

**CONTACT IRISH ORIGENES FOR A FREE CONSULTATION  
ON YOUR COMMERCIAL DNA TEST RESULTS:**

[tyronebowes@gmail.com](mailto:tyronebowes@gmail.com)

## **Case Study**

# **Pinpointing the Bowes Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland**

---

[www.irishorigenes.com](http://www.irishorigenes.com)



**Dr Tyrone Bowes**  
**Updated April 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 call himself 'Bowes' was living in close proximity to others with whom he was related but who inherited other surnames like Carroll, Flanagan and Dooley. Given that 1,000 years have passed since paternally inherited surnames were first adopted, 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.

Surnames in Ireland can still be found concentrated in the areas where they first appeared, or in the area where ones ancestors first settled. 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 one's '**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 monuments, placenames, 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 surnames had a single founding male ancestor ('the surname Adam'), that's an estimated 1,500 Adams from whom anyone 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 male 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 adoption 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 reflect one's ancestor's neighbours from around 1,000 years ago. As a result, if your recent Irish ancestors were descended from 9<sup>th</sup> Century Viking raiders, 12<sup>th</sup> Century conquering Normans, or 16<sup>th</sup> Century Planters, your DNA results will reflect earlier English, Scottish, Welsh, and possibly Scandinavian origin. I have estimated that only 60% of those with Irish ancestry are related to the pre-Christian Celtic tribes of Ireland. One must approach this process with an open mind!

### Interpreting the Y-DNA 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, see **Figure 1**. Those surnames, particularly ones that recur among one's closest Y-DNA genetic matches, will typically reflect the surnames of one's medieval ancestral neighbours. Mr Bowes's closest genetically recurring surname matches as revealed by commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing are detailed in **Figure 2**.

67 Marker Matches					
Genetic Distance	Last Name	Earliest Known Ancestor	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Terminal SNP	Match Date
3	Riddle		R-M269		9/20/2018
3	Bowe	Michael Bowe, Ballycuddihy, Johnstown, Kilkenny, I	R-M269		1/19/2012
3	Prendergast	Edwin Prendergast, b. by 1810, England	R-M269		10/6/2010
4	F		R-Z16289	Z16289	6/1/2019
4	Glenn		R-M269		11/17/2016
4	Bowe	Michael Bowe, son Patrick b. 1878 Ballyfin Laois	R-M269		7/25/2011
4	Bowes	Denis Boe, bef. 1800, prob. Muckalee Parish, Kilke	R-DF21	DF21	10/6/2010
4	Carroll		R-P312	P312	10/6/2010
4	Flanagan		R-M269		10/6/2010
4	Springer	SPRINGER, John b.c. 1733, Newport, RI	R-DF21	DF21	10/6/2010
5	Best	Thomas Flanagan, b. 1821, d. 1887	R-FT67708	FT67708	11/22/2019
5	Carroll	Daniel O'Carroll b. 1642 and d. 1688	R-BY20010	BY20010	9/13/2017
5	Lee	Patrick Lee, b. c. 1836	R-M269		2/27/2017
5	Redmond	James Redmond b 1833 d 1908	R-FT91841	FT91841	3/7/2013
5	Springer	Lawrence Springer, b. 1647, Barbados, died Rhode I	R-M269		8/2/2011
5	Springer	SPRINGER, Lawrence	R-M269		10/6/2010
5	Lee	Patrick Lee, b.c. 1836, Ireland	R-FT111279	FT111279	10/6/2010
5	Flanagan		R-M269		10/6/2010
5	Flanagan		R-M269		10/6/2010
5	Flanagan	Flanagan	R-M269		10/6/2010
5	Carroll	Patrick Carroll	R-M269		10/6/2010
5	Bowe	Edmund Bowe 1726-1794, Lough, Kilkenny, Ireland	R-M269		10/6/2010
6	OShaughnessy	Thomas Shaughnessy, born 15/02/1877, Rathangan, Co	R-M269		3/7/2020
6	Shannon		R-M269		8/13/2019
6	Corcoran	Michael Corcoran b 1823 d 1910 AL	R-M269		1/17/2019
6	Leonard	Robert Leonard 1730-1780	R-FT14437	FT14437	11/6/2018

