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Pinpointing the Young 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

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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 take the 'Young' surname was living near others with whom he was related but who took other surnames like Brown, Forsyth, and Sutherland. 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 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. Science has revealed that each of the estimated 1,500 unique Irish surnames had a single founding ancestor, which is an estimated 1,500 Adams from whom anyone with Irish paternal ancestry (and with one of those surnames) can trace direct descent. But science has demonstrated that only 50% of individuals with a unique Irish surname will be related to the surnames founding ancestor, the other 50% of people will have an association that has arisen due to a 'non-paternal event,' usually a result of adoptions or maternal transfer of the surname. Since Scotland adopted a similar clan-based society, these scientific findings can be applied to Scotland and 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 ancestor's neighbours from around 1,000 years ago. As a result, if one's Scottish ancestor was descended from an Anglo-Saxon settler, Viking raider, or 12th Century Norman one's DNA results may reflect earlier English, Welsh, French, and possibly Scandinavian origin. One must approach this process with an open mind!

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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 in a commercial ancestral Y-DNA database. Those surnames, particularly those that *recur* among one’s closest genetic matches, will typically reflect the surnames of one’s medieval ancestral neighbours. Mr Young’s closest genetic surname matches as revealed by commercial ancestral Y-DNA STR testing are detailed in **Figure 1**.

111 Y-DNA STR Marker Matches							
Last Name	Match Date	Markers Tested	Genetic Distance	Big Y STR Differences	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Paternal Country of Origin	Earliest Known Ancestor
Sutherland	June 22 2021	1 to 500	10	10 of 501	R-BY41045	Scotland	James Sutherland b 1795 and d. June 7 1866 in VA
67 Y-DNA STR Marker Matches							
Last Name	Match Date	Markers Tested	Genetic Distance	Big Y STR Differences	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Paternal Country of Origin	Earliest Known Ancestor
Sutherland	June 22 2021	1 to 500	7	10 of 501	R-BY41045	Scotland	James Sutherland b 1795 and d. June 7 1866 in VA
37 Y-DNA STR Marker Matches							
Last Name	Match Date	Markers Tested	Genetic Distance	Big Y STR Differences	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Paternal Country of Origin	Earliest Known Ancestor
McNeill	June 22 2021	1 to 37	4	Not Available	R-M269	Scotland	
25 Y-DNA STR Marker Matches							
Last Name	Match Date	Markers Tested	Genetic Distance	Big Y STR Differences	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Paternal Country of Origin	Earliest Known Ancestor
Hannah	June 22 2021	1 to 67	1	Not Available	R-M269	Unknown Origin	Kilbirnie, Ayrshire
Griggs	June 22 2021	1 to 37	2	Not Available	R-M269	United Kingdom	Griggs
Griggs	June 22 2021	1 to 37	2	Not Available	R-M269	Unknown Origin	
Williams	June 22 2021	1 to 37	2	Not Available	R-M269	Unknown Origin	
Byrd	June 22 2021	1 to 37	2	Not Available	R-M269	United States	Thomas Griggs b 1807 d Nansemond, VA
McNeill	June 22 2021	1 to 37	2	Not Available	R-M269	Scotland	
Bell	June 22 2021	1 to 37	2	Not Available	R-DF49	Unknown Origin	
Dorman	June 22 2021	1 to 111	2	Not Available	R-M269	United States	George M D Griggs 1837-1927 (PA)

Figure 1: Snapshot of test subject Young’s closest genetic surname matches as revealed in a 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**; he matches individuals with Scottish-associated surnames, some of whom also record ancestral links with Scotland. Highlighted font denotes each surnames associated ethnicity or location of an earliest paternal ancestor; **Scottish/Scotland**, **Scottish-associated**.

Upon commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing the test subject did not match other individuals named ‘Young,’ see **Figure 1**. This indicates that the test subject may not be directly descended from a Young-Adam; literally the first male (‘Adam’) to take that surname who lived approximately 1,000 years ago when paternally inherited surnames became common. However, Young is a very common surname, and it may simply be that others with whom he shares a common founding Young-Adam have simply yet to Y-DNA test. The ‘Young’ surname is associated with Scotland, and the dominance of exclusively Scottish (MacNeill and Sutherland) and Scottish-associated surnames among the test subject’s closest genetic matches in a Y-DNA STR database indicates a most recent paternal ancestral origin within Scotland, see **Figure 1**.

