their ancestors without DNA testing. There are too many Johns, Williams, and Georges.

Hanover County is one of Virginia's burned counties and records are scarce. Although our DNA test results were a great surprise, they enabled us to prove our ancestry without a doubt. Now we hope another Phillips Family Group will be able to tie to our half-brothers John, James, and Richard, and the family will be reunited again.

ENDNOTES:

¹Virginia State Land Office, Patents 1-42, Reels 1-41, 16 February 1673/1674, online at the Library of Virginia (LVA) website.

²Virginia State Land Office, Patents 1-42, Reels 1-41, 25 September 1679, online at the LVA website.

³ "...homeplace of the early George Philips who patented land in St. Martin's Parish on Pug Swamp" was "high point of land" "on a small old road leading towards the river from Rt. 606, being E. of the Old Church Tavern." "...the road's entrance is opposite Immanuel Church." "The Philips land near the Old Church adj. The 1687 Patent of Wm. Winston I." Norine Campbell Gregory, *Some Ancient Landowners in Saint Martin's Parish, Hanover County, Virginia*. Athens, Georgia, New Papyrus Company, Inc., 2001, page 320.

⁴ C. G. Chamberlayne, *The Vestry Book of Saint Peter's Parish, Hanover County, Virginia, 1684-1786*, Richmond, The Library Board, 1937, page 440.

⁵All we really know is that George died in 1687/8 (Chamberlayne, *St. Peter's*, page 67) and that William was a physician/surgeon and actively representing the Parish in its negotiations with Blissland Parish in James City in 1689 (Chamberlayne, *St. Peter's*, pages 23-24).

⁶ "William Winston, as early as 1687 had settled in St. Peter's Parish and was granted land by patent not far from Newcastle on the Pamunkey River, which joined the lands of David Crawford (Assequin plantation), the land of Col. John Lewis (Chemokins) and the land of George Philips." (Footnote refers to Land Patent Book 7, page 594.) Malcolm Hart Harris, MD, *Old New Kent County, Volume 2*, West Point, Virginia, self-published, 1977, page 907-908.

⁷ "Extracts from Virginia Gazette," <http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/VirginiaGazette>, May 11, 1769.

⁸ "A map of the most inhabited part of Virginia containing the whole province of Maryland with part of Pensilvania, New Jersey and North Carolina," Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, 1751, on the Library of Congress American Memory website.

⁹ Eugenia G. Glazebrook and Preston G. Glazebrook, *Virginia Migrations: Hanover County, Volume II, Absentee Land Owners, Year 1814, St. Martin's Parish*, Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 2000, page ii.

¹⁰ C. G. Chamberlayne, *The Vestry Book of Saint Paul's Parish, Hanover County, Virginia, 1706-1786*, Richmond, The Library Board, 940, pages 214, 224, 235, 236, and 248.

¹¹ Library of Virginia Colonial Records Project, online at the LVA website.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ Chamberlayne, *Saint Paul's*, pages 101, 258, and 273.

¹⁴ Family Tree DNA Website, www.familytreedna.com.

¹⁵ Richard Beale Davis, *William Fitzhugh and his Chesapeake World, 1676-1701, The Fitzhugh Letters and Other Documents*. The Virginia Historical Society. Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press, 1963, page 10.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, page 11.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, page 11.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, page 18.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, page 19.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, pages 293 and 302.

²¹ *Ibid.*, page 17.

²² *Ibid.*, page 54.

²³ Chamberlayne, *Saint Paul's*, pages 282, 299, and 309.

²⁴ James Filips paid cash, as cited in an accounting of the estate of Mary Alves. Rosalie Edith Davis, *Hanover County, VA Court Records, 1733-1735, Deeds, Wills & Inventories*. Manchester, Missouri, self-published, 1979, page 36. John and James processioned. Chamberlayne, *Saint Paul's*, pages 273, 286, 294, 304, 343, 380, and 416.

²⁵ "For Sale, Three hundred and fifty acres of Land, in Hanover county, within a mile of Newcastle, near one half very xxx xxxxx grounds, whereon is a new dwelling-house xx by 23? Feet, with two fire places, a good cellar the size of the house, with two rooms and a fire place, a good kitchen with two fire places, and all other convenient houses in good repair, fine apple and peach orchards, and is a very pleasant situation. Any Gentleman inclinable to purchase may know the terms by applying to Nathan Phillips." "Extracts from Virginia Gazette," May 11, 1769. Gregory, page 223.

²⁶ The relationship between Richard Phillips and George Phillips, both near Beaverdam, is an assumption based on timing and proximity; the relationship has not been proven.

²⁷ Since certain names recur frequently in this family, knowledge of the sequence of Virginia county formation and parish evolution is essential to distinguishing individuals. The Totopotomoy Creek land was in St. Peter's Parish in New Kent County in 1673, in St. Paul's Parish in New Kent County in 1704, and in St. Paul's Parish in Hanover County in 1720. The Beaverdam land was in St. Paul's Parish in Hanover County in 1724 and St. Martin's Parish in Hanover County in 1726.

²⁸ Virginia State Land Office, Patents 1-42, Reels 1-41, 9 July 1724, online at the LVA website.

²⁹ Virginia State Land Office, Patents 1-42, Reels 1-41, 5 November 1724, online at the LVA website.

³⁰ Virginia State Land Office, Patents 1-42, Reels 1-41, 11 April 1732, online at the LVA website.

³¹ Catharine's will, signed 17 September 1783 and recorded 14 April 1794, and a court order on the division of slaves following Catharine Phillips' death, signed 3 January 1797 and recorded 13 March 1797, as reported in Nancy Chappelle Baird and Kate Binford Hatch, *Abstracts of Louisa County, Virginia, Will Books, 1743-1801*, Delaplane, Virginia, self-published, 1964.

³² DNA testing proves these relationships.

³³ Gregory, page 251.

³⁴ In 1775 John placed a notice in the Virginia Gazette seeking the return of a stolen horse. He identified himself as located "in the upper End of Hanover. "Extracts from Virginia Gazette," 8 July 1775.

³⁵ 1800 Deed abstract, George Philips and Anna his wife of Caroline and William Phillips and Ann his wife of Hanover to Anna Mills formerly Ann Phillips of Louisa for 150 tract on Rocky Creek cont. 166-1/2 acres being land purchased by John Phillips Sr. of John and Betty Smith 9 Aug 1784. Louisa Deed Book J, page 191.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Relationships detailed in record of land sale, Augustine and Sarah Lewis and William and Ann Phillips to Jonathan Clark, Spotsylvania County, Virginia, Deed Book O, 6 September 1796.

³⁸ Unpublished and unverified family record.

³⁹ Abstract of will of George Phillips, 12 August 1816, page 223. Glazebrook and Glazebrook, *Virginia Migrations*, page 102.

⁴⁰ Kimberly Curtis Campbell, *Caroline County, Virginia, Court Records: Will Book 1793-1897; Will & Plat Book 1742-1840; Will Book 1814-1818*. Milford, Virginia, Iberian Publishing Company, 1998.

⁴¹ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Charles City County, Virginia, Records, 1737-1774, with Several 17th Century Fragments*, Richmond, Virginia, self-published, 1986. Page 2, Will of Sarah Southall. Maiden name of Haley comes from a Talbot descendant (see e-mail chain of May, 2010).

⁴² Will of Richard Phillips, Amelia County, Virginia, Will Book 5, page 36.

⁴³ Research by Ron Phillips.

⁴⁴ Will of Robert Henry Dyer, Lunenburg County, Virginia, Will Book 2, page 246.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Research by Ron Phillips.