

THE Y-DNA PROJECT

April 2016

Quarterly report from Elizabeth O'Donoghue/Ross, the Society's Group Administrator

Easter came early this year, and it was cold and miserable here in Kerry, though the 1916 celebrations in Dublin on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday at least had sunny and dry weather for those days.

We are into another year and the project continues to grow. We do have a number of ladies joining the project, though being a Y-DNA project, it cannot offer them very much in the way of support. We are focused on the male lines of O'Donoghues/Donohues and have little expertise in mtDNA or atDNA, but it is nice to be able to give our ladies who are O'Donoghues a home.

We welcome all the new folks who have joined the project. I regret that I haven't been in touch as much as I once was with the members. At the beginning of my participation in the project, it was the only one I administered. But then I broadened my research and began a Munster Irish Project - <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/munster-irish/> - focusing on all the pre-Norman surnames of Munster to investigate how many of our participants fit into the genetic mix of Munster.

This includes almost all the O'Donoghue participants, except for the Cavan/Breifne Clans Donohues, who have a project of their own - the Ancient Breifne Clans, which was begun by Joe Donohoe a decade ago. Since his passing, the project has been administered by Gail Riddell, who took on the challenge of updating it to current with all the new members that joined after Joe's passing. No fault of her own, she knew very little about Breifne Clans, and the project would benefit from someone more dedicated to the research of the project. If any of you have interest in the possibility of joining the project as a co-administrator, do let me know and we can discuss.

Having another co-admin or two for The O'Donoghue Society Y-DNA project would also be welcome (in case one of us fell under a bus, as Rod put it once) so if any of you think you might enjoy helping out with our Society project, please do let me know.

Rod has included an interesting article in the Snippets section of the April Journal that discusses recent discoveries of ancient Irish DNA. I had mentioned it briefly in last quarter's report. One of the men's remains was whole genome tested and found to belong to the R1b haplogroup of DF21, which happens to be the main haplogroup of Group A and Group B of the Mór/Raithlind group in the spreadsheet. Group A is DF25, which is downstream of DF21 in the hierarchy of the DF21 subclade, and Group B is DF5/BY3384, which is even further downstream, so to consider the ancient Rathlin Island man a 'relative' would be a bit of a stretch, insofar as DF21 is probably 4,000 years old, and who knows where the first man to carry that mutation lived.

Getting back to current times, the project has had a number of new members/results since the Society website spreadsheet has been updated. Remember that they are always visible on the Family Tree website - <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/ODonoghue/> - on the Y-DNA Results link.

Just to enumerate, over the last six months, we've had five new members in The Glens tribe, an upgrade and another SNP test of A802+ to match The Glens line. There is a new SNP result in the Mór tribe, a new member in the Cavan Group A and the Cavan Group E clusters and a new SNP result in Cavan Group B. There is an upgrade and an SNP result in the Clan Colla 425 null/Airgilla I group. The independent Groups have three different SNP results and there are four new members in the Unaffiliated R1b1a2 group. Hopefully as more folks test, the Unaffiliated will find a shared history.

Testing for SNPs is on the rise. It is a relatively new area that is providing more insight into the deeper genetic heritage we share. It is beginning to clarify geographic trails of our ancient history in addition to clarifying relatedness in a genealogical timeframe. This led me to begin another project devoted to researching the SNP that defines The Glens tribe - the R1b-CTS4466 Plus Project - <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/R1b-CTS4466Plus/>.

We have information about SNPs on the Y-DNA Interpretation page of the Society website that I will be updating shortly to expand the knowledge we've gained from the testing that has occurred within the project over the last while. Rod will let everyone know when the updated spreadsheet and the additional information about SNPs is available.

As a matter of 'housekeeping', I ask all participants to take a few moments of their time and to go to their orange Manage Personal Information link in the Your Account box on the left of your home page at Family Tree and review all the tabs that display on that page. Family Tree have a default of Private, particularly for the new members, which could hide your results on the website Y-DNA Results spreadsheet and give matches less access to your details. And please enter an email address in the Beneficiary Information tab so your account won't be 'frozen' when the bus finally hits. You can always add my or Rod's address if wish, to make sure the access to all your data and research is available to the next generation and matches could make contact if they wish.

If anyone sees mistakes or omissions in the Society spreadsheet, please let me know. Rod will post when the updated spreadsheet is online.