Contact Dr Tyrone Bowes (tyronebowes@gmail.com) to find out about a suitable painless commercial ancestral DNA test for you, or for a FREE CONSULTATION on you DNA test results

If you believe you are a DNA match to the test subject (Mr Burns) then you should contact Margaret Nolan margaret@margaretnolan.org

PART II

Reconstructing the Burn’s Ancient Paternal Ancestral Journey

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Dr Tyrone Bowes
16/07/2018
INTRODUCTION

The more Y-DNA genetic markers or mutations that two people share the more recent their common male ancestor once lived. In this manner the genetically recurring surnames that appear upon YDNA STR testing at the 111, 67 and 37 marker levels will typically reflect ones ancestral neighbours from the time when paternally inherited surnames became common, which was roughly 1,000 years ago in Britain and Ireland. But the Y-DNA STR test results also reveals many more people who share less genetic markers which reflect shared paternal ancestry prior to the appearance of surnames, and it is those genetic relatives that can reveal clues as to one’s ancient paternal ancestral journey.

INTERPRETING MR BURN’S DISTANT GENETIC MATCHES

While Mr Burns Y-DNA matches at the 11, 67 and 37 marker levels demonstrated an origin within Southeast Ireland an estimated 1,000 years ago, analysis of his 25 marker matches revealed the dominance of Scottish ancestral locations, see Figure 1. This earlier origin within Scotland is confirmed by an examination of the test subject’s genetically recurring surname matches at the 12 marker level which were dominated by either exclusively Scottish or Scottish-associated surnames, see Figure 2. Strikingly, when one plots the earliest paternal ancestral locations within Scotland recorded by the test subject’s 12 marker matches it reveals that they are overwhelmingly associated with the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, see Figure 3. The area that lay above the Firth of Forth and the Clyde Estuary was an area dominated by the Scottish Gaels, see Figure 4. An earlier paternal ancestral link with Scotland is not uncommon among Irish males a pre-Viking paternal origin. In fact most Irish males of ‘Gaelic’ Irish origin have evidence within their commercial ancestral Y-DNA results of an earlier ancestral link with our nearest neighbour Scotland. The test subject’s more distant genetic relatives reveal an earlier ancestral link with the Gaels of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

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Figure 1: Scottish ancestral locations dominated Mr Burn’s 25 marker matches. Of the 66 genetic matches at the 25 marker level, only 6 revealed the origin of their earliest paternal ancestor. An examination of those locations revealed that they were not random, and were dominated by individuals with earliest recorded paternal ancestral links with Scotland. Highlighted font indicates locations of earliest known paternal ancestor; Scotland, Ireland, England, and Mainland Europe.
Figure 2: Genetically recurring surnames that only appear at the 12 marker level are dominated by Scottish surnames. The test subject had 1,436 genetic relatives at the 12 marker level. Those genetic matches are NOT RANDOM, 314 of those genetic relatives have surnames that recur 5 times or more throughout the 12 marker results, the most frequent of which are detailed. Scottish-associated surnames dominate, followed by English surnames and 2 distinctly German surnames. Highlighted font indicates each surname's associated ethnicity; Scottish, Scottish-associated, Irish, English and German.
Figure 3: Scottish ancestral locations are associated with the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. An examination of the ancestral locations within Scotland as revealed by genetic relatives that only appear at the 12 marker level reveals that they are overwhelmingly associated with the Highlands and Islands of Northern Scotland which lie beyond the Clyde Estuary and the Firth of Forth.
Figure 4: Gaelic Scotland. The Scots are a genetically diverse bunch composed of descendants of Picts, Ancient Britons, Gaels, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans. The Gaels that came to dominate Scottish identity are associated with the west of Scotland. Their area of influence can be determined by an examination of the distribution of Gaelic ‘Mac’ surnames. The Gaels of the Scottish Southwest are more recent arrivals from Ireland who colonised ‘Galloway’ in 1100AD.

Mr Burn’s Paternal Celtic Central European Roots

The appearance of genetically recurring German surnames at the 12 marker level are the first clues to the test subject’s more ancient Mainland European roots. By plotting the locations of all of the ancestral locations revealed by the test subject’s 12 marker matches it reveals a small cluster on the Rhine centred upon the modern border between Germany and France, see Figure 5. This area of the Rhine is ground zero for males with paternal Gaelic Irish and Scottish origin. The test subject’s Mainland European paternal ancestors

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were located within the Celtic heartland of the Halstatt (800BC) and La Tene (400BC) cultures.

![Ancestral Locations (12 Marker Matches)](image)

**Figure 5:** Mr Burn's Central European Celtic origin. By plotting the ancestral locations recorded by the test subject's genetic relatives who appear at the 12 marker match level it revealed a small cluster in the Rhine River Valley in Central Europe. This area is located within the Celtic (Halstatt and La Tene) heartland. Each pin is placed in the location where an earliest paternal ancestor was recorded.

**The Conquest and Colonisation of Northern Scotland and Ireland by the Celtic Proto-Gaels**

The tribal progenitors of both the Celtic Ancient Britons and Gaels emerged from the area known as Bohemia in approximately 800BC. DNA studies have revealed that the ‘Celts’ left Bohemia and followed the River Main to the Rhine where one finds their ancient Capital of Glauberg, see **Figure 6**. From Glauberg the Celts split in two, with the ancestors of the Ancient Britons heading down the Rhine colonising modern Netherlands and Belgium before crossing into Briton. In contrast, the ancestors of the Gaels spread south from Glauberg colonising the upper reaches of the Rhine. However, by approximately 50BC the Proto-Gaels who had settled in the Rhine River valley area that forms the modern border with France and Germany, found themselves squeezed between Conquering Romans in the south and west, and marauding Germanic tribes to the north and east, see **Figure 6**. The DNA reveals that there was a sudden exodus of ‘Proto-Gaelic’ people who fled north along the Rhine, crossing into Britain but continued north, staying one step ahead of the Roman advance, before finally settling above the Firth of Forth and the Clyde in Scotland, where the Antonine wall would later mark the furthest reaches of the Roman Empire. It was within the...
Highlands and Islands of Scotland that they would become the ‘Gaels’ that would spread further throughout Scotland and Ireland, see *Figure 6*.

*Figure 6*: The Gaelic colonization of Scotland and Ireland. The ancestors of both the Ancient Britons and Gaels emerged from Bohemia nearly 3,000 years ago. Their Celtic ancestors had followed the River Main to the Rhine where one finds their ancient capital of Glauberg. From Glauberg they split in 2 with the ancestors of the Ancient Britons spreading north along the Rhine (colonising the surrounding lands) and crossing into Briton. In contrast the Celtic ancestors of the Scots and Irish Gaels had spread south along the Rhine. By approximately 50BC these Proto-Gaels who lived along the modern border between Germany and France found themselves squeezed between Romans and Germanic tribes and an exodus began. The Proto-Gaels fled north, following the course of the Rhine and crossed the Channel into Britain. They would continue north, staying one step ahead of the Roman advance which by 50AD had reached the Firth of Forth and the Clyde. It was within the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and later within Ireland that the Gaels would eventually come to dominate.