

Contact Dr Tyrone Bowes at Irish Origenes for a free  
consultation on your DNA results [tyronebowes@gmail.com](mailto:tyronebowes@gmail.com)

You can contact Nathaniel Rogers who commissioned the report at  
[Hrothgar0311@gmail.com](mailto:Hrothgar0311@gmail.com)

## Case Study

# Pinpointing the Rogers Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

---

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



**Dr Tyrone Bowes**  
**20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

## 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. One's direct medieval male ancestor, the first for example to call himself 'Rogers' was living near others with whom he was paternally related but who crucially inherited other surnames like Kelly, Lawlor, and Moore. Given that hundreds 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 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. Science has demonstrated 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 unique surnames) can trace direct descent. But science has also demonstrated that only 50% of individuals with a unique Irish surname will be related to their surnames founding ancestor (*the surname-Adam*), the other 50% of males will have an association that has arisen due to 'non-paternal events,' usually a result of adoptions 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 typically reflect one's ancestor's neighbours from around 1,000 years ago. As a result, if one's Irish paternal ancestor was descended from a Viking raider, Norman, or Plantation settler, then one's Y-DNA results may reflect earlier English, Welsh, French, and possibly Scandinavian origin. 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 genetic matches upon commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing. Those surnames, particularly those that recur among one’s closest genetic matches, will reflect the surnames of one’s ancestral neighbours. Mr Rogers closest and most frequent genetic surname matches as revealed by commercial ancestral Y-DNA STR and SNP testing are revealed in **Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4.**

111 Y-DNA STR Matches							
Last Name	Match Date	Markers Tested	Genetic Distance	Big Y STR Differences	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Paternal Country of Origin	Earliest Known Ancestor
Rogers	December 27 2021	1 to 700	0	Not Available	R-M269	United States	William Rogers 1792-1869
Rogers	September 25 2020	1 to 111	2	Not Available	R-M269	Unknown Origin	
Rogers	June 30 2021	1 to 700	2	5 of 618	R-FTA2007	Unknown Origin	William Rogers 1797-1869
Lawler	September 25 2020	1 to 111	8	Not Available	R-M269	Ireland	
Viljoen	September 25 2020	1 to 500	9	7 of 494	R-BY38371	Ireland	LAWLER (revealed by yDNA)
Doolin	September 25 2020	1 to 500	10	13 of 536	R-FGC28340	Unknown Origin	James Doolin, b. ca 1755 Virginia, USA; d. ca 1814
Finley	September 25 2020	1 to 700	10	15 of 605	R-FT47463	Unknown Origin	
Dowling	September 25 2020	1 to 700	10	15 of 610	R-FGC28340	Ireland	Edward Dowling 1810-1854
Moore	September 25 2020	1 to 111	10	Not Available	R-L1402	United Kingdom	John Moore, b. 1755, Pitt Co, NC
Moore	September 25 2020	1 to 111	10	Not Available	R-L1402	Unknown Origin	John Moore, b.1755, Pitt Co, NC

**Figure 1:** Mr Rogers 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 Y-DNA STR matches are **NOT RANDOM**; they are a mix of Irish-associated surnames together with individuals with earliest recorded links with Ireland. Rogers is a surname associated with Ireland, and the mix of genetic matches which are dominated by Irish-associated surnames and earliest origins, indicates a paternal origin within Ireland. Highlighted font indicates the ethnicity associated with each surname or location of an earliest paternal ancestor; Irish/Ireland, Irish-associated, Mainland European.

Test Subject	Haplogroup	Y-DNA STR Recurring Surname Matches						
		111 Markers			67 Markers			
		Genetic Distance			Genetic Distance			
	0	8	10	4	5	6	7	
Rogers	R-M269						Bergen (x4)	Lewis (x8)
							Duryea (x3)	Martin (x5)
		Rogers (x6)	Lawlor/Lawlor (x5)	Doolin/Dowling (x15)	Kelley/Kelly (x9)	Sharp (x7)	Freeman (x4)	Downing (x3)
				Moore/Moir (x7)		Smith (x3) <sup>1</sup>	McCall (x4)	Foster (x3)
							Morrison (x4)	James (x3)
							Sutcliffe/Sutliff (x4)	Jones (x3)
								Macdonald/McDonald (x3)

