



©2011 The Phillips DNA Project

# Phillips DNA News

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

November 2012

Volume 4 Issue 11

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

Towards the end of October, the mailing list of ISOGG, the International Society of Genetic Genealogy, erupted with a discussion of the efforts of Family Search, the LDS website, to offer a new generation of online family trees. The following comprehensive message was posted by John R. Carpenter, administrator of the Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project, and he has given his permission to reprint his informative message here.

*There are two main types of Family Trees at [Familysearch.org](http://Familysearch.org).*

*1) One consists of the old Ancestral Files and Pedigree Research Files. These are user submitted trees going back into the early 1990s. The error rate has been estimated to be as high as 60%. Use with caution and remember no sources are in AF and practically no sources are given in PRF. See: <https://familysearch.org/family-trees>*

*2) The other FamilySearch Family Tree is in early beta state for LDS members only. It was planned to be introduced by the first of October 2012 to LDS users but this has been delayed. See: Family Tree section at <https://familysearch.org/help/self-help>*

*Several years ago the LDS Church (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) introduced [NewFamilysearch.org](http://NewFamilysearch.org), which was designed specifically for LDS Temple work. Then as an add-on, they tried to use it as a collaborative family tree. The goal was to enter new data, merge duplication and build trees. It was created by engineers, not genealogists, and had serious flaws. Some were anyone could merge and they did. Old data from the Ancestral Files and Pedigree Resource Files were dumped in as is by users - multiple times. The first versions had no real sources or note fields and this caused 85% to 90% of the material currently online to be unsourced. Anyone could add to what you submitted even in error and they did. Error arbitration was minimal.*

*Because of the serious issues of [NewFamilySearch.org](http://NewFamilysearch.org), the online collaborative family tree is being changed and renamed Family Tree. [NewFamilySearch.org](http://NewFamilysearch.org) is scheduled for deletion after Family Tree is online. The goal is first for LDS users to build the trees, then to release it to the general public to use, also. And while it is better than NFS, the concept still has serious problems. One of these is that it focuses the reliance on an online collaborative source for your genealogy with serious limitations of documentation, sources and control. Anyone can change inaccurate information - even if in error. When you submit, it stays there. Courses*

are being offered to LDS Family History Center consultants and selected others. See Intro video at:

<http://broadcast.lds.org/eLearning/fhd/Community/en/FamilySearch/FamilyTree/Overview/FTD/multiscreen.html>

and

<https://familysearch.org/tree-training> (sign in and password needed)

and

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Family\\_Tree\\_One-Day\\_Intensive\\_Course](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Family_Tree_One-Day_Intensive_Course)

Of course, general concerns about any online Family Tree applies. A lack of documentation lessens the value of any information online. See Family Trees: An Online Research at [https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Family\\_Trees:\\_An\\_Online\\_Research\\_Tool](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Family_Trees:_An_Online_Research_Tool) (Please note that there is no mention of FamilySearch Family Tree here!)

The LDS Church, once the leader in genealogical concepts, programs and assistance, is now just one among the pack of the genealogical family. An example: Seventeen former regional branch libraries of the Salt Lake City Genealogical Library were merged into the Family History Center genre, which resulted into a onetime claim of almost 4,700 FHCs around the world. Most of these FHCs were composed of one computer, one genealogy program and one helper in a local LDS ward building. And the formal naming format has changed once or twice in the recent years and soon they will all be called FamilySearch Centers.

See: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family\\_History\\_Center\\_\(LDS\\_Church\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_History_Center_(LDS_Church))

Another example: The newest large FamilySearch Center is in Riverton. It is an example for the future. It has no books, only computers. Why? The goal of the LDS Church is to digitize their entire collection of microfilm and fiche and their book collection. Of course, those books under copyright whose authors who do not give permission to digitize will not be included, which will limit the collection. The LDS FamilySearch is telling FHCs to get rid of their books now and add more computers in preparation for this. Many of the larger FHCs are protesting the removal of their locally donated books.

