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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

This month, we continue a new feature in our newsletter: reviews of books that offer information on one or more branches of the Phillips family. These reviews will be occasionally published to tell readers which books might be of value by providing information on particular individuals. They are not intended to describe the literary quality of the book. Usually they will offer no guidance as to the accuracy of the book's information. We hope other readers will submit reviews of books they come across in the course of their research.

Descendants of Reuben Phillips

Written by John Wesley Phillips, Phillips Family DNA Group 2

Reviewed by Nancy Kiser

Reuben Phillips was born in Maryland between 1715 and 1720. He married Catherine and they were the parents of at least four children. They eventually moved to North Carolina. Information on several lines of his descendants is given in this volume. Descendants now live in Texas, Utah, Florida, Arizona, and elsewhere. Names include Phillips, McKee, Williams, Pharr, Mills, Brown, and related families. Y-DNA testing has proven that Reuben and his descendants belong to Phillips Family DNA Group 2, which is our largest family group with over 40 members. The book is over 400 pages long and has the following chapters:

Chapter 1 - Maryland

Chapter 2 - Reuben Phillips Sr.

Chapter 3 - Thomas Phillips Sr.

Chapter 4 - William Phillips Sr.

Chapter 5 - Levi Phillips

Chapter 6 - Jonas Phillips

Chapter 7 - Jesse Phillips

Chapter 8 - Reuben Phillips Jr.

Chapter 9 - Adam Phillips

There is also an extensive index. This book can be found in the LDS library in Salt Lake City or purchased from the author. Google Books indicates it is also for sale through various sources including Barnes & Noble and SuperBook Deals for prices ranging from \$31.69 to \$79.89.

Featured Phillips Family Story

A NARRATIVE STORY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM PHILLIPS

By Forrest F. Phillips, Phillips Family DNA Group 2

Excerpted from the book Descendants of Reuben Phillips by John Wesley Phillips

Reuben Phillips, Sr. and his wife Catherine C. (Howard) moved from Cecil County, Maryland, to Fredrick County, Maryland, where they appear in 1754. *[Editor's note: John Wesley Phillips says the wife of Reuben is now believed to have been Catherine Jones, not Catherine Howard.]* With them is their son William Phillips born 1749 in Cecil County, Maryland.

Reuben and his family lived in Maryland until 1769 when he sold all his land and moved to Rowan County, North Carolina, and was still living there until 1783. In 1786, Reuben moved to Wilkes County, Georgia, an area that later became Oglethorpe County, Georgia. The last known record of Reuben was the 1800 census. He apparently died shortly thereafter. He would have been 80-85 years old at that time.

William, from whom my branch of the family descended *[Editor's note: Forrest F. Phillips]*, did not move to Georgia with his father Reuben. Rather, he moved to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, where his father witnessed the purchase of land by William Phillips in 1774. *[Editor's note: Forrest F. Phillips says when he wrote this article in 1996, he relied primarily on the research of others. Since that time, he has been unable to independently verify, with absolute certainty, the accuracy of this William Phillips' relationship to his family.]*

In the fall of 1776, William entered the service of the United States as a volunteer rifleman in the Revolutionary War for the County of Rowan, North Carolina. He served for two separate periods of three months each.

Around 1815 he moved to Blount County, Tennessee, and then to Overton County, Tennessee, where he appears in the 1820, 1830, and 1840 census.

On September 24, 1832, William Phillips of Overton County, Tennessee, applied for a pension for his service in the Revolutionary War in Rowan County, North Carolina. He had served under Colonel Francis Locke and Captain Berringer.