The STRs examined in the Y-DNA111 test are short repetitive sequences of DNA that can be amplified or deleted with each generation. In contrast SNPs are far more permanent mutations. SNP testing offers a more accurate glimpse of the precise chronological development of surnames among a group of related males. SNP testing reveals that the Brown, Forsyth, Sutherland, and Young surnames arose among a group of related Scottish males, see **Figures 2 and 3**.

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Y-DNA SNP Matches					
Surname	Match Date	Haplogroup	Non Matching Known SNPs	Big Y STR Difference	Paternal Ancestor
Sutherland	3/16/2022 9:29	R-BY41045	1045, BY26957, BY26733, BY27038,	10 of 501	James Sutherland b 1795 and d. June 7 1866 in VA
Brown	3/16/2022 9:29	R-BY41044	4, BY41047, BY26360, BY26362, BY2	12 of 539	David Brown c1772 - 1826
Everett	3/16/2022 9:29	R-FT34831	705, 7540029, 11887353, BY93059,	9 of 493	Richard Everett, b. 1613 d. 1668
Brown	3/16/2022 9:29	R-BY41044	BY26198, BY26199, BY26200, BY26	15 of 574	David Brown c1772 - 1826
Gest	3/16/2022 9:29	R-FT34831	162709, 7718709, 9032460, 1442598	17 of 645	William GUEST / of NJ ..b. bef 1720
Forsyth	3/16/2022 9:29	R-FT351340	T35057, FT92107, FT78232, FT9138	18 of 599	John M. Forsyth, b. c. 1845 Scotland

Figure 2: The test subject closest genetic surname matches as revealed in a Y-DNA SNP database. The more Y-DNA SNP mutations two people share the more recent their shared paternal ancestor once lived. The test subject’s closest Y-DNA SNP genetic surname matches are **NOT RANDOM**; he matches individuals with Scottish-associated surnames, at least one of whom also records ancestral links with Scotland. Highlighted font denotes each surnames associated ethnicity or location of an earliest paternal ancestor; **Scottish/Scotland**, **Scottish-associated**.

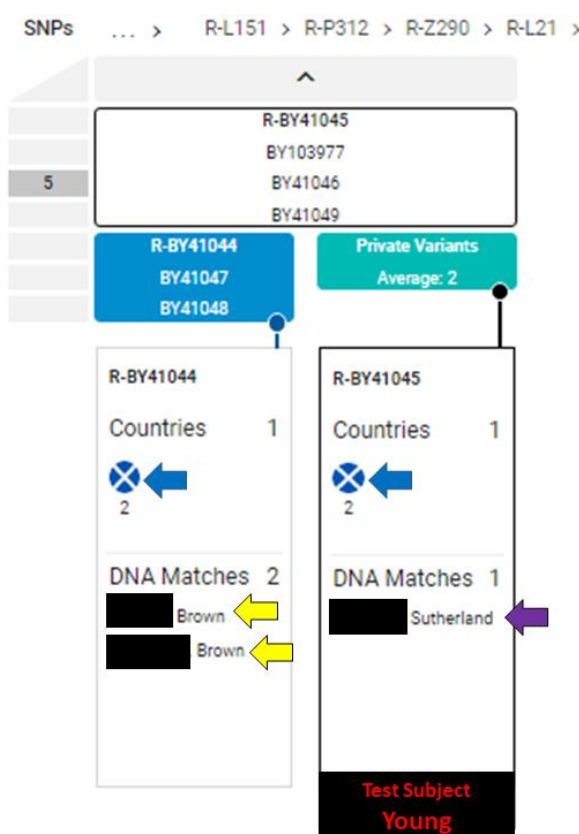


Figure 3: Block display of Mr. Youngs closest SNP matches. While the STRs examined in the Y-DNA111 test are prone to replication or deletion with each generation, SNPs are far more permanent mutations. SNP testing offers a more accurate glimpse of the precise chronological development of surnames among a group of related males. The test subject’s terminal SNP block display reveals that the **Young**, Sutherland (purple arrows) and Brown (yellow arrow) surnames arose among related males living somewhere in Scotland.

