

# O'Shea yDNA Project

Newsletter May 2009

A lot has happened since we first started the O'Shea yDNA Project back in 2003. We now have over 80 members of the project and there are some distinctive clusters based on close yDNA matches. We used to recommend a 25 marker test but a 37 marker test is now the norm. This test can show that people have relationship within a few hundred years. Some members of the project have upgraded to 67 markers to investigate close matches which might imply an MRCA (most recent common ancestor) in very recent times.

We would especially like to thank project members Tad Shay and Kevin O'Shea who both made contributions in 2007, to the O'Shea Project Fund. Through these contributions and also through contributions from the committee over the years, we have been able to sponsor some yDNA kits for O'Sheas, who are still living in their home lands. Their yDNA results have, in many cases, given us a benchmark to which we can compare results for O'Sheas who do not know where their ancestors originated in Ireland. Initially, we concentrated mainly on getting samples from the Iveragh Peninsula and now we intend to use our last two sponsored kits to obtain samples from the Dingle Peninsula. If anyone would like to contribute to this fund, it would be appreciated. This can be done easily through the O'Shea Project webpages at Family Tree DNA (FTDNA).

We recommend that people upload their results to Ysearch ([www.ysearch.org](http://www.ysearch.org)). Ysearch is a free database which allows you to compare your yDNA results with others who may have used other testing companies other than FTDNA. This can be done automatically from your "Matches" webpage at FTDNA.

Note, FTDNA has added new tools such as "My Maps" where you can plot ancestral locations and also a link to "Interpreting MY Results" which is a useful guide.

We know that many of you are in contact with each other and we encourage you to get in touch with the project administrators if you have any questions about the project. We are interested in any news on how your O'Shea research is going. Some members of the project are on Facebook and some members are in email contact etc.

Recently, Sharon Shea Bossard, whose brother did a yDNA test for her Shea family, was in Kerry researching her Shea roots. She wrote the book "Finding My Irish" which includes chapters on her Shea family.

In the recent past, Griffith's Valuation (a survey of heads of households in Ireland circa 1850) has gone online. The 1911 Census for Kerry and a few other counties is online with Cork and the rest of Ireland due to be rolled out in stages. The Civil Records Index for Ireland (from 1864) is also online. This may help some of you with your genealogical research, which we know can be difficult to do, at a distance.

Recently, Richard Shea, one of our project members compiled some useful spreadsheets of Shea/O'Shea information from Griffith's Valuation and the Kerry 1911 Census and it is on our Research Data page of the O'Shea Clan website. Keep an eye on the website [www.osheaclan.org](http://www.osheaclan.org) for updates.

If you do not wish to receive any further emails from the co-administrators, please make sure you indicate this in your User Preferences. However, we look forward to keeping in touch with members.

Regards,

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