Contact Irish Origenes for a FREE CONSULTATION

Email: tyronebowes@gmail.com

For queries regarding Mr White (test subject) you can email Jonathan White who commissioned the report. Email: *jwhite655@comcast.net*

Pinpointing the White Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

An Irish Case Study

www.irishorigenes.com

Dr Tyrone Bowes

Updated 16th December 2020

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 lots of individuals with many different surnames? The answer is quite simple. Roughly 1,000 years ago one's direct medieval male ancestor, the first for example to acquire the 'McCloskey' surname was living near others with whom he was related but who inherited other surnames like O'Kane, O'Hagan, and Gallagher. Given that 1,000 years have passed since paternally inherited surnames became common, there will be many descendants of those individuals some of whom will today 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 Irish and 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 ones '**Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland**.' The 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 one's 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. Each of the estimated 1,500 unique Irish surnames had a single founding ancestor, that is an estimated 1,500 'Adams' from whom anyone with Irish paternal ancestry (and with one of those unique surnames) can trace direct descent. But science has demonstrated that only 50% of individuals with a unique Irish surname will be related to their surnames founding ancestor (*the surname-Adam*), the other 50% of males will have an association that has arisen due to 'non-paternal events,' usually a result of adoptions or maternal transfer of the surname.
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 ancestor's neighbours from around 1,000 years ago. As a result, if one's Irish paternal ancestor was descended from a Viking raider, Norman, or Plantation settler, then one's Y-DNA results may reflect earlier English, Welsh, French, and possibly Scandinavian origin. One must approach this process with an open mind!

Interpreting the Y-DNA test results

To pinpoint a paternal ancestral genetic homeland, one must first identify the surnames that appear as one's closest genetic matches upon commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing. Those surnames, particularly those that *recur* among one's closest genetic matches, will typically reflect the surnames of one's medieval ancestral neighbours. Mr White's closest surname matches as revealed by commercial ancestral *Y-DNA STR* and *BigY SNP* testing are detailed in **Figures 1**, **2** and **3**.

111 Marker Matches							
Genetic Distance	Last Name	Earliest Known Ancestor	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Terminal SNP	Match Date	Big Y STR Differences	Big Y STRs Compared
6	McCloskey	Henry McCloskey b.1745 d. 1808 Ohio	R-FT42441	FT42441	9/11/2020	13	611
6	Crosby	William Marion Crosby B 1814 and d1884 arkansas	R-BY160233	BY160233	2/1/2019	54	574
6	Daley	Alexander Daley, b. 1828 and d. after 1860	R-M269		2/1/2019		
7	Cozby	Francis COSBY, b. 1510 and d. 1580	R-BY160233	BY160233	2/1/2019	8	623
7	Murray	James Murray b1848 Scotland-? & Catherine Deegan	R-S595	S595	2/1/2019	15	645
9	Cosby	George Cosby, b. 1759 (New Jersey) d (Ontario)	R-BY50577	BY50577	2/1/2019	10	658
9	Cain	John Cain, ca 1810 - ?, Newfoundland, Canada	R-BY19782	BY19782	2/1/2019	16	587
9	Cosby	George Cosby, b. 1759 d.1806	R-M269		9/20/2019		
10	Cosby	George Cosby, b. 1759 and d. 1806	R-BY50577	BY50577	3/27/2019	10	667
10	McCloskey	Arthur McCloskey (1801) Dungiven, Derry, Ireland	R-BY50617	BY50617	9/15/2020	13	597
10	Galloway	William Galloway, c.a.1743 - d.1809	R-BY203025	BY203025	2/1/2019	23	654
10	Galloway	James Galloway bbef 1743 MD daft 1790 SC	R-M269		9/21/2020		
10	McIlrath	Patrick Gallagher, b. 1815	R-M269		12/28/2019		
10	Gallagher	James Gallagher, b. 1789 and d. 1859	R-M269		2/1/2019		
10	Gallagher		R-M173		2/1/2019		
10	Thompson	William Thompson	R-S668	S668	2/1/2019		
10	Reynolds	Hugh Reynolds, McReynolds, b. 1840 and d. 1937	R-S595	S595	2/1/2019		
10	Donohue	Patrick M. Donohue, b.1847, d. 1942	R-M269		2/1/2019		

