

## **Another unsolved mystery that began in 1748 England but emigration to America caused confusion about Absolam Philby (later Filby)**

### **Descendants of James Philby**

#### **Generation 1**

1. JAMES PHILBY He died on 29 Jul 1748 in Mendlesham, Suffolk, England. He married SARAH DEATH on 04 Oct 1732 in Mendlesham, Suffolk, England.

Notes for James Philby:

Mendlesham, Suffolk, is located about 88 miles NE of London and in 1844 had some 1340 inhabitants.

Notes for Sarah Death:

At the time of Sarah's second marriage Absolam was a lad of 13.

James Philby and Sarah Death had the following child:

- i. ABSOLAM PHILBY was born in Nov 1738 in Mendlesham, Suffolk, England. He married UNKNOWN.

#### **Generation 2**

2. ABSOLAM PHILBY (James1) was born in Nov 1738 in Mendlesham, Suffolk, England. He married Unknown

Notes for Absolam Philby:

Absolam was the middle child having two 2 brothers and 2 sisters.

The date when Absalom went to America is not known. In the 1790 (first) census of South Carolina an ABSALOM PHILLBEY and his family there were recorded with one male under 16 and 2 female's ages not recorded. ABSALOM was over 16 but was he as old as 52 or was he the son of the Absolam from England and head of the family that is recorded in the 1800 Census. The family was resident in Laurens County in 96 District.

He does not appear in any Veterans of the American Revolution lists for South Carolina ABSALOM was the middle child having 2 brothers and 2 sisters. The date when ABSALOM went to America is not known. In the 1790 (first) census of South Carolina an ABSALOM PHILLBEY and his family were recorded with one male under 16 and 2 females ages not recorded. In the 1800 Census an ABSALOM was recorded who was over 16 but whether he was he as old as 52 is not known. It is therefore not known whether he was the ABSALOM from England or his son. The family was resident in Laurens County in 96 District.

He does not appear in any Veterans of the American Revolution lists for South Carolina.

Absolam Philby and Unknown had the following child:

- i. Absolam Philby, he married Unknown possibly Elizabeth.

#### **Generation 3**

3. ABSOLAM PHILBY (Absolam, James). He married UNKNOWN POSSIBLY ELIZABETH.

Notes for Absolam Philby:

The 1790 Census of South Carolina in the United States contains an ABSALOM PHILLBEY, age over 16, in a family with one male under 16 and two females of unrecorded age. They resided in Laurens County in 96 District.

There is no record of ABSALOM him in the examined lists of Veterans of the American Revolution for South Carolina.

The 1800 Census for South Carolina records ABSALEM FILBY and family consisting of 4 males under 10 years of age; 1 male 10 to 16 and 1 male (ABSALEM) age 16-45 with 1 female 10-16 and a wife 26 - 45 years of age. They were in Capt. Robert Scott's Company in Laurens County. From his age span ABSALEM could not be the ABSOLAM that came out from England.

Early records of residents in Laurens County are almost non-existent but there is an entry of Deed of Gift filed on page 112 of Deed Book H, dated 27th November 1805, that was found by Kenneth Filby of Manhattan, Kansas. The Deed of Gift records the names of "my wife's children - WILLIAM FILBY; POLLY FILBY; JOHN FILBY; RICHARD and JAMES FILBY and ABSOLUM FILBY," The surname is also spelled FILBAY. The entry is signed JOHN RAY of Laurens County, S.C. and duly witnessed.

On the basis of the above it may be concluded that ABSOLAM PHILBY died sometime before November 1805 and his wife remarried JOHN RAY.

The 1810 Census does not contain any FILBY family in South Carolina but the census recorder may have considered the FILBY children as adopted by JOHN RAY.

The 1820 Census does not record any FILBY/PHILBY family in Laurens or the adjacent Union or Newberry Counties, S.C. There is a JOHN RAY but his age doesn't fit the above JOHN RAY.

It should be noted that about 1803-1808 a Society of Friends, Quaker, named Rev Dicks visited South Carolina Quaker groups and accused them of living in perdition because they lived in a slave holding State. As a result many moved away some to the Northwest Territory - Ohio, Indiana, Illinois - or to Georgia while some went back to Pennsylvania. This makes the linking of the FILBY children to similar named individuals elsewhere very uncertain. Ellsworth's notes refer to a number of claimed or potential links to families in these new territories however the details are not included in this family tree since they cannot be substantiated. The 1790 Census of South Carolina contains an ABSALOM PHILLBEY, age over 16, in a family of one male under 16 and two females ages not given.. They resided in Lauren's County in 96 District.

