

Contact Dr Tyrone Bowes (tyronebowes@gmail.com) for a FREE consultation on your DNA results

Pinpointing the FARRIS Scottish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

A Scottish Case Study

www.scottishorigenes.com



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyrone Bowes'.

Dr Tyrone Bowes
Updated 20th February 2015

This study was performed on behalf of John Adam FARRIS, Administrator of the FTDNA
FARRIS Surname Group Project

Introduction

A simple painless commercial ancestral Y chromosome DNA test will potentially provide one with the names of many hundreds of individuals with whom one shares a common male ancestor, but what often perplexes people is how one can match many individuals with different surnames? The answer is quite simple. Roughly 1,000 years ago one's direct medieval male ancestor, the first for example to call himself 'Farish' was living in close proximity to others with whom he was related but who assumed other surnames like Elliott, Glendining, Irving and Johnstone. Given that 1,000 years have passed since paternally inherited surnames became common, there will today be many descendants of those individuals some of whom will undergo commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing. Hence the surnames of one's medieval ancestor's neighbours will be revealed in today's Y-DNA test results.

Early 19th century census data demonstrates that Scottish surnames could still be found concentrated in the areas from which they originated. One can therefore use census data to determine the origin of the surnames that appear in one's Y-DNA results, identifying an area common to all, and reveal a '**Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland.**' The paternal ancestral genetic homeland is the small area (usually within a 5 mile radius) where one's ancestors lived for hundreds if not thousands of years. It is the area where one's ancestor first inherited his surname surrounded by relatives who inherited others. It is the area where ones ancestors left their mark in its placenames, its history, and in the DNA of its current inhabitants. Since modern science can pinpoint a paternal ancestral genetic homeland it can also be used to confirm it by DNA testing individuals from the pinpointed area.

Notes of caution!

1. In Ireland each of the estimated 1,500 distinct Clans had a single founding ancestor, that's an estimated 1,500 Adams from whom someone with Irish ancestry can trace direct descent. But science has demonstrated that only 50% of individuals with a particular Irish surname will be related to the surnames founding ancestor, the other 50% of people will have an association that has arisen as a result of what are called 'non-paternal events' usually a result of adoptions, maternal transfer of a surname, or "bastards & children fathered by the clan chief on the night of the wedding." Since Scotland adopted a similar Clan based society these scientific findings can be applied to Scotland and to people with Scottish ancestry.
2. Often people are looking for their DNA results to trace back to a specific area. One must remember that the results typically reflect one's ancestors neighbours from around 1,000 years ago. As a result, if your recent Scottish ancestor was originally an Anglo-Saxon settler, Viking raider, or 12th Century Norman your DNA results will reflect earlier English, Welsh, French, and possibly Scandinavian origin. One must approach this process with an open mind!

‘Farris’ Case Study

Interpreting the Y-DNA test results

To pinpoint a paternal ancestral genetic homeland one must first identify the surnames that appear as genetic matches. Those surnames, particularly ones that recur throughout one’s Y-DNA results will typically reflect the surnames of ones medieval ancestor’s neighbours. Results for test subject ‘Farris’ are shown in **Figure 1**.

Test Subject	Haplogroup	Y-DNA Test Results										Ysearch matches			
		exact	-1	-2	-3	67 Markers		-4	-5	-6	-7	Last Name	Markers Compared	Genetic Distance	Frequency
Farris	RL21	-	-	-	-	Farris/Farris/Ferriss(x9) Jones(x10) ² Parker(x2)	Farrell/Ferrel(x3) ¹³	Vance(x6) ²	-	Farris	67	3	4		
		Johnson	42	5	6										
		Gray	41	4	3										
		Hawley	37	6	3										
		Mudie/Moody	34	6	4										
		Glendinning/Clendining	33	6	6										
		Martin	31	5	4										
		Jordan	30	2	3										
		Rose	30	4	7										
		Berry	30	5	3										
		Chandler	30	5	4										
		Ervin/Irving	30	5	2										
		Walker	30	5	4										
		Arnold	30	6	4										
		Nelson	30	6	3										
		Walker	30	6	4										
		Elliott	29	4	11										
		Wilson	27	4	4										
		Hudson	26	3	4										
		Gray	26	4	3										
Lewis	26	6	4												