The Scottish Young Surname

Scottish surnames arose approximately 1,000 years ago in an agrarian society. As a result, farmers with each surname could still be found in early census data concentrated in the area where their surname first appeared or in the area where one’s ancestors first settled. One can therefore examine the distribution of Scottish farmers named Young to determine how many Scottish clans used that surname. The 1841 census reveals the existence of at least 20 distinct groups of ‘Young’ farmers spread throughout Scotland, see **Figure 4**. Hence, there are at least 20 geographically

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distinct Scottish locations associated with the Young surname. Each group of Youngs is potentially genetically distinct (each arising from a Young-Adam) and since the test subject's paternal ancestry may be linked to a Scottish Young-Adam; his paternal ancestry may be linked to one of these twenty Scottish locations. It is the test subject's Y-DNA revealed surname matches, as a snapshot of the ancestral surnames that arose among his relatives/neighbours, that will reveal where his Scottish paternal ancestors once lived.

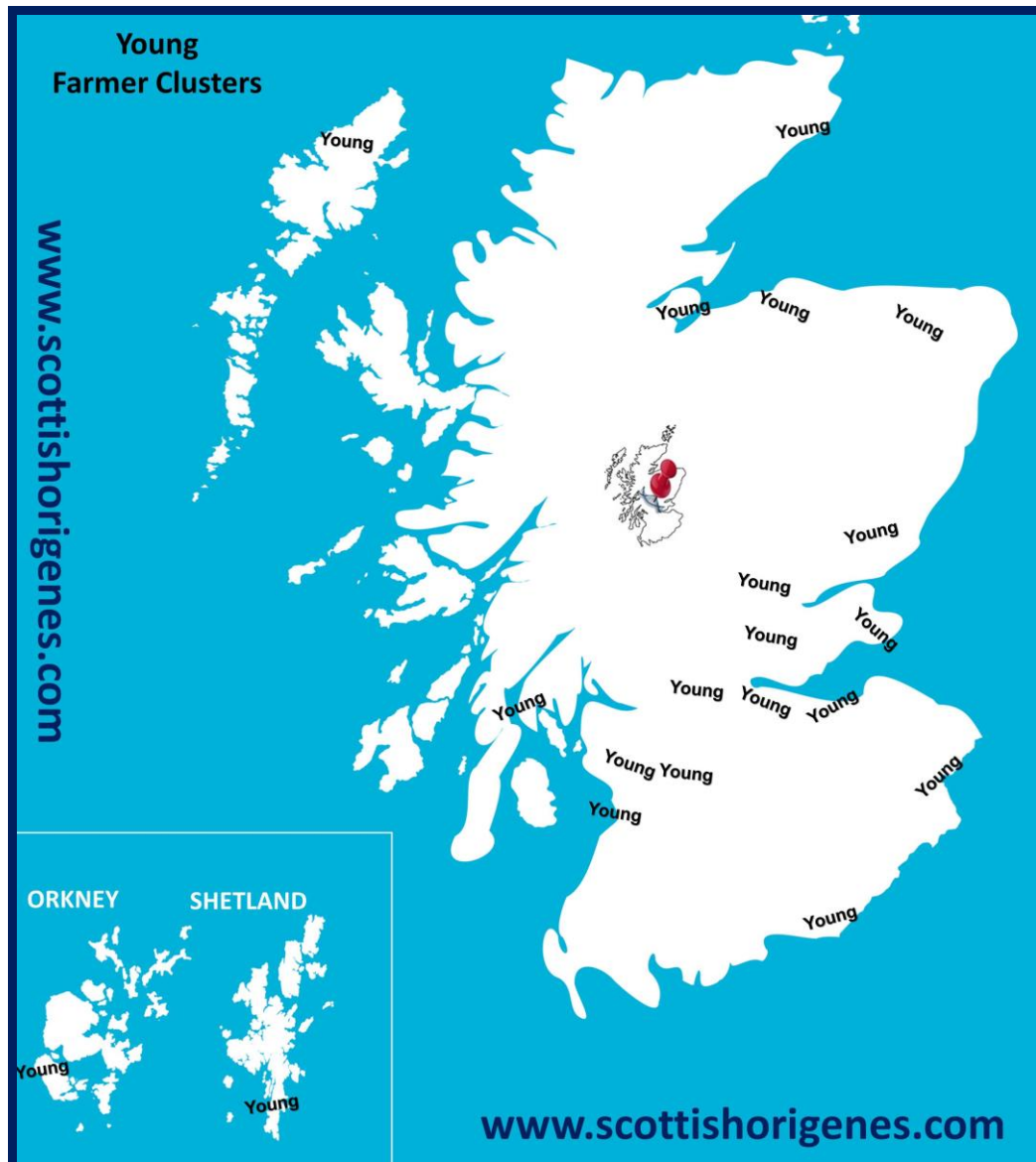


Figure 4: The Scottish Young farming community. Distribution mapping of farmers named Young, reveals at least 20 distinct groups. Each surname has been placed on the map in the area where farmers with that surname concentrate in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location.

