

Summary

Among the 83 participants in the BCP who have tested to the 37-marker level or higher and who belong to Haplogroup R1b-M22 and to the Mixed Breifne Surnames (MBS) Section, only about half a dozen (less than 10%) have surnames that are apparently not traditional Breifne surnames. A significant aberration is the presence of participants surnamed Clancy in this section, as this clan is traditionally not of the Uí Briuin nor even of the Connachta. The strong-to-loose linkages among the Y-DNA profiles of all these MBS participants form an extensive network, suggesting an ancient presence of this male-line lineage in the Breifne area.

The division of the MBS section into two subgroups is arbitrary, being based on either of two values at a single marker, DYS 391. So far one subgroup is characterized by a Donohoe-McTiernan cluster while the other subgroup is characterized by an O'Reilly-McGovern cluster.

The Irish R1b Other Section is made up of several isolates, the Groups B and D having participants of surnames that are generally traditional for Breifne while the members of Group O mostly have surnames traditional for Oriel.

Group B is split into two subgroups. One subgroup is composed of participants all with the surname Donohoe who share similar haplotype patterns, are fairly tightly linked, and show no links with anyone else in the BCP, suggesting a more recent arrival in the Breifne area. The O'Rourkes, though unexpectedly not in the R1b-M222 haplogroup (with one exception) along with most of the other Uí Briúin Bréifne, are beginning to fall into isolated clusters as can be seen in Subgroup B2, with two clusters apparently associated with McTiernans and two with Reynolds. The Reynolds traditionally descend from the Ciannachta, who are traditionally not of Connachta descent and who had moved into the Breifne area some centuries before the Uí Briúin.

The possible southern Irish connections of the Brady cluster of Group D remain uncertain. There are weak links among some of the Bradys and some of the Donohues of two unrelated lineages of Desmond origin, but the haplotype pattern resemblances are weak and one of the Donohue lineages may belong to a different haplogroup.

The control group has been divided into three subgroups. The members of Subgroup Y1, all belonging to R1b, span Western Europe from Italy to Britain and represent three different subclades of R1b. Subgroup Y2 includes representatives of three different major non-R1b haplogroups. The Princely Balto-Slavic Lines subgroup also includes representatives of three different major non-R1b haplogroups, only one overlapping with those represented in Y2.

The wider associations of the BCP members of the Oriel Group were extensively investigated. The results of this investigation establish that there were at least two unrelated prominent medieval Airghialla male-line lineages, one associated with the present south Tyrone – north Monaghan area and the other associated with present Fermanagh. As noted in the last report, the marker value profile of the modal haplotype associated with Fermanagh matches the NWIMH at about a third of the markers where the NWIMH deviates from the SWAMH, suggesting that this modal is intermediate between the SWAMH and the NWIMH and that the lineages they represent branched off from a common ancestor before the M222 mutation occurred. The modal haplotypes of these two lineages have been designated the Airghialla 1 and Airghialla 2 Modal Haplotypes.