

## THE Y-DNA PROJECT

July 2011

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

This quarter, we have two new members of The Glens tribe and eight members with 68-111 results. There is a new member of the Mór tribe and three 68-11 results. We have two 68-111 results for Breifne Group A, though one is still awaiting one panel of results. There is also a new member of the Ruis Airgit?/Irish Type III tribe.

The new Donohue member of the Glens tribe is fairly close to several of the other Glens group, but probably past the time of paper trails to be able to confirm a relationship. The other new member is adopted, and while he is somewhat close to some members of the Glens group, there are other South Irish/Eóganacht names in his matches that are closer than the O'Donoghues.

Another adopted gentleman is quite close to two of the men in the first cluster of the Mór tribe and they are exploring possible connections.

The new member of the Ruis Airgit?/Irish Type III tribe is also adopted and matches some of the existing members of our group but also other Type III individuals, so there is no clear picture there either.

In addition, we have results for a participant funded by a member of the Glens tribe, sample taken when visiting in Ireland with an O'Donoghue currently living on the old home farm of that family when they still lived in Glenflesk. Based on the descriptions given by an aunt (slight exaggeration aside) the farm in question could be the only possible land which fitted the description of the aunt. The family of the current Michael O'Donoghue living there had been there for generations, so it seemed likely that his family would be related to the current cluster of O'Donoghues in the project, and it was with high hopes that they awaited the test results. As it turns out, we had a bit of a surprise. Not only was Michael not related to the cluster, he is not even R1b1b, but I2a. In addition, he matches with another O'Donoghue whose origins are Cork City, though their common ancestor is likely to have been before a genealogical time frame (less than 600 years according to Family Tree's calculations).

This illustrates how when surnames were adopted, the name had probably been taken in a tribal/territorial setting by families living under the protection of the local chief though not related by blood in the male line. Having happened long before any paper records could provide clarification, we can never know for sure, but it's quite conceivable that men marrying into the chief's family could have joined them rather than the wife returning with the husband to his own tribe/territory. It would be natural for the family to then take the surname of the chief, based on the wife's relationship with that family.

It may be a natural inclination when an O'Donoghue finds his yDNA does not match as expected to feel disappointed and fear an NPE (non-paternity event) to have occurred in his family at some point. However, unless other known male relatives are tested and their yDNA does not match the individual, there is really no reason to

suspect such an explanation. Carrying the name is always something to be proud of, and the O'Donoghue Society and the community of O'Donoghues, however spelled, are a group who cherish their heritage and value their relationship to each other, no matter which tribe, cluster or haplogroup to which they belong.

Regarding the 68-111 results that have come in, Family Tree now has the facilities with which to compare on your personal pages and our GAP (Group Administrator Page) to others who have also upgraded. The Dean McGee Utility used to populate the spreadsheets with TMRCA (Time to Most Recent Common Ancestor) and GD (Genetic Distance) figures have also been updated to accommodate the 111 markers, and generally, the additional markers change the TMRCA and GD very little between participants. There are four marker values that appear to separate the Glens tribe from the modal, and I have a tentative modal for the full 111 markers for L21 listed on Spreadsheet B. I've listed the tentative individual tribe modals for 68-111 on the sheets. The updated spreadsheets should be loaded shortly.

If anyone finds inaccuracies in the data or has suggestions to improve the site, please let us know.