

# Case Study

# Pinpointing the McTee

# Genetic Homeland

---

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



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

**Dr Tyrone Bowes**  
Updated 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013

### INTRODUCTION

A commercial 37 marker 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 1,200 years ago one's direct medieval male ancestor, the first for example to call himself 'McTee' was living in close proximity to others with whom he was related but who assumed other surnames like Larkin, MacMahon, and McGuire. Given that 1,200 years have passed since surnames were adopted, there will be many descendants of these individuals some of whom today will undergo commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing. Hence the surnames of one's medieval ancestor's neighbours will be reflected in today's DNA test results.

In Ireland surnames can still be found concentrated in the County from which they originate. In this manner one can examine the individual surname distribution maps on the [Irish Origenes](#) website and pinpoint a '**Genetic Homeland.**' The Genetic Homeland is the very small area (within a 5 mile radius) where one's ancestors lived for hundreds if not thousands of years. It is the area where one's ancestors left their mark in the placenames of that area and in the DNA of its current inhabitants. Since modern science can pinpoint a 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 have a single founding ancestor, that's an estimated 1,500 Adam's from whom one can trace direct ancestry. 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 or infidelity.
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 1,200 years ago. As a result if your recent Irish ancestors were originally 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!

### Pinpointing the GENETIC HOMELAND

Upon commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing Mr McTee did not match any other McTee individuals or others with similar sounding surnames, see **Figure 1**. This may simply be due to the fact that the McTee surname is uncommon, and that others with this surname have yet to undergo commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing. Alternatively the McTee surname may be a spelling variation of an as yet unidentified surname.

