

# THE Y-DNA PROJECT

January 2017

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

There has been a hiatus from the quarterly reports I used to compile to correspond with the Society's quarterly Journal, the last one being in July 2016. And here we are, already in 2017!

As we all can have happen, I have other commitments that are taking more time than in the past, and I fear that 'old age' is upon me, to the extent that I have less energy with which to accomplish all that I would wish to do.

I have not been giving the project the attention that I believe it deserves, most significantly keeping the spreadsheet on the Society website up to date, which has to be maintained manually. I did organize the Results page spreadsheet on the Family Tree website in a limited way and made it available so it would be current, even if the Society spreadsheet was out of date. Now, I have concluded that while I can continue to manage the text on the website links, I am going to update the Results spreadsheet on the Family Tree website to reflect more fully the format I've been using for the Society spreadsheet and provide the link to reach that page, rather than duplicate one for the Society as well.

One thing that differs on the current Society spreadsheet is that I include an 'Origins in Ireland' column to input that information if the participant knows where their family originated in Ireland. While that information is often somewhere else in the participant's account pages, unless they include it in the Paternal Ancestor Name field which displays in the spreadsheet, as some do, no one will know about it except Rod and me, who have access to all the data as administrators.

As an action item for all you participants, please try to squeeze in where your family came from if you know and haven't noted it in that Paternal Ancestor Name field already.

A second difference is that I include all the SNPs that have been tested in an 'SNP Results' column in addition to the Haplogroup designation that Family Tree provides. They show in green the terminal SNP as tested for everyone, such as [R-BY2881](#) or [R-BY11464](#), but they don't include other SNPs upstream or those tested negative. This will be a change, but it's possible that few ever studied that additional detail anyway, so it may be no loss.

Now, to summarize the results we have seen since my last report...

A number of participants have received results from other tests taken such as Family Finder, but my expertise does not include these sorts of tests so I'm not able to offer much assistance there. The focus of the project is Y-DNA, and of those tests, we've had several STR upgrades come in, an SNP Pack and several individual SNP test results come in. Also two participants have

received results from their BIG Y tests, the most comprehensive DNA test that Family Tree offers, testing both STRs and SNPs.

It's through the BIG Y tests that discoveries are being made which help identify more precisely where in the haplotree the participant belongs as well as indentifying 'private' SNPs that they have. Any close matches would share some if not all of those SNPs.

As an example, through the R1b-CTS4466 Plus haplogroup project, which I also administer, we first BIG Y tested The Glens, and we found the general branch in which he belonged. Then another STR matching participant tested the BIG Y, and we've identified the surname-specific branch of The Glens, defined by the SNP A914.

We have also discovered that not all of the Irish Type II participants in The Glens/Eóganacht Cashel group are descended directly from The Glens as is proposed in the genealogical records of the history of The Glens tribe (as well as all the other tribes with an ostensible eponymous ancestor). I made mention of this in a general way in the last Report.

The genealogical history of the various O'Donoghue/Donohoe tribes do not conform as simply as the genealogical tracts would suggest. But those tracts have traditionally been considered suspect, so finding out that they are not necessarily accurate came as no surprise. I do repeat, however, that all those of the name whose ancestry belongs to the territory of the different O'Donoghue/Donohoe tribes should rightly consider themselves to be part of the tribe, regardless if they've Y-DNA tested or not, and when if tested - in The Glens and the Mór tribes - whether they match the tribal chief's Y-DNA or not. The name units us all.

Two other participants in different groups have also recently tested the BIG Y, and it has given them a sense of 'genetic home' within a broader picture of the big haplotree that is R1b.

There are an increasing number of haplogroup projects that cater to and assist DNA testers who are interested in finding out more about their deep ancestry. While I have expertise in the CTS4466 haplogroup of The Glens through the R1b-CTS4466 Plus project, if a participant is interested in testing more deeply, I do recommend they join the appropriate haplogroup project for additional assistance and expertise. I can always steer them in the right direction.

If any of you are considering testing further, or testing for the first time, do feel free to contact me to ask about it.

My intention is to begin twice-yearly reports going forward, and Rod will include them in the Society Journal as well as posting them on the DNA Reports page of the Y-DNA Project link on the Society website.

If I have neglected to contact any of you participants who have recently joined us or not followed up on inquiries made, please contact me yourselves with any questions you may have. I will answer them promptly.

\*A reminder - if anyone sees mistakes or omissions in any of the text we have about the project or on the Family Tree website, please let me know. Suggestions are always welcome.