The goal is no genealogy programs, no cluttering books, but one humongous online source not using cloud technology but dedicated SLC FamilySearch servers. The present results are that it takes a long time to go from one microfilm/fiche image to another that is not indexed. It is much faster with a microfilm roll in a manual viewer still!

The concept is good, but the process is flawed by the slowest link in the request, upload, filter, SLC server, download, filter, receiving system. At best, completion time is five years away and they are having serious problems now with the servers. Worse is that you put in, and have a limited print output in limited formats at this time.

See:

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Riverton\\_FamilySearch\\_Library](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Riverton_FamilySearch_Library)

and

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/FamilySearch\\_Record\\_Search\\_Updates/Archive/2011-01-26](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/FamilySearch_Record_Search_Updates/Archive/2011-01-26)

3) *Other types of Family Trees in the LDS system. And yes, with name changes the older concepts that most of us know as family tree is not yet changed on the FSWiki.*

*Community Family Trees*

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Community\\_Family\\_Trees](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Community_Family_Trees)

*Viewing Family Trees*

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/See\\_Your\\_Family\\_Tree](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/See_Your_Family_Tree)

*I hope this helps explain the new LDS FamilySearch Family Tree.*

## Featured Phillips Family Story

### **DNA and Genealogy Networking Provide a Powerful Partnership**

*By Rex Phillips, Phillips Family DNA Group 3*

A recent event has once again demonstrated the value of DNA tests in conjunction with networking among genealogy researchers. Logan Phillips III had run into the proverbial brick wall in researching his ancestry and had found, as many of us have, conflicting information on the internet regarding the parents of his Nathaniel Pruden Phillips. In an effort to solve the problem, he entered the Phillips DNA project using a sample from his father.

Results of the DNA test indicated that Logan was a part of the Group 53 Phillips line, which immediately disproved some of the conflicting information found on the internet. This alone, however, did not prove an end to the problem since none of the existing members of the group had their ancestry documented any further back than Logan had been able to achieve.

Nancy Kiser, Project Administrator, went to the Pruden Family Message Board and found an entry indicating Nathaniel Pruden Phillips' parents were a Drew or Drury Phillips and Sarah Pruden, and that Drew or Drury was born probably in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, November 4, 1764. Nancy passed that information on to Logan with a copy to me, and advised Logan that I might have some information on his Phillips family since I had researched the Phillips in that area for a previous Phillips DNA project.

A review of my data did show that there was a Drury Phillips in the area in that time period. My research had not turned up a date of birth but the other data available indicated that, while I could not say positively, this Drury was a good possibility. This Drury's parents were John and Selah Lane Phillips. Selah Lane had a brother named Drury, a possible source for the name. Also one of Drury's brothers was named Mark which matched an entry in Group 53 descendants. My research indicated that this John Phillips was the probable son of John and Hannah Fort Phillips.

This information was conveyed to Logan along with a copy of the report I had done a few years ago. A portion of the report was published in the Project Newsletter some time ago as there were many published "trees" erroneously claiming descent from John and Hannah Fort Phillips and aligning them with another Phillips clan from Surry County, Virginia, who were descendants of William and Mary Swann Phillips.

Logan came into contact with Ms. Billie Ernest who had several interesting pieces of information regarding the Pruden family. Ms. Ernest was able to put Logan in contact with James Denoncourt, who is the landowner of the land in Isle of Wight County that had once been owned by John Phillips, brother of Drury, in the late 1700's. Incidentally, this John Phillips had married Sarah Pruden's sister Mary. Mr. Denoncourt, though not related to the Phillips, had done considerable research on the Phillips family in an effort to determine the history of the property.

Ms. Ernest gave Mr. Denoncourt the correspondence from the various parties, including a copy of my report on John and Hannah Fort Phillips and descendants. Mr. Denoncourt then sent Logan considerable information which was well sourced and did indeed provide sufficient evidence that Drury was the son of John and Selah Lane Phillips and reinforced the supposition that Drury was the grandson of John and Hannah Fort Phillips.