The 1800 Census for South Carolina records ABSALEM FILBY and family consisting of 4 males under 10 years of age; 1 male 10 to 16 and one male (ABSALEM) age 16 -45 along with 1 female 10-16 and a wife 26-45 years of age. They were in Capt. Robert Scott's Company in Laurens County. From his age span this could not have been the ABSALAM who came out from England. Early records of residents in Laurens County are almost non-existent but there is an entry of Deed of Gift filed on page 112 of Deed Book H, dated 27th November 1805, that was found by Kenneth Filby of Manhattan, Kansas. The Deed of Gift records the names of "my wife's children - WILLIAM FILBY; POLLY FILBY; JOHN FILBY; RICHARD FILBY and JAMES and ABSOLUM FILBY" The surname is also

spelled FILBAY. The entry is signed JOHN RAY of Laurens County, SC and duly witnessed.

The 1810 and 1820 Census for South Carolina do not list either FILBY or PHILBY.

Notes for Unknown - possibly Elizabeth:

In the 1850 Census for Union County an ELIZABETH PHILBY is recorded in the Poor House estimated age 91. It is recorded that she was born in Pennsylvania and was married. Also POLLY, the family's first daughter could have been named after her mother. POLLY can be a nickname for ELIZABETH.

While ELIZABETH's age would make her a possible for ABSOLAM's wife his wife subsequently married JOHN RAY and so should have become ELIZABETH RAY. In the 1850 Census for Union County an ELIZABETH PHILBY is recorded in the Poor House estimated age 91. It is recorded that she was born in Pennsylvania and was married. POLLY, the family's first daughter, could have been named after her mother since POLLY can be a nickname for ELIZABETH.

While ELIZABETH's age would make her a possible for ABSOLAM's wife, his wife was subsequently married to JOHN RAY and should therefore have become ELIZABETH RAY.

Absolam Philby and Unknown (possibly Elizabeth) had the following children:

- i. WILLIAM PHILBY.
- ii. POLLY PHILBY.

Notes for Polly Philby:

POLLY and possibly NELLIE are nicknames for ELIZABETH. An ELIZABETH FILBY, estimated age 91, was listed in the 1850 census in the Union County Poor House, South Carolina. It is recorded that she was born in Pennsylvania and was married. POLLY and possibly NELLIE are nicknames for ELIZABETH.

4.
  - iii. JOHN PHILBY was born about 1790. He married EDNA COOPER. She was born about 1805.
  - iv. RICHARD PHILBY.
5.
  - v. JAMES PHILBY. He married JUDAH BARLOW on 11 Apr 1828.
  - vi. ABSOLUM PHILBY. He married JANE.

Notes for Absolum Philby:

In the 1830 Census for Union County, South Carolina, an ABSALOM PHILBY and family is recorded - 2 males with ages 5 - 10 years; and ABSALOM probably 30 to 40 years along with another male 40 to 50 years of age. The household also includes 2 females, one 30-40 years and one 70-80 years old. They were farmers but their previous location is not known. This ABSALOM could fit age wise.

The ABSALOM PHILBY family purchased off Gilman Bobo 110 acres of land on Cowden Creekon on the south side of Tyger River, which had formerly belonged to Barnham Bobo, for \$150. The purchase was made on 28th January 1833 but, for some unknown reason, was not recorded until 5th August 1854. This tract of land was sold to CARRIE RAY on 21st December 1835 for \$200 but again was not recorded until 1852. JANE FILBY, the wife of ABSALOM, granted a release to CARRIE RAY on 6th May 1854. (Register of Nesne

Conveyances 1852, page 444 W-16 Union County Court House, Union, S.C.) On an old map there is road from Union County to Laurens crossing Tyger River at Bobo's Ford - this is believed to be near the present site of Cross Keys S.C. about 7 miles from Union.

In the 1840 Census for Union County, S.C. an ABSALOM PHILSBY aged 30 to 40 years is listed with 2 males of 5 to 10 years but no females. There is also listed a JJOHN PHILBA age 40 to 50 and his wife age 20 to 30.