Figure 1: Genetically recurring surname matches for test subject Farris. Surnames appear at the point at which they first occur as a genetic match e.g. the first match to an individual called Faris, Farris or Ferriss occurs at 63/67 markers, although not all Faris, Farris or Ferriss may match at that level. Figures in brackets represent the number of individuals with a particular surname who appear as a genetic match. Coloured font denotes the ethnicity associated with each surname; *Scottish*, black font indicates surnames with multiple ethnic origins. ¹Members of the same close family recruited for DNA testing and excluded from further analysis. ²The vast majority of these matches occur at the 25 or 12 marker level and the shared ancestry precedes the appearance of surnames by possibly hundreds of years.

Upon Y-DNA testing Mr Farris matched others called Faris, Farris or Ferriss who tested independent of him; which indicates that he is among the 50% of males who after an estimated 1,000 years (or since paternally inherited surnames first appeared) are directly descended from a Farris-Adam (the first to take that surname), see **Figure 1**. The Farris surname can be of English, Scottish and Irish origin, see **Figure 2**. However, Mr Farris’s genetically recurring surname matches are a diverse mix with no clear ethnic association, see **Figure 1**. The only surname with a clear ethnic association is Glendining (Clendining) which appears as a close recurring genetic match in the Ysearch.org database and is associated exclusively with Scotland, see **Figure 1**.