**Figure 1:** Snapshot of Mr Bowes's closest genetic surname matches at the 67 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 Y-DNA STR matches are **NOT RANDOM**; he matches others named Bowe/Bowes who tested independently (**red arrows**). Bowe/Bowes is a surname associated with Ireland, and the test subject's closest genetic matches are dominated by other Irish surnames, some of which like Carroll (**yellow arrows**) and Flanagan (**orange arrows**) recur among his closest genetic relatives. The test subject's Y-DNA results reveal a most recent paternal ancestral origin within Ireland. Highlighted font indicates the ethnicity associated with each surname or location of an earliest recorded paternal ancestor; **Irish/Ireland**, **Irish-associated**, **English/England**.

## Bowes – A Y-DNA Case Study Updated April 2020

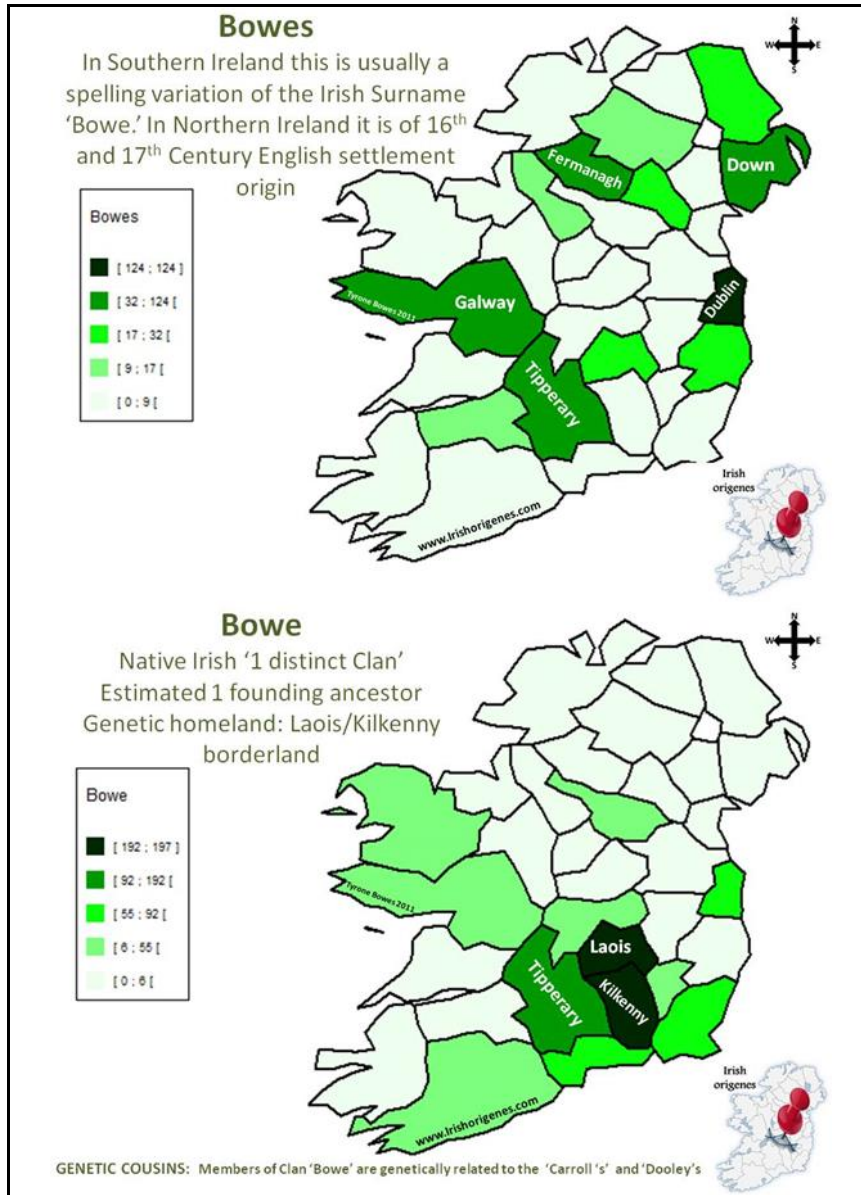
Test Subject	Haplogroup	Y-DNA Test Results				
		67 Marker Matches				
		Genetic Distance				
		3	4	5	6	7
Bowes	R-M269	Bowe/Bowes (x5)	Carroll (x14) Flanagan (x4) Springer (x8) <sup>1</sup>	Lee (x3)	Martin (x8) <sup>1</sup> Purcell (x10) Dooley (x7)	Crow (x3) <sup>1</sup> Dillon (x4) Hennessey (x2) Murphy (x2) Morris (x2) O'Brien (x2) Troy (x2) <sup>1</sup>