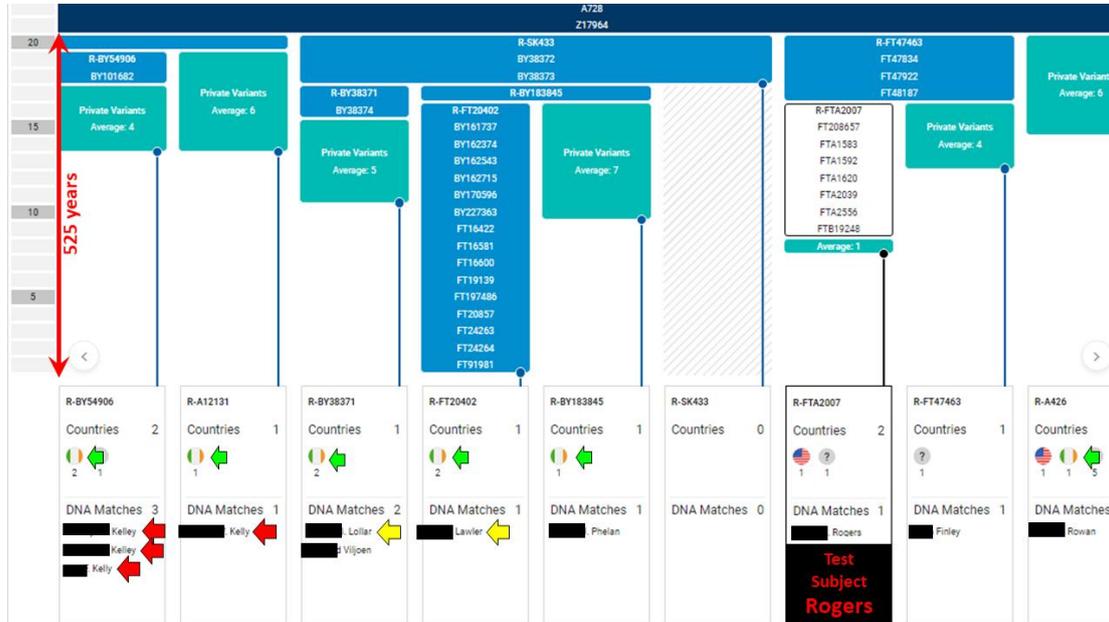
**Figure 2:** Mr Rogers closest recurring Y-DNA STR genetic surname matches reveal a paternal ancestral origin within Ireland. Surnames are shown at the point at which they first occur as a genetic match, for example the first match to an individual named ‘Lawlor’ shares 103/111 markers, but not all Lawlers/Lawlors will match at that level. In brackets are the numbers of individuals with a particular surname that appear as a genetic match at the 111, 67 and 37 marker levels. The test subject’s closest genetically recurring Y-DNA STR surname matches are dominated by common Gaelic Irish surnames or surnames that are associated with Ireland, confirming a paternal ancestral origin within Ireland. Highlighted font indicates each surnames associated ethnicity; Irish, Irish-associated, Scottish, English, Welsh. <sup>1</sup>Smith is also an anglicised form of Gaelic Irish McGowan.

Upon commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing the test subject was a close genetic match to other individuals named ‘Rogers,’ see **Figure 1.** This indicates that the test subject is either directly descended from a Rogers-Adam (the first male to take that surname) or that the surname has been in his paternal line for hundreds of years. Rogers is an Irish-associated surname, and a paternal ancestral link with Ireland is confirmed by the test subject’s closest recurring Y-DNA STR genetic matches which are dominated by Irish-associated surnames, see **Figure 2.**

While the STR’s examined in the Y-DNA111 test are repetitive sequences of DNA which can be amplified or deleted with each generation, SNP’s are far more permanent mutations. SNP testing offers a far more accurate glimpse of the precise

## Rogers – Y-DNA Case Study January 2022

chronological development of surnames among related males. SNP testing reveals that these Y-DNA matching surnames arose among a group of Gaelic Irish males who shared a common ancestor approximately 525 years ago, see **Figure 3**. SNP testing also reveals that the ‘Kelly’ surname dominates among the test subject’s closest and most frequent SNP matches, and that his paternal ancestry is most closely linked with the Kelly surname, see **Figure 4**.



**Figure 3:** Block display of Mr Rogers closest SNP matches confirms an Irish paternal origin. While Y-DNA STRs are prone to replication or deletion with each generation, SNPs are far more permanent mutations. SNP testing offers an accurate glimpse of the precise chronological development of surnames among a group of related males. SNP testing reveals that the test subject shares a paternal ancestor (who lived an estimated 525 years ago) with multiple males named Lawlor (yellow arrows) and Kelly (red arrows) with earliest links with Ireland (green arrow). SNP testing reveals that the Lawlor, Kelly, Finley, and Phelan surnames (among others) arose among a tribal group of Gaelic Irish males living somewhere within Ireland an estimated 525 years ago.