While it is unusual that an individual will do the amount of research that this landowner did just to determine the history of his land, this episode again demonstrates that a combination of DNA testing and collaborative efforts by genealogy researchers can achieve results that cannot be done singularly by either method. Not only did this help Logan, but provided additional ancestral generations to several other members of Group 53.

A similar collective effort resulted in connecting descendants of a certain John Phillips whose will was probated in Surry County, Virginia in 1759 (see Group 46). This particular John Phillips is erroneously listed in many published trees as the husband of Hannah Fort and son of William and Mary Swann Phillips.

## Guest Column

### **ANOTHER INSTANCE OF BOGUS "FAMILY COATS OF ARMS"**

*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>.*

I had to laugh. This morning I received an email message from a company asking me to review their new iPhone app for "Irish Family History." Normally, I would be glad to do so; but, as I read the remainder of the email message, I changed my mind. It appears this app displays so-called family information that contains fairy tales.



The press release states "... users can read about the history of their family, the meaning behind their name, their original and translated family mottos, locate their family's origin on the map and view their family's coat of arms."

Excuse me? Family coat of arms? Where did you get that rubbish?

Coats of arms are part of heraldry, the study of creating, granting, and blazoning arms and ruling on questions of rank or protocol. In the Republic of Ireland, all heraldry, including the use and display of coats of arms, is defined by the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland. The College of Arms performs the same function in Northern Ireland (see <http://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/>). It was founded by King Richard III in 1484.

Quoting from the web site of the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland at <http://www.nli.ie/en/heraldry-introduction.aspx>, "Clearly, a system of identification, to be effective, required regulation because use of the same arms by more than one person would result in confusion." In other words, only one person at a time is allowed to use an Irish coat of arms, not an entire family and certainly not everyone with the same surname, related or not.



Any Irish person or anyone of Irish descent (with some restrictions) or any Irish corporation and a few other organizations in Ireland may apply for a coat of arms, as explained at <http://www.nli.ie/en/applying-for-a-grant-of-arms.aspx>. However, nobody is authorized to use or to display an Irish coat of arms without having received written permission from the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland. If you don't have written permission (called a grant of arms), it isn't your coat of arms! It certainly is not your family's coat of arms, either.

For details, please do not take my word for it; check with the authority: the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland at <http://www.nli.ie/en/applying-for-a-grant-of-arms.aspx> and at <http://www.nli.ie/en/intro/heraldry-introduction.aspx>.

You can also check the registry of Irish coats of arms that are currently valid at the Library of

Ireland's web site at <http://goo.gl/qqDpV>. Please note that each coat of arms is issued to an individual, never to a family. Is your full name listed there? That means your FIRST AND LAST name. If not, that is not your coat of arms.

I have also updated an article that I wrote three years ago and am republishing below. We are getting close to the Christmas season, when many well-meaning individuals buy this junk with the intent of giving them as gifts. I think it is time for a refresher article:

### The Myth of Family Coats of Arms

The holiday gift giving season will be here soon and what better personal gift to give than something with the recipient's family coat of arms? I'd suggest that isn't such a great gift. You'd be lying.

Lots of gullible people purchase various trinkets that display the "family coat of arms" without realizing there is no such thing. Coats of arms? Yes. But "family?" No. There is no such thing as a family coat of arms.

**NOTE:** I do have to point out two exceptions. Several hundred years ago, merchants in Belgium did adopt coats of arms that were similar to the coats of arms displayed by nobility, but with some differences. Those Belgian coats of arms, or family crests, displayed by merchants are assigned to families and are inherited. However, coats of arms displayed by nobility in Belgium are not inherited and are not "family" coats of arms.

In addition, Samurai soldiers in Japan also have family "insignia" that are assigned to families and are passed down from generation to generation. However, the Japanese symbols do not look like European coats of arms with shields and helmets, adorned with lions and dragons and birds and such things.

