

Season's Greetings!

It has been a very busy year in the O'Shea yDNA Project and as 2009 draws to a close, we thought we would update you on what has been going on during the year.

Websites to help Paper Trails

Firstly, three free online research opportunities have arisen through the following:

Most recently, the website: <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie> was re-launched with the Catholic Kerry church records, acquired from the Kerry Heritage Centre and the Dublin Heritage Centre. It is hoped that some Cork records will go online in the near future. This website is already helping many of our Kerry members to further their paper trail research to complement their yDNA results. It is a milestone in Kerry research to have access to these Catholic church records. Note, the above website does not indicate which records are included in its database and there are undoubtedly gaps as some records may not exist while others may not have been included in the digitization done by the Kerry Heritage Centre.

As most of you know, the 1911 Census is now online for all 32 counties of Ireland at: <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search/>

Check for "OShea" in the 1911 Census, as some O'Sheas were entered in the database as "OShea". Also, note most Kerry O'Sheas were Shea until the late 1800s or early 1900s, when they became O'Shea.

The Mormon website:

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#c=1408347;p=collectionDetails;t=searchable>

has the Ireland Civil Registration Index from 1864 to 1958 available to search (note 1845 onwards for Church of Ireland marriages). Do a broad search first and narrow it down through the filters provided. Photocopies of certificates may be ordered for €4 from the GRO in Roscommon.

During the year, photos of O'Shea headstones in Old Kenmare Graveyard and Bonane Graveyard were added to our research help webpage

<http://www.osheaclan.org/research.html>

Transcriptions of O'Shea headstones at Dromod Graveyard (Iveragh Peninsula) are at: <http://www.osheaclan.org/Dromod.pdf>

During 2009, a book entitled "The Iveragh Peninsula, A cultural Atlas of the Ring of Kerry" was published.

http://www.corkuniversitypress.com/The_Iveragh_Peninsula:_A_Cultural_Atlas_of_the_Ring_of_Kerry/254/

If you have any links or data to share, please let us know and we will be happy to put it on our website.

Earliest Ancestor - please check your details

As people add to their family tree, it would be great if you could check and possibly update your "earliest known" ancestor on your "User Preferences" webpage at FTDNA:

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/oshea/default.aspx?section=yresults>

[if you are not in FTDNA, please email any updates to us and we'll update your information on our database <http://www.osheaclan.org/non-FTDNA.xls>

From recent research, it has been established that the earliest known ancestor for Kit No. 21517 (Tipperary/Kilkenny Group) was from Co. Laois in the early 1800s. This is significant data as we had previously thought that the Tipperary/Kilkenny Group had a confirmed connection to Ballyferriter, Co. Kerry. Now we realize we do not have any paper trail link between this group and Co. Kerry.

The O'Shea yDNA Project continues to grow with 99 kits in the project as of 16th December 2009. 89 of these have been returned to FTDNA and the other 10 will be included soon.

Note, we recommend that you upload your results to Ysearch, the global yDNA database.

Extra Testing

The three groups: Kerry, Cork/Clondrohid and Tipperary/Kilkenny continue to evolve with most members using 37 markers to identify close relationships. Some members have upgraded to 67 to try to sort out close matches while others have gone even further.

In the Cork/Clondrohid Group, the group to which the three committee members belong, many extra kits have been purchased by the committee and we recently received a donation for this group. This is all part of the effort to clarify the close matches which occur within this group. FTDNA was consulted and they recommended testing of two markers, in the advanced list, for close matches, at 67 markers. Markers: DYF399X and DYS710 were duly ordered for three members of the Cork/Clondrohid Group. See http://www.osheaclan.org/advanced_markers.pdf for details of the results. These extra markers helped to confirm the close relationship between these members.

The *Kerry Group* has also had a donation from a member of that group and it is hoped to find a suitable Kerry-based O'Shea to do a 37 marker yDNA test with the kit purchased from the fund.

[A big thank you to those who have made donations to the project. It really helps!](#)

SNP Testing

The Y chromosome contains two types of ancestral markers: short Tandem Repeats (STRs) which trace recent ancestry. The second type of ancestral markers, SNPs, document ancient ancestry. They are small "mistakes" that occur in DNA and are passed on to future generations. SNP mutations are rare so this makes them ideal for tracing the history of the human genetic tree.

Two members of the project have recently done SNP testing. Kit No. 34730, in the Kerry Group, was shown to be R1b1b2a1a (SNP R-106). This member matches a considerable number of Kerry Sheas indicating that others will probably have this SNP as well. Kit No. 8927 was shown to be R1b1b2a1b5 (SNP R-L21). SNP testing is becoming a significant tool in yDNA analysis. A member of the Cork/Clondrohid Group has recently ordered a Deep-Clade test to further the research for the O'Shea Project.

Sale in Kits

If you have someone in mind or know of someone who may want to purchase a kit, now is a good time as Family Tree DNA has a promotional sale on. Note, the offer ends at the end of December 2009 and kits must be ordered through a project to avail of the discount.

Y-DNA37 – promotional price \$119 (reg. price \$149)
Y-DNA67 – promotional price \$209 (reg. price \$239)
mtDNAPlus – promotional price \$139 (reg. price \$149)
SuperDNA - promotional price \$488 (reg. price \$665)

The price of upgrading from 12 to 37 markers is unchanged at: \$99.

If you have any news you want to include on our website or email, please let us know. Email: Margaret Jordan at: m.jordan246@gmail.com, Brian O'Shea at: brianos1@eircom.net, James O'Shea at: joshea@douglas-esl.ie

Best wishes for 2010, from the O'Shea yDNA Project Committee (<http://www.osheaclan.org>) and our ever growing project.

Margaret (O'Shea) Jordan

P.S. If you would like to opt out of receiving these emails, please email: m.jordan246@gmail.com