

Proving historical claims about paternity

Some participants have already proved family stories about male-line ancestry. One participant who has a surname that is not connected to the clan has proved he is descended from an 18th-century Duncan as indicated in documentation of the period. Another participant with a different surname has found confirmation of a family story that his ancestor was a Robertson. There have also been cases where the genetic evidence has not supported a family story.

This is a new and rapidly evolving field of genealogical research. Knowledge and information are increasing all the time.

Taking the test

DNA samples have to be provided by men who have direct male-line ancestry from the surname concerned. Women who are interested in tracing male-line ancestry by genetic means must ask a male relative to take the test. Testing simply involves taking a mouth swab, using the kit provided by the genetic testing company.

The Clan Donnachaidh DNA project is based with one of the leading companies in the field of genetic testing: Family Tree DNA of Texas, which now hosts over 5000 projects.

You can find out more about the company and the possibilities of genetic testing on their website at <http://www.familytreedna.com/>

For further information contact the project administrators:

Tim Duncan at MiTnacnuD@aol.com

or

Stephanie Robertson at dna@pt.lu

or

Donnachaidh DNA Project

HCR-1 Box-86

Kelso, California 92309

USA

For more information about the clan and the clan society see:

<http://www.donnachaidh.com/>

A database for storing genealogical data is available to clan society members.



Hill of Tara, County Meath, supposed ancient capital of Ireland and seat of the High Kings. DNA testing has revealed that several Clan Donnachaidh members are related to Niall of the Nine Hostages, High King of Ireland in the early fifth century.

© Copyright Patrick Brown and licensed for reuse under a Creative Commons Licence.



CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

**Duncan, Robertson,
Duncanson,**

**MacConachie, MacDonachie, Donachie,
Dunnachie, Tonnachy, MacRobert,
Collier, Colyear, Inches, Reid, Roy,
Roberts, Macinroy, MacIvor, Maclagan,
Stark, MacRobie**

CLAN DONNACHAIDH DNA PROJECT

- **Is your surname Duncan, Reid or Robertson or one of the other Clan Donnachaidh surnames?**
- **Have you ever wondered whether your surname originated with one person and whether all those with that surname today are related?**
- **Have you been tracing your family history and have you wondered whether your ancestors are related to others with the same surname in the same area but have not been able to find documentary proof?**

Then the Clan Donnachaidh DNA project may be of interest to you.

The DNA project was set up in 2002 to cover the names associated with the clan. It currently has over 500 members. It uses new scientific discoveries and methodologies to assist in family history research. By testing to see which lines are related we can scientifically prove the number of points of origin of the surnames. This new field of using DNA testing for genealogy research is called genetic genealogy.

Scientists have discovered that a small portion of the Y chromosome, which is found only in men, is passed from father to son virtually unchanged. By testing this small area you can determine whether two men are related and had a common ancestor. (This section of the Y chromosome does not reveal anything about health or genetic disorders.)

How the results appear

The DNA test result is a string of numbers, as shown below, and contains no personal information. If the test results match or are a close match this is an indication that the men share an historically recent common ancestor.

A group of Reids with connections in Scotland and Ireland

14 23 14 11 11 11 12 12 12 13 13 29 17 9 10 11 11 25 14 19 29 15 15 17 17

A group of Robertsons with origins in Aberdeenshire

13 24 13 11 11 14 12 12 12 13 13 30 17 9 10 11 11 25 15 19 30 15 16 16 17

A group of Duncans with connections in East Lothian, Ireland and Pennsylvania

13 25 14 11 11 13 12 12 12 13 14 29 17 9 10 11 11 25 15 18 30 15 16 16 17

A group of Robertsons with origins in Perthshire and probably remote origins in Ireland

13 25 14 11 11 13 12 12 11 13 14 29 17 9 10 11 11 25 15 18 30 15 16 16 17

The aims of the project

- determine which ancestral lines are related
- help participants to confirm family trees and obtain clues to help in documentary research
- determine the number of points of origin of the surnames
- discover more about the adoption of surnames in clan history.

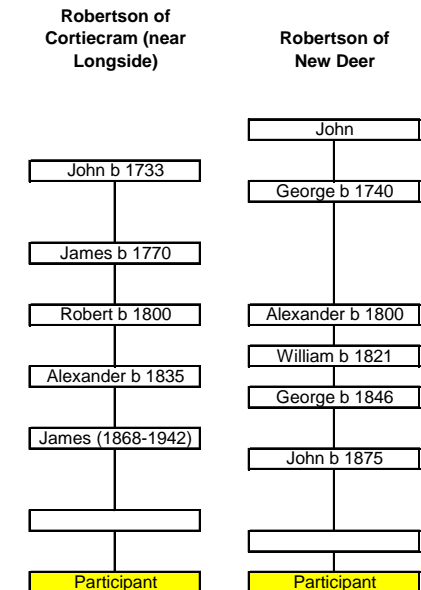
Remote origins revealed

- The majority of Clan Donnachaidh participants tested so far belong to the largest population group in Europe, which expanded throughout Western Europe after the last Ice Age and which was the first to recolonize Britain about 11 500 years ago.
- Some participants' results suggest remote origins among people who crossed from Ireland; some participants (Duncans, Reids and Robertsons) have been shown to be related to Niall of the Nine Hostages, High King of Ireland in the early fifth century.
- Another group of Clan Donnachaidh participants show genetic origins associated with Scandinavia and the adjoining area of Germany, indicating ancestors who arrived on the eastern side of Britain from mainland Europe, probably in prehistoric times.

Family history research

Ideally you should test different branches of documented family trees to see whether they have been researched correctly and, where documentary proof is lacking, families from the ancestral area with the same surname to see whether you share a common ancestor.

The participants in the chart below did not know of a family connection before taking the test. On the basis of 12 markers there is an 80% probability that they are related within 16 generations. A test on more markers would no doubt reveal a higher probability of a relationship. They can now work on investigating the links between their families. It is not a foregone conclusion that everyone with the same name in the same area is related in the male line. The survey has revealed a wide range of results, though generally within certain genetic groupings.



Cortiecrum and New Deer are about 10 miles apart in Aberdeenshire.