**Figure 2:** Mr Bowes's closest recurring Y-DNA STR genetic surname matches confirm a paternal ancestral origin within Ireland. Surnames are shown at the point at which they first occur as a genetic match, figures in brackets are the numbers of individuals with a particular surname that appear as a genetic match at the 67 and 37 marker levels. For example, the first match to an individual named 'Bowe' or 'Bowes' shares 64/67 STR markers, but not all 5 genetically matching Bowe or Bowes will match at that level. The test subject's closest genetically recurring surname matches are a mix of Irish, and Irish-associated surnames which indicates a most recent paternal ancestral origin within Ireland. <sup>1</sup>Members of the same close family recruited for Y-DNA testing which may be excluded from further analysis.

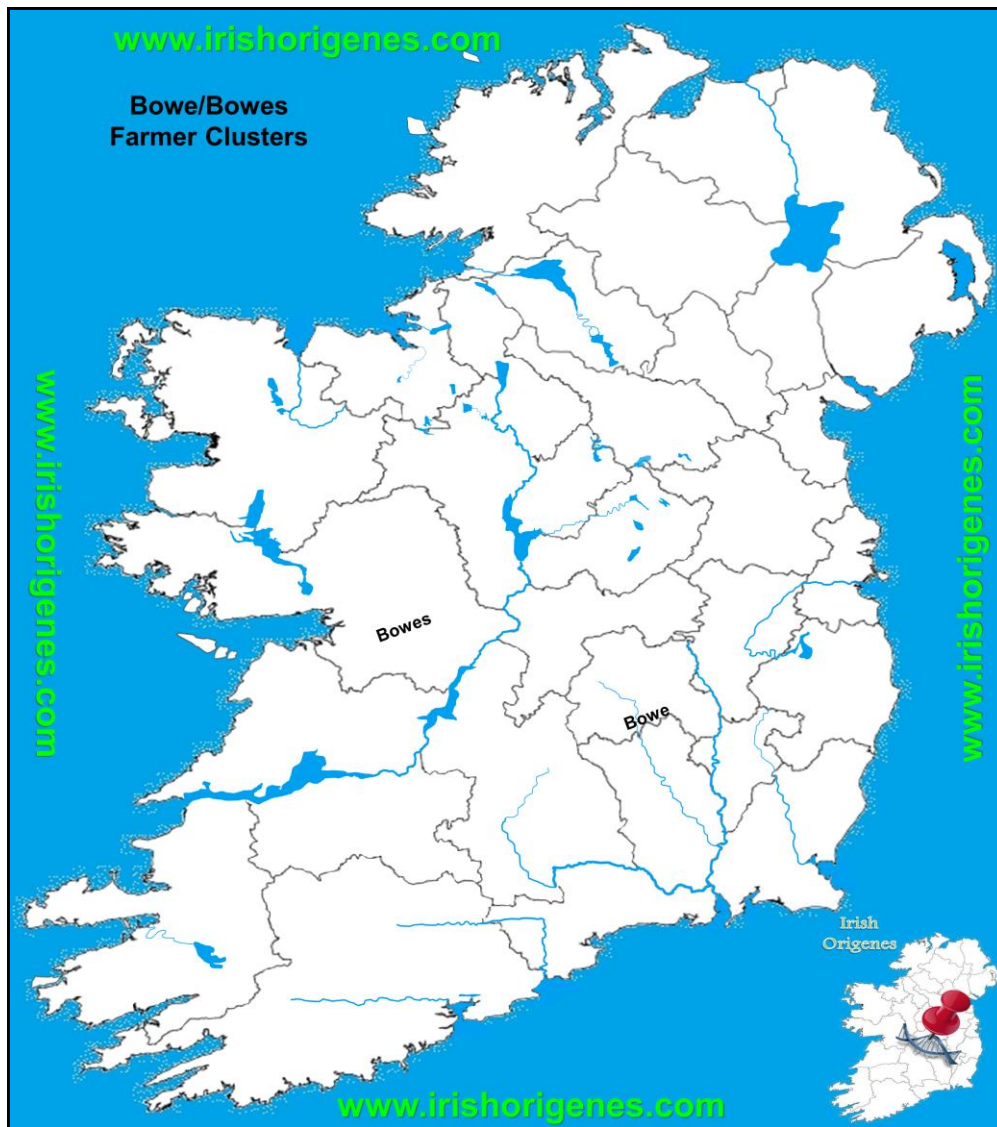
Upon commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing the test subject was a genetic match to other individuals named 'Bowe/Bowes' who tested independently, see **Figure 1**. From a scientific perspective, this indicates that the test subject is directly descended from his surnames founding ancestor (a 'Bowes-Adam'). Bowe and Bowes are Irish-associated surnames, and a paternal ancestral origin within Ireland is confirmed by the test closest Y-DNA genetic matches which are dominated by other exclusively Irish or Irish-associated surnames, see **Figures 1** and **2**.