A Paternal Ancestral link with Northern Scotland

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

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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, or where one's ancestor first settled, one can plot where farmers with the surnames that appear in one's Y-DNA results originate and identify an area common to most if not all. This means that upon Y-DNA testing a male named 'Young' from Caithness will be a Y-DNA genetic match to males named MacAdie, Oag, and Swanson, surnames associated with the far north of Scotland. In contrast, a 'Young' male from Dumfriesshire will be a Y-DNA genetic match to individuals with Scottish surnames like Elliott, Johnstone, Bell, and Glendinning, surnames associated with Southern Scotland.

Commercial ancestral Y-DNA SNP testing reveals that the Brown, Forsyth, Sutherland, and Young surnames arose among related Scottish males, see **Figure 2**. Distribution mapping of Scottish farmers named Brown, Forsyth, Sutherland, and Young reveals that they occur in closest proximity to one another within Northern Scotland, see **Figure 5**. An examination of the surnames associated with Morayshire reveals the Youngs concentrated near Lossiemouth and surrounded by surnames that appear among his closest Y-DNA SNP genetic relatives, see **Figure 6**. The test subject's Y-DNA results reveal a paternal ancestral origin within Morayshire in Northern Scotland.

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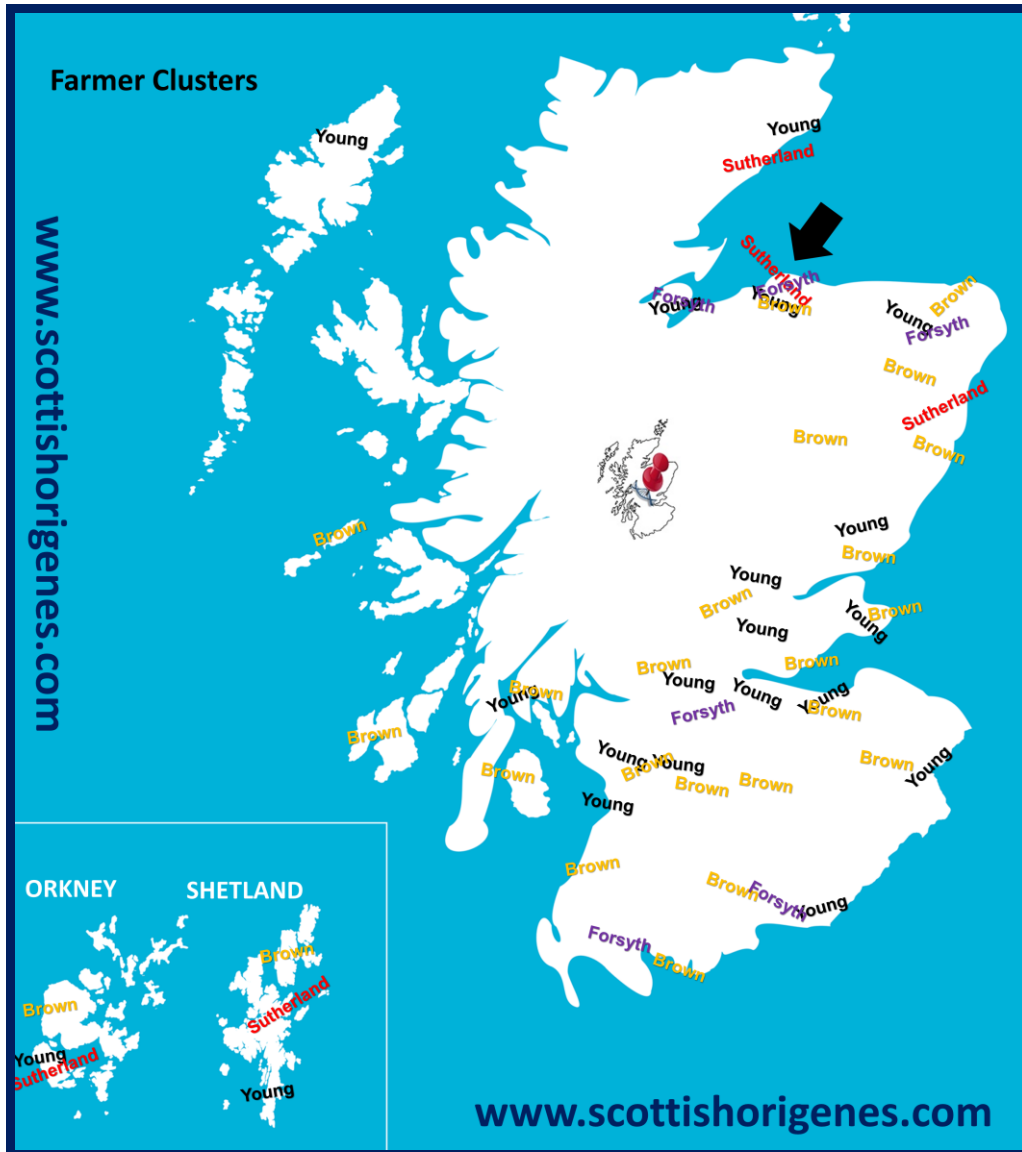


