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Phillips DNA News

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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

It's November, which means the start of the holiday season. Happy All Saints Day, Veterans Day, Remembrance Day and Thanksgiving!

It has been pointed out to me that not everyone is aware of our new records section, which is located under our Phillips DNA Forum on the Community page of our website. Our records section contains the following categories: Obituaries, Bible Records, Marriage Records, Military Records and Wills and Probate. Thus far, Phillips researchers have posted 353 obituaries, 18 bible records, 47 marriage records, 19 military records and 60 wills or probate records. Anyone can register on our website and post any records they may have under the appropriate category. If there are any other categories you would like to see added, just let us know.

Featured Family Stories

Descendants of Samuel and Elizabeth Phillips of Narragansett, Rhode Island

By Bob Phillips, Family Group 11

In the two previous articles (see September and October 2011 newsletters), I discussed the circumstances, some sources, and historical settings for this subject. An outline of the family of Samuel and Elizabeth can be made from two principle sources; "*A History of the Narragansett Episcopal Church*" and "*History of Washington and Kent Counties, Rhode Island.*" However, only a few details regarding the family are revealed in these sources.

We have also been made aware of the speculation that this family may relate to the family of Michael and Barbara Phillips of Newport, Rhode Island. However, that remains speculative and due to the common given names, surname, and geographic proximity, there is the danger of conflating the two families as they grew and migrated. Even attempting to outline this family has been confusing due to the repetition of given names, the lack of names for most of their spouses and, in at least one case, the marriage of cousins.

A more detailed outline than given below would likely require years of research in the local records as may be available, and expenses beyond my personal means. It is, however, hoped that a male Phillips descendant of this family will be identified who is willing and able to submit a Y-DNA test, and join our Phillips DNA Project.

I will note that following the death of Samuel Phillips, his wife Elizabeth is said to have married a Colonel George Thomas. I have found no further reference to Elizabeth, suggesting her year of birth; nor her maiden name.

Samuel Phillips (1655-1736) & Elizabeth _____ (- 1748)

- 1- Thomas Phillips (-1772) & Mary Brown (1705-1737) *married 1725*
 - (1) Samuel Phillips (1726 - 1748) & Anne Blinn
 - (1a) Thomas Phillips (1747 - 1834)
 - (1b) Mary Phillips (1746- 1801)

- 2- Christopher Phillips (1692-1753) & Sarah Bruck (1699 - 1753)
 - (1) William Phillips (1727 -1727)
 - (2) Christopher Phillips (1727 - 1757) & Mary Phillips *married 1749*
 - (a) Samuel (1749 -1808)
 - (b) Christopher
 - (c) Sarah
 - (d) William
 - (3) Peter Phillips (1731-1807)
 - (4) Frederic Phillips
 - (5) Elizabeth Phillips

- 3- Samuel Phillips (-) & Abigail Brown (1713 -) *married 1733*
 - (1) Mary Phillips (1733 -)
 - (2) Thomas Phillips (1735 -) & Elizabeth Brown (-)
 - (a) Thomas Phillips
 - [1] Thomas Phillips
 - [2] Samuel Phillips
 - [3] John Phillips
 - (b) Peter Phillips
 - (3) Sarah Phillips
 - (4) Henry Phillips

- 4- Mary Phillips (-) & John Dickinson (-) *married in 1718*
 - (1) Samuel Dickinson
 - (2) (*Daughter*) Dickinson & _____ Matteson

Fallacious Fruit on the Ol' Phillips Family Tree

By Doyle Phillips, Family Group 9

Probably all internet postings of Phillips family trees are well-intended and in good faith. But intentions and faith are not necessarily connected to due diligence. In this little essay, the claims pertaining to John Phillips will be analyzed as they appear in twenty search results through RootsWeb's WorldConnect Project. (<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi>)

The following lists compiled from WorldConnect results show that many researchers have copied the work of others—apparently without question.

John's Birth Dates

No date shown	1
About 1725	1
7 June 1726	1
Year 1735	12
About 1736	1
Year 1737	1
Year 1740	1
27 Mar 1733	2

John's Birth Place

Not shown	12
Bristol Parrish VA	4
Cornwall, England	3
North Carolina	1

John's Death Dates

1801	15
About 1801	3
3 November 1801	1
8 November 1801	1

John's Death Place

All agree on Rowan County, North Carolina, but several entries also cite Davie County which was not formed until 1863, long after John's death.

