

THE Y-DNA PROJECT

January 2020

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

Another year has passed and a new decade has arrived. Looking back, The O'Donoghue Society Y-DNA Project began 17 years ago in 2003, sponsored by Rod and the Society and led by Prof Tom Donahue. One of Prof Tom's early reports boasted 21 individuals enrolled. We now have 322. While some are ladies and/or gents with O'Donoghue ancestry, some with other tests – mtDNA and Family Finder/autosomal DNA - and some are now inactive accounts, the vast majority are gentlemen of the name or with O'Donoghue male ancestors with Y-DNA tests. Fortunately, we have been able to place most of them in one of the seventeen identified tribes and septs of O'Donoghue in its many variant forms.

As a point of interest, here are some of the Project Statistics:

Statistic Type	Count
Total Members	322
Big Y	53
DISTINCT mtDNA Haplogroups	52
DISTINCT Y-DNA Confirmed Haplogroups	45
Family Finder	85
Maternal Ancestor Information	139
mtDNA	68
mtDNA Full Sequence	37
mtDNA Plus	55
Paternal Ancestor Information	188
Y-DNA Subgroups	27
Y-DNA111	84
Y-DNA67	146
Y-DNA37	222
Y-DNA25	234
Y-DNA12	247

Over the years, there are some surnames of similar spelling/sound that we would not have necessarily believed to be related to O'Donoghue, but the Y-DNA tells us otherwise. How the shift in name spelling occurred is nearly impossible to determine. For instance, there are some Dunaway/Dunniways who match closely to The Glens lineage, despite no known geographic proximity to Kerry/Cork. The surname itself is generally considered to be English, so how it became connected to the line of an Irish chieftain is quite puzzling. Maybe someone/s from The Glens line emigrated over to England, and decided to use the spelling Dunaway to blend in with their new homeland?

Another example is the genetic connection of a Donahue and Donaghy, previously included in the Cavan Group A – M222. There are a number of different lineages within the overall Cavan/Briefne tribal grouping in addition to those with the Irish Type I/Northwest Irish haplotype. Up to now, I have placed anyone with that Irish Type I/Northwest Irish haplotype under the Cavan/Briefne tribe. This was convenient, but perhaps not the most correct way to look at it.

One Donahue gentleman whose family came from county Tyrone matches most closely to Donaghys. From conversing with Donaghy researchers and searching blogs, he was able to discover that Donaghys from Tyrone emigrating to America changed their spelling to Donahue and conversely that Donahues in America had relatives in Ireland using Donaghy. Now, MacLysaght shows Donaghy as a variant of MacDonagh in Tyrone; and there are several septs of Mac Donnchadha known throughout Ireland. One sept in Cork is considered a branch of McCarthys that Rod discusses and suggests 'were O'Donoghues who decided to align themselves opportunistically with the MacCarthys' on The Society website - <https://www.odonoghue.co.uk/names-variants/resources-361.html> - (I believe you have to be a member to access that page, one of many reasons to join if you haven't already!)

In any case, we have added a new group/sept of O'Donoghue/Donohue to our spreadsheet - <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/ODonoghue?iframe=yresults> - 'F. MacDonnchadha - M222'. We are thankful to the help of our member in identifying this sept and encourage others who have been researching their own line of O'Donoghue/Donohue to likewise share their discoveries in hopes of further expanding our understanding of the origins of the name.

For those of you who have not yet entered your genealogy details on your Account Settings link – most distant ancestors, location, etc. - should try to do so. Any information is helpful to Rod and I in administering the project and would also be of use to your matches. Adding your location of origin will also include you on the Y-DNA Member Distribution Map - <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/ODonoghue?iframe=ymap>. (Note it may take a few moments to load completely.)

Also, there are some kits mailed out that have never been returned. If any of you reading this are one of those folks, please – sent them back! If you have paid for a kit but can't find it, let me know and I'll get Family Tree to send out another one. It would be a shame to waste the opportunity to research your genetic heritage. And for those Society members who are curious but haven't yet taken the plunge – Family Tree regularly has sales, and Rod lets you

all know about them. So, please think about it next time you are alerted to another sale. Just let us know if you have any questions.