Figure 5: Overlay mapping reveals a paternal ancestral origin within Northern Scotland. Y-DNA SNP testing reveals that the Brown, Forsyth, Sutherland, and Young surnames arose among related Scottish males. Distribution mapping reveals that the Brown, Forsyth, Sutherland, and Young surnames are common and associated with multiple locations, but that they crucially occur in closest proximity to one another within Northern Scotland (**black arrow**). 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.

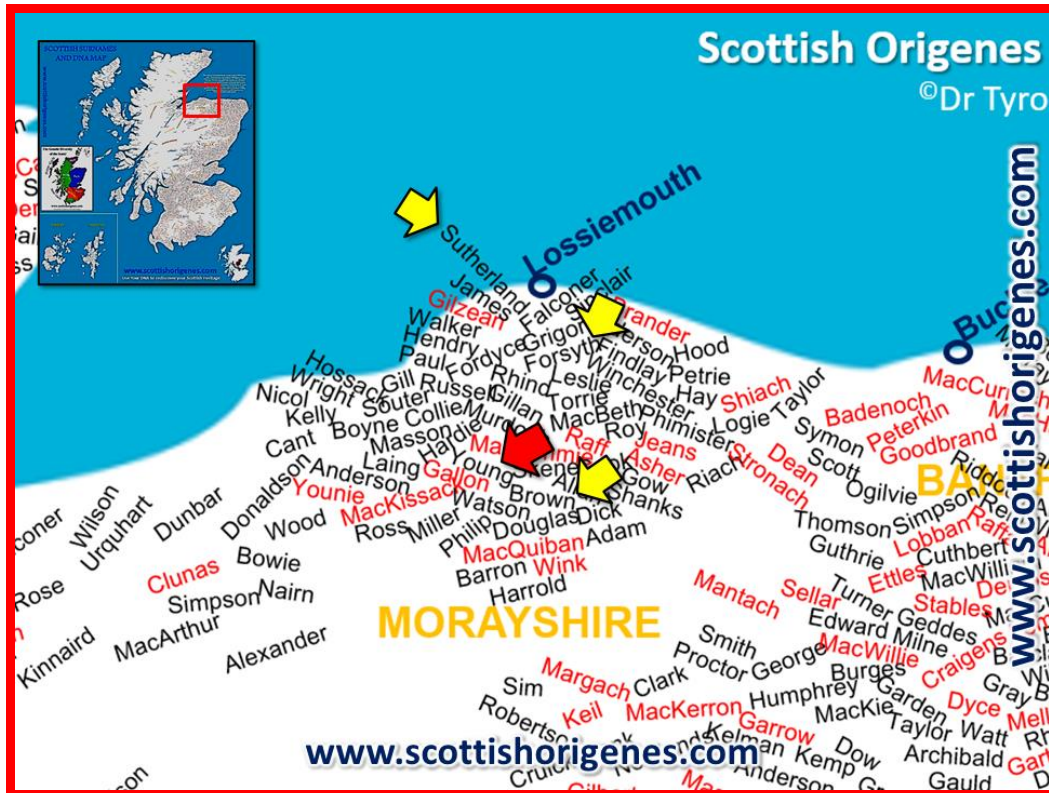


Figure 6: The Surnames of Morayshire in Northern Scotland. An examination of the surnames of Morayshire as it appears on the Scottish Origenes Surnames of Scotland map reveals the Youngs (red arrow) surrounded by surnames that appear as close SNP genetic matches (yellow arrows). These surnames arose among related males living in the farmland that lies to the south of Lossiemouth in Morayshire in Northern Scotland. 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. Surnames in red font are associated with a single geographical area within Scotland. A digital version of the map is free to view <https://www.origenesmaps.com/>

