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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

Ah, it's the glorious month of September! School days, school days, dear old golden rule days...

At the 5th International Genetic Genealogy Conference held in Houston by FTDNA on March 14th and 15th of this year, Thomas Krahn, a member of FTDNA's Scientific Advisory Board, reviewed a project known as "Walk Through the Y," which has been in development for the past two years. He also presented data from their pilot program conducted on about ten members of Haplogroup E1b1b. This project has given ordinary people the opportunity to participate in original scientific research.

The object of "Walk Through the Y" (WTY) is to discover new SNPs in different targeted haplogroups through advanced testing. Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) have an extremely slow mutation rate and are used to determine deep ancestry. Several members of different haplogroups were recruited and a region of their Y chromosomes was completely sequenced.

Participation in WTY cost \$750 per individual; a price that FTDNA said only partially covered their costs. No one was guaranteed that any useful SNPs would result from the project, but in the E1b1b pilot, anywhere from 1 to 15 new SNPs were identified in the different participants.

The results are beginning to return from the lab and several new SNPs have already been identified. It is hoped that these new SNPs will help pinpoint more specifically where and when certain subclades originated and give a better understanding of migration paths and lines of descent. As FTDNA stated in their latest issue of Facts & Genes:

"As we more tightly determine the specific terminal SNP for each person, your history and migration patterns become a little clearer. This information can also be used to improve Y-DNA matching...For example, if you are confirmed to belong to Haplogroup J1e, and you match another person confirmed to be J2 or J1a, you cannot have been related to them within many thousands of years."

For the final promotion of the summer of 2009, FTDNA is discounting all Deep Clade tests and all extensions or upgrades for Y-DNA SNPs at 20% off the standard price. Orders need to be placed and paid for by September 4, 2009. You can order your Deep Clade test from your Haplotree section or from the Order Tests & Upgrades link on your personal page at FTDNA. We can also help you if you cannot figure out how to do this.

If you decide you want to do this, my advice is to consult with other members of your Phillips family group (if you have a Phillips family group), because it is only necessary for one person in each family group to get a Deep Clade test. SNPs mutate so slowly, everyone in your family group will have the exact same SNPs. Also, even though it is nice to get a bargain, you might want to consider postponing the test until all the new SNPs have been discovered as a result of “Walk Through the Y” and incorporated into the database at FTDNA. This will probably happen within the next several months.

## Questions and Answers

**Question:** How many different DNA projects can I belong to at FTDNA?

**Answer:** FTDNA has removed all restrictions with regard to how many projects you can join and you can now belong to all the projects you want. I strongly recommend that, in addition to the Phillips DNA Project, you also join a project that corresponds with your haplogroup, subclade or SNP designation. Knowledge and information with regard to newly discovered SNPs and subclades of haplogroups is advancing so quickly, we cannot possibly keep up with it all. The administrators of the various haplogroup DNA projects are usually better informed than we are. You can join your specific haplogroup or subclade DNA project by clicking on the Join Projects button on your personal page at FTDNA. There are even projects for people who test positive for certain SNPs. If you need advice or help with joining various projects, please do not hesitate to ask us.

**Question:** I believe my Phillips originated in Wales, but it has never been proven. When I joined the R-L21 DNA Project, I was put into the Wales group. Does this mean my haplogroup is definitely associated with Wales? Also, what does the asterisk after the name R-L21\* mean?

**Answer (from Susan Rosine, Administrator of the R-L21 DNA Project):** “I am sorry; I think either myself or the co-admin accidentally put you in the wrong grouping. I've moved you to the proper British Colonies group. The asterisk just means that you tested negative for all the SNPs ‘downstream’ from the SNP L21. If you take a look at your personal myFTDNA page and go to the haplotree page, and click on your haplogroup, it will show you where L21 is in the giant R1b1b2 group, and the SNPs that are downstream--and the fact that you are negative for all of them. Right now, L21 is one of the largest groups in Wales--but that doesn't mean it is exclusively Welsh, since it is found all over Great Britain and parts of Western Europe. We're hoping as we get more project members, and more men doing the 67 marker test AND the Deep Clade test, that we can find something that is very ‘Welsh’, and does not appear anywhere else--or at least not too many other places.”

**Question:** What is known about the SNP L74? Other than myself, have you found anyone else who tests positive for this SNP?

**Answer: (from Thomas Krahn of FTDNA):** “So far, all males test positive for L74. So does the chimp Y chromosome. Therefore L74 must have gotten derived after the human-chimp split. It is likely that L74 is very old and most likely predates the molecular genetic Adam but we still

need to confirm this with a Haplogroup A person. Whenever the first reliable Neanderthal sequence is published, I will certainly check this marker against the data.”

## Featured Phillips Family Story

### **JAMES AND JOHN PHILLIPS OF GEORGIA**

*By Anne Westbrook, Phillips Family Group 57*

#### JAMES PHILLIPS (born ca 1764 MD and died 1834 GA)

James Phillips was born no later than 1765 based on his age being 45+ in 1810, more likely by 1764 if he was at least 21 when granted land in 1785. According to what his son Trustin told the census taker in 1880, James was born in Maryland.