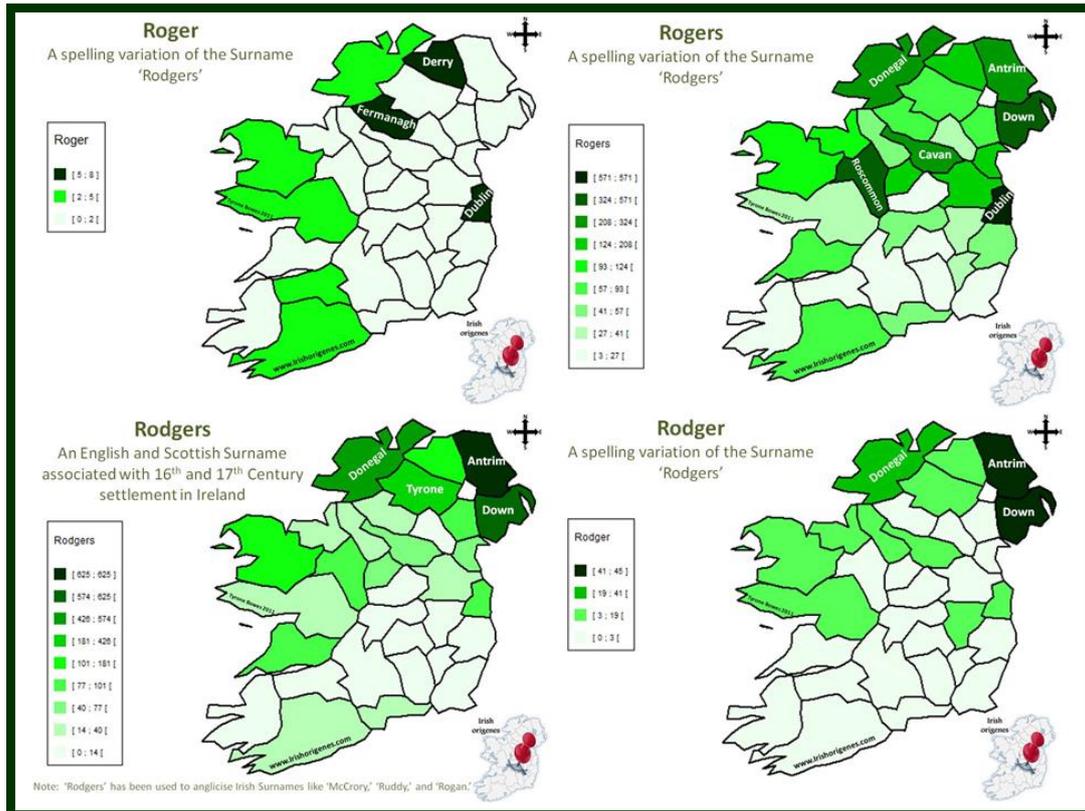
Y-DNA SNP Matches			
Match Name	Frequency	Minimum SNP Difference	Est. Years to a shared Paternal Ancestor
Kelly/Kelly	9	14	350
Doolin/Dowling	5	22	550
Lewis	4	25	625
Downey/McEldowney	3	19	475
Morrison	3	15	375
Lawler/Lollar	2	23	575
Rogers	1	1	25
Finley	1	12	300
Rowan	1	16	400
Darst	1	17	425
Hargreaves	1	20	500
Devoy	1	22	550
Pemberton	1	22	550
Phelan	1	22	550
Keyes	1	23	575
Ferguson	1	24	600
Downing	1	25	625
Kitchen	1	25	625
Phillips	1	25	625
Viljoen	1	25	625
Hamilton	1	27	675
Bassett	1	28	700
Devine	1	28	700
Kewley	1	29	725

**Figure 4:** Kellys dominate the test subject's closest and most frequent Y-DNA SNP matches. Y-DNA SNP testing revealed 44 paternal genetic relatives, 26 of whom had surnames that recur (detailed). Those surnames are **NOT RANDOM** and are dominated in frequency by Irish-associated surnames which confirms a paternal ancestral origin within Ireland. 'Kelly' dominates, indicating that the test subject's paternal ancestry is most closely linked with that surname. Highlighted font indicates ethnicity; **Irish**, **Irish-associated**, **Scottish**, **English**, **Welsh**, **Mainland European**.