#### SURNAMES THAT OCCUR AS A GENETIC MATCH TO TEST SUBJECT MCTEE FROM 37 MARKER Y-CHROMOSOME DNA TESTING

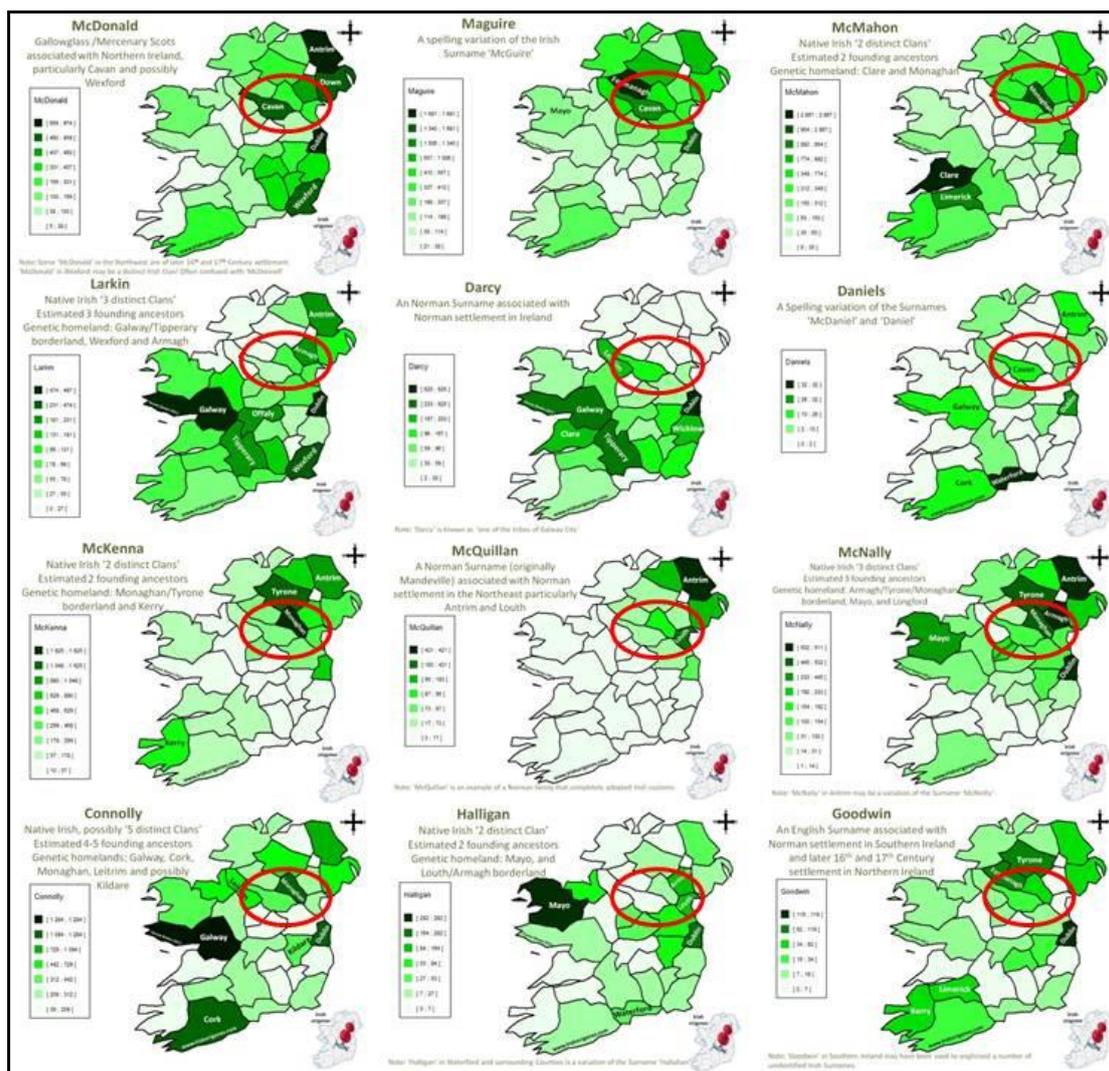
| Test subject | 37 Marker Y-DNA test |    |   |  |   |                 |    |  |
|--------------|----------------------|----|---|--|---|-----------------|----|--|
|              | 37 marker level      |    |   |  |   | 25 Marker level |    |  |
|              | exact                | -1 | -2  | -3   | -4  | exact           | -1 | -2   |
| McTee        | -                    | -  | McDonald(x7)/McDonnell(x1)<br>Darcy/Dorcy(x2)<br>Larkin(x5)<br>McDaniel(x6) | Biggins(x2)/Beaghan(x1)/Beggan(x1) <sup>1</sup><br>McMahon(x6)<br>McCall(x2)<br>McGuire(x14)<br>Devine(x2) | Duffy(x2)<br>McKenna(x15)<br>McQuillan(x3)<br>Kelly(x3)<br>Moore(x2)<br>McNally(x2) | -               | -  | Conley(x3)<br>Reid/Reed(x4)<br>Godwin(x5) <sup>2</sup><br>Smith/Smyth(x2)<br>Roberts(x2)<br>Collins(x3)<br>Buchanan(x2)<br>Dodson(x6) <sup>2</sup><br>Halligan(x2)<br>Shugars(x2) <sup>2</sup><br>King(x2)<br>Paden/Peden(x5)<br>Little(x2) <sup>1</sup> |

**Figure 1:** Reoccurring surname matches for test subject McTee as revealed by Y-DNA37 testing. Mr McTee’s most frequent reoccurring genetic matches are to surnames associated with Ireland. Font colour is indicative of ethnicity; **Irish**, **Scottish**, **Norman**, black font indicates multiple possible ethnicities. Numbers in brackets are the number of different individuals with each surname that occur as a genetic match. <sup>1</sup>Variants of Beggan (often anglicised ‘Little’ from the Gaelic word ‘Beag’). <sup>2</sup>Putative false positives; these may be individuals from the same close family recruited for DNA testing.

An examination of the reoccurring surnames identified in Figure 1 revealed a clear ancestral link to Ireland as evident by genetic matches to surnames that arose in Ireland like McGuire and MacMahon, or those associated with medieval Norman and Scottish settlement within Ireland, see **Figure 1**.