### The Bowes Surname in Ireland

The 1911 census of Ireland revealed approximately 1,300 individuals named 'Bowe' or Bowes.' Distribution mapping reveals that those individuals were not distributed evenly throughout Ireland, but concentrate within specific locations, see **Figure 3**. Since surnames arose in an agricultural based society, farmers with each surname can still be found concentrated in the area where their surname first appeared, or in the area where one's ancestors first settled. An examination of the distribution of farmers named 'Bowe' and 'Bowes' (Catholic, male, heads of household in 1901) reveals that they were not distributed evenly throughout Ireland, but concentrated in at least 2 specific locations, see **Figure 4**. Since the test subject's Y-DNA results reveal that he is descended from an Irish Bowe/Bowes-Adam; his paternal ancestry is linked to 1 of 2 distinct groups of Bowe/Bowes found within Ireland.



**Figure 3:** Distribution mapping of the Bowe and Bowes surnames in Ireland. Distribution mapping of all individuals named Bowe and Bowes in 1911 reveals that those surnames are not distributed evenly throughout Ireland but concentrate in specific counties.



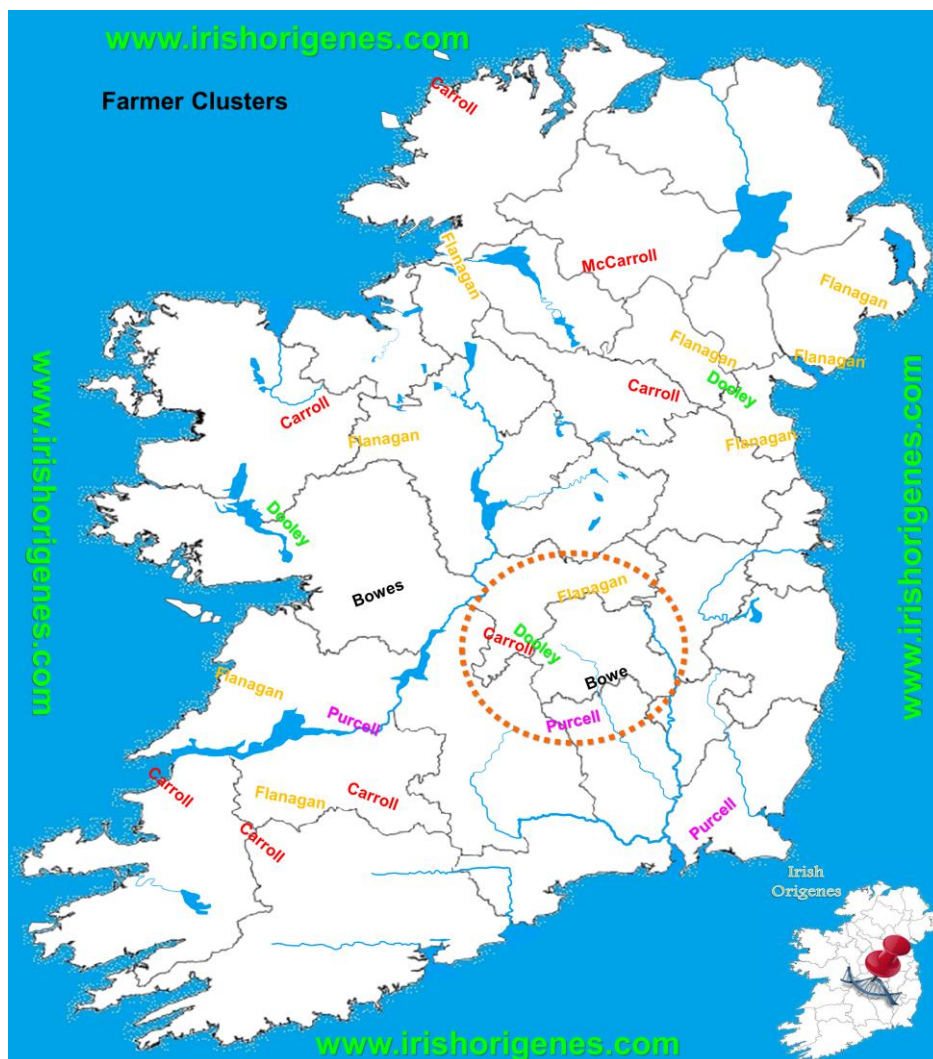
**Figure 4:** The Bowe and Bowes farming communities. An examination of the distribution of farmers named 'Bowe' and 'Bowes' in early census data revealed at least 2 distinct groups within Ireland. Each surname is positioned in the location where farmers (Catholic/male/heads of household) with that surname concentrate in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location. Since the test subject is directly descended from an Irish Bowe/Bowes-Adam, his paternal ancestry is connected to 1 of 2 locations within Ireland.

