

# THE Y-DNA PROJECT

April 2012

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

We have two new members in the Glens tribe, (of other surnames), a new Breifne Group A member, a new member in the Group I Cluster and two in the Unaffiliated R1b1. In addition, we have upgraded results in for one of the Mór tribe and SNP results in the Mór tribe and Breifne Group A.

There is more news concerning the disparate SNP's in the Mór tribe that was discussed in last quarter's report. The newest results in the group are for Merle Thornton. Part of the first cluster in the spreadsheet, Merle (adopted) matches Tim Donahoo at 110/111 markers and Jerry Donehoo at 36/37. Tim and Jerry are known to be related, and Merle is certainly also 'one of the family'. Tim had previously upgraded to 111 markers, and with the distinctive value of 9 at DYS643 which matched Tighe O'Donoghue/Ross, he tested DF21+, matching Tighe there as well. Merle also has the 9 at DYS643 so tested for DF21 and was found to be positive. He then tested for the further downstream SNP's DF5 and Z248, for which Tighe was also positive; but unexpectedly Merle was found negative for both the other SNP's.

Initially believing that the DF21+ results for Tim and Tighe brought their two clusters closer together, the lack of match of the downstream SNP's sets the time to a common ancestor back further than anticipated. The earlier discovery that Rod is DF21- would also suggest that the relationship between the clusters is not as close as thought. However, a similar situation exists in another surname project that sheds light on our situation.

The Kendall surname project has a cluster of fifteen men (which can be seen at <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Kendall/default.aspx?section=yresults>) who are all related, according to Family Tree calculations, within about 250 to 500 years at most. Of the seven who are SNP tested, three are L144+ and four are L144-! The only explanation of this anomaly is that there was a back mutation of the SNP at some point in the lineage of one of them in the not too distant past, since they are relatively closely related.

This is an example that supports our explanation that a back mutation occurred likewise in the Mór lineage between Tighe's cluster of two and Rod's cluster of ten. It may have occurred some time ago, since the common ancestor between Tighe and Rod's group is around 1400 years ago based on Family Tree calculations at 95% probability. Hopefully a few more tests within the tribal grouping may be ordered and we might find out more.

In the interim, we feel it justified to say that Tighe and Rod's clusters are probably related more closely than Prof Tom's group (Tim/Jerry/Merle, etc) is to those clusters, due to the former two's common and unusual value of 12 at DYS392. The TRMCA calculator unfortunately cannot account for the match or lack thereof of the SNP's which have been tested, so this must be kept in mind when reviewing Spreadsheet C on the Results link.

The literal accuracy of the origin myths of Munster, and for the whole country for that matter, is rather suspect; but it is worth noting that Eoghan Mór, the ostensible founder of the Eoghanacht Raithlind/Uí Eachach/O'Donoghue Mór (as well as the other Eoghanacht

septs) is dated back at least to the earliest centuries AD, so in principle it may be possible that all these clusters do indeed have a common ancestor back to that time or thereabouts. From the early days of the project we had realized that their ancestor was relatively distant, which is quite acceptable considering the genealogical tracts as they are presented.

The Glens tribe's common ancestor is far more recent, but the Eoghanacht Cashel O'Donoghues had lost their primacy at Cashel at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century when the ruling chiefly family was ousted from power and the resulting line of the displaced family that arrived in Kerry most likely began with a small number of related kinsmen. The two Laois Dunphy's who are South Irish are in all probability an example of descendants whose predecessors remained in the Cashel area even after the ruling family left the midlands.

I recently began a Munster Irish DNA Project at Family Tree which intends to study the common ancestors and relationships between the tribes and tuatha found in the province. Rod has kindly allowed the Project space at The O'Donoghue Society website to expand their database and ancillary files. The link can be found near the bottom left column of links, just above that of the Irish Folklore Centre. We hope to be adding material to the link in the near future and hope you will check to see what of interest there may be for you. The URL to see the project and current data at Family Tree is <http://www.familyreedna.com/public/MunsterIrish/default.aspx>.