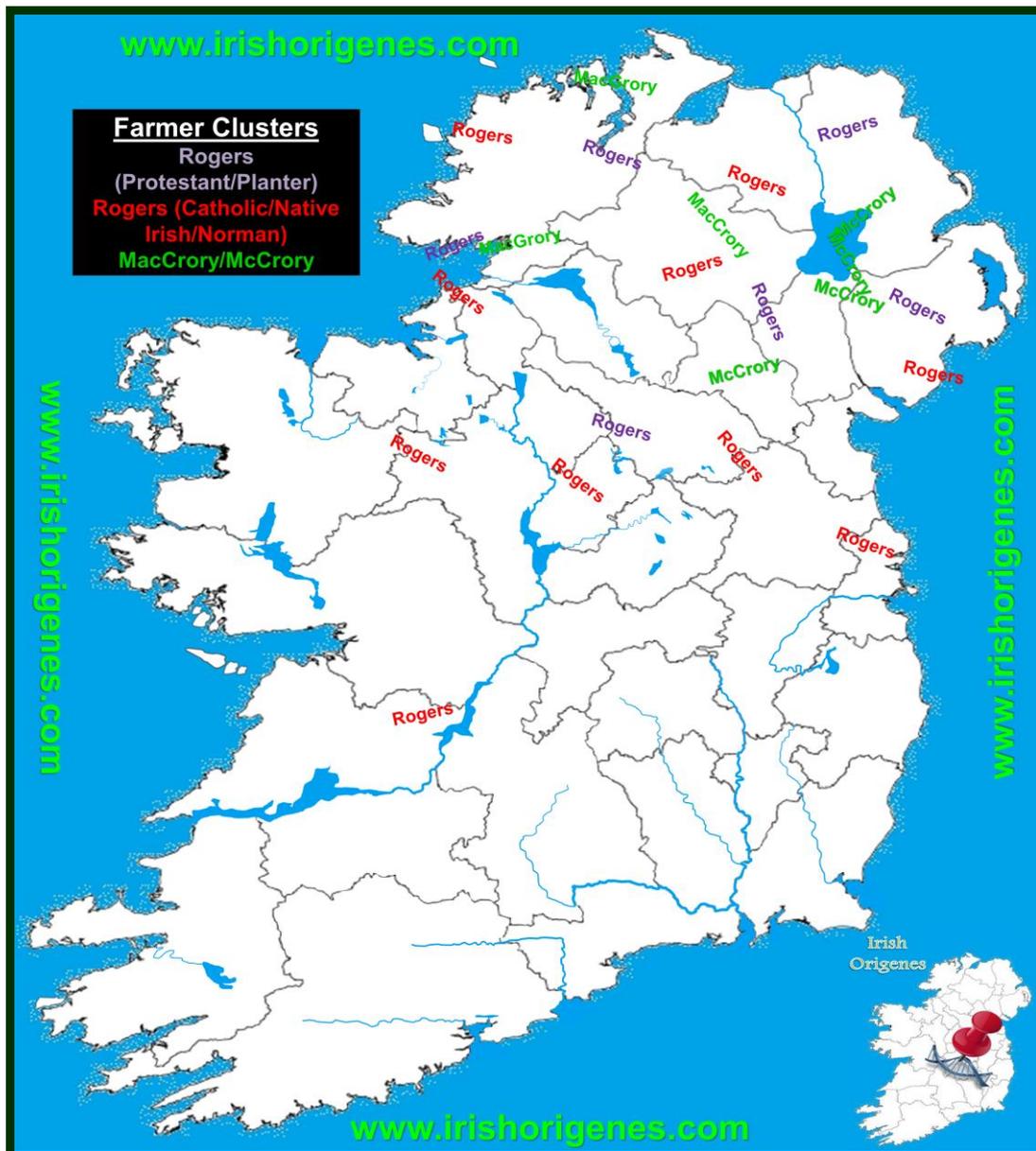
### The Rogers Surname in Ireland

Rogers is a common surname in Ireland. The 1911 census of Ireland revealed 6,308 individuals named Roger, Rogers, Rodger, and Rodgers. Distribution mapping reveals that those individuals were not distributed evenly throughout Ireland, but concentrate within specific counties, see **Figure 5**. 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 Rogers (male, heads of household in 1901) reveals that they were not distributed evenly throughout Ireland, but concentrated in at least 16 specific locations, see **Figure 6**. MacLysaght, in his book on the Surnames of Ireland, reports that 'Rogers' has also been used to anglicise the Gaelic 'McRory' surname, and the identification of farmers named McCrory/McGrory in the same locations where one finds Rogers would support that finding, see **Figure 6**.