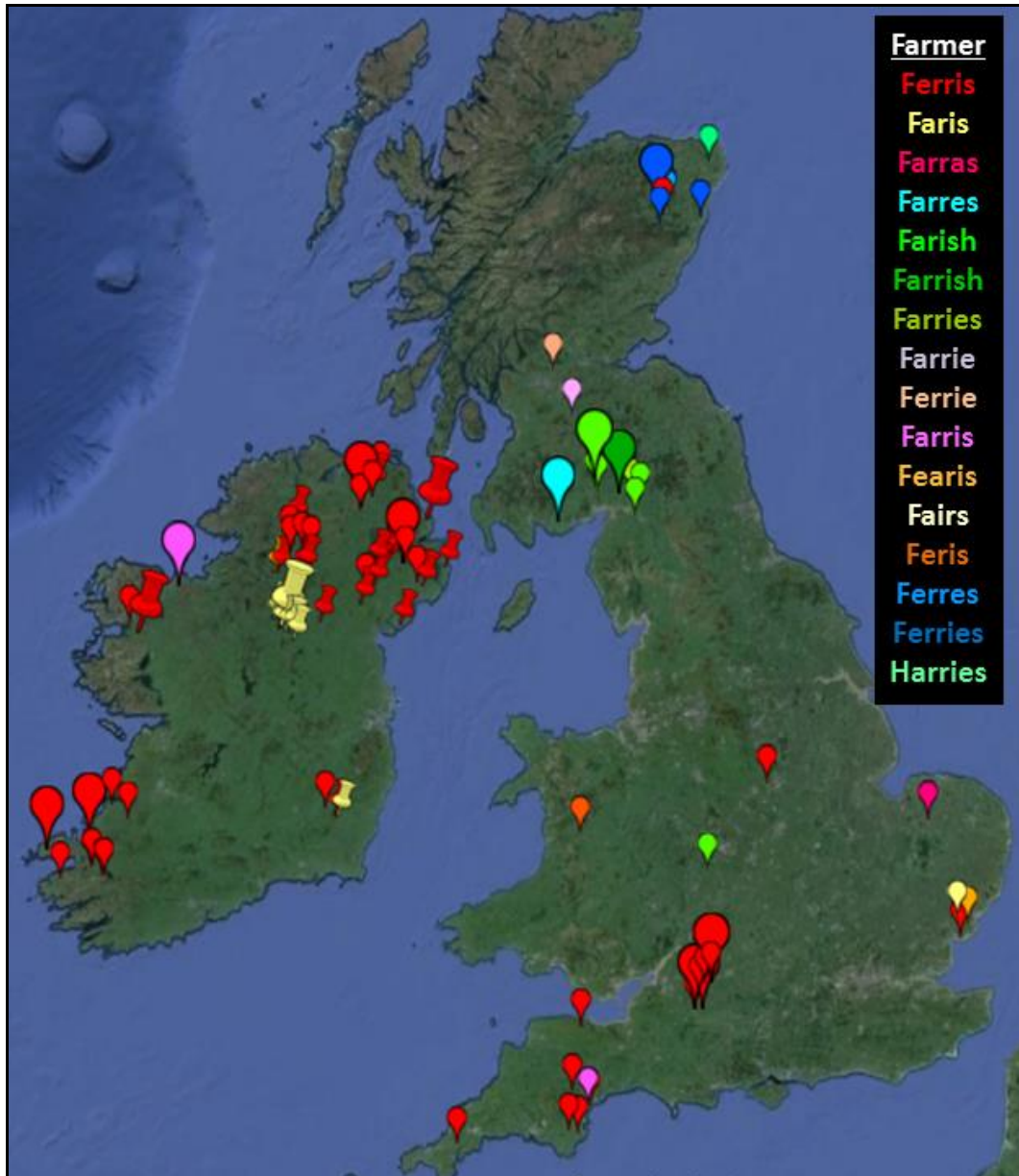


Figure 2: Distribution of farmers with the Farris or similar sounding surnames throughout Britain and Ireland. Paternally inherited surnames arose about 1000 years ago in an agricultural based society. As a result one can examine early census data to reveal where farmers with the Farris and similar sounding surnames were found. This reveals a number of distinct farmer clusters throughout Britain and Ireland. Mainland Britain and Ireland farmer locations are taken from the 1841 and 1911 census respectively. Since Mr Farris is descended from a Farris-Adam his paternal ancestry is linked to one of these distinct Farris clusters. Pin/Balloon size is indicative of frequency. Within Ireland balloons indicate Catholic farmers while pins indicate Protestant farmers. Protestants in Ireland are overwhelmingly associated with 17th Century Lowlander Scottish settlement within Ireland. This image is taken from "The FERRIS Surname in Britain & Ireland" dated December 2014 by Dr Tyrone Bowes. This report is available with his commentary on all three of Dr Bowes WEB Sites.

A Paternal Ancestral link with Scotland

Surnames arose among related males who lived in an agricultural based society, as a result farmers with each surname could still be found clustering (in early census data) in the area where a surname first appeared or where their ancestors first settled. An examination of that Scottish Origenes Surnames and DNA Map reveals

that the Glendining surname is associated exclusively with Dumfriesshire which lies close to the border with England, see **Figure 3**. An examination of this area also reveals a cluster of 'Farish' farmers to the north of Dumfries town, with Johnstone, Irving, and Elliott farmer clusters found to the north and east (all three of these surnames appear as close recurring genetic matches in the Ysearch.org database), see **Figure 3**. To the northeast of the Farish cluster one also finds the Rogerson surname which appears as a close singular genetic match at the 37 marker level in the FTDNA database, see **Figure 3**. Strikingly the Elliot, Glendining and Rogerson surnames are exclusive to this part of Scotland (farmers with those surnames occur nowhere else within Scotland).