Nothing further concerning ABSALOM has been recorded in Ellsworth's notes. See notes under Junction City Kansas Group 2 Tree.

#### **Generation 4**

4. JOHN PHILBY (Absolam, Absolam, James) was born about 1790. He married EDNA COOPER. She was born about 1805.

Notes for John Philby:

A JOHN PHILBY is listed as a member of the South Carolina Militia in the war of 1812. The U.S. ARCHIVES at Washington have provided data that show that JOHN PHILBY served under Capt. Charles Gilliam of Tucker's Regiment. There is a letter from attorneys in LaFayette, Walker County, Georgia, - Certified 23 Oct 1858, to the effect that JOHN had wounded his foot while on guard duty and possibly might be eligible for a pension. The letter states that JOHN was 68 years old which would make his birth about 1790 and 15 when JOHN RAY distributed the gifts to "my wife's children". His claim was rejected - File 14167 "Old War" Invalid Rejects.

Thomas H Polk lists JOHN with a JAMES PHILBEY in "History of Newberry County S.C." It is believed that Walker County became the home of the FILBYs but unfortunately a fire destroyed the Court House and all records in 1883.

The 1850 Census for Laurens County - for which the given names of other than the Head of household were recorded - had a family headed by JOHN FILBY, age 60, his wife ENDY, age 45, and four children - RICHARD, age 10; NEHALY, age 8; RITTEN (HENRIETTA), age 4 and SOPHIA age 2. JOHN's age is in line with that derived above and provides a possible case for concluding that this JOHN was the son of ABSOLAM.

This family do not appear in any subsequent South Carolina census data and it is believed that it is this group that eventually migrated to Kansas.

Notes for Edna Cooper:

The 1850 Census of Laurens County has JOHN's wife as EDNY. Ellsworth also received information claiming that JOHN's wife's name was EDNA McCracken. It is possible that he may have been married to both ladies either separately or together and one of them may have been of Cherokee Indian extraction as the Cherokee Nation lived in the area of NW Georgia.

John Philby and Edna Cooper had the following children:

- i. RICHARD PHILBY was born about 1840 in Georgia, U.S.A.. He died about Aug 1873. He married MARY EVALINE CARSON. She was

born about 1851 in Georgia, U.S.A.. She died on 22 Nov 1935 in Junction City, Kansas, U.S.A.

Notes for Richard Philby:

In the 1860 Georgia Census a RICHARD FILBY, age 18 and a farm labourer, is recorded as living with the WITSETH family in Whitfield County - Old Trickum District. There is also a HARRY FILBY, age 13 and a farm labourer, living with the NORRIS family in adjacent Gordon County, NW Georgia. Was this RICHARDS younger brother JOHN HENRY? If so where is his birth?

In July 8th 1861 a RICHARD R FILBY enlisted in the 2nd Company I of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Confederate Regiment of Georgia Volunteers at Knoxville, Tenn. for 3 years. On September 17th 1863 he was reported as a POW by the Union Forces having been captured at Chattanooga, Tenn. As part of the amnesty programme then in effect he enlisted in the Union Forces at Nashville, Tenn, on 7th October 1863. He is described as 5' 10" tall, 19 years of age, hazel eyes, dark hair and fair complexion. (His age does not exactly match with the previous census records for RICHARD FILBY) On October 24th 1863 he was reported as a deserter by the Confederates. He signed the Volunteer Enlistment papers with an "X" his mark and was assigned to the 12th Regiment, Tenn. Cavalry as a "wagoner". He was mustered out of service at Ft Levenworth, Kansas on October 7th 1865.

The evidence for linking RICHARD R FILBY back to the ABSOLUM PHILBY family is slim and should only be accepted with caution.

The family was not in Floyd County (Rome) Georgia at the time of the 1870 census. There is a family story that RICHARD R FILBY when he was ill and realizing that he was dying called his brother JOHN HENRY FILBY to his side and obtained a promise that he JOHN would take care of the 4 sons and his wife MARY. JOHN HENRY fulfilled this undertaking by marrying the widow MARY EVALINE FILBY on 23 August 1874 apparently about a year after his brother's death.

- ii. MEHALY PHILBY was born about 1842.
- iii. HENRIETTA PHILBY was born on 24 Dec 1844 in Walker City, Kansas, USA. She died on 17 Mar 1918 in Geory City, Kansas, USA. She married WILLIAM DOCKINS. He was born in 1856 in Alabama, USA. He died in 1932 in Alabama, USA.

