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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

The Phillips DNA Project uses Histats.com to collect some of our website statistics. Here is a breakdown of our viewers by country over the past year, according to Histats:

USA	78.0%
Canada	08.4%
UK	05.8%
Australia	02.1%
Mexico	01.5%
Japan	01.0%
Other	03.2%

The unusually high percentages for Mexico and Japan are due to a couple of active participants who live in those countries. The majority of our web traffic comes from the United States.

Our Phillips DNA Project website has had a total of 24,909 visitors over the past year, and a total of 17,933 new visitors. Page views per visit equal 2.73.

Our top referrers are Genforum, Ancestry.com, Family Tree DNA, and Facebook.

As to individual pages on our website, here are some statistics from the past year:

home page (9,275 hits)
newsletter main page (3,015 hits)
faq page (2,440 hits)
lineage page (1,944 hits)
family photo page (1,777 hits)
pedigrees by family group (1,708 hits)
Y-DNA results chart (1,056 hits)

We average about 75 visitors per day. According to Bing (MSN) webmaster tools, there are 2,079 inbound links to our Phillips DNA Project. That's impressive for a volunteer-run website.

Our project has grown along with the website, too. We now have over 700 participants and have identified more than 80 Phillips families that do not share a common paternal Phillips ancestor. This is continuing proof that Phillips is a multi-origin surname.

Our Phillips DNA Project has become a great success because of all the member participation. There are always members posting to the various genealogical message boards and mailing lists. Many have helped make it a success by writing articles for the newsletter and sharing their experiences and successes with genetic genealogy.

Hopefully our Phillips DNA Project will continue to grow and eventually everyone will have matches and will know where their Phillips roots originated. This is why the project was established, and with everyone's help, we will one day achieve our goal.

Featured Phillips Family Story

"Bad" Frank Phillips' Cemetery and the Hatfield & McCoy Feud Play in Kentucky

By Brian Phillips

This is a follow up story from Phillips DNA Newsletter dated July 2012, Volume 4, Issue 7, titled "Bad Frank Phillips of Hatfield-McCoy Fame". The author, Brian Phillips, is a member of Phillips Family DNA Group 8. Brian is a retired US Army Special Agent with the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) after 25 years of service. He is now working as a Department of Defense contractor in Forensics and is now living and working in Honolulu, Hawaii.

My great-great grandfather, "Bad" Frank Phillips, is the famous sheriff who was credited with ending the Hatfield & McCoy Feud (1863-1890) in Kentucky and West Virginia. In 1888, Frank Phillips was appointed by Kentucky Governor Simon B. Buckner as an Agent (Special Peace Officer or Deputy Sheriff) of the State of Kentucky to go into West Virginia with arrest warrants and arrest the Hatfield Clan involved in the murder of several McCoys.

A year ago, the History Channel aired a miniseries on the Hatfield & McCoy Feud starring Kevin Costner and Bill Paxton, which brought the feud to the forefront of entertainment and renewed history. However, some (including myself) felt there were many historical inaccuracies about the feud, especially about "Bad" Frank Phillips.

After the airing of the Hatfield & McCoy Feud, tourism has boomed in that region causing people from around America and other countries to come and see the feud sites. One site that was refurbished was the Phillips Family Cemetery in Phelps, Kentucky, where "Bad" Frank Phillips and his wife Nancy (McCoy, Hatfield) Phillips are buried.

Thanks to the vision of Chris and Andrea Coleman, and the outstanding support from Pike County Magistrate Hilman Dotson and Judge Wayne T. Rutherford, the Phillips Family Cemetery in Phelps, once covered with thick brush and trees and almost inaccessible due to the steep terrain, was cleared out, steps installed for easy access, a large parking lot developed, sitting benches and a kiosk installed for visitors to register their names and where they are from.



Phillips Cemetery with kiosk in foreground



Brian, Bruce and Don Phillips at cemetery

In 2012, my 81-year-old father, Don Phillips (believed to be the oldest living descendant of Frank Phillips and a retired police officer) and my brother, Bruce Phillips, attended the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony which was on Frank Phillips' birthday; July 27th. There were over 120 people at the ribbon cutting ceremony.



Bruce Phillips, Don Phillips Judge Rutherford



Don Phillips in white tennis shoes

One intriguing fact about the cemetery is that Frank Phillips died of a gunshot to his leg. He did not die immediately and in trying to save his life they amputated his leg, but he died several days after the amputation. Frank's leg is buried in a separate grave near Frank's gravesite.

Just a few months ago between August 30 and September 2, 2013, during Labor Day Weekend, my father Don, brother Bruce and I drove from Columbus, Ohio to Pike County, Kentucky, to visit Frank Phillips' cemetery where my father laid a wreath at the headstones of Frank and Nancy Phillips.



Don Phillips laying wreath at Frank and Nancy Phillips' headstones



'Bad' Frank Phillips' headstone

While at the cemetery we met visitors from Canada, Indiana and New York who were intrigued about the miniseries and wanted to come and see the feud sites in person. When we told them we were descendants of "Bad" Frank Phillips, they immediately wanted to take their photos with us as if we were part of the feud. Can you say "awkward"? We had fun though. The visitors were so nice and asked a lot of questions.