The date on which he married Martha Parnell is unknown, but they apparently started having children in the 1780s. John Parnell's will written in 1802 and probated in Elbert County, Georgia, names his daughter Martha Phillips.

On December 28, 1785, James Phillips was granted land in what was later Darlington, County, South Carolina. At the 1790 census, James Phillips was enumerated in St. Thomas Township, Cheraws District, South Carolina. Immediately following his name on the census list is John Parnell followed by Jesse Parnell.

His son, Solomon Phillips, was born circa 1796. This date is extrapolated from his age at the time of the 1850 census when Solomon told the census taker that he was 56 years old. Some researchers give 1796 as the birth year of another son, Elijah Phillips.

In 1800, James Phillips was not enumerated in Darlington District. On the 1800 census, there appear to have been three James Phillipses in South Carolina, two in Fairfield District and one in Spartanburg District. Possibly he moved temporarily to one of these SC districts or to Robeson County, North Carolina, between 1790 census and when his youngest child, Trustin, was born in Darlington in 1804. Another possibility is that changing county, district and state lines caused James Phillips to have been in Cheraws District, Darlington District or County in South Carolina and Robeson County, North Carolina, without ever physically moving. If none of the above is correct, it could be that census taker just missed him in 1800.

The James Phillips who was enumerated in Robeson County, North Carolina, in 1800 seems to be a likely candidate to be this James Phillips, however. That household had 3 males to age 10; 1 male 10-16; and 1 male 26-46; and 1 female to 10; 1 to 16; 1 to 26 to 45. This family size seems to fit James Phillips family, which eventually had 6 sons and 4 daughters.

In 1804, James Phillips last child, Trustin, was born in Darlington County, South Carolina. Biographical Sketches of Prominent Baptists includes a write-up about Trustin. This gives his

birth date as April 1, 1804 and says that his mother died when he was “an infant” and that he was reared by a “kind stepmother.”

It is unknown when Martha Parnell died and James married second wife Sarah. Many researchers say that James second wife was Sarah McIntyre and that he married her in 1813 in Franklin County, Georgia. I think this is another James Phillips although it is true that his second wife was named Sarah. My interpretation of the census records is that he was still in Darlington District then. Also, I have seen no evidence he was ever in Franklin County, Georgia.

In 1810, James Philips was enumerated in Darlington District, SC (no township listed). The household included two males under 10; one male age 10 and under 16; two males age 16 and under 26 and one male age 45 +. There was one female under the age of 10; one aged 10 and under 16; one age 16 and under 26; and one aged 45 +. Enumerated on the same page of the census were Wm Parnell, James Parnell, and Shad. Philips.

On January 12, 1815, James Phillips conveyed to Joel Phillips 200 acres +/- (part of a tract originally surveyed for John Scott Aug 1, 1758); also part of a tract originally surveyed for James Phillips and granted to him 1785; also part of a tract surveyed for Shadrack Williamson 1802 and conveyed by him to James Phillips Feb, 22, 1803; also a tract of 12 acres +/- being part of a tract granted to Dan'l Fraust Nov. 22, 1792, the whole 200 acres situated in the said district on the south side of Lake Swamp. Witnessed by Jesse Williamson and Solomon Phillips. Proved by Solomon Phillips, September 19, 1820.

In 1820, James Phillips was enumerated in Darlington District, SC. The household included one male aged 16 – 18; and one male over age 45. There was only one female. Her age was over 45. Next door to James Philips was Solomon Philips ( 1 male under 10 and 1 male 26-45 and no female); next to Solomon was James Philips, Jr. (1 male 16 to 26 and 1 female 10-16); next to James, Jr. was Samuel Hughs (one male under 10; one male 26-45 and one female 16-26. The Hughs household is likely the family of James daughter Sarah shown as Sarah Hughs in his will. Next to S. Hughs is Joel Philips (2 males under 10; 1 male 10 -16, and 1 male 26-45; 1 female under 10 and 1 female 16-26).

Newton County, Georgia, was established December 24, 1821 from Henry, Walton and Jasper Counties. On May 18, 1822, James Phillips purchased 180 acres in Newton County, Georgia (in Baldwin County when surveyed), on the north fork of Murder Creek from Simon Lancaster. On July 17, 1823, James Phillips' son Solomon married Rosanna Creel in Newton County.

On April 9, 1830, James Phillips conveyed to “beloved son Trustin” 130 acres in Newton County, Georgia (in Baldwin when surveyed), plat 105, 19th district “to have and to hold after the death of the said James Phillips, Sr.” Witnesses were William Creel and James Creel. Proved by William Creel. Recorded May 11, 1830.