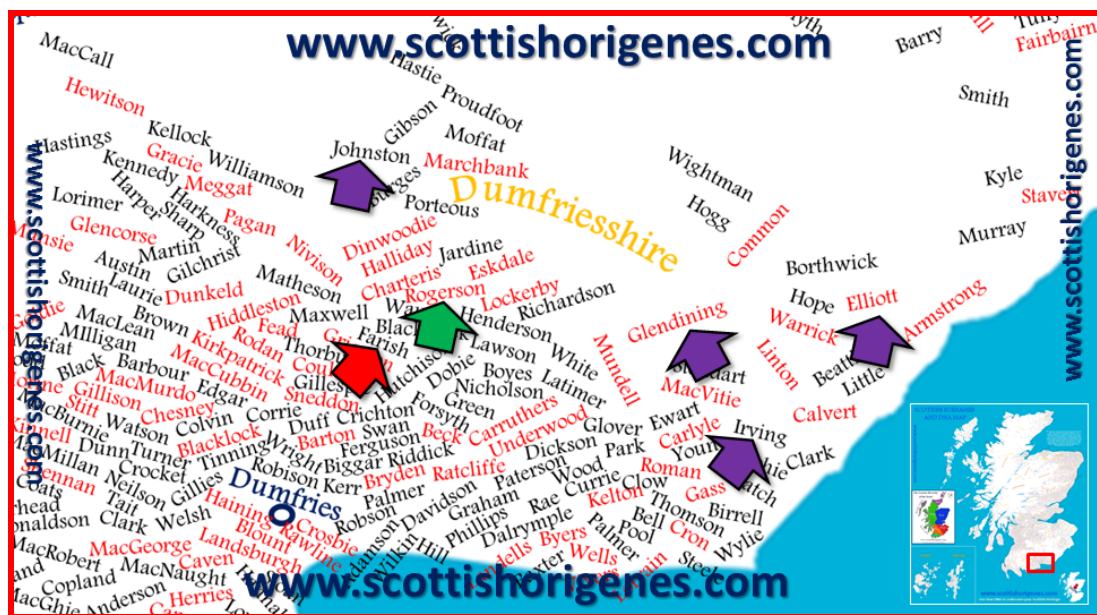


Figure 3: The Surnames of Southern Scotland. The Scottish Origenes Surnames and DNA Map of Scotland details where farmers with a particular Scottish surname clustered in early census data. An examination of the area between Dumfries town and the English border in Southern Scotland reveals the Farish surname (Red arrow). Close by one finds the Rogerson surname (Green arrow) which appears as a close singular genetic match at the 37 marker level. To the north and east one finds the Elliott, Glendining, Irving and Johnstone, surnames (purple arrows) which appear amongst the test subject's closest genetic matches in the Ysearch.org database. Each surname appears on the map in the area where farmers with that surname clustered in early census data. Surnames in red font (Rogerson, Elliott and Glendining) are exclusive to this particular part of Scotland. Image taken from 'The Scottish Surnames and DNA map' which is available via the Scottish Origenes website www.scottishorigenes.com.

The Clan Territories of Southern Scotland

By examining the locations of the castles and towerhouses that are historically associated with a particular surname, it reveals that medieval Scotland was a patchwork of territories dominated by notable Clans and Families. Almost everyone with Scottish paternal ancestry will be genetically related to at least one of these prominent Clans or families that once ruled over one's paternal ancestral genetic homeland. An examination of the castles and towerhouses found close to the English border in Dumfriesshire reveals that it was dominated by Clans of Norman and Brythonic origin, see **Figure 4**. The Elliott, Irving, Jardine (Jordan) and Johnstone Clans and Families dominated much of this area and all of these surnames appear

'Farris' Case Study

amongst the test subjects recurring genetic matches, see **Figure 4**. To the southwest of Dumfries town lay the lands of the Norman 'De Vaux' family. The De Vaux surname has evolved into Vans, Vaus and Vance. The Vance surname appears as a close singular genetic match at the 67 marker level (data not shown).