When one examines the surname distribution pattern of the surnames that appear as reoccurring surnames throughout the 32 Counties of Ireland (in 1911) an association amongst all of these surnames with the neighbouring Counties of Cavan and Monaghan is particularly evident, see **Figure 2**. This indicates that the McTee surname or the original surname (if the surname is a spelling variant) originated within the Cavan or Monaghan area.

## McTee - A Case Study

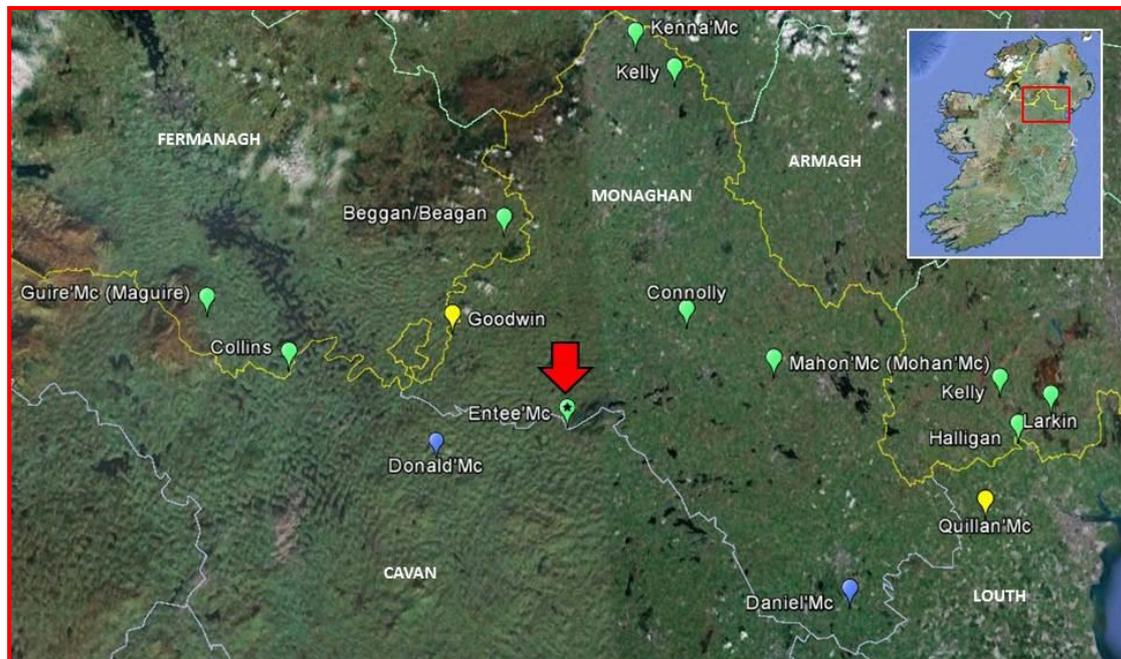


**Figure 2:** Surname distribution mapping reveals an ancestral link to Counties Monaghan and Cavan. These reoccurring surnames show a common area of association. Each of these surnames is found in, or close to the neighbouring Counties of Monaghan and Cavan (red circle). **Note:** There is no Beggan surname distribution map available as yet, but this surname is associated almost exclusively with County Fermanagh that borders both Cavan and Monaghan.