Figure 1: *Snapshot of test subject White's genetic surname matches at the 111-marker level as revealed in the FTDNA Y-DNA STR database. The more Y-DNA STR markers two people share the more recent their shared paternal ancestor once lived. The test subject's closest Y-DNA STR genetic surname matches are* ***NOT RANDOM****; they are dominated by surnames of Irish origin, some of which like McCloskey (****red arrows****), Cosby (****brown arrows****), Gallagher/Gallagher (****yellow arrows****), and Galloway (****purple arrows****) recur among his genetic relatives. Highlighted font indicates each surnames associated ethnicity or location of an earliest paternal ancestor; Irish/Ireland, Scottish/Scotland, Scottish/Irish.*

Y-DNA STR RECURRING SURNAME MATCHES						
		111 Marker Matches		67 Marker Matches		
		Genetic Distance		Genetic Distance		
Test Subject	Haplogroup	6	10	4	6	7
White	R-M222	Cosby/Cozby/Crosby (x5) McCloskey/McCluskey (x4)	Gallagher (x15) Galloway (x3)	Burns (x3)	Bain/mcBean (x2) Dowell (x6) Frew (x3) Hagan (x2) McGonigal (x2) McCubbin (x2)	Carnes (x2) Carney (x2) McAdams (x2) McAuley (x2) Power (x2) Reed (x2) Walker (x2)

Figure 2: *Mr White's closest recurring Y-DNA STR genetic surname matches reveal an Irish paternal origin. Surnames are shown at the point at which the first appear as a genetic match, figures in brackets represent the number of individuals with each surname at the 111, 67 and 37 marker levels who appear as a genetic match. For example, the first McCloskey to appear as a genetic match shares 105 of 111 Y-DNA STR genetic markers, although not all 4 McCloskeys/McCluskeys may match at that level. The test subject's closest recurring genetic matches are* ***NOT RANDOM****; they are dominated by Irish surnames; which indicates a most recent paternal origin within Ireland. Highlighted font indicates the ethnicity associated with each surname; Irish, Scottish/Irish, Scottish. Norman-Irish. Y-DNA STR testing also revealed that the test subject carries the R-M222 paternal genetic marker which first appeared in Ireland before spreading via migration into Scotland, which explains the mix of Irish and Scottish surnames that dominate among the test subject's Y-DNA matches.*

