

yDNA PROJECT REPORT

Quarterly report from Tom Donahue (Member 5), the society's Group Administrator

Genealogy

The yDNA project is under a good head of steam with 39 members of whom 32 have returned their kits for analysis. Virtually all participants have signed on for the 25 marker test, which we recommend if the analysis of results is to be very useful. The results, presented, as in the past, in terms of the number of generations required with 50% probability to get to the most recent common male ancestor (tMRCMA) of two individuals are contained in the appended table.

Those who are clearly of Kerry O Donoghues of the Glen or of O Donoghue Mor (Ross) descent average 103 generations to their common male ancestor.

A continuing success story is that of John Michael O Donoghue (5). John is closest among us to Geoffrey Paul Vincent, The O Donoghue of the Glen. He has also matched at 25 sites with Gerard Gabriel O Donoghue of the UK (6). Previous detective work turned up John's Glenflesk/Killarney relatives. Now we think we understand how these O Donoghues of Gortdromakerrie and Barraduff are linked to Gerry's ancestors who moved to West Cork quite a while ago.

One of our members, Tighe (16) is an O Donoghue of Ross, and, because of their genetic proximity to him, we have assigned Rod (9) Mike (13) and John (15) to that sept as well. In my last report I related that Rod and Mike of Indianapolis matched at all 25 sites. Shortly afterward we learned that John O Donoghue of Carrick-on-Shannon did the same. So we have to find origins for three close cousins who had no prior knowledge of the existence of the others before our project came along. Fortunately, John's family has remained on the land in Coshe Mainge near Castlemaine and Abbeyfeale. Mike knows that his family has Coshe Mainge connections and Rod has hints in family lore that his ancestors also came from that part of Kerry. We have a promising family - that of John Donnoghue and Nora Leahy - who lived in the townland of Cools just on the Killarney-Killaha parish boundary south of the road to Barraduff and Mallow in the early 1800s, and this family may be the common link. These three participants have just had their 37 marker analysis carried out to refine somewhat our understanding of their relationship.

The Donohoes of Cavan who have been recruited for the project by the head of their society, Joseph Donohoe (10) of San Francisco, are an inhomogeneous group. Two (19) and (20) have tMRCA with Kerry O Donoghues not much greater than the 103 average among the latter. Perhaps, after all, there is something to the legend that O Donoghues who marched north with O Sullivan Beare after Kinsale, or would not return to Munster after the Boyne, remained in Cavan with Donohoes they found there. Joseph, himself, and James (11) of Ulster extraction are quite distant genetically from the rest of the project participants except Thomas R.(17) of Washington D C whose family is from Wexford and Joseph M. Donahue of Chillicothe, Ohio (18), a perfect 25 marker match with Thomas R.! The case of the Wexford family is perplexing. In tMRCMA they match up well with Joseph and James of Ulster which leaves us with the unlikely

possibility that their ancestors emigrated from Ulster to Leinster a long time ago.

Irish Septs

Before I examine our findings it may help if I give a brief description of the currently recognized tribal history in Ireland. The annals tell us that the Fir Bolg arrived in the country before the Milesians. The former, together with their contemporaries the Fir Domnann, the Laigin and the Ulaidh, are ethnologically classed as the Erainn. Tribes of this origin are prefixed generally with names like Corcu (perhaps meaning seed of) or ending in 'aighe' such as the Ciarraighe (black people) or Osraighe (deer people). The tribes of the second migration, the Milesian (the Gaels or Goidels), carry names like Eoghanachta (descendants of Eoghan) or Connachta (descendants of Conn). The annalists provided synthetic genealogies for our ancestors and so, in reality, ancestral tribal history is very confused.

Some of us in the project are interested in comparing our set of O Donoghues with members of other Irish and Scottish septs to test longstanding origin stories, such as the distinction, if real, between Milesians, the Eoghanachta and the O Neills (Connachta), and other Irish people - the Erainn or the Ulaidh, for example. In our last report I discussed our close relationship, genetically, with McCarthys who have their own project at Family Tree DNA. McCarthys average only 105 generations in tMRCMA from O Donoghues. This was not surprising in retrospect, although the indistinguishability of O Donoghues and McCarthys perhaps was. After all, our founding story has us descending from the Eoghanacht Eochu who came to West Cork from (presumably) Cashel about 65 generations ago. But this picture has been confused now by a comparison with the O Sheas who also have a thriving project. The O Sheas are Kerry Erainn, Corcu Duibne, who are supposed to be of Fir Bolg origin - at least not Milesian.

The O Sheas were dispossessed by McCarthy invaders of the Iveraght peninsula in the 12th Century (some of them acquired a Milesian cover story later when they appeared in places like Tipperary). The O Sheas are on average only 92 generations in tMRCMA from the O Donoghues - and a fortiori - from the McCarthys.