Land, like the surname and Y chromosome is typically passed from father to son. Given the importance of land to the Irish psyche and the fact that Ireland was still an overwhelmingly agrarian society in 1911, farmers in Ireland could still be found farming the same land that their ancestors had settled hundreds if not thousands of years ago. To identify the area where the McTee (or the original surname of which McTee is a variant) one must plot where the Farmers (heads of household) with the surnames identified in Figure 1 occur from census data. This process results in a surprising discovery, in the centre of this scattering of surnames one finds the 'McEntee' farming community. This indicates that **McTee** is undoubtedly a spelling variation of **McEntee** and that the spelling variation has simply arisen as one's ancestors move further and further from the Genetic Homeland, arising at the whim of an administrator unfamiliar with a surname who simply spell it as he or she hears it. What is also particularly notable is that McEntee is both relatively uncommon;

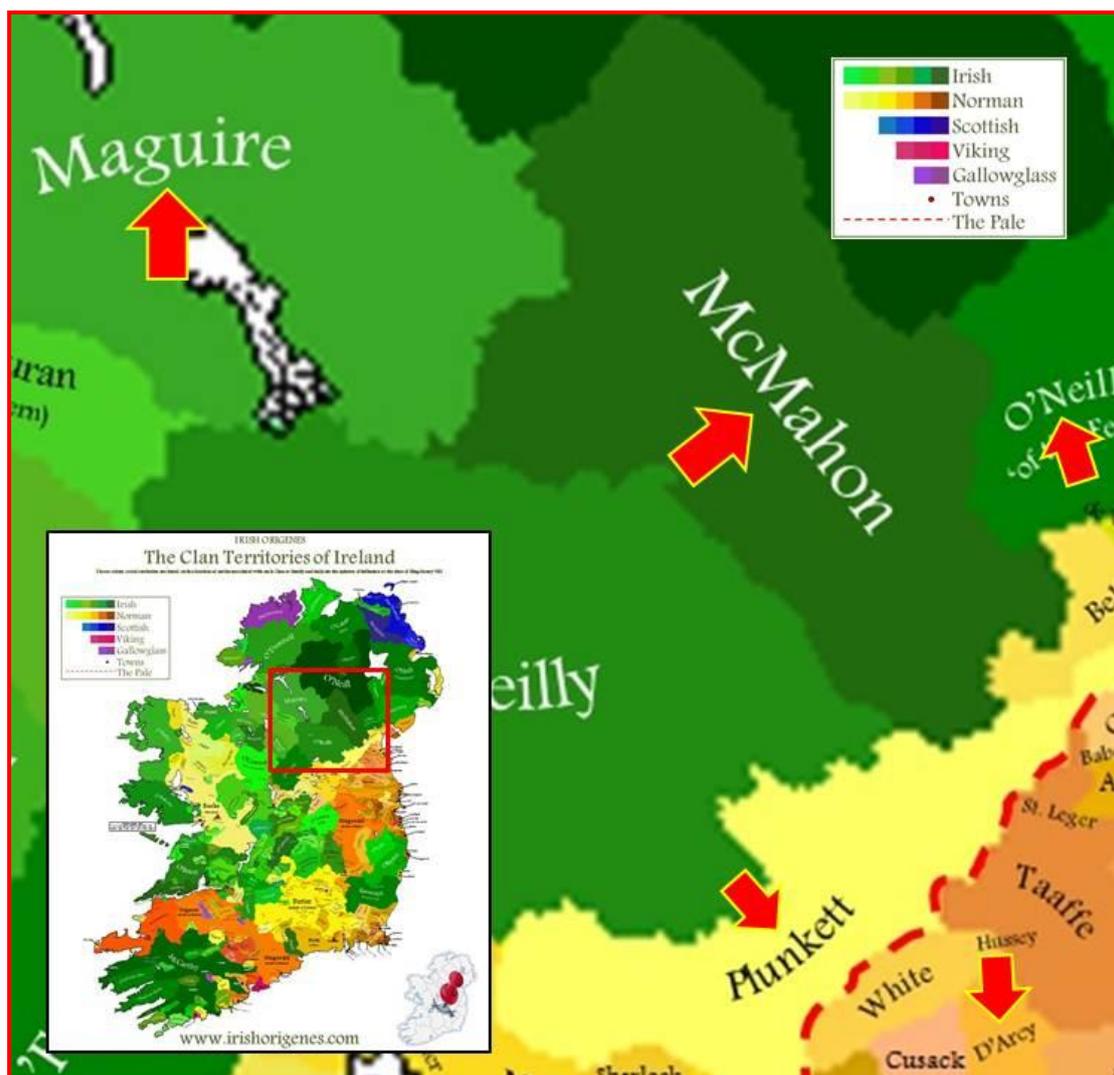
## McTee - A Case Study

which explains the lack of matches at present to other McEntee's, but also that farmers called McEntee are found exclusively within the Cavan/Monaghan border area.