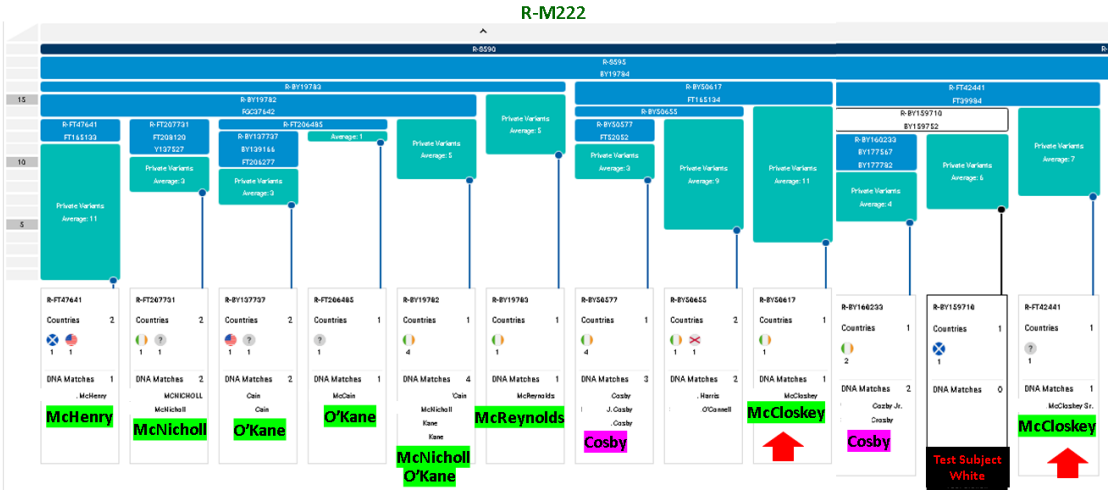

Figure 3: *Mr White's BigY SNP results reveal a paternal link with the Gaelic Irish McCloskeys. While the Y-DNA111 test explores STR markers which are short repetitive sequences of DNA that can be amplified or deleted with each generation, the BigY test explores DNA mutations known as SNPs, which are far rarer but more permanent mutations. The SNP results better reflect the chronological development of surnames among a group of related males. The test subject's closest SNP matches are to 'McCloskeys' (**red arrows**) which indicates that he is directly descended from a McCloskey-Adam. The dominance of other Gaelic Irish surnames among the block display indicate that his McCloskey-Adam was of Gaelic Irish origin. BigY block display reveals that the genetically matching White and Cosby males are 'McCloskeys' in disguise and that their ancestors acquired their respective surnames via non-paternal events that occurred between his McCloskey ancestors and potentially their Plantation Scots and English neighbours.*

Upon Y-DNA testing Mr White's closest Y-DNA STR and SNP genetic matches were dominated by males named 'McCloskey,' see **Figures 1**, **2** and **3**. The DNA results reveal that his paternal ancestor was named 'McCloskey' before the 'White' surname was acquired by his paternal line. Y-DNA testing also revealed that the test subject carries the R-M222 Y-DNA marker which first appeared in Ireland before spreading into Scotland. The dominance of Gaelic Irish surnames among the test subject's closest Y-DNA STR and SNP matches indicates that he is directly descended from a Gaelic Irish McCloskey-Adam.

The Irish 'White' Surname

The White surname is associated with Ireland, which raises the possibility that his paternal ancestor acquired that surname within Ireland. Since farmers in early Irish census data concentrated in the area where their surname first appeared (native Irish), or in the area where one's paternal ancestors first settled (Normans, Planter Scots and English), one can examine the distribution of farmers named White to identify areas of Ireland associated with that surname. Early census data reveals at least 16 distinct groups, see **Figure 4**. This indicates the existence of at least 16 distinct Irish locations associated with the White surname, one of which may be the area where the test subject's paternal McCloskey ancestor acquired the White surname.

