

THE Y-DNA PROJECT

July 2012

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

There is a great deal of research being done by interested individuals tracing their genetic heritage, both within a genealogical timeframe (considered about 600 years or so) and earlier than that, a millennia or more, in an attempt to identify their deeper origins. A high percentage of them are Irish, with English and Scottish following close behind.

There are an increasing number of projects devoted to haplogroup subclades and particular SNP's. The R-L21 project is one of the bigger ones, where the participants are being grouped based on their haplotypes, even if they have no defining SNP's (such as the South Irish) downstream of L21. If any of you who haven't yet joined any other projects are interested in looking further, I would recommend the R-L21 project at <http://www.familyreedna.com/public/R-L21/default.aspx> . You do need to be tested for L21 to join, and many in the project have not tested that far yet. It's simple enough to request an SNP test for L21. It only costs \$29. A Deep Clade test has recently increased its scope and would test for a wider range of SNP's, including L21 for \$139 (unfortunately, Family Tree has not yet offered a sale on any SNP testing, but a single test is modest enough).

Several participants recently tested for a newly discovered SNP – DF13. It lies downstream of L21 but is estimated to be nearly as old. The majority of those who tested for it are positive, a very few are negative, and some of those DF13- have been found to be DF63+. Unless you are curious, I would not recommend anyone else further test for these particular SNPs - it's likely almost everyone in the project is DF13+. It would provide no real help in identifying closer relationships. However, if anyone has any questions about it, feel free to contact me.

For some tribes, such as the Glens/South Irish, there is still nothing below L21/DF13 for which a test would likely prove positive. If a new SNP raises its head that could be beneficial in identifying your heritage, in any of the clusters we have, we will certainly notify you.

For those of you who are interested in discovering more about your genetic signature, I would recommend you consider SNP testing, as mentioned above, or upgrading to more markers. We posted to everyone about the Summer Sale on at Family Tree, but by the time the Journal is published it may well be over. If you are curious but not sure what to do, feel free to contact me and I can suggest the best options for you.

We have a new member of the Breifne Group A, and we have several SNP results in for existing participants, as mentioned above. When participants have tested for a number of SNP's, I've begun to copy out all the results as shown on their Y-DNA Haplotype page. This can sometimes be a long list, so they won't all be visible in the SNP Results column, but you can see them all by placing the cursor on the cell and checking in the *fx* field on the banner just above the spreadsheet rows.

Another SNP result is in for kit 174583. He had tested earlier for L159.2 and was found to be positive. Another SNP, Z255, was recently discovered that is upstream of L159.2, and at my suggestion, John ordered it. While nearly everyone, up to now, is Z255+ if they are L159.2+, he has broken the mould. He is Z255-. There is only one other person tested so far, a Castle, who is also negative for Z255 and positive for L159.2.

As explained on the Interpretations link on the website, L159.2 is labelled '.2' because the same mutation has been found first in Haplogroup I-M26. Hence, when it was also discovered in R1b, they classified it L159.2. Since John's L159 had to have mutated separately from those who are Z255+, his L159 is now unofficially L159.3. This particular mutation, which occurs on the same spot on the chromosome in each case, is rather volatile, but still can have genealogical relevance. It is anticipated that more independent L159's will eventually be found in other testers.

I always wondered how John could be L159.2+ and not have any of the demarcating STR values that distinguish the L159.2 subclade. His coming from Tyrone was also out of character of the subclade. Now we know.

There is a new initiative underway since late last year to study the Irish genome – the Irish DNA Atlas - much like what has been done for the People of the British Isles Project. You can read about it at the website - <http://www.familyhistory.ie/index.php/en/2012-04-22-23-12-47> and they have a newsletter - http://www.familyhistory.ie/docs/DNA/DNA_01.pdf . They are recruiting participants, and if you fulfil the criteria, you can join – there is not cost. They ask that:

- All eight great grandparents should have been born in Ireland
- They should have been born in a 'group' in the same area e.g. within 30 Kilometres of each other. (There is flexibility with the size of a group.)
- You must be able to send them a copy of a completed pedigree chart before they issue a DNA sample pack.

If any of you fulfil the requirements, do consider joining the study. The more we find out about our ancient heritage, the more interesting it becomes.

If you have any questions or find inaccuracies in this report or on the website, please let me know.