These results have led me to explore our relationship to other septs and clans of Ireland and Scotland. The results are in tMRCMA McTiernan 97 and 180, O Moore 75 and 180, Kincaid 114, Kinney-McKinney 145, McCain 180 generations. McTiernans are from Cavan, Sligo and Connacht with links to O Rourke. There are clearly two lots, one much more distant from us than the rest. The same holds for the Moores. There are two sorts of Moores in Ireland and our survey exposes them. There are English settlers and the Leinster tribe of O Mordha, the greatest of the seven tribes of Leix. But the O Moores were supposed to be Laigin and not Milesian. yDNAwise they take their place alongside the Corcu Duibne O Sheas.

The Kincaids are an important clan from Stirlingshire in Scotland who are well established in Antrim, Derry and Sligo. The O Cathain were members of Cineal Eoghan who inhabited the Laigin district of Donegal before moving into Derry and Galway. The name is a common one in Coleraine and Antrim. There were also O Cains in Waterford. They afford us the chance to compare the Ur Milesian O Donoghues and O Neills and the result is not exactly a triumph for the sons of Mil. The McCains are about equally far from the Cavan Donohoes represented by Joseph and the Kerry O Donoghues - 200 and

180 generations, respectively. There are all sorts of Kinneys, a bunch of Scandinavians and a couple of other exotic types. If we look at the R1b haplotype (Western Europe - Atlantic modal) alone, we find the 145 generations result.

A preliminary conclusion is that there seem to be at least two strands of people in Ireland but that the distinction is not between the classical Milesian Goidels and “others” such as Erainn (the Laigin and the Ulaidh). More data and more study may bolster or modify this conclusion.

To join the O Donoghue yDNA Project go to

www.familytreedna.com/ftGroupInfo.asp?kit=D3431&code=B1459&ga=True&yt=False&mt=False&a2=0&sd=True&pat=False&group=ODonoghue&act=updatelist

The table below shows the results in terms of tMRCMA for current participants.

tMRCMA in generations with 50% probability

O D	A	1	2	3	4	5	6	9	13	15	16	14	19	20	12	17	18	10	11
A		107	123	143	53	35	44	210	210	210	123	182	140	154	220	192	180	230	188
1	107		90	107	90	73	73	153	153	153	123	109	140	140	180	183	183	174	180
2	123	90		27	120	90	106	77	77	77	90		80	91	175	105	105	210	121
3	143	107	27		140	90	123	92	92	92	95	90	106	98	180	125	125	192	160
4	53	90	120	140		35	44	183	183	183	90	120	106	140	180	120	120	172	150
5	35	73	90	90	35		19	141	141	141	90	140	106	123	145	160	160	212	150
6	44	73	106	123	44	19		150	150	150	107	150	140	155	158	140	140	205	160
9	210	153	77	92	183	141	150		7	7	36	77	140	123	162	150	150	198	160
13	210	153	77	92	183	141	150	7		7	36	77	140	123	162	150	150	198	160
15	210	153	77	92	183	141	150	7	7		36	77	140	123	162	150	150	198	160
16	123	123	90	95	90	90	107	36	36	36		92	80	120	140	102	102	210	170
14	182	109	60	90	173	140	150	77	77	77	92		107	140	124	150	150	240	160
19	140	140	80	106	106	106	140	140	140	140	80	107		110	200	123	123	195	106
20	154	140	91	98	140	123	155	123	123	123	120	140	110		120	110	110	155	123
12	220	180	175	180	180	145	158	162	162	162	140	124	200	120		183	183	290	240
17	192	183	105	125	120	160	140	150	150	150	102	150	123	110	183		7	121	55
18	180	183	105	125	120	160	140	150	150	150	102	150	123	110	183	7		121	55
10	230	174	210	192	172	212	205	198	198	198	210	240	195	155	290	121	121		122
11	188	180	121	160	150	150	160	160	160	160	170	160	106	123	240	55	55	122	

O Donoghue	Residence	Origin
A Geoffrey Paul Vincent	IR	Glen
The O Donoghue of the Glen		
1 Dwaine J O Donohue	Ontario	Clare
2 Donald Donahue	MI	Glen
3 Thomas M Donahue	MI	Glen
4 Florence O Donoghue	Glen	Glen
5 John M O Donoghue	Au	Glen
6 Gerard G O Donoghue	UK	Glen
9 Rod O Donoghue	UK	Kerry
10 Joseph A Donohoe	SF CA	Cavan
11 James A. Donohue	NJ	Ulster
12 Vincent J Donohoe	WI	Offaly
13 Michael C. Donahue	IN	Kerry
14 Thomas J. Preusser	WI	Laois
15 John O Donoghue	IR	Kerry
16 Tighe O Donoghue	IR	Kerry
17 Thomas R. Donahue Jr.	DC	Wexford
18 Joseph M. Donahue	OH	IR
19 Michael Joseph Donohoe	IR	Cavan
20 Michael Nmi Donohoe	IR	Cavan