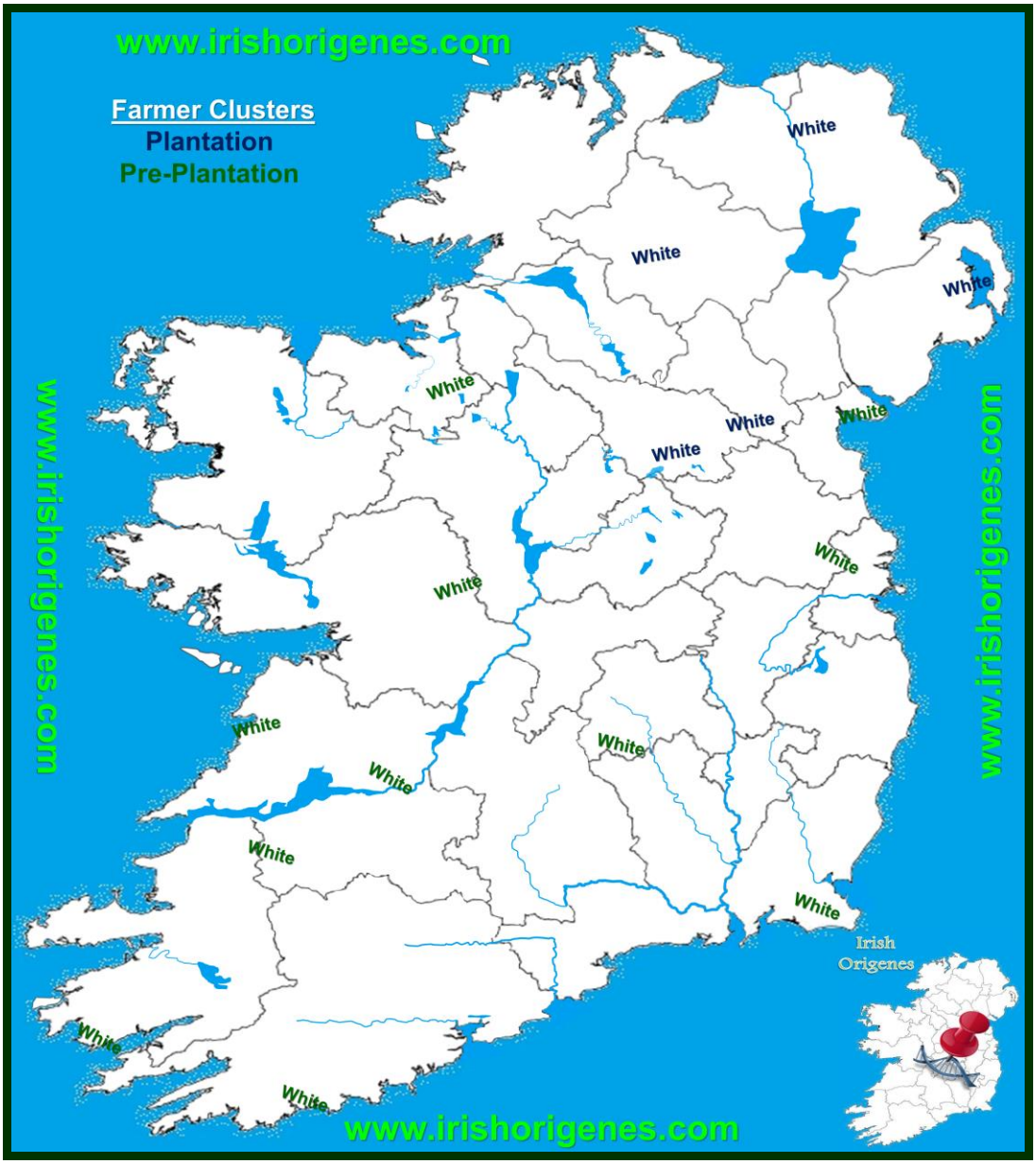

Figure 4: *The Irish 'White' farming community. By examining the distribution in early census data of farmers named 'White' it reveals 16 groups spread throughout Ireland. Since the test may have acquired the Wite surname in Ireland, his paternal ancestry is potentially connected to one of 16 Irish locations. Each surname has been placed on the map in the area where farmers with that surname concentrate in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location.*

A Paternal Ancestral link with County Derry/Londonderry in Ulster

The method of using genetic surname matches as revealed by commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing to pinpoint a paternal ancestral genetic homeland works by exploiting the link between the Y chromosome, surname, and land, which are typically passed from father to son through the generations. In the absence of a link to the land the process becomes more challenging. The link with the land is greatest among the farming community, and since farmers can still be found farming the land where their ancestor lived when he first inherited his surname (Gaelic Irish), or where one's ancestor first settled (Norman, Planter), one can plot where farmers with the

surnames that appear in one's Y-DNA results originate and identify an area common to all.

An examination of Mr White's BigY SNP results reveals that the McCloskey, O'Kane, McNicholl, McHenry and McReynolds surnames arose among a tribal group of Gaelic (R-M222) Irish males, see **Figure 3**. Distribution mapping of farmers named McCloskey, O'Kane, McNicholl, McHenry, and McReynolds reveal that they ONLY occur together within Derry/Londonderry in Ulster in Northern Ireland, see **Figure 5**. An examination of the surnames of Derry/Londonderry and its borderlands reveals the McCloskeys surrounded by surnames that appear among the test subject's Y-DNA STR and BigY SNP matches, see **Figures 2**, **3** and **6**.