Pension Record

[William Philips] states that in the fall of the year [1776] he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer rifleman for a tour of three months in the County of Rowan, North Carolina. Marched into a place now called Hiway in the State of Tennessee, then Cherokee Nation, against the Indians... They had a small engagement at the Valley Towns, but the Indians soon fled. They destroyed the town and took some prisoners [including] an Indian called Hicks and his wife with many other prisoners and some property. They found some

torys with the Indians upon another occasion while he was with some other men cutting down corn. They were fired on by the Indians and some were killed. One man next to him was shot down. Some time after this he was drafted for three months... He marched to a place called New Providence in the same State and was there stationed and remained for the whole time of his service and was discharged without being in any engagement.

Overton County, named after Judge John Overton, was formed out of a large area of north central Tennessee, more commonly known as Upper Cumberland Country. After Statehood by Tennessee in 1796, this area eventually was divided into Sumner County in 1796, Smith County in 1799, Jackson County in 1801 and Overton and White County in 1806. By an act of the General Assembly on June 1, 1810, Monroe with a population of 200 was designated as the county seat of Overton County. The County's main waterways are the Obed and the Roaring Rivers, tributaries of the Cumberland River. The area is hilly and the soil very fertile. It was a prime sheep and cattle grazing area with stands of excellent timber. In 1802, the total population of Overton County was approximately 1030 families.

In this area David Crockett was born in 1786. His grandfather was killed by Cherokee Indians in 1777, led by one of their more ruthless warriors, Dragging Canoe. In 1827, John M. Clemens, the father of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) was residing in the area (Jamestown).

Reuben, William's eldest son, was born in 1780 in North Carolina and moved to Georgia, ca. 1800, where his first son Adam was born before 1800. By 1810 he had returned to North Carolina where his second son Reuben Jr. was born in 1810. Reuben's Sr.'s wife was Feriba which was probably a derivative of Alfretta.

Sometime after 1840 and before 1850 (probably ca. 1844 after his father's death) Reuben (Sr.) moved most likely by wagon train along with other family members to Madison County, Arkansas, where he appears in the 1850 census.

The trip to Arkansas would have taken one of two routes used by the early settlers of northwestern Arkansas. One would have following the Arkansas River to Fort Smith and then overland through Fayetteville to War Eagle. The other was to cross the Mississippi into Missouri and travel across that state southwesterly to Springfield and then to northwestern Arkansas.

Reuben Sr. and his family members would have arrived in a sparsely populated, relatively primitive area of Arkansas, which only recently was inhabited primarily by Indians. Arkansas became a territory in 1819 and was admitted to the Union in June of 1836. In 1830, Washington County, Arkansas, located in the northwestern corner of Arkansas, encompassed the later counties of Benton, Washington, eastern Carroll and eastern Madison Counties.

The 1830 census of this area listed 217 heads of households. There were no recorded Phillipses in this area at that time. In nearby IZARD County, there was one Phillips family headed by Francis Phillips.

The 1840 census of Madison County indicated the following Phillipses:

James Phillips	2/1/1/0/0/1	0/1/2/0/1
John Phillips	0/0/0/2/2/0/0/0/1	0/0/0/1/1/0/0/1
Charles Phillips	2/0/0/2	0/1/0/0/1

According to Goodspeed's History, written in 1889, some of the earliest settlers of War Eagle were William Hawkins who settled there in 1830, David Phillips from Jackson County, Alabama, who moved to the vicinity of Huntsville in 1831, and John Phillips in the same year. I have not found a link of these Phillipses to the William Phillips' line whose descendants Reuben and his family moved to the same locale of Arkansas in 1844.

According to the 1850 census of Madison County, Arkansas, Reuben and his sons Drury and Adam along with their families were living in the War Eagle area. Reuben is now 70 years old and the patriarch of the family in Arkansas. He was born in North Carolina in 1781. He has lived in Georgia and afterwards Tennessee, where he lived most of his life. His wife Feriba was also born in North Carolina and is now 65 years old. Reuben cannot read or write. They are living on land in the War Eagle area of Madison County, valued at \$200. They apparently died prior to 1860 as neither of them appears in the 1860 Madison County, Arkansas, census.

