

# THE Y-DNA PROJECT

January 2014

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

The O'Donoghue Society Y-DNA project is in its second decade now, having been conceived by Rod and Prof Tom Donahue back in 2003, when Prof Tom recruited a number of participants to begin the process, generously underwriting the cost of the initial testing, when the choice was only 12 or 25 STR markers. Prof Tom administered the project till the end of 2004. After his death, Tighe provided the quarterly report in January 2005; and I assumed the administration of the project and have produced the subsequent quarterly reports starting in April 2005, which accompanied the first report from Joe Donohoe for his Breifne Clans project, which focused on the Donohues and related tribes native to Cavan and surrounds.

Joe continued to provide annual reports for his project, with the last mammoth effort in August 2009 being an impressive eleven part report containing a considerable amount of independent research and results he had accumulated through his extensive investigations. His research is still appreciated by other project administrators and researchers interested in the tribes Joe studied.

Sadly, Joe's health prevented him from providing us with any further analysis and he passed away in 2011. Since then, the Breifne Clans Project has been in a hiatus, but we hope to see it revived in the near future. If anyone has an interest to participate in its administration, please contact Rod or I and we can discuss the possibilities.

We have seen the Society project grow and mature as the number of STR markers available for testing increased to 37, then 67, and most currently 111 markers. In addition, SNPs became more prominent in the investigations of the many citizen scientists studying Y-DNA for their genealogical and historical significance as well as the deeper ancestry of the human genome. Some of these citizen scientists have even worked closely with the academics who have been studying the same areas, as well as mitochondrial DNA and autosomal DNA. While this project has limited its focus on Y-DNA exclusively, an increasing number of participants are also testing for these other types of DNA through Family Tree and other companies.

Ancient DNA is being recovered and new methods have enabled scientists to identify the details of the DNA of our forebears from remains thousands of years old. We now know that most of us have a small percentage of Neanderthal and Denisovan DNA in our heritage – a result of interbreeding before those branches of the human species became extinct. It is a fascinating field, with new information being discovered at an increasing pace.

Along with two other interested Munstermen, Nigel McCarthy and Finbar O Mahony, I initiated another Y-DNA project in January 2012 focused on the Munster Irish - <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/MunsterIrish/>. And in October 2013 I expanded my research further by launching, with these and two other gentlemen, Launcelot Brown and Joseph Carroll, the R1b-CTS4466 Plus Project - <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/R1b->

[CTS4466Plus/](#). This is a dedicated haplogroup project investigating the history and source of the Irish Type II subclade and the CTS4466 SNP which distinguishes the tribe of The O'Donoghue of the Glens. Anyone in the Glens tribe who has not yet joined the R1b-CTS4466 Plus Project is urged to do so.

There is more information on the Society website and the links for the two projects given above for anyone who is interested in learning more, and you are welcome to email me if you have any questions.

Referring more specifically to our Society Project, we have little to report this quarter, with only one new member, a McCartney who matches many of the Irish Type II men, including O'Donoghues. I have recently upgraded my computer to Excel 2007, which gives me much more flexibility with colouring the cells in the spreadsheets to reflect the off-modal values and their distance from the modal. It may take me a bit of time to make the change-over, but when I have the work complete, we will post new spreadsheets on the Society website with the improved appearance I can now provide. Remember that the pages at Family Tree are now accessible for the Society project at <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/ODonoghue/> if you wish to view the additional data available there, including a map with the location of everyone who has entered their ancestral location coordinates.

Warm Wishes for a Happy New Year to Everyone!