

THE Y-DNA PROJECT

July 2015

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

This will be a brief report, since we've had a relatively quiet quarter this time, with just two participants receiving the remainder of their results in the 68-111 panels but no other upgrades or additional results arriving. However, the pleasant surprise was the arrival of a new member of the Mór group in Group B - DF5, matching Tighe O'Donoghue/Ross and John Roger O'Donoghue. Our new member has conflicting family stories of where their family originated in Ireland, but with the DNA results, it is apparent that Clare is the most likely candidate of the several possibilities. He matches Tighe at a genetic distance of only one (John Roger being a GD of 2) at 37 markers, and he has requested an upgrade to 111 markers, which will help clarify the likelihood of it being possible that they might be able to find their common ancestor with a bit of detective work, since our new participant knows no ancestor on the Irish side of the water. He has researched his family in California (not far from where Joseph A. Donohoe V lived, our deceased colleague who administered the Breifne Clans project and contributed to the Trinity College studies of Irish DNA) and has prepared an engaging family history that we hope to share in a future Journal article.

Reviewing the project participants, we have a number of participants who do not carry the O'Donoghue surname. Several have an adoption in their family and are aware their birth surname is O'Donoghue, of one spelling or another. A few believed their birth parent was an O'Donoghue, and those have thankfully been able to confirm that belief and find family. Unfortunately, some still do not know their birth surname, but with the increased number of men testing at Family Tree DNA, more possibilities have been discovered, and in some instances, O'Donoghue is now not necessarily the most likely surname to which they belong.

Some, at the time of their joining, appeared to be more closely related to some O'Donoghues in our project than anyone of their own surname. However, again, since that time, with the huge increase of men tested with Family Tree, by now, many of them have found other matching individuals of their own surname, and their participation in our project no longer serves the original purpose of finding matches. (Most of these are in the Glens group, and I have now separated them from the O'Donoghues in the spreadsheet.)

Some of these latter individuals have already left the project, recognizing the presence in our project is no longer necessary or appropriate. A number of them fulfill the criteria to belong to the Munster Irish project that I also administer, so we haven't lost touch. Some could join the Munster Irish project if they wished, and I will be contacting them over the next while to suggest that to them, also recommending that it is no longer necessary for them to remain in our O'Donoghue Society project. I hope no one will be offended by this, but our project's focus is O'Donoghues, while such as the Munster Irish has a broader remit and will be more useful to them.

If anyone has been considering dipping into SNP testing to find out more about their heritage, I'd be happy to discuss the options with them. There are haplogroup projects, such as the R1b-CTS4466 Plus project I administer, that focus on those SNPs, and I could advise the best choice for a member to join to explore their genetic history further.

Rod will be updating the new spreadsheet on the Society website shortly, and you can always see the results on the Family Tree website as well at <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/ODonoghue/>. I will be amending the Society website shortly with the new results.