Living in the same area is Adam born in 1800 in Georgia and Drury born 1811 in North Carolina. They are definitely two of Reuben's sons as evidenced by a transfer of deed after Reuben's death:

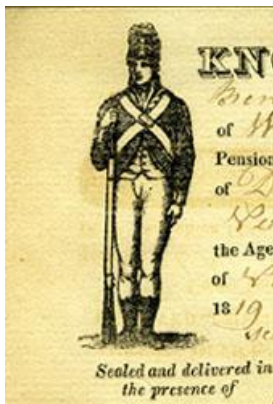
Reference Madison County Arkansas Deed Record Volume "E" 1853 to 1874 page 400 microfilm roll #1035197

Know all men by these presents that we (Levi Phillips, William Phillips, William Montgomery and wife Elizabeth Montgomery, and Drewry Phillips, and Adam Phillips and his wife Delia Phillips have conveyed our right and title to J.W. Rogers the real estate of our father Rubin Phillips deceased.

Guest Column

HOW TO FIND A REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT

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>.



The Revolutionary War started with the battle between British troops and local Massachusetts militia at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, on 19 April 1775. It ended eight years later with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783. If you have been able to trace your ancestry in America back to those years, you have an excellent chance of finding at least one ancestor who had some type of service related to the Revolutionary War effort.

In fact, your ancestor may have been a Patriot or a Loyalist. We don't celebrate the efforts of Loyalists very much in the United States, but go north to Canada and you will find that Loyalists are well documented and honored as heroes. They are especially honored for their contribution to the development of Canada. Perhaps one Canadian in ten has a Loyalist ancestor, and many people with English blood who live elsewhere - in the United States, in commonwealth countries such as Australia and New Zealand, or in nearly any other country round the world - are also of Loyalist descent. Visit the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada web site at <http://www.uelac.org/> for more information.

If you have already documented your U.S. ancestry to 1760 or earlier, you already have an excellent chance of finding either a Patriot or a Loyalist in the family tree. Boys as young as 16 were allowed to serve, so any male ancestors born in 1760 or earlier are possible veterans. You can even find a few younger boys who served as drummers or assistants in the Revolutionary War and later were credited as veterans, even though they were not considered soldiers during the war itself.

Those who didn't serve directly in a military capacity may have helped in other ways, such as

providing goods, supplies, or non-military service to the cause. Women also participated in the American Revolution, sometimes as spies, and a few even fought in battles while disguised as male soldiers.

If your ancestor served as a Patriot and lived long enough after the war to apply for a pension, you can probably find a pension application for him. Almost all federal pension applications have survived, even the applications of those who were later turned down. In most cases, the veterans had to prove they were true veterans and therefore eligible for pensions. The "proof" often consisted of testimonials from relatives, neighbors, or from other military veterans with whom they served. Such testimonials often provide a wealth of genealogy information, frequently mentioning parents, spouses, siblings, and children. Even the applications that were eventually rejected can be valuable to today's genealogists.

Before 1818, national pension laws concerning veterans of the Revolution specified disability or death of a serviceman as the basis for a pension award (with the exception of the Continental Congress resolution of May 15, 1778, granting half pay to officers for service alone). On March 18, 1818, the U. S. Congress granted pensions to Revolutionary War veterans for service from which no disabilities resulted. Officers and enlisted men in need of assistance were eligible under the terms of the 1818 act if they had served in a Continental military organization or in the U. S. naval service (including the Marines) for 9 months or until the end of the war. Pensions granted under this act were to continue for life.

Congress passed another service-pension act on May 15, 1823, which granted full pay for life to surviving officers and enlisted men of the Revolutionary War who were eligible for benefits under the terms of the Continental Congress resolution of May 15, 1778, as amended.

