

THE Y-DNA PROJECT

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

We are delighted that the new Results link has been well received and visited since it was launched in August. If any of you have any suggestions regarding its format and content, do let us know.

We will soon be adding spreadsheets to the Society website link similar to those that our late Administrator, Tom Donahue, had compiled in the past. With the help of Family Tree DNA and their improved statistical analysis, we can now chart more accurately the probability of TMRCA (Time to Most Recent Common Ancestor).

Tom's charts were based on 50% probability of TMRCA, while Joe Donohoe's Cavan/Briefne statistics are based on 95-99% probability. We have decided to go forward with 95% probability as well, which will automatically increase the distance for the likelihood of closeness to others for all of you who have been in the project since last year, and have seen the spreadsheets Tom had produced through October 2004. A point to keep in mind is that all of these statistics are just probabilities. It is possible that the connection to other members of the tribe to which you belong is actually closer, or more distant, than the figures you will see. There will never be a way to be *sure* beyond the information provided by a paper trail or family history you may have. For those of you who have close ties – less than 600 years distant – the odds are greater that you can rely more upon the accuracy of the statistics you see. For connections further back than that, it is best to consider the dates a general indication of time of relatedness.

The Glens group, as a whole, are all related within about 1000 years, which is roughly the time of Awly Mór, when after his death, the division of the Lough Léin dynasty was split between the tribes of Mór and Glen. While many histories have suggested that the lands were divided between the sons of Awly Mór, the yDNA results early on made it clear that they could not have been biological sons. Tom's reports addressed that issue to some degree. If we rely upon 95% probability, the connection between the two tribes reaches back to the most likely time of the invasions of the Milesians, the forebears of the Eóghanacht dynasties.

I am continuing with my research on the 'Scythian connection'. In relation to that, if any of you know your blood type, I would be most curious to find out what it is. There may be some patterns there that would prove interesting. You can email me at elizabethod@eircom.net to let me know.

The greater number of participants in the Project we have, the more accurate we can be in our deliberations. The addition of even one person's results can make a difference. I've already had to adjust the 'ancestral modal haplotype' for the Breifne Group B, after an additional person joined us. We encourage any of you who have been considering adding your genes to the pool to do so! If you are also interested in the National Geographic

Genographic Project (<https://www3.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/>), the most cost effective way to avail of both is to join the Genographic Project first and then join our Surname Project after (that saves the \$15 conversion fee to join the Genographic from our Project).

Rod will send out an email as soon as we have the new spreadsheets finalized and uploaded onto the yDNA link.