If your male line descends from a few merchant families in Belgium or from the Samurai class in Japan, you can ignore the rest of this article. However, if your family comes from the British Isles or any place in Europe, other than a few families in Belgium, this applies to you. The truth is, except for the exceptions listed, families do not have family crests, usually known as "coats of arms." The crest is only a small section of the entire design and was usually depicted above the helmet.

Coats of arms were designed for use in battle. If you can imagine wearing a full suit of armor, complete with a helmet with tiny eye slits for vision, the combatants had a difficult time differentiating friend from foe. It was bad form to stick a broadsword into your friend's midsection, although that did happen occasionally in the heat of battle. As a visual aid, the knights and a few other combatants started wearing brightly painted designs on their shields and elsewhere, designs that were known to their fellow combatants. The intent was to help their fellow combatants distinguish friends from foe. The brightly colored insignia was used on shields, on clothing, and on horse dressings.

Occasionally, a knight might have an attendant or two, such as a groomsman who tended the horse or even multiple horses. The attendant also might be a “squire;” a young apprentice who hoped to become a knight on his 21st birthday. The attendant might wear clothing with the same colors as his master, signifying that he was a part of “the team.” However, such attendants normally did not wear armor.

If the knight had a close relative in battle as a combatant, such as his son, a brother, a nephew, or other relative, that relative never wore the same insignia as the first knight. In battle, sons never wore the same insignia as their fathers. Each had his own insignia and colors.

Off the battlefield, coats of arms were also used during tournaments to distinguish competitors. Knights, royalty, and a few wealthy individuals displayed their colorful crests and coats of arms as a symbol of themselves. In effect, the coat of arms said, “This is me.” Coats of arms were never used to declare, “This is my family.”

In fact, the only time that the same coat of arms can be used by more than one person is when the eldest is dead. At that point, the direct heir (typically his oldest son) can petition for the right to bear the same arms that were used by the deceased.

In the case of multiple sons, or when the father was still alive, all the sons could use SIMILAR coats of arms as their father but always added their own variations to the design. Each son created his own variations. These variations are called “cadency” and the son's insignia is referred to as “cadet coat of arms.” When the father died, the oldest son removed his personal cadency, reverting the coat of arms back to his father's original design. The other sons kept their cadet coat of arms; they never used the father's original design.

Daughters can also inherit the coat of arms if no sons are living.

In olden times and today, not every coat of arms can be used by everyone with that surname. First of all, not everyone with the same surname is related. I suspect there was more than one knight named Smith, and they certainly didn't want to wear the same coats of arms in battle, especially if they were on opposing sides!

**NOTE:** There have been dozens of coats of arms issued to men named Smith. The same is true for many other names. If one man of that name already had a coat of arms, no other man of the same name would ever use the same coat of arms, not even his brother or his son. Each man would obtain his own coat of arms. For many names, you can find two, three, five, ten, or even more coats of arms issued over the years to men with the same surname.

Despite what the man at the pushcart told you at the local shopping mall, the rules always required that a coat of arms was for use by a single living individual, not a family. A coat of arms is similar to an individual's signature and was used as seals on official documents.

Another requirement has been in effect since the 15th century and still applies today: the person who wishes to display a coat of arms must first register the design in a central clearinghouse and obtain permission to display it. Registration was required in the 15th century, and it is still expected today. If you are displaying a coat of arms without written permission, you are guilty of an impolite form of forgery. In the U.S., you won't get arrested for doing so because the U.S. has no laws concerning display of forged coats of arms. Such laws do exist on the books in England and in many other countries, although they are ancient laws and are rarely enforced.

The official office regulating coats of arms and the granting of new arms for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland is the College of Arms (<http://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/>). It was founded by King Richard III in 1484. If you would like to display your own personally designed coat of arms, and if your male ancestry is from England, you start by applying at the College of Arms. That would be true even if you now live in the United States. You cannot apply online but you can do so by mail.