### A Paternal Ancestral Origin within County Laois

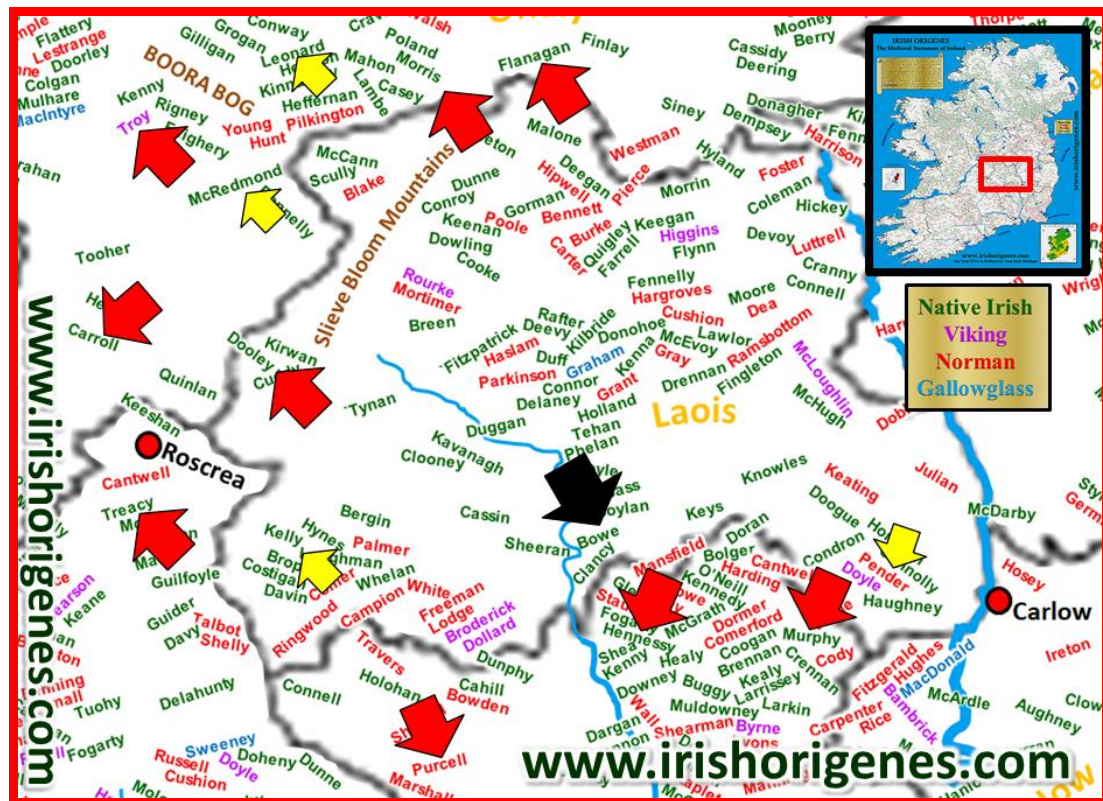
The method of using genetic surname matches as revealed by commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing to pinpoint one's paternal ancestral genetic homeland works by exploiting the link between the Y chromosome, surname and land; which are typically passed from father to son through the generations. In the absence 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 lands where their ancestor lived when he first inherited his surname, or where one's ancestor first settled within Ireland, one can plot where farmers with the surnames that appear in one's Y-DNA results originate and identify an area common to all. This means, for example, that upon Y-DNA testing a Bowes from County Galway will be a

close genetic match to males with surnames like Mannion, Colohan and Kilcar; surnames associated with the west of Ireland.

An examination of the test subject's Y-DNA results reveal that the Bowe/Bowes, Carroll, Dooley, Flanagan and Purcell surnames appear among his closest recurring genetic matches, see **Figure 2**. Overlay mapping reveals that Irish farmers named Bowe/Bowes, Carroll, Dooley, Flanagan and Purcell are found together in a number of locations, but crucially occur in closest proximity to one another in the midlands of Ireland, see **Figure 5**. An examination of the surnames associated with County Laois and its borderlands as it appears on the updated Surnames of Ireland map reveals the Bowe surname surrounded by many that appear among