## Rogers – Y-DNA Case Study January 2022



**Figure 5:** Distribution mapping of the Rogers surname in Ireland. Distribution mapping of all individuals named Rogers in 1911 reveals that the surname was not distributed evenly throughout Ireland but concentrates in specific counties. Image taken from the Irish Surnames database, free to view <https://www.irishorigenes.com/surnames-database>.



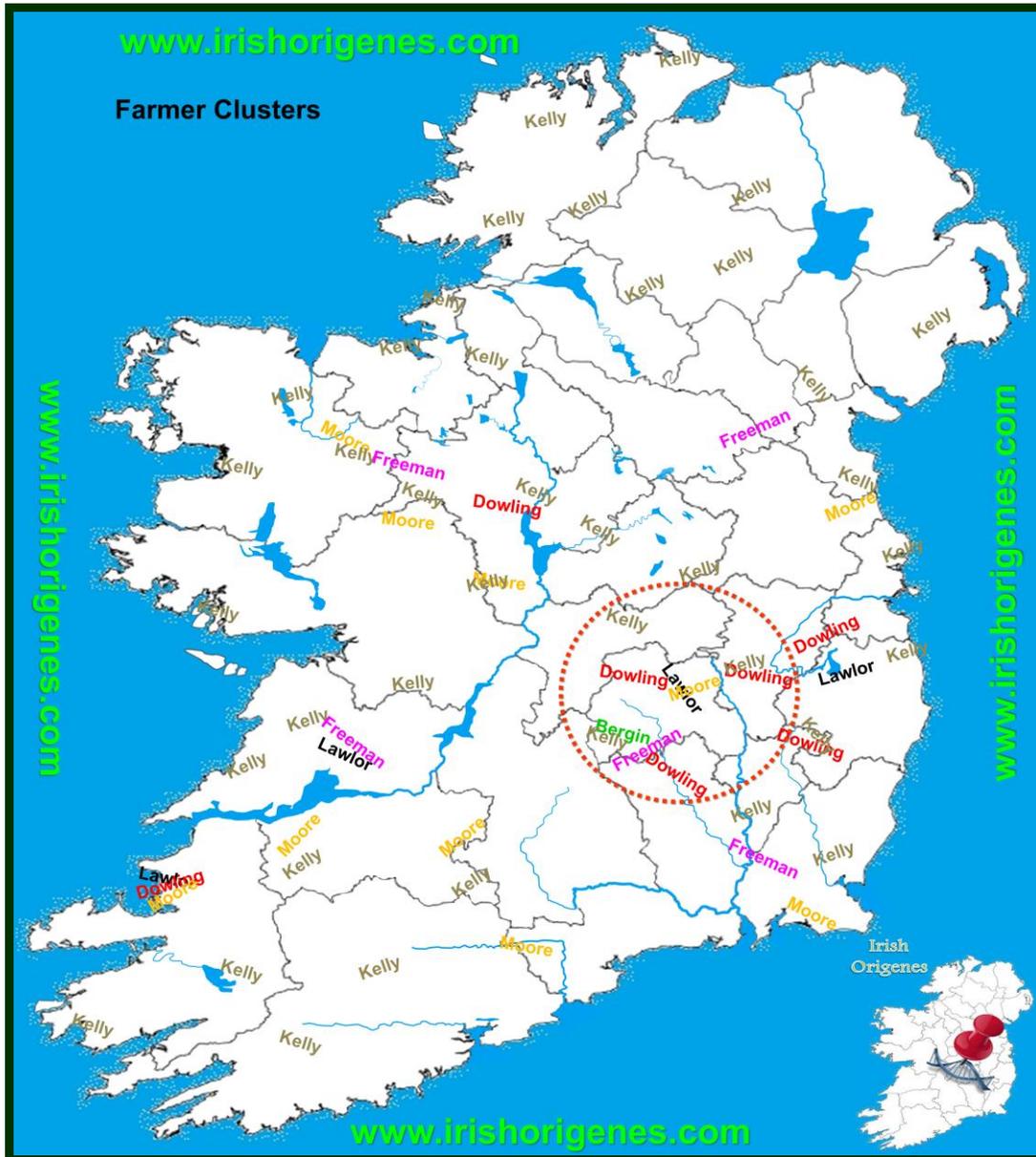
**Figure 6:** The Rogers and McCrory farming communities. An examination of the distribution of farmers named 'Rogers' in early census data revealed at least 16 distinct groups within Ireland. Each surname is positioned in the location where farmers (male/heads of household) with that surname concentrate in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location. Overlay mapping also reveals that farmers named McCrory/MacGrory occur together with Rogers