

THE Y-DNA PROJECT

October 2008

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

The genetic genealogical community have recently changed the nomenclature defining the different sub-clades with the major haplogroups – R1b being almost exclusively the haplogroup in our project. The string of numbers and letters has gotten longer, and there is still a bit of difference between certain bodies such as ISOGG (International Society of Genetic Genealogists) and Family Tree. For the sake of clarity for our project members who have their results listed at Family Tree, I will use their designations when referring to haplogroups. For the majority of you who would have seen R1b1c or R1b1c7 listed on your personal page, it is now R1b1b2 and R1b1b2e. It seems rather tedious and complicated, but alas, we'll have to adjust. I'm happy to point out, though, that R1b1c7 has become immortalized in California at least, where Bernard Donahue has used it to customize his license plate number to R1b1c7 (and the license plate cover contains 'TWICE BLESSED' above the number and 'IRISH AMERICAN' beneath it).

We have more new members and upgrades to add to our spreadsheets – five new Glens members, an upgrade in the Breifne Group A and a Donaho from another project who has joined ours as well.

I mentioned Clan Donnachaidh in the July report, and as it happens, a member of that project has joined our own since then as well. I had said that 'we do see relatively close matches to some of their members. This is to be expected if you consider the tradition that the Scottish clan originated from Munster Eoghanacht.'

Having said that, the haplotype of Hugh Donnachie has created an interesting situation. At 37 markers, his haplotype closely matches that of a subgroup currently listed in the Mór lineage. In my previous 'Interpretations' link, I referred to them in this paragraph.

The next group of five men share a value of 10 at DYS 391, which is the off-modal value of the Glens tribe for that marker. The one gentleman who knows his place of origin in Ireland is from Cavan. Another matching participant in the Breifne Clans project is also from Cavan. While a migration from the Cork/Kerry area could explain this, it does give me a bit of pause in feeling secure they are definitely part of the Mór tribe. They do not, in any case, match any other of the Cavan/Breifne tribes; and another member still living in the north Kerry/Limerick area also has the 10 at DYS 391, so for now, they are all included in the Mór group.

None of these five gentlemen are currently tested to 67 markers, but Hugh Donnachie's last 30 markers differ by five from the Mór modal (and remember that these last 30 markers are overall the slowest mutating markers in the set of 67). Reviewing Hugh's tests, I found that he had obtained Deep Clade test results, which measure a series of SNP's (see 'Interpretations' link for add'l info) which are found in

the R1b haplogroup. Several of our other participants have had the Deep Clade test done, and except for those from the Breifne Group A (who are of the Northwest Irish Modal Haplotype, distinguished by the SNP of M222), none of the other members had any SNP to differentiate them from the widest group of R1b1b. However, Hugh is positive for an SNP – U152 – which places him in the R1b1b2h sub-clade.

This means that he cannot be related to the Mór lineage in any close timeframe, regardless of what his STR markers values are or how close they seem to be to the Mór tribe. It also means that in all likelihood, at least some if not all of the five members in the cluster that I've included in the Mór tribe probably don't belong there. I will be making contact with them to suggest they either upgrade their STR's or consider a Deep Clade test to find out for sure. Hopefully by the next quarterly report, we may know more.

This gives us an opportunity to research the possible history of this group of O'Donoghues and what tribe they may be part of, if indeed there is a historical tribe of O'Donoghues to which they belong. I will be researching this in the coming months.

We also have our first member who has been tested at a different lab. Not all of Family Tree's markers have been tested at SMFG (Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation), so some boxes are blank in his haplotype, but he clearly belongs to the Glens tribe. I used an online calculator <http://www.mymcgee.com/tools/yutility.html> to determine his genetic distance from the rest of the tribe. If these missing markers are tested, we will have a greater confidence in the relative accuracy of the predictions.

I appeal again to participants who have not responded to me regarding their family history and location in Ireland (or elsewhere) of their ancestors to do so, even if it is just to tell me they don't know, so I can update the spreadsheets B & C in the 'Origins' column.