The official office regulating coats of arms and the granting of new arms for the Republic of Ireland is the **Chief Herald of Ireland** (<http://www.nli.ie/en/intro/heraldry-introduction.aspx>). All arms granted in the Republic of Ireland are recorded in the Register of Arms, maintained since the foundation of the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland in 1552.

To learn more about coat of arms granted in Scotland, visit the **Court of the Lord Lyon** ([http://www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/CCC\\_FirstPage.jsp](http://www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/CCC_FirstPage.jsp)). Scottish descendants would apply to the Court of the Lord Lyon.

Canada has its own heraldic office, the **Canadian Heraldic Authority** (<http://www.gg.ca/document.aspx?id=81>), operating under authority of the Governor General of Canada. The rules for applying for a coat of arms are slightly different in Canada. Contact the Canadian Heraldic Authority for details.

Heraldry in the United States has no legal standing. There is no Chief Herald or anything similar and the government does not recognize coats of arms or other forms of heraldry, with the one exception that anyone who incorporates heraldry into a registered trademark does receive legal protection for that trademark. The reason for that protection is that it is a trademark, not that it is a coat of arms.

In short, anyone in the United States may legally display any coat of arms or even invent his or her own. However, if an American or anyone else uses a coat of arms that is registered with the heraldic office of a foreign nation, that person is stealing personal property that belongs to someone else under the laws of the country that granted the arms. The American may be found guilty of violating those laws and be subject to penalties. Admittedly, U.S. courts will not enforce heraldry laws of other nations. However, anyone displaying a coat or arms registered in "the old country" might be advised to not do so on a trip back to the homeland!

There are several organizations claiming to represent heraldry in the United States, but none



of them have authority granted by the government as is common in Europe and the British Isles. Coats of Arms granted by U.S. organizations may look pretty, but are not worth the paper they are printed on. As to the authority of the person at the pushcart at the local mall.... Well, I think you get the picture by now.

**NOTE:** There is an Institute of Heraldry that is part of the U.S. Army and that Institute does design coats of arms and other insignia for Army organizations. Since it is part of the U.S. Army, it obviously is "approved" by the U.S. government. However, the Army's Institute of Heraldry only deals with military organizations and does not issue coats of arms to individuals or to families. Details may be found at <http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/>.

I have never heard the term used in the United States, but in England the companies that claim to sell "family coats of arms" are often called "bucket shops." A "bucket shop" is a derogatory term used by serious heraldic enthusiasts to describe "heraldry mongers" who dispense bogus or inaccurate coats of arms by the bucket load. Bucket shops usually have a large database which contains images of historic and/or bogus armorial bearings. Even if their representations are accurate renderings of someone's historic arms, these organizations will neglect to tell their customers that there might be anywhere from one to one hundred arms listed under any given surname.

Here are a few other web sites that dispel the myths concerning so-called "family" coats of arms:

The Board for the Certification of Genealogists has a rather good explanation of heraldry in the United States at <http://www.bcgcertification.org/resources/heraldry.html>

*Genealogy Hoaxes, Fake Coat-of-Arms and Scams:*

[http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sfollis/sources/genealogy\\_hoaxes.html](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sfollis/sources/genealogy_hoaxes.html)

Cyndi's List: *Myths, Hoaxes & Scams » Common Genealogical Myths » Myth: Family crest or coat of arms:* <http://www.cyndislist.com/myths/common/crest/>

The Society of Genealogists (in England): *The right to arms:*

<http://www.sog.org.uk/leaflets/arms.shtml>

Bagnall Village: <http://www.bagnallvillage.com/Pages/Heraldry.htm>

*A Panorama-style investigation into bucket-shop heraldry:*

<http://specialcorrespondent.blogspot.com/2012/09/a-panorama-style-investigation-into.html>

If you would like to obtain a legitimate coat of arms, start by reading the article by Halvor Moorshead at <http://www.familychronicle.com/CoatofArms1.htm>. Halvor did obtain a valid grant of arms from the Canadian government.