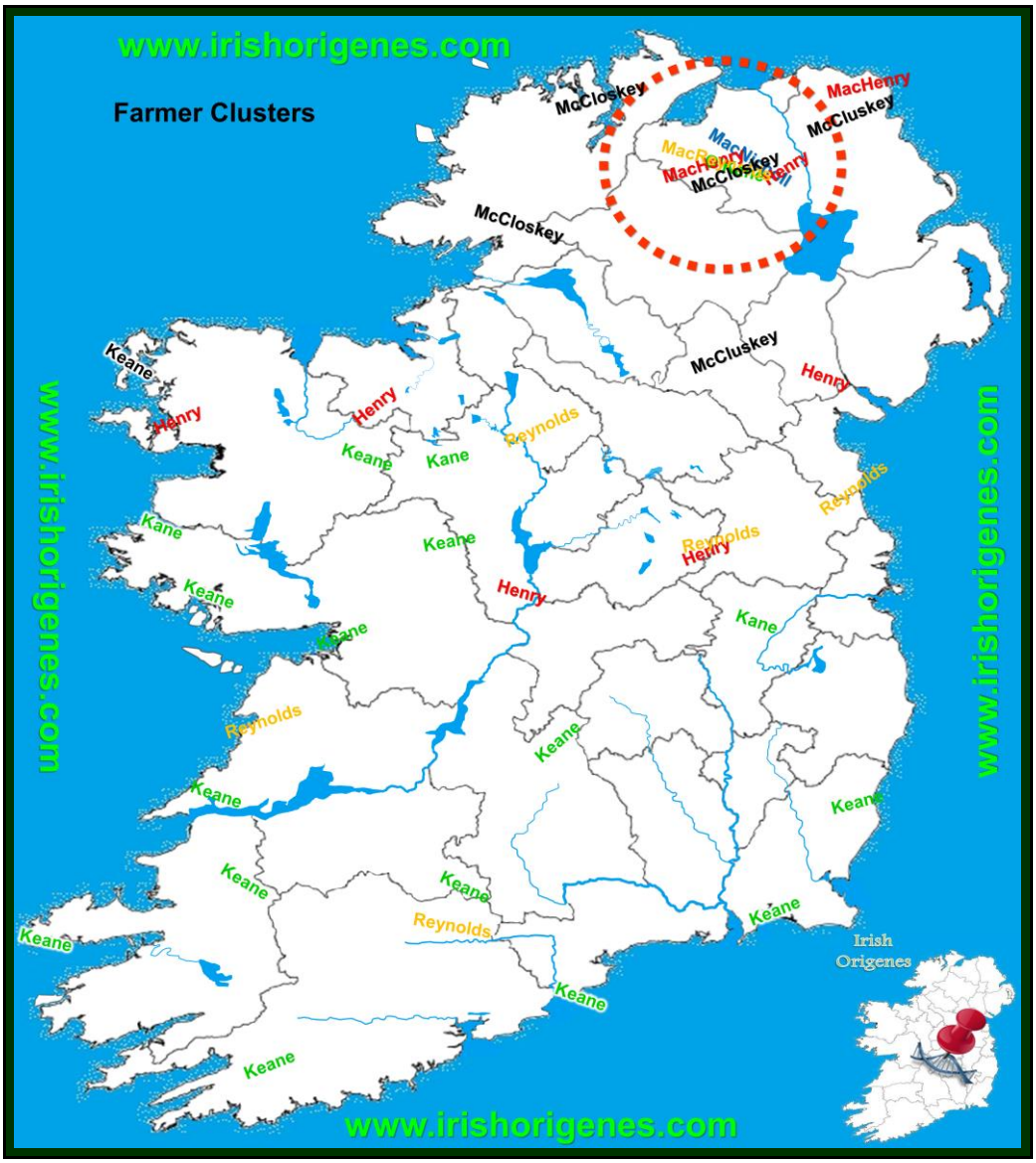

Figure 5: *Overlay mapping reveals a paternal origin within Ulster. The McCloskey, O'Kane, McNicholl, McHenry and McReynolds surnames appear among the test subject's closest BigY SNP matches. This indicates that the McCloskey, O'Kane, McNicholl, McHenry and McReynolds surnames arose among a tribal group of related Gaelic (R-M222) Irish males living somewhere in Ireland. By plotting the locations where McCloskey, O'Kane, McNicholl, McHenry and McReynolds farmers concentrated in early census data it reveals that they ONLY occur together within Derry/Londonderry in Ulster (**orange broken circle**). Each surname has been placed on the map in the area where farmers with that surname concentrate in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location.*