The next day on September 1, 2013, we went to the Hatfield-McCoy Park Outdoor Theater in McCarr, Kentucky, where the Hatfield & McCoy Arts Council is located, which serves the Phelps, Belfry and surrounding communities, to see "Blood Song: The Story of the Hatfields and the McCoys," a play by Chelsea Marcantel. This play had local amateur actors and they had been putting this play on for several months. Keep in mind this outdoor theater was literally a stones throw from one of the feud killing sites. Jon Bryant played a great Frank Phillips. The feud was so emotional for my father, brother and I that tears literally ran down our cheeks seeing what our ancestors had to endure. It was very emotional, yet it brought pride to all families; Hatfields, McCoys and Phillips.

The play was such a huge success. Some of the young actors were Frank Phillips descendants; my cousins. That was very exciting. A special guest attended the play, Mr. Jimmy Wolford who is a national recording artist who wrote and sang many songs about the feud titled, "The Hatfields & McCoys, The Great Vendetta."



L to R, Chris Coleman, Brian Phillips, Don Phillips, Bruce Phillips, Jon Bryant [actor who played Frank Phillips], Jimmy Wolford



Actors of the play



Killing of the 3 McCoy boys

Hanging of Cotton Top Mounts



Jon Bryant playing 'Bad' Frank Phillips



Curtain Call



Brian Phillips & Don Phillips with Emily and Jimmy Chaney, two young actors who are also Frank Phillips descendants

Also attending the play were Bo McCoy, Ron McCoy and Reo Hatfield, all descendants from the feud. Ten years ago on June 14, 2003, Bo, Ron and Reo, acting on behalf of all families, marked the official end to the Hatfield and McCoy feud when the families signed a truce which was broadcasted on The Saturday Early Show, CBS News. They proclaim, "we do hereby and formally declare an official end to all hostilities, implied, inferred and real, between the families, now and forevermore."

At the end of the play that evening, Bo and Ron McCoy, Reo Hatfield, my father, brother and I, all were asked to come to the stage to sit and talk to all the actors (there must have been over 30 actors). It was an impromptu ovation on stage to show and tell the actors how proud we were of them to accurately portray the feud in a non-accusatory fashion where all families truly enjoyed the evening. To see my dad's eyes light up was priceless when he was thanking the actors for embracing the history and retelling the story of our family. I reiterated to the cast that I noticed that the play was more historically accurate (than the History Channel miniseries) regarding the feud, and I was so proud to see the truth come out in the play. Bo, Ron and Reo also related their praises of such a professional production and not wanting to see the play end. You could see the actors just in awe of our comments not realizing how much they touched our hearts.



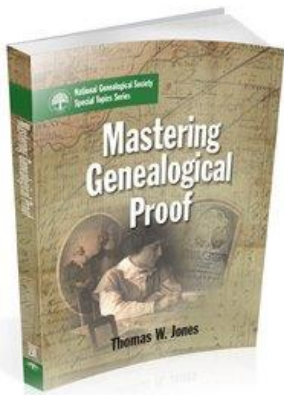
L to R, Bo McCoy [plaid shirt standing], sitting are Reo Hatfield, Ron McCoy, Bruce Phillips, Don Phillips and Brian Phillips

Book Review

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>.

Mastering Genealogical Proof

By Thomas W. Jones. Published by the National Genealogical Society, 2012.



Noel C. Stevenson in *Genealogical Evidence* wrote, “The results of your research can only be true and correct according to...a preponderance of greater weight of the evidence. ‘Preponderance’ or ‘greater weight’ means Quality, not Quantity.”

Preponderance of evidence prevailed as the principle upon which to judge the authority of genealogical work. The term comes out of the practice of law, conveying the idea that a determination of accurateness is based on the more plausible evidence and its probability of truth, rather than on the sheer amount of evidence.

In the late 1990s, the Genealogical Proof Standard came to be the model against which we now can judge our work. The five components: thorough research, informative citations, analysis and comparison, conflict resolution, and a written supportive narrative are hallmarks of the GPS.

Before *Mastering Genealogical Proof*, there’s been no publication which presents the Standard in such an uncomplicated manner. Up to now, the publications have been technically manual-like, dry to the point of requiring companionship in the form of a study group to stay with and complete.

Dr. Jones by no means diminishes the Standard and its relevance and value. He just approaches it from the position of a coach, a tutor, who is sitting across the table from you and steering

you through the principles of the GPS by presenting them in chunks of information that are easy to understand, examples that clarify the point, and exercises that keep you moving along. The book has a friendlier tone, a less bookish quality, a welcoming invite to study the GPS and not be intimidated by it, but rather, be uplifted and confident that you're just as capable of giving your genealogy authority and weight as he is.

Dr. Jones admits, "When I began tracing my family's history...I gave no thought to accuracy. Trusting what I read and what people sent or told me, I naively shared false information with relatives and other researchers." One of the most esteemed and popular genealogy persons admits that he started out as naïve as we did.

Thomas W. Jones, author of Mastering Genealogical Proof, makes you feel like he has the utmost confidence in you and that he thinks you can do your work just as well as he's done his.

Mastering goes a long way guaranteeing his promise.

Mastering Genealogical Proof is available from the publishers, the National Genealogical Society, at http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/mastering_genealogical_proof as well as from Amazon at <http://goo.gl/bThqvx> and from many other genealogy book stores.