

THE Y-DNA PROJECT

January 2021

**Report from the Society's Group Administrators,
Compiled by Elizabeth O'Donoghue/Ross**

Hello, Everyone.

Welcome to 2021! Our new co-administrators have been active and helping us expand our study and research of the O'Donoghue surname with all its spelling. Rod and I are very thankful for their commitment and enthusiasm. This report is a group effort, with Rod and Mike contributing. Philip has accepted the task of reviewing previous project reports (available at <https://www.odonoghue.co.uk/projects/project-1/reports>) to identify information that would be useful to have added to our Results/Interpretations pages on The O'Donoghue Society website.

First, welcome to the new members of the project. We hope you have read through the links to the DNA Project pages on The O'Donoghue Society website, <https://www.odonoghue.co.uk/projects/project-1.html>, all the account links on your Home Dashboard at Family Tree as well as the project website at Family Tree - <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/o-donoghue/about/background> . You will see on the Y-DNA Results charts - <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/o-donoghue/dna-results> - where you have been placed, based on your YDNA matches and the location of your ancestors in Ireland. If you haven't completed the fields in the Genealogy tab of your Account Settings (click your name at the top right of your Dashboard and choose that link) please do so.

Mike has followed up on his 'call to arms' this past November urging members who haven't yet done so to upgrade their testing, explaining the value of testing to the maximum 111 markers and particularly the Big Y for extensive SNP testing:

It's been an active year for the Society's Y-DNA project. Fifteen members have updated to the Big-Y and a similar number upgraded to the Y-111 level. This has allowed individual members and the O'Donoghue Society as a whole to document our shared history more clearly. For example, thanks to Y-DNA testing, members found matches with the surnames Dunaway, Dennehy and Danaher.

It would be valuable to us all if we could double those numbers in 2021. Upgrading to the Big Y 700 will identify to which branch of the [Y-haplotree](#) you belong, placing you amidst others who share a common ancestor, even before surnames. Closer to home, it can establish which of your [Y-STR matches](#) (via the 37/67/111 markers tested) are truly related in a genealogical timeframe.

Rod has pointed out:

Our DNA project has shown us how related many people with very different names are to folk of the more traditional spellings. Some of these crossovers have been described in a couple of journal articles this year. (You must be a member of the Society to access them, so please consider joining if you haven't yet to have more access to the Society website and support its efforts.) In April 2020, we had *In Search of Dunaway origins* by Will Dunning. Dunaway had been considered a name whose origins lay in England, but Gary Dunaway and Will's DNA results showed that they were of the Eoghanacht Cashel/Glens group. In October, Rod wrote *Danaher-Dennehy-O'Donoghue: How they overlap*. In this case we knew that Danaher and Dennehy were primarily of Kerry, Cork and Limerick origin. However, for a number of people of both names their DNA results showed that they were closely aligned with O'Donoghue. Rod went back into the historical records to show how this might have happened.