John's Father

Not cited	17
Thomas	2
Joseph	1

John's Mother

Joanne Thomas	1
Mary S. Pendleton	1
Not cited	18

John's First Wife

There is no documentation of marriage which means that his wife could have been common law, among other possibilities.

Diannah	9
Elizabeth and/or Ann Burden	3
Frances Dianna Avery	4
None	4

John's Second Wife

Almost certainly he had two marriages but there is no documentation for either, nor date or place.

Diannah Hicks	1
Frances Diannah Avery	1
Diannah	1
Not cited	18

Agreement in any category is hard to find. Researchers can waste a lot of time trying to follow false leads. In my own experience, I spent many hours trying to find Ann Burden (Burton, Borden) and Avery marriage claims. Likewise the Fathers and Birthplace postings for John took a lot of non-productive work. DNA analysis to the rescue!

As the Phillips DNA Project database increases, the more accurate the genealogies become. Let us begin with what I consider the cold hard facts:

John's Birth Dates

No documentation.

John's Birth Place

Not documented. The places claimed—Bristol Parrish VA, Cornwall, England and North Carolina—are contradictory with good reason: no verifiable documents.

John's Death Dates

John's will is on file in North Carolina dated 8 November 1800 and proved in August 1801.

John's Death Place

All agree on Rowan County, NC with reason: his will is in the NC archives.

John's Father

Insufficient documentation.

John's Mother

Insufficient documentation.

John's First Wife

No documentation of any marriage date nor place; thus he could have had even three wives.

Elizabeth and/or Ann Burden DNA results show she was married to a different John Phillips.

Frances Dianna Avery not documented and indications are that she was married to a different person.

John's Second Wife

Almost certainly he had two marriages but there is no documentation for either date.

His last wife—probably his second—was named Diannah in his will but there is no documentation of her family name. Two witnesses to the Will were named Hicks so it could be that they were Diannah's brothers.

Moral of the story: before you believe other researchers' products, make very sure of their documentation—and when possible find DNA verification. (www.phillipsdnaproject.com)

Afterword

Equally erroneous are most of Gabriel Phillips search results:

Gabriel <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=Search&includedb=&lang=en&ti=&surname=Phillips&styp=Exact&given=Gabriel&bplace=&byear=&brange=5&dplace=sc&dyear=&drange=0&mplace=&myear=&mrage=0&father=&mother=&spouse=&skipdb=&period=All&submit.x=Search>

Gabriel is John's DNA perfect match and probably his brother. Almost none of the postings show Gabriel's documented marriage to Hannah Brower, 1758, Bucks County, PA. Most researchers mistakenly show the wife to be a Cook, not Brower.

More on my John/Gabriel Phillips line: www.hoydia.webs.com

Postscript to October Newsletter

CORRECTION TO THE HIRAM PHILLIPS OF TENNESSEE STORY

By James Phillips, Family Group 20

Hi Nancy...

I read with interest your article on the various Hiram Phillipeses of Tennessee. I have one correction of the information presented in the connection to DNA group 20, a family I have researched for over 35 years.

There was a Hiram Phillips living in Lincoln Co, TN who was listed as born in TN and a barkeeper in the tavern owned by an Irishman, Cornelius Homan. Although his 1806 birth year is certainly a close match to Hiram, son of Cornelius Phillips and Rhoda Shores, he is not their offspring. I do not know of any connections of the Phillips family in Lincoln, TN, to family group 20.

Hiram P. Phillips was the son of Cornelius and Rhoda. He was the second son born in Wayne Co, KY, with their first 5 sons being born in Surry Co, NC. He was married on 15 January 1829 to Vienna (or Vianna) Berry. Hiram's younger brother, John H. Phillips married Vienna's sister, Elizabeth Berry in 1835. Both were daughters of George Berry and Mary Buster. Their brother, William Harrison Berry, named a daughter Vienna Phillips Berry (who later married Robert Metcalf).

Hiram and Vienna are enumerated in the Wayne Co, KY, 1850 census with 6 of their 10 children. Their 5 year old daughter, Rhoda Shores Phillips, had died in 1840 and was buried in Beech Valley cemetery in Wayne County. Hiram and Vienna later moved by 1860 to Polk Co, TN. The 1939 History of Wayne Co by Augusta Phillips Johnson reported the family later moved to Texas although I did not find them. In an 1882 letter from John H. Phillips to his nephew, Isaac Newton Phillips (son of Alfred Phillips and Susannah Cullom) he reported that only he and his brother Micajah remained living of the 8 brothers so Hiram must have already died. Micajah died the next year in 1883 and John in 1897.