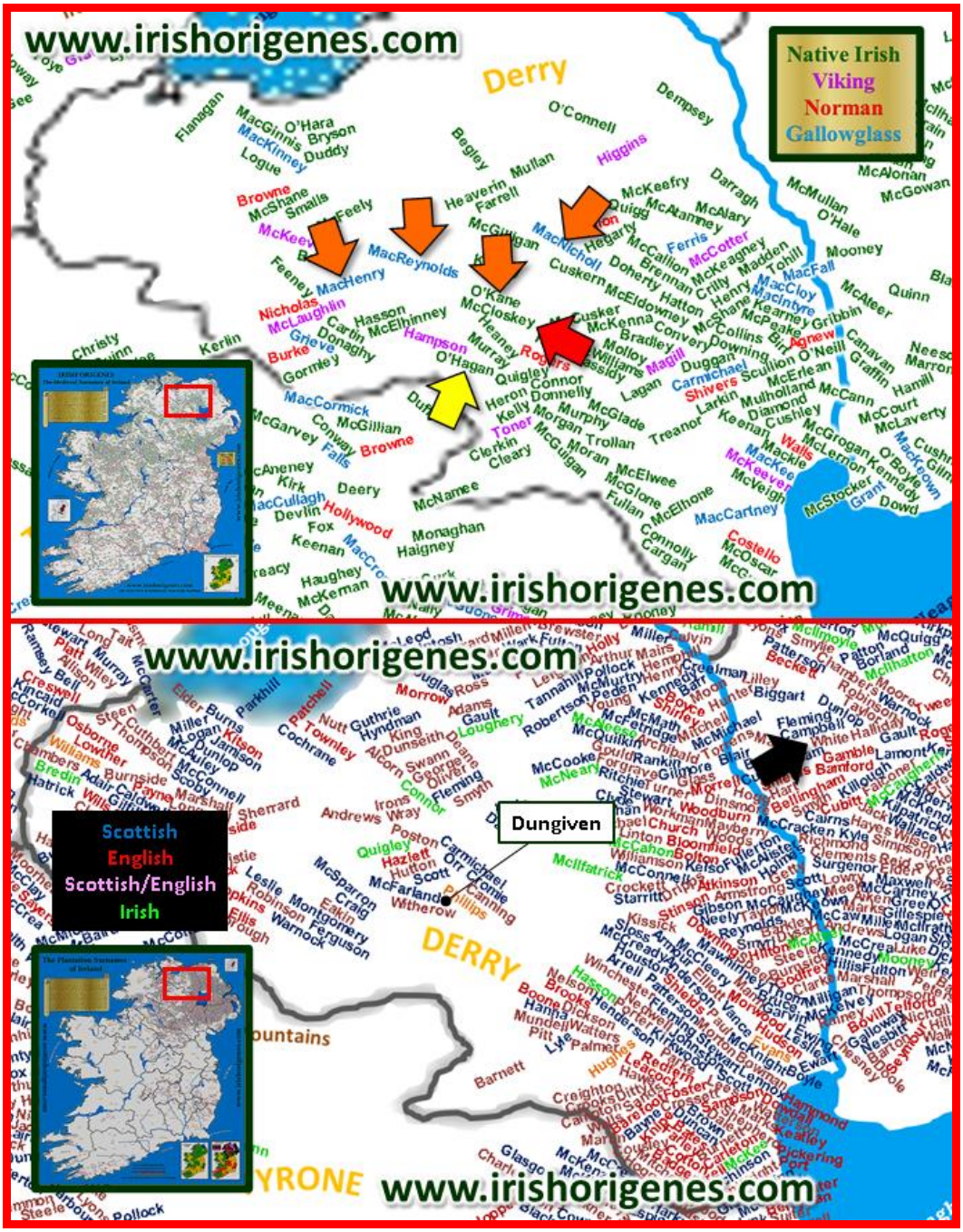

Figure 6: *The Surnames of Derry and its borderlands. Farmers with each surname still concentrate in the area where their ancestors lived when surnames first appeared in Ireland or in the areas where their ancestors first settled. An examination of Derry and its borderlands as it appears on the Irish Origenes Medieval Surnames map (**top panel**) reveals the test subject's McCloskeys (**red arrow**) together with surnames that appear among the test subject's closest BigY (**orange arrows**, **top panel**) or recurring STR (**yellow arrows**, **top panel**) matches. An examination of the Plantation surnames of Derry/Londonderry and its borderlands reveals that the White surname (**black arrow**) is associated with neighbouring Antrim. Each surname is positioned in the location where farmers with each surname concentrate in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location.*