Notes for Henrietta Philby:

RITTEN or HENRIETTA's Death Certificate gives her Date of Birth as about 24 December 1840 in South Carolina, the daughter of JOHN FILBY and his wife EDNA COOPER (or possibly EDNA McCracken). The certificate is signed by her son FRANK DOCKINS.

- iv. SOPHIA PHILBY was born about 1848.

5. JAMES PHILBY (Absolam, Absolam, James). He married JUDAH BARLOW on 11 Apr 1828.

Notes for James Philby: A JAMES PHILBEY appears in lists as a member of the South Carolina Militia which was called into service in the war of 1812. JAMES PHELBY is listed as in the same militia outfit at a Camp Alston as JOHN PHILBY.

He is also listed in Thomas H Polk's "History of Newberry County".

In the 1830 census for Franklin County there was a JAMES PHYL BAY who married a JUDAH BARLOW April 11 1828 - date from marriage records. Also from marriage records a JAMES PHILBY wed a SIDNEY? LINES, Sept 27th 1838. A JAMES PHILBEY appears in lists as a member of the South Carolina Militia which was called into service in the war of 1812. JAMES PHELBY is listed as in the same militia outfit at Camp Alsyon as JOHN PHILBY.

He is also listed in Thomas H Polk's "History of Newberry County"

In the 1830 Census for Franklin County there was a JAMES PHYL BAY who married a JUDAH BARLOW 11th April 1828 - date from marriage records. Also from marriage records a JAMES PHILBY wed a SIDNEY? LINES, Sept 27th, 1838.

In the Indiana Federal Census of 1850 a JAMES FILBY, a farmer age 48 born in South Carolina, is listed living in Otter Creek Township of Ripley County. This could have been the JAMES referred to in JOHN RAYS Deed of Gift but he could hardly have been the JAMES PHILBY in the South Carolina Militia since he would have been only 10. In the census his wife JUDY FILBY, age 44, is listed as born in Pennsylvania. The children are JOHN W, age 21; MARY E, age 18; ELIZA JANE, age 17 and REBECCA A, age 13, all born in Indiana.

No further information is available as to the daughters.

James Philby and Judah Barlow had the following child:

- i. JOHN W FILBY was born on 02 Sep 1829 in Indiana, U.S.A.. He died on 19 Nov 1911 in Columbus, Kansas, U.S.A.. He married SARAH ANN LAMBERT about 1850. She died on 18 Jan 1906.

Notes for John W Filby:

Thought to be JOHN WESLEY FILBY born in Indiana on 2nd September 1829. It is believed that the family migrated west from around Kokomo, Indiana about 1865 to Schuyler County, Missouri. The 1870 Federal Census for Schuyler County, Missouri - Liberty Township - lists

JOHN WESLEY FILBY, age 40, born Indiana, a farmer.

SARAH ANN (LAMBERT) FILBY, age 38, born in Ohio, and children GEORGE HENRY FILBY, age 17, born Indiana,

ALEXANDER FILBY, age 16, born Indiana SARAH ELLEN FILBY, age 10, born Indiana JAMES ANDERSON, age 8, born Indiana.

The 1875 Census by the state of Kansas does not list the family but it has been reported that they had a farm near Rock about 12 miles north of Winfield, Kansas. The 1880 Federal Census for Cowley County, Kansas - Rock Creek Township lists JOHN W FILBY, age 51, born Indiana, father from South Carolina and mother from Pennsylvania

SARAH A FILBY, age 48, born in Ohio, father from Kentucky and mother from Pennsylvania,

GEORGE FILBY, age 27, born Indiana JAMES FILBY, age 18, born Indiana,

LYDIA FILBY, age 24, wife of GEORGE, born Ohio

EMMETT FILBY, age 1, son of GEORGE and LYDIA, born in Kansas.

- ii. MARY E FILBY was born about 1832 in Indiana, U.S.A..

- iii. ELIZA JANE FILBY was born about 1833 in Indiana, U.S.A.
- iv. REBECCA A FILBY was born about 1837 in Indiana, U.S.A.

There is more to this tree on our database but if anyone can help bring it up to date we welcome your information.

Please identify it as Tree U04 and refer to our **CONTACT** page on this website.