I attached the text of the 1882 letter.

Thank you,
James

Birmingham, Ky., April 27, 1882.

Dear Isaac [Newton Phillips]:

Can I make an apology for my great negligence in not replying to your very kind and interesting letter of last November the 28th, which was received early in December? About the time I received it the rain began to fall in torrents, continued, until the water courses overspread the country so much it was with difficulty to get in or out of our town which is situated on the bank of the Tennessee River. The river was so high by the first day of January, steamboat navigation was

suspended; many of the railroad bridges were washed away and the mails stopped for over a month.

After I received your letter which gave me so much pleasure, I calculated to answer it in a week or two, but the excitement of the rainfall, and continued increase of the waters, caused me to put off writing until the mails stopped. True I would now and then get your letter, read it, think I would answer in a few days; a promised duty or a pleasure, once procrastinated, is foreboding of a failure. I hope you will accept this as an apology. I will notice the request in your letter.

In relation to the paternal side of our ancestors: at an early date a large family of our name emigrated from Wales to America, and settled on the Potomac River, in Virginia, near Georgetown or Alexandria. The most of the family drifted into Pennsylvania, settled in and about Philadelphia, engaged in commerce and trade, amassed large fortunes. My great-grandfather remained on the Potomac. My grandfather moved to North Carolina where he raised his family. His sons' names were Cornelius (my father and your grandfather), Richard, and Micajah. Richard moved to Tennessee where he raised a large family, who were honest and industrious, but without much culture of mind. Micajah came to this state several years after my father and remained some time, thence to Springfield, Ohio, where he married and raised a son and daughter—his son, James Abner, visited us in Wayne County some thirty years ago. He was a fine looking man and well accomplished. He returned to Ohio, thence to New York City, where he engaged in the commercial business. We received letters from him for two or three years when the correspondence ceased. I never learned whether the old stock took any part in the Revolutionary War, but presume from their location they were supporters of the independence of the colonies.

On the maternal side, the maiden name of my mother was Rhoda Shores. Her parents were raised in New Jersey. Her father was of Irish descent and her mother was an English lady. Some of her brothers moved to Tennessee and were extensive farmers.

Father's family have drifted over the western and southern states. Brother Alfred was the oldest and I the youngest sons. Out of eight sons, all are dead but Brother Micajah and myself; he is nearly eighty-six years old and I am in my seventy-second year. My wife is about six years younger; her maiden name was Elizabeth F. Berry. It may be that your Aunt Pamela has seen her when a child. Our children are all in Missouri but one, who is in Wayne County. We have only ourselves in family. Today we will start to Maiden, Missouri, to see our children. Will be gone five or six weeks. We have three sons, one of them married. My oldest son, Harrison B., at the age of about sixteen years, joined the Third Kentucky Regiment of Infantry under Colonel Bramlette. He had been in the war for nearly three years, and in making a charge on the Rebels at Kennesaw Mountain was wounded with a minnie ball in the left side of his breast on the 27th day of June,

1864, and died on the first of September. I brought him home, but the wound overcame him in about two months. My sons' names are James H., Samuel L., and Charles P., all in Missouri. All my family are doing very well.

I am truly sorry to hear of the great affliction of your Aunt Pamela Brown. I sympathize very much in her sufferings. Give her my high regard and my prayers that she may be restored to good health with ability to walk; and visit her friends and enjoy life for years. When a little boy I went to see your father; he was living on the Cumberland River. He was planting corn. She was a few years the oldest; she flattered me very much; I thought she was the best and prettiest person in the world.

I highly appreciate your photo. It very much resembles my son Samuel's. I have placed it in the next leaf to his in my family album where they can both be seen at one view. It would give me much pleasure to see you and all of Brother Alfred's family. The oldest in a few years will be placed on the old list. How short is life. One generation passes away, the other follows at its heels. I am now old; out of a hundred, one does not live to my age. Take off the first twenty-five years of my age, then my life appears but a span. Perhaps God in his wisdom has allotted to man only time in this life to qualify him to enjoy an eternal life with so much pleasure; he may, if he could reflect back on the time spent on the earth, feel the loss of the joys he had missed during his stay in this life. My time to start is nearly here. Write to me when I come home and I will be more prompt. My wife joins in with our love to you and all the relations.

Your uncle,

John H. Phillips