The Clan Territories of Northern 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 nearly 400 of the most notable clans and families. Modern commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing and research at Scottish Origenes has revealed that 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 of Morayshire reveals an area dominated by a mix of clans and families of Scots Gael and Norman origin, see **Figure 7**. The clan map reveals that the Sutherland family were prominent in Morayshire and appear among the test subject's closest Y-DNA matches, see **Figure 1, 2, 3, and 7**.

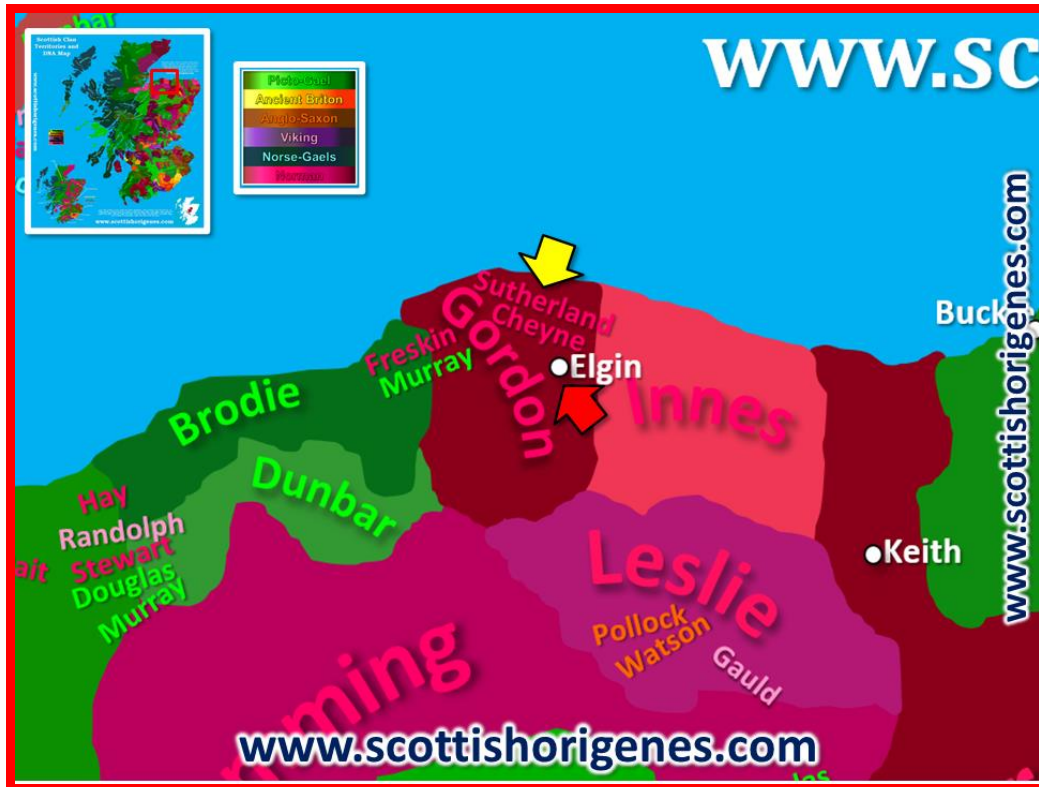


Figure 7: The principal Medieval Clans and Families of Morayshire in Northern Scotland. An examination of the clans and families of Morayshire as it appears on the Scottish Origenes clan territories map reveals an area dominated by a mix of clans and families of Scots Gael and Norman origin. The test subject's Young ancestors (red arrow) lived close to lands controlled by the Sutherlands (yellow arrow) who appear as close singular genetic matches to the test subject. The clan map was reconstructed based on the location of castles and towerhouses and their historically associated clans and families. A digital version of the map is free to view <https://www.origenesmaps.com/>

Mr Young's Scottish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

Early census data reveals that farmers named 'Young' concentrated in the parishes that surround Elgin town in Morayshire, and it is there that the test subject's Scottish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland is to be found, see **Figure 8** It was there that the test subject's direct male ancestor lived when surnames first appeared in Scotland approximately 1,000 years ago, and where his paternal ancestor first took the Young surname. His Young-Adam lived among a group of related males among whom arose other surnames like Brown, Forsyth, and Sutherland. When one's ancestors have been associated with an area for a long time, they will leave evidence of their ancestral links with that area in its historical monuments and placenames. Although an examination of the surrounding area failed to reveal any castles or placenames associated with the Youngs, one does find Duffus castle which is historically associated with his Sutherland genetic relatives, see **Figure 8**. The test subject's ancestors will however have left evidence of their long ancestral links with this area in its history, and in the DNA of the current inhabitants.