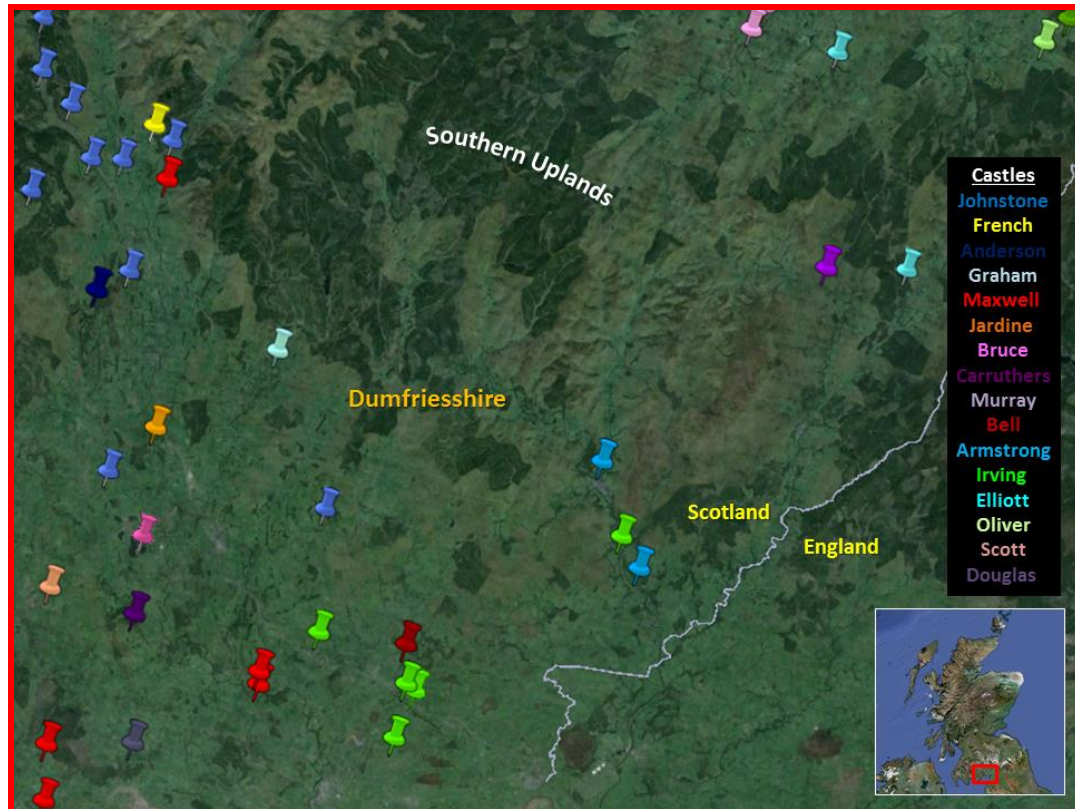


Figure 4: The Clan Territories of the Southern Scottish Borders. The area between Dumfries town and the English border was dominated by Border Reiving Clans and Families of Norman, and Brythonic origin. The Elliott, Irving, Jardine (Jordan) and Johnstone Clans and families dominated this area and appear amongst the test subjects closest recurring genetic matches. Pins are placed in the area where a known castle or towerhouse is located.

Mr Farris's Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

Mr Farris's paternal ancestral genetic homeland lies just north of Dumfries town in Southern Scotland, see **Figure 5**. It was there in the parish of Kirkmichael that a small cluster of Farish farmers were found in early census data and it is there that the test subject's direct male ancestor; his 'Farish-Adam' lived surrounded by male relatives who inherited other surnames like Elliott, Glendining, Gray, Irving, Johnstone, Martin, Rogerson, Wilson and Vance. Often when one's ancestors have lived long enough in a particular area they leave evidence of their ancestral links with that area in its placenames and historical monuments. Although no Farish placenames can be found in the surrounding area one does find references in surrounding castles and placenames to many of the surnames that appear in the test subjects Y-DNA results, see **Figure 5**. All of these Clans and Families will also have left evidence of their ancestral links with this area in both the history of this location and in the DNA of its current inhabitants.

'Farris' Case Study



Figure 5: Mr Farris's Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland. Farish farmers in early census data cluster north of Dumfries town in the parish of Kirkmichael and it is there that the test subject's paternal ancestral genetic homeland is to be found (orange broken circle). It was in this area that the test subject's paternal ancestor lived when he first inherited the Farish surname. He lived surrounded by male relatives who inherited surnames like Elliott, Glendinning, Irving, Jardine (Jordan), Johnstone, Martin, Rogerson and Vance. Although no Farish placenames can be found in Dumfriesshire one does find castles and placenames associated with the test subjects genetic relatives the Elliots, Glendinnings, Grays, Irvings, Johnstones, Jordans (Jardine), Martins, and Wilsons. All of these families have left evidence of their presence in the areas history, placenames and in the DNA of the areas current inhabitants.

Ancient Briton, Viking, Gael or Norman?

The test subject's paternal ancestral genetic homeland lies close to the English border which explains why his genetic surname matches are a diverse mix of surnames that can be of Scottish or English origin. The historically turbulent and fluid borderlands between Scotland and England were originally part of the ancient Kingdom of Strathclyde which was dominated by the Welsh speaking Ancient Britons. Mr Farris's paternal ancestors were the descendants of these Ancient Britons rather than later Viking, Gael or Norman settlers.

How to confirm the 'Farris' Genetic Homeland

Confirmation of the paternal ancestral genetic homeland will require the commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing of Farish farmers who currently live in the area to the north of Dumfries town.

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