

# THE Y-DNA PROJECT

January 2015

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

We've had a relatively slow quarter for new results coming in, with no new members this time, but some very interesting SNP results are arriving.

The most exciting news is the arrival of BIG Y results for two more members of The Glens tribe. The results for The Glens himself were discussed in last quarter's report, noting a particular STR value of 13 at DYS485 that was unique to him and a number of other Glens members. Two other BIG Y tests were being processed, one with that same value of 13 and one without.

Kit 32032 matches that 13 at DYS485, and his BIG Y results match those of The Glens exactly. The other kit, 43423, matches some but not all of the SNPs uniting 32032 and The Glens. This points to a branching of The Glens direct line from the others of the Glens tribe, perhaps some centuries ago. Estimating dates is something I generally prefer to avoid, since there are just so many factors that could affect the accuracy of such predictions. However, it is conceivable that this branching may have occurred back as far as the timeframe when The Glens tribe left the Cashel area and settle in Kerry. The fact that 43423's last known antecedents were from Cork rather than Kerry may or may not be of significance.

There is another marker value of 13 at DYS444 that hints of a close connection to The Glens. There are five members who share that value, though they do not presently have 111 markers tested to see if they match the 13 at DYS485. I've repositioned them in the Society spreadsheet below the clusters that do have the DYS485 match. One of them has ordered the BIG Y during the Family Tree winter sale, as well as another member not as closely aligned, so these results will provide a deeper understanding of the tribe as a whole when they arrive.

We are discovering that there are often a number of SNPs, one downstream further than the other, in all the different haplogroups, and at times, it's difficult to determine which terminal SNP might be the correct one for an individual. (An example is the hierarchical tree for the Irish Type II/CTS4466 that can be downloaded from a Dropbox account at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/dot0v788d6hjz5d/CTS4466%20tree%2029-10-14.xlsx?dl=0>.) At such times, a single SNP test, at \$39, might not be adequate to find the correct branch.

However, Family Tree has now begun to introduce panel tests of all the significant SNPs discovered within the various major subclades. We are expecting a panel for CTS4466 sometime in the new year. The first to be made available is the M222 SNP Pack. It includes all SNPs that identify branches that have been discovered downstream of M222 and offers the opportunity for individuals who are aware they are in the M222 subclade to determine to which branch of the subclade they belong in one test. While this test is far more reasonable than the BIG Y, it cannot provide the opportunity to discover SNPs unique to the individual and help create further branching. Nevertheless, it can offer an alternative to the more expensive BIG Y.

Kit 82395 has already taken the M222 SNP Pack test, and his terminal SNP displays as R-A260 now. Any of you in the Cavan Group A would be able to avail of this test if you wished.

This is truly exciting to see relationships develop beyond what the STRs can tell us. We hope to see another sale for the BIG Y during the summer sale that Family Tree traditional offers, so if any of you would like to test your own DNA further, perhaps you can start saving for the time when a sale will help reduce the cost a bit more.

With all this new information about branches within tribes, it is apparent that the TMRCA spreadsheets I've been producing are not necessarily that accurate and may even be misleading in some instances. I will need to reassess what if any option would be more appropriate going forward, so I'll be removing all but the main spreadsheet with the haplotype data (Spreadsheet A) for now. If you feel there is a benefit to having this information in some form, please contact me and share your thoughts. It could help me decide what, if anything, to provide in future to replace these TMRCA spreadsheets.

As I've mentioned, there are haplogroup projects for all the major subclades, so any of you interested in looking further could join the appropriate project and pursue your researches further. The administrators of these projects are very helpful and will be more than happy to suggest what you might test. Please feel free to contact me directly for advice on where to go if you are not sure. With the number of different haplogroups and subclades present in a project of our size, it's difficult for me to be completely familiar with all of them, but I can certainly provide advice on where to go.

Family Tree are continuing to update their website and you will see changes in your personal pages as well as the display of haplogroup in the spreadsheets. Not everyone has a haplogroup designation displayed at the moment, but don't be concerned. In time, everything will be current.

Rod will let you all know when the spreadsheets are updated on the Society website.

Happy New Year to you all!