the test subject's closest Y-DNA genetic relatives, see **Figure 1, 2** and **6**. These genetically matching surnames arose among a tribal group of related Gaelic Irish males living in the midlands of Ireland approximately 1,000 years ago.



**Figure 5:** Distribution mapping reveals a paternal origin within the Irish Midlands. Commercial Y-DNA testing reveals that the Bowe/Bowes, Carroll, Dooley, Flanagan and Purcell surnames arose among related males living in a specific part of Ireland. Distribution mapping of farmers named Bowe/Bowes, Carroll, Dooley, Flanagan and Purcell reveals that they are associated with many locations. However those surnames occur in closest proximity to one another within the midlands of Ireland (orange broken circle). Each surname is positioned in the location where farmers with that surname concentrate in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location.



**Figure 6:** The Surnames of County Laois and its borderlands. An examination of the Pre-Plantation surnames found in County Laois and its borderlands reveals the test subject's Bowe ancestors (**black arrow**) together many of the surnames that appear among the test subject's closest recurring (**red arrows**) and singular (**yellow arrows**) genetic matches. These surnames arose among a tribal group of Gaelic Irish males who lived in County Laois in the midlands of Ireland. Image taken from the Irish Origenes Surnames of Ireland map; which detail where farmers with each surname concentrate in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location.