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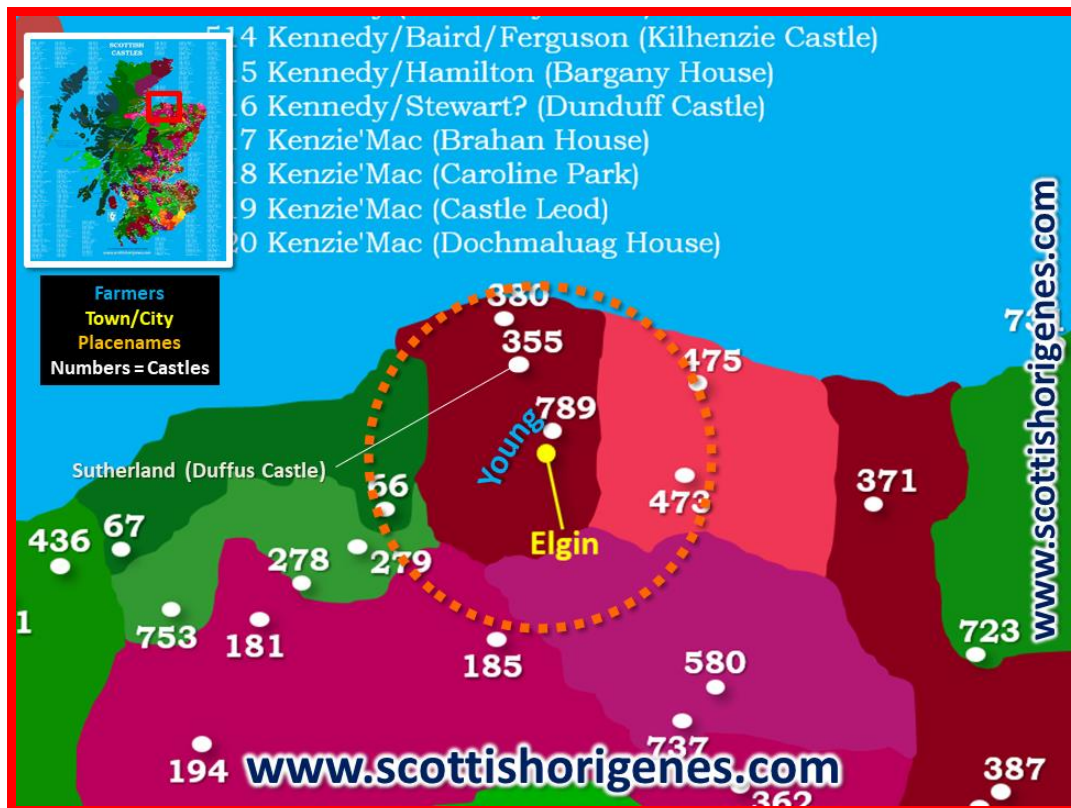


Figure 8: Mr Young's Scottish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland. Mr. Young's Y-DNA results reveal that his Scottish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland (**orange broken circle**) lies in the farmland that surrounds the town of Elgin in Morayshire in Northern Scotland. It was there that the test subject's paternal ancestor first took the 'Young' surname an estimated 1,000 years ago. His Young-Adam lived surrounded by genetic relatives who would become Browns, Forsyths, and Sutherlands. His paternal ancestors will also have left evidence of their ancestral links with this area in its history, but also in the DNA of the current inhabitants. A digital version of the Scottish Origenes Castles map is free to view <https://www.origenesmaps.com/>

Picts

The hundreds of Y-DNA Case Studies conducted at Scottish Origenes has produced a Y-DNA map of Scotland, see **Figure 9**. That map reveals that the modern Scots are a diverse bunch descended from Neolithic farmers, Celts (Ancient Britons, Picts, Gaels), Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, and Normans. Clues to the ethnic origin of the test subject's Youngs can be found in his R-M269 Haplogroup together with more distant (25 and 12 markers) genetic relatives which are dominated by individuals with Scottish, English, Welsh, and Mainland European surnames, indicating that he is descended from the Brythonic 'Pictish' Celts who dominated Northeast Scotland. The test subject is descended from some of the earliest Celts that poured into Britain in waves from around 800BC.