**Figure 3:** Clan McEntee on the Cavan and Monaghan border. Mr McTee's reoccurring surnames cluster in the neighbouring Counties of Cavan, Monaghan and, Fermanagh. At the centre of this cluster one finds the McEntee farming community (red arrow). Balloon colour is indicative of the ethnicity associated with each surname; Irish, Norman, Scottish. A starred balloon indicates that this surname is unique to this location!

An examination of the Irish Origenes Clan Territories of Ireland Map typically reveals a shared ancestry (of the test subjects Clan or Family) to prominent Clans or Families that once ruled over one's Genetic Homeland. An examination of Monaghan, Cavan, and Fermanagh on this map reveals that the area where today's McEntee's cluster was located within the medieval territory of the MacMahon's and McGuire's see **Figure 4**. Both of these Clans are notable as they appear as the most frequent genetic matches at the 37 marker level (see **Figure 1**). This map also reveals that the Norman Darcy's and Plunkett's (who also appear as genetic matches) were found just to the south, within or bordering the Medieval area of English control known as 'The Pale.' This close proximity of Gael and Norman would also explain the genetic matches to mercenary Scottish Gallowglass Clans like the McDonnell/McDonald's and McDaniel as these were employed by various prominent Clans (like the MacMahon's and McGuire's) to check the Norman expansion.



**Figure 4:** The Clan Territories of Ireland. An examination of Cavan, Monaghan, and Fermanagh as they appear on the Clan Territories map reveals Mr McTee’s shared ancestry to a number of prominent Irish Clans and Norman Families that controlled this area including the McGuire’s, McMahon’s, and D’Arcy’s (red arrows). Mr McTee also has singular matches to individuals with the surnames O’Neill and Plunkett.

### The McTee Genetic Homeland

Ireland is unique in that many of its placenames reflect the Clans and families that lived there. The ‘townland’ is the smallest unit of geographical land division in Ireland. The entire country is divided into an estimated 62,000 ancient townlands whose names *predate* the arrival of the Normans in Ireland in 1169AD. In 1911 the highest concentration of McEntee farmers were centred upon the townland of Rakenny, see **Figure 5**. An examination of the area surrounding Rakenny does not reveal any placenames or townlands associated with the McEntee’s. However the area is littered with references in the placenames to Mr McTee’s genetic cousins including the McGuire’s, MacMahon’s, McNally’s, McKenna’s, McDonnell’s, Kelly’s, Conley (Connolly), Shiel’s, and Darcy’s.

Mr McTee’s commercial ancestral DNA test results indicate that he is directly descended from the Gaelic Irish McEntee Adam (the first to take that McEntee



## McTee - A Case Study

---

6. [Irish Origenes Castles of Ireland Map](#). This map details the names and precise location of nearly 1,500 castles in Ireland. Input the co-ordinates into Google Earth and view the castles on street view.
7. Your Genetic Homeland can be confirmed by recruiting male volunteers with the Surname of interest from the identified area for Y-DNA37 testing.

**ALTERNATIVELY ORDER YOUR OWN CASE STUDY BY CONTACTING ME DIRECTLY [tyronebowes@gmail.com](mailto:tyronebowes@gmail.com)**

**The consultation for your own Case Study is free. At present there is an 86% success rate. If in the unlikely event that I cannot pinpoint your Genetic Homeland I will explain why and I will not charge you.**

***Every successful Case Study customer also receives an Irish Origenes Surnames of Ireland, Clan territories of Ireland, and the Castles of Ireland map.***