### The Clan Territories of Laois

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. That map reveals that by the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries Ireland was a patchwork of territories which were dominated by over 400 of the most notable Irish Clans and Norman families. Modern commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing will often reveal one's shared paternal ancestry with one or more of the prominent Clans or Families that once ruled over one's paternal ancestral genetic homeland. An examination of County Laois and its borderlands reveals an area where the worlds of Gaelic Irish and the Norman collided, see **Figure 7**. That mix is reflected in the test subject's Y-DNA matches which reveal both prominent Gaelic Irish Clans and Norman Families, most notably the O'Carrolls and Purcells, see **Figure 7**.





**Figure 7:** The Clan territories of Laois and its borderlands. An examination of the Irish Origenes Clan map reveals that Medieval Laois was dominated by native Gaelic Irish Clans, whose lands bordered those of prominent Norman Families. Although the test subject's paternal ancestors lived (**black arrow**) in the lands of the Fitzpatricks, his Y-DNA matches reveal that many of these Clans and Families appear as close recurring (**red arrows**) or singular (**yellow arrows**) genetic matches upon commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing. The Clan territories map was reconstructed based on castle locations and their historically associated clans and families.

### Mr Bowes's Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

An examination of early census data reveals that farmers named Bowe and Bowes concentrate in the farmland that surrounds the town of Abbeyleix in County Laois; and it is there that the test subject's 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 he first took his 'O'Bowe' surname approximately 1,000 years ago (when surnames first appeared in Ireland). His founding O'Bowe-Adam lived surrounded by Gaelic Irish relatives who took other surnames like O'Carroll, Flanagan and Dooley. With the arrival of the Normans in 1169AD, some of his genetic relatives would acquire new surnames like Purcell, Morris and Fitznorman/Norman. When one's ancestors and their genetic relatives have lived in an area for long enough, they leave evidence of their historical links in the monuments and placenames one finds there. An examination of the surrounding area reveals many potential Bowe placenames, most notably 'Bowe's crossroads,' see **Figures 8** and **9**. An examination of the surrounding area also reveals castles/towerhouses, townlands and local placenames associated with many of the test subject's closest genetic relatives, see **Figure 8**. The test subject's paternal ancestors will also have left evidence of their ancestral connection with this area in its history, and in the DNA of the Bowes who still live and farm there.



**Figure 8:** Mr Bowes's Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland. Early census data reveals that Bowe farmers concentrated in the farmland that surrounds Abbeyleix Town (orange broken circle); and it is there that the test subject's Irish paternal ancestral genetic homeland is to be found. It was there that his direct male ancestor first took the 'O'Bowe' surname approximately 1,000 years ago. His founding O'Bowe ancestor lived among Gaelic Irish males who took other surnames like O'Carroll, Dooley and Flanagan, some of whom would also later acquire new surnames like Purcell, Morris and Fitznorman with the arrival of the Normans in this area in 1169AD. His Bowes ancestors have also left evidence of their long ancestral links with this area in the surrounding placenames, most notably 'Bowe's Crossroads.' The surrounding area is also littered with castles, towerhouses, townlands and local placenames associated with many of his Y-DNA genetic relatives. His Bowes ancestors will also have left evidence in the history of this location, and in the DNA of the current inhabitants.



**Figure 9:** Farm located at Bowe's Crossroads.

### **Ancient Britons**

The Bowes R-M269 Y-DNA Haplogroup, together with his most distant Y-DNA matches which include Scottish, Welsh and English surnames; indicates that his paternal ancestors were the 'Brythonic Celts' that dominated Ireland until the arrival of exiled Gaels from Central Europe approximately 2,000 years ago. The test subject's paternal ancestors were the 'Brythonic Celts' who were descended from some of the earliest Celts to settle within Ireland.

### **Confirmation of the Bowes Genetic Homeland**

One must keep in mind that this is a scientific 'DNA' approach. The DNA does not lie. Recent commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing of males named Bowe/Bowes who live and farm in the area surrounding Abbeyleix have confirmed the ancestral link to that location.

**CONTACT IRISH ORIGENES FOR A FREE CONSULTATION  
ON YOUR COMMERCIAL DNA TEST RESULTS:**

[tyronebowes@gmail.com](mailto:tyronebowes@gmail.com)