The last and most liberal of the service-pension acts benefiting Revolutionary War veterans was passed on June 7, 1832, and extended the provisions of the law of May 15, 1828 to even more veterans. The act provided that every officer or enlisted man who had served at least 2 years in the Continental Line or State troops, volunteers or militia, was eligible for a pension of full pay for life. Naval and marine officers and enlisted men were also included. Veterans who had served less than 2 years, but not less than 6 months, were eligible for pensions of less than full pay. While thousands applied for pensions under the earlier acts of Congress, this final act of 1832 was the one that saw the most applications.

In 1832, all of the living veterans would have been at least 72 years old. Many had already died, either from war injuries or from unrelated causes. In many cases, widows of veterans applied for benefits based on a husband's service. In most cases, widows' applications provided even more family information than did the applications received from actual veterans.

On July 29, 1848, Congress provided life pensions for widows of veterans who were married before January 2, 1800. All restrictions pertaining to the date of marriage were removed by acts of February 3, 1853, and February 28, 1855. On March 9, 1878, widows of Revolutionary War soldiers who had served for as few as 14 days, or were in any engagement, were declared eligible for life pensions. This was still an issue in 1878 because many older veterans had

married younger women, resulting in a large number of widows obtaining benefits 108 years or more after the birth of their husbands.

Follow the Money - Tracking Revolutionary War Army Pension Payments by Claire Prechtel-Klusgens is a great tutorial on researching Revolutionary War pension applications. The tutorial may be found at <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2008/winter/follow-money.html>.

Revolutionary War pension applications may be found in their entirety on Fold3.com at <http://www.fold3.com> along with many Revolutionary War service records, final payment vouchers for several states, many Revolutionary War rolls, and more.

The RootsWeb's WorldConnect Project is another good place for identifying Patriot ancestors, although the site is not easily searched. The site is also plagued with MANY ERRORS; but, you will find it easier to use other people's research and gather the documentation needed to validate the research than to try to research something entirely from scratch. As always with any genealogy claims, you need to independently verify each piece of information you obtain on the WorldConnect Project.

NOTE: When searching at this site, type ONLY the Surname and Given Name of the person you are searching AND one of the following in the Spouse box: 1) spouse's first name only, 2) spouse's maiden name only, or 3) spouse's first and maiden name. Do NOT fill in any other search boxes unless you are researching an extremely common name.

Another problem with searches on the WorldConnect Project is that you must specify the exact spelling of all names entered. This is especially difficult when spelling of names were not standardized at the time. Sarah might be spelled as Sara, or Philip could be spelled as Phillip. All you can do is conduct multiple searches, trying every combination you can think of.

Census Records for 1790 and the early 1800s also can be very helpful in identifying Revolutionary War ancestors. The census records may be found on Ancestry.com. FamilySearch.org also has many census records available online although not all of them.

If you are unsuccessful at proving connections via the above online resources, you will need to resort to printed books and microfilm images as many of the needed records are not yet online.

If you have identified an ancestor born between 1710 and 1765 who was living in 1775-1776, check the online DAR Patriot Index to see if your ancestor is listed. If the answer is yes, someone else has submitted an approved DAR application for your ancestor; you will want to see more details in that application. If the answer is no, your ancestor could still be a Revolutionary War patriot; however, no one has submitted an approved DAR application for him/her.

A DAR Patriot INDEX (not the full records) is available at:

http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/?Tab_ID=1.

Other books to be searched include numerous compilations or source records from various states, land grants made years later as a result of Revolutionary War service, and even books about various generals and admirals that may mention some of the men who served under them. For example, I found a record of one Revolutionary War Marine in my family tree who served on board the Ranger in a book about John Paul Jones.

You can find many such books in your local library and at Google Books, as well as at Genealogical Publishing Company at:

<http://www.genealogical.com/categories/Revolutionary%20War/4.html>

and at:

<http://www.heritagebooks.com/>.

As with any genealogy effort, a bit of perseverance may provide records you never knew about - and very possibly contribute facts about your ancestors that you never knew.