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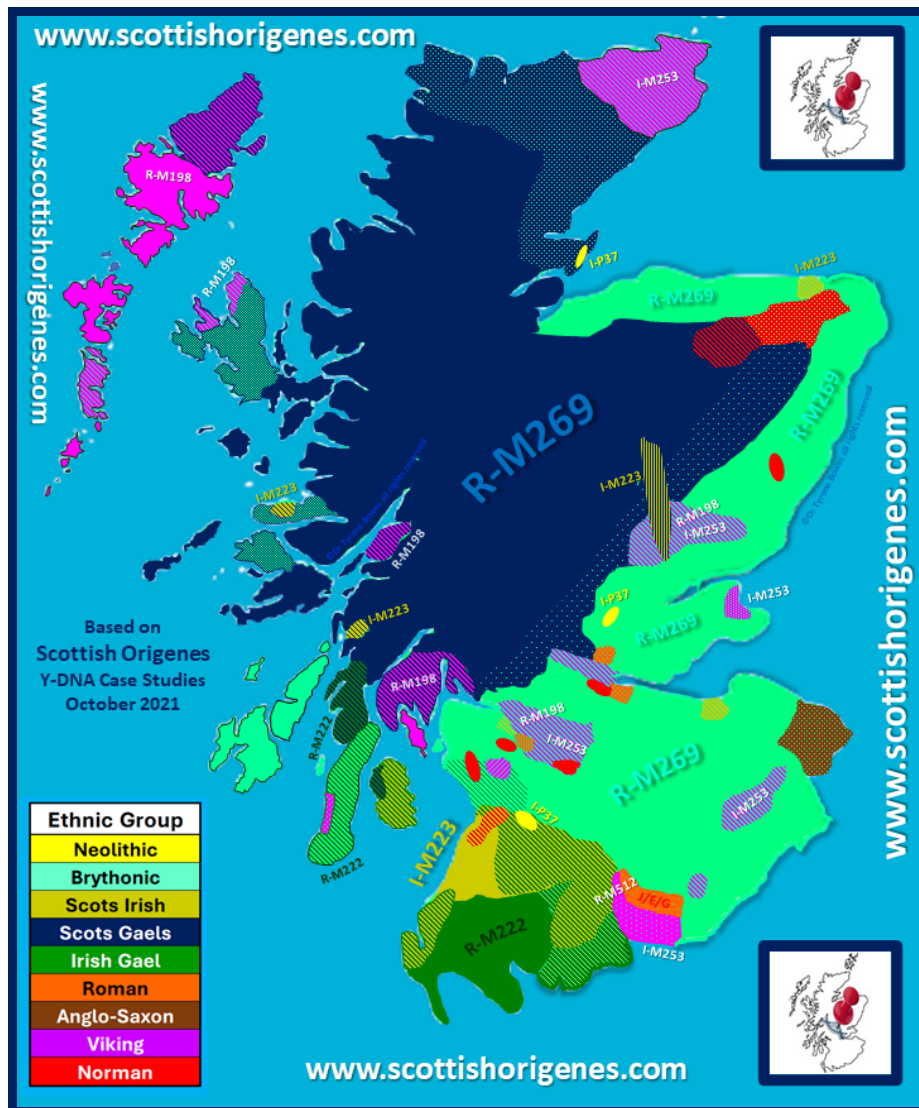


Figure 9: The Scottish Origenes Y-DNA ethnicity map of Scotland. Y-DNA Case Studies at Scottish Origenes reveals an ethnicity map of Scotland. The test subject's paternal ancestors were descended from the earliest Celtic inhabitants of Scotland (Picts). The Celts would arrive in waves from Central Europe from approximately 800BC, with the last wave consisting of 'Gaulish' refugees fleeing Roman Conquest arriving in the 1st Century AD.

How to confirm the Young Paternal Genetic Homeland

One must keep in mind that this is a scientific DNA approach to identifying an origin.

As such, the connection to an identified area can be confirmed by Y-DNA testing males with the surname of interest from the identified location. The Scottish paternal origin within Morayshire can be confirmed by Y-DNA testing males named Young from the farmland that surrounds the town of Elgin.

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