James Phillips died in Newton County, Georgia, in 1834. His will named his wife Sarah Phillips, son Tristam (Trustin) Phillips, sons and daughters: Joel, John, Mary Phillips, Daniel Phillips, Sarah Hughs, Solomon, Elijah, James, Abigail Windham and heirs of dec'd daughter Pressila

Creel. James Parnal and Tristam (Trustin) Phillips were executors. William Creel and Thomas Creel witnessed the will. Will was made June 14, 1834 and proved 3 November 1834. Registered 5 December 1834.

Trustin was the youngest child, but likely the only son remaining in Newton County. Possibly it can be assumed that the other children with the possible exception of deceased Pressila were named in order of age. If so, that may imply that Joel was eldest and possibly named after James's father.

Researchers have identified Solomon, Elijah and Trustin as adults living in several Georgia counties throughout their adult lives and at the time of their deaths. Their offspring have been identified. Sons James and Joel as shown above were living adjacent to their father in Darlington District SC in 1820. Joel bought property in Newton County Georgia in 1827. To date no further record has been found on either of them or of their brother Daniel, although it is presumed that all three were living in 1834 when their father made his will as only a daughter Pressila was said to be deceased.

#### JOHN PHILLIPS (born 1812 NC and died 1868 GA)

John Phillips who died in 1868 in Fayette County, Georgia, seems to have been connected to the James Phillips family. He consistently told census takers that he was born in North Carolina. A memorial written in the minutes of Flat Creek Baptist Church in Fayette County, Georgia, after his death gives his birth date as December 3, 1812. This date is consistent with his age being shown as 38 on the 1850 census. The memorial also gives his birth place as Newton County, Georgia, clearly erroneous based on his own consistent statements to census takers and the fact that Newton County did not exist at the time of his birth.

He did, however, live in Newton County. The memorial says that he joined the church at Covington in 1826 and in 1838 was ordained a deacon. He is on the Newton County census in 1830. He sold land in Newton County and moved to Fayette County in 1839. The link to the James Phillips family is his close association with Trustin Phillips. These two men and their wives joined Bethsaida Baptist Church then in Fayette County, Georgia, on the same day in January 1840 and several years later the couples rejoined that church only a few months apart. Rev. Trustin Phillips performed the marriage ceremony of several descendants of John Phillips. Trustin Phillips grand-nephew (and ward) married the granddaughter of John Phillips.

Possibly John Phillips was the son of one of James Phillips' older sons, in which case he would have been a nephew of Trustin. John Phillips named his three sons John, Joel and James. James R. Phillips had a son Joel said to have been born in 1790, twenty-two years before the birth of John Phillips. If he were John's father, it would mean that John named a son after his grandfather, another after his father and one after himself. Possibly the kinship was more distant; John could have been a nephew of James and a cousin to Trustin.

## Guest Column

### **Our Common Objective** *By C. John Phillips, Family Group 8*

Presumably members of this DNA project share a common objective. That is to trace back as far as we can our bloodline, revealing distant relatives and gaining glimpses into the history of those who helped fashion our characteristics that make us into who we are today. Each of us seeks distant Phillips's, recognising\* that somewhere the trail will finish, but with the help of DNA we may be able to add a few more generations.

Eventually, we will find links with other surname groups who share our DNA and Smiths and Jones will begin to enter our family trees. We are simply Phillips's because sometime in the past an ancestor chose the name Phillips. Why? Was he a horse dealer or lover as the Greek origin suggests? Was it for political or religious aspirations or did he merely like the name and chose it in preference to the many others available? Some make choices to belong to a group; others seek the opposite and want to be different. Ultimately each of us, I suppose, is seeking the tribe to which we belong.

I am fortunate in that I belong to the same tribe as Nancy Kiser, which I share with a few others identified in Group 8. Furthermore, links have been established with a cave in Germany some 3000 years ago. So does that mean we were Saxons or were we the slaves of Saxons? Hopefully, we were the Saxons and not the slaves and we will be able to identify our emigration to the British Isles and maybe other places. The key in placing the pieces together in this jig saw puzzle is DNA. DNA of the living and, more importantly, the dead. Hopefully, we will find many more living members but what of the dead? Friends, did you know we have joined an organisation\* that is reliant on spade and shovel to dig up ancient graves seeking DNA? Exciting, isn't it! Digging at night joined by the spirits of the dead, owls watching our movements as we seek information in ancient burial grounds!

Help is at hand. Good news for those seeking to identify their DNA with the tribes of the British Isles! A book has been published by Professor Stephen Oppenheimer of Oxford University called "The Origins of the British" which traces the various DNA trails as they arrived. It may hold the secret of where you came from. The professor claims it will be possible to tell when the various groups arrived. This could help many of us to find a solution and pinpoint an area in the British Isles where to carry out in-depth research. If you believe your origins lie in Wales, gosh, you could be amongst the original settlers from the Basque Country and share a history with a unique collection of individuals who have preserved their heritage and language. I hope you find some positive information. I am now looking for the professor as of the many groups mentioned, he does not mention mine. This could mean my relatives were invited here or arrived on the longboats, raping and pillaging. The Professor claims he has the solution; so, Professor, where are you, I want to know!

\* *British spelling*