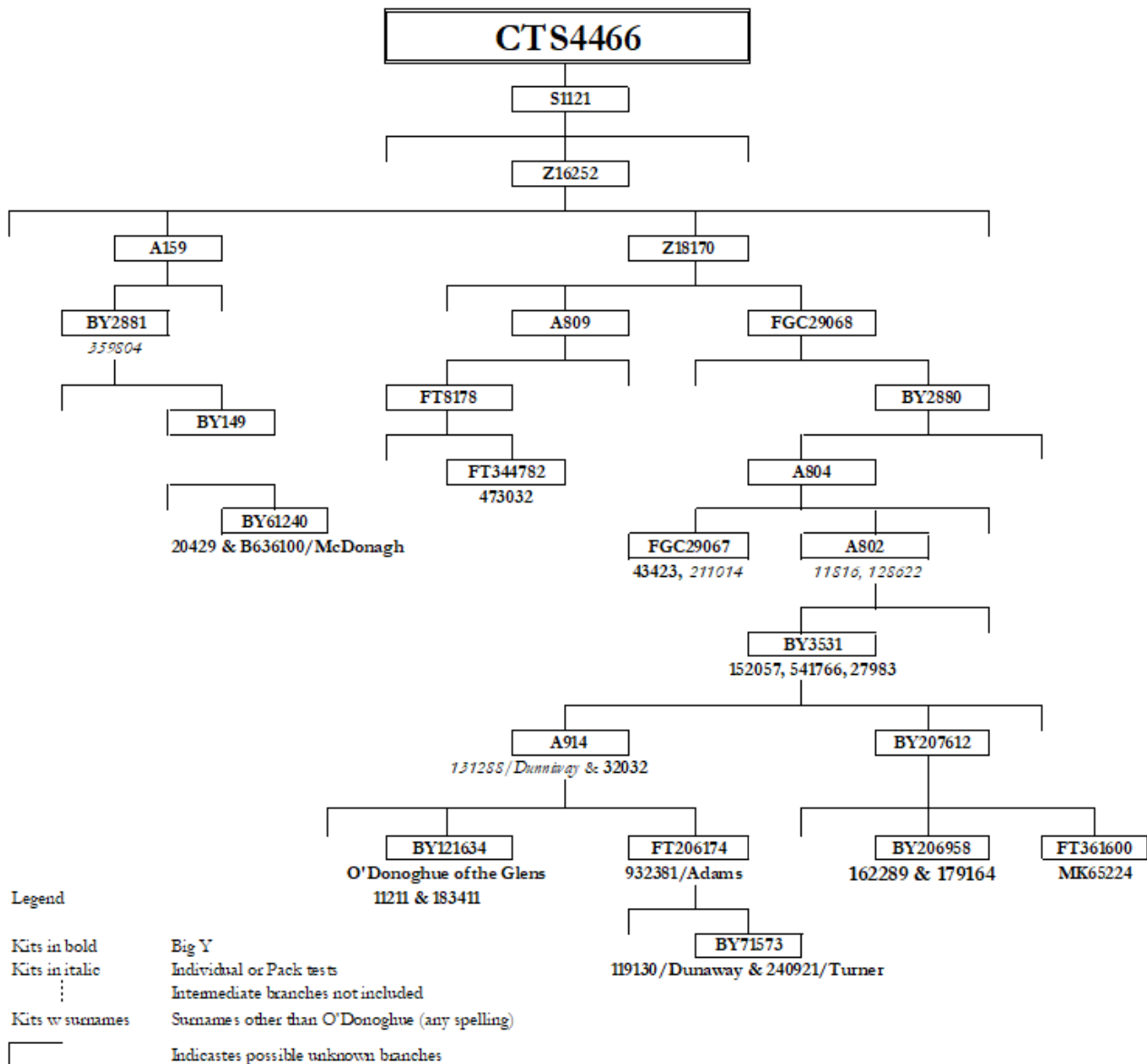
People changed their names or the spelling of them for a variety of reasons, often unknown to their descendants. In the January 2012 journal, Lois Dunchue wrote *Bernard Benjamin Montague Dunchue – a mystery man*; a really good case in point where Donohoe was changed to Dunchue. DNA showed that he was of Cavan origin and Lois is still trying to track down his ancestors.

There is more to be done. The names MacDonagh and Donaghey figure in the O'Donoghue DNA population. Research into the historical records may help us understand better the background to these cases.

I would now like to continue on from my comments in the July 2020 report about the Glens groups and their different branches marked by the CTS4466 SNP. (Find the report at the top of the list at <https://www.odonoghue.co.uk/projects/project-1/reports>. I recommend you reread the paragraphs discussing them). I have prepared a shortened version of the CTS4466 Y haplotree to illustrate how SNP testing provides a clear path in discovering how the members of the Glens/CTS4466 group relate to each other (see below on next page)

I have only included participants who have tested beyond CTS4466. Overall, those who have tested the Big Y are placed more definitively in branches further down the tree, closer to present day. This precision is achieved by the number of people testing, hence Mike's fervent recommendation that more participants test. A few kits Big Y tested are waiting for more 'cousins' to test to move them to a more recent branch.

Each project member has a 'Haplotree & SNPs' link under the Y-DNA section on the FTDNA Homepage Dashboard. This provides a summation of the whole haplotree of the main branch of the tree to which they belong – mainly R1b (quite enormous – the most populous of the branches (A 'Adam' to T) and some R1a and I. The chart above is a very small part of it. Those who have SNP tested will have more detail, based on their specific branch. Those who haven't SNP tested are shown as the default for R1b - M269, R1a – M512, etc. You'll see this in the Haplogroup column of the Y-DNA Results charts (link above). Those predicted are in red font, those tested are in green font.



As we've explained, to know for sure how closely related you are to an STR match when you do not have a paper trail to clarify the relationship, you would need to SNP test to find out more. So.....save up for the next sale!