

THE Y-DNA PROJECT

July 2007

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

In this recent quarter, we have had six new participants join the Project. There are three new Kerry Eoghanacht/Glens members, one a Peters who was adopted and has found a close connection in the Glens tribe, two new Mór members, and a Forbes with a close match to the *Osraighe?* tribe as well. In addition there are additional markers for one of the *Breifne Group A* and a Glens member. The spreadsheets are updated to reflect these additions.

I have added a column for **Origins** in the Cavan/Breifne spreadsheet this quarter, but I have many blanks. For those of you reviewing your records, in the Kerry Eoghanacht spreadsheets as well, if my information is inaccurate or the data is missing, please let me know - (elizabethod@eircom.net). And I'm still looking for more blood types. Thanks to those who have helped me and given me their information. I am collecting siblings and relatives as well, as long as they are born O'Donoghues (rather than married into the tribe).

We have an increasing number of participants with 67 marker results. These seem to be very consistent, not only amidst our own tribes, but generally across the whole R1b haplogroup. There are, however, a few markers that show differences between the tribes.

When looking at the TMRCA (Time to Most Recent Common Ancestor) spreadsheets, as I have pointed out in the past, the calculations provided by Family Tree are only probabilities. They are in no way definitive, and particularly when the surnames are different in our very large R1b haplogroup, it's possible that the apparent match is only an instance of convergence – when the alleles happen to be the same, but the ancestry is totally different. Other explanations could be that there is an adoption somewhere in the family history, a name change for some reason, or a possible non-paternity event (NPE) sometime in the past. In many cases, the connection between different surnames with close matches is probably much more distant than the calculated TMRCA would suggest – most likely prior to the adoption of surnames, around 1000 AD. Having said that, when the participant is aware that their geographic origins are close to the tribal area of the group to which they match, this would, in my opinion, increase the likelihood that there is indeed a true connection.

As the two Kerry Eoghanacht tribes continue to gain more members, the additions still support the patterns existing there. The Eoghanacht Cashel/Glens have a more recent common ancestry than the Mór line. The additional Glens members remain quite consistent in their TMRCA, with most being within 1000 years if not considerably less. The Mór line, on the other hand, has shown itself to be a much older line, which is consistent with the tradition of the Raithlind/O'Donoghue Mór being the most senior and oldest branch of the Eoghanacht. Other branches of the group separated over time, including the Eoghanacht Cashel/Glens. We had

originally included the small group now listed as *Osraighe?* in the Mór tribe, until I was made aware of a distinctive subgroup of R1b found in Ireland containing several specific marker values unique to this group of three. With their place of origin all being outside of Kerry, it seemed likely that they were a separate Eoghanacht group. I reported on this discovery in more depth in the last Journal report. Since then, Rick Forbes has joined that group. He bears the distinction of having tested for more markers than any other member of the Project in his quest for learning about his heritage. While his family most recently originated in Scotland, he matches the *Osraighe?* group quite closely – only a genetic distance of 4 at 67 markers, closer than anyone else in the Family Tree database, including other Forbes. This could be a case, as Rick suspects, of a name change somewhere along the way. Since there is tradition supported by yDNA comparisons, that some of the Scottish clans were founded by the Irish moving to the bigger island, including Munster Irish, this gives credence to Rick's suspicion.

I again suggest that all the members of the Project add their data to Ysearch. There is so much genetic genealogy research going on right now, that it is to everyone's advantage to have your data made available to as wide an audience as possible. Researchers who may have projects/studies/data with a different genetics lab regularly frequent Ysearch because it is such a large database. If you are unwilling to have your own email address listed as a contact, you can route any inquiries through Family Tree. They will forward any note of inquiry regarding your yDNA details and you have the option to respond or ignore, as you see fit. As Administrator, I would be able to add your data to Ysearch myself, so if you wish, I can help you to do so.