

The Kim Philby Tree has been an interesting part of my research over the last few years and I have taken it back to 1750. As yet I have not found any branches of this tree that connect with any other trees on our database.

However, there are members who have told me that they believe they are related to Kim Philby, but even though I have these members on our database and connected to other trees I have not yet found any common ancestor that they share between them.

If you have any evidence that links you to Kim Philby and his family I would very much appreciate you letting me have this information as soon as possible so that I can confirm your findings.

Marion Filby (Researcher)

OBITUARY OF JOHN PHILBY (son of Kim)

John's earliest memories were of the idyllic time spent in Istanbul where, in 1947, 'Kim' Philby, his father, had been posted as station chief for the British Secret Intelligence Service. They lived in a sprawling villa on the Bosphorus. In 1945 Guy Burgess came to stay for a holiday, but his mother resented the close relationship he had with her husband. The following year Kim Philby was posted to the USA. John recalled when living in Washington, that Guy Burgess visited again and he didn't like his dark, nicotine-stained fingers and he bit his nails. At this time Burgess kept his standard issue KGB revolver and camera hidden under John's bed. (In 1951 Burgess's defection to Moscow with Donald Maclean cast suspicion on Kim Philby).

On the Philby's return to London John attended Beaumont House, a prep school in Hampshire. While he was there in 1955, the Labour MP Marcus Lipton accused Kim Philby in Parliament of 'dubious Third Man activities'. However, Harold Macmillan, the Prime Minister, announced that 'he had no reason to believe that Mr Philby has at any time betrayed the interests of his country'.

When John's mother died in 1957, none of her children were invited to the funeral, and he never knew where she was buried. They went to live with an aunt and uncle. John completed his education at Lord Wandsworth College in Hampshire, and thereafter saw little of his father. When he was 17 his father was exposed as a spy! John enrolled at the Hornsey School of Art to study painting and sculpture. It was there he embraced left wing politics and joined the Young Socialists. He worked as a free-lance journalist before taking up carpentry working from a small workshop at Kings Cross where he made stands for exhibitions. This became his main business until his death in 2009.

He valued his anonymity although he never changed his name from Philby. He always stated if asked, that he was the son of Kim Philby (the spy). His father never explained his treachery to John and in return John never asked. He visited his father in Moscow but was embarrassed by his VIP treatment. The two became good friends in the Soviet Union, accompanied by KGB minders, and drank heavily along the way.

At his father's funeral John refused to have any photographs taken when kissing his father in the open coffin. The coffin was then lowered into the ground with a volley of shots fired from a guard of honour.

John was divorced three times.

N.B. John's daughter, Charlotte Philby, became a journalist and in 2007 wrote: "My grandfather was Kim Philby and I'm proud of it. I know he was responsible for the deaths of countless men....." and ends "Equally, it's impossible to reconcile that understanding with my memory of grandpa - a cheery old man with a warm smile, who spent hours sitting in a padded armchair in his modest Moscow flat, singing silly songs"