The Clan Territories of Ulster

By the 14th and 15th Centuries Ireland was a patchwork of territories which were dominated by over 400 of the most notable Irish clans and Norman families. The Irish Origenes Clan Territories of Ireland Map was reconstructed based on the location of castles and towerhouses and their known historical link to a particular clan or family. Commercial ancestral DNA testing has revealed that almost everyone with an Irish paternal connection will be genetically related to at least one of the prominent clans or families that once ruled over one's Irish paternal ancestral genetic homeland. An examination of the clan territories of modern County Derry/Londonderry and its borderlands as it appears on the Irish Origenes Clan Map reveals an area dominated by Gaelic clans, some of whom appear among the test subject's closest Y-DNA genetic relatives, see **Figures 2**, **3** and **7**.

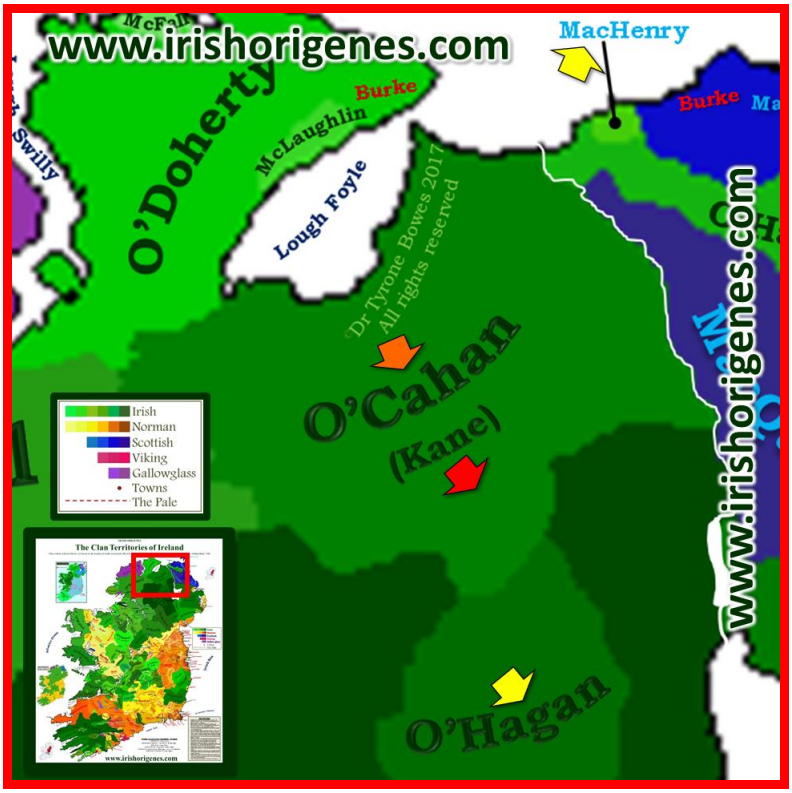

Figure 7: *The principal Medieval Clans and Families of Derry/Londonderry. The Irish Origenes Clan Map reveals that Derry/Londonderry was dominated by clans of Gaelic origin. The test subject's McCloskeys (**red arrow**) are located on the lands of the O'Cahans/O'Kanes (**orange arrows**) who dominate the test subject's Y-DNA STR and BigY SNP matches. In addition, the O'Hagans and McHenrys (**yellow arrows**) also appear as recurring Y-DNA STR and BigY SNP matches, respectively. The Clan Territories Map was reconstructed based on castle locations and their historically associated clans and families.*

Mr White's Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

The McCloskeys of Derry concentrate in the farmland that surrounds the town of Dungiven in County Derry/Londonderry, and it is there that the test subject's most recent Irish paternal ancestral genetic homeland is to be found, see **Figure 8**. It was there that the test subject's direct Gaelic Irish male ancestor lived when surnames first appeared in Ireland approximately 1,000 years ago, see **Figure 8**. His paternal ancestor took the McCloskey surname and lived surrounded by genetic relatives who

would acquire other surnames like Gallagher, O'Hagan, O'Kane, McNicholl, McHenry and McReynolds (among many others). When one's ancestors have been associated with an area for a long time, they leave evidence of their links in the surrounding placenames and monuments. An examination of the surrounding area reveals a Lis*macloskey* ('McCloskey's fort') on the north-western shores of Lough Neagh in neighbouring Antrim. Townlands are Ireland's oldest and smallest geographical unit of land division, and many mark the precise origin of a clan. The finding of Lismacloskey in Antrim, where one also finds Plantation farmers named 'White,' would indicate that the test subject's paternal McCloskey ancestor acquired the White surname in Antrim in Ireland, presumably during the upheavals of the turbulent 17th Century in Ulster. His McCloskeys ancestors will also have left evidence of their ancestral links with this area in both the history of this location, and in the DNA of the current inhabitants.

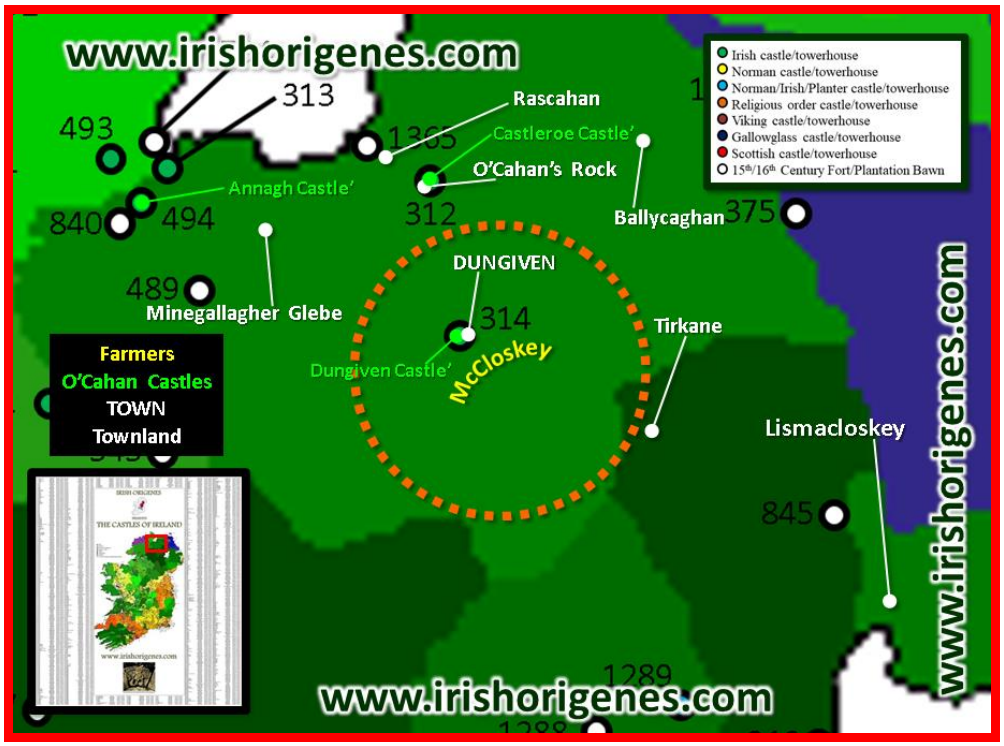

Figure 8: *Mr White's Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland. Mr White's Y-DNA results indicate that his most recent Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland (**orange broken circle**) is in the farmland that surrounds the town of Dungiven in County Derry/Londonderry. It was there that the test subject's paternal ancestor first took the McCloskey surname at some point after the appearance of surnames in Ireland (1000AD). His ancestor lived surrounded by Gaelic relatives with other surnames like Gallagher, O'Hagan, O'Kane, McNicholl, McHenry and McReynolds (among many others). An examination of the surrounding area reveals the townland of Lismacloskey together with castles/towerhouses, townlands and local placenames associated with some of the test subject's most notable Y-DNA genetic relatives. The McCloskeys will have left evidence of their long ancestral links with this area in its history and in the DNA of the current inhabitants.*

How to confirm the McCloskey Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

One must keep in mind that this is a scientific DNA approach to identifying an origin. The paternal ancestral origin within Southeast Derry/Londonderry can be confirmed by Y-DNA testing McCloskey males from the farmland that surrounds the town of Dungiven.

Contact Irish Origenes for a FREE CONSULTATION

Email: tyronebowes@gmail.com

For queries regarding Mr White (test subject) you can email Jonathan White who commissioned the report. Email: *jwhite655@comcast.net*