

O'Shea yDNA Project

Spring 2010 Newsletter

We would like to welcome new project members to the O'Shea yDNA Project and say hello to all members. Since our last newsletter, there have been a number of further developments and we now have over 100 people in the project.

We will try to avoid having links and attachments as these lead to emails being rejected by servers or being put in the spam folder. Our website is **osheaclan.org** and we will refer to the yDNA Results webpage:

http://www.osheaclan.org/OShea_Results_2010.html throughout the email.

Upgrades to 67 Markers

Upgrading from 37 to 67 markers can be useful. The 38-67 markers tend to be slow mutating and show few changes. In this way, the 38-67 markers can confirm a close match. It is unlikely that a close match at 67 markers is a co-incidence. Later, we mention the use of "advanced markers" to help subdivide close matches into subgroups.

Note in all upgrades and new tests, FTDNA can generally use the sample they already have in the lab., you just need to order the upgrade.

Deep Clade Testing and SNPs

You might have seen in our New Year newsletter that we talked about SNP (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism) testing. We focus on Deep Clade testing in this newsletter. A Deep Clade test is a series of SNP tests used to determine your position more precisely, on the haplotree. The relative mutation rate for an SNP is extremely low. This makes them ideal for marking the history of the human genetic tree. SNPs are named with a letter code and a number. The letter indicates the lab or research team that discovered the SNP. The number indicates the order in which it was discovered. SNP testing is becoming extremely significant in yDNA testing. For example, if your haplogroup is predicted to be R1b1b2, a Deep Clade test will give a lot more detail. If you go to your own webpage at FTDNA and you click on the "Haplogroup" link, this will show your yDNA position on the yDNA haplotree. We also have some general information and links on the yDNA webpage on our website, if you want to read more.

Deep Clade Testing in the O'Shea Project

In the Tipperary-Kilkenny Group, one member has tested L21+ and this SNP result puts him into the R1b1b2a1b5 subclade. A second member of the Tipperary-Kilkenny Group has also ordered a Deep Clade test.

One member of the Cork Group is also L21+ and therefore R1b1b2a1b5 while, a second member of this group has ordered a Deep Clade test.

One member of the Kerry Group is U106+ which puts him into the R1b1b2a1a subclade which is very different to all the other results to date. Another member of the Kerry Group has just tested L21+ putting the cat among the pigeons in Kerry!

So, we find R1b1b2a1a and R1b1b2a1b5 subclades in the Kerry Sheas. Now these two subclades are believed to have originated around 4,000 years ago so you can see how important it is to pursue this Deep Clade testing in the Kerry Group.

By doing more Deep Clade testing, we will see if the two subclades are represented by the pattern we see already in the Kerry results for yDNA markers DYS391 and DYS GATA H4. The results will have significant impact on our understanding of the Kerry Group.

We would like to have members to do a Deep Clade test to further this research or you could donate to our project fund for this purpose. Please feel free to talk to us about it. It is \$89 for a Deep Clade test.

At the moment, to order just an L21 SNP test, it is \$29+\$9.50 (for first time purchase of advanced tests) but it must be ordered through the FTDNA administrative staff. I am hoping we may be able to order the U106 SNP test in the same way and I have emailed FTDNA to enquire about it.

Advanced Markers

You may remember from our last newsletter, we mentioned that we were using two fast mutating markers, recommended by Family Tree DNA, from the “advanced markers” list, to try to subdivide close matches in Cork/Clondrohid Group, into subgroups. DYF399X is particularly useful while the second marker DYS710 is less useful. So far we have results for four members of the Cork/Clondrohid Group. See the yDNA Results webpage and the Clondrohid Group in particular, for details.

The Kerryman Newspaper

Recently, inspired by a comment by a member of the project that we needed more Irish-based members in the project, Brian composed a letter which he and Margaret submitted to The Kerryman newspaper (13th January 2010) indicating that there were sponsored yDNA kits available to suitable candidates. Kevin O’Shea, Sharon Shea-Bossard, Richard Shea and Brian O’Shea (Co-administrator) all donated kits. A big thank you to all of them. Response from O’Sheas, who read the letter, was unprecedented. This letter seems to have struck the right note with the title: “If you’re an O’Shea, Check your DNA”, being added by the newspaper. We are currently awaiting yDNA results from all four kits.

We need to replenish our Project Fund. We welcome donations of any size. If eight people donated \$20 each, we can buy a 37 marker kit, or provide funding for other upgrades or Deep Clade testing. A link to our project fund is provided on our Family Tree DNA webpage or you can contact us by email.

yDNA Results

There have been several new 37 marker results in the past two months. The latest results spreadsheet on the yDNA Results webpage shows these and we have more in the pipeline.

Family Finder

Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) just launched their newest test: the autosomal-based Family Finder test. Family Finder will probably be offered for general release in the middle of March for \$249. FTDNA are allowing each project administrator and co-administrator to nominate a member for Family Finder testing in the first phase (at the same price) before it is generally on offer later. If you are interested, please email one of us for details.

New Online Genealogical Resources

The website pensear.org has some records of Irish pension applications which include some references to the 1841 Census and 1851 Census. When people applied in the early days for a pension, they had to offer some proof of age. The records used before 1922 when the fire in the Four Courts destroyed so many records, include some references not to be found anywhere else. There are about 25 Sheas for Kerry listed and one or two for elsewhere. If you purchase a Shea record for £2 sterling please share the information with us and we will make it available to everyone in the project.

For example, Record 20924 from the pensear.org website refers to an “O’Shea Family” deals with a Shea family of Glanleam, Valencia and if anyone is interested I can give you the details by email.

As always, we welcome your thoughts and comments.

On behalf of the O'Shea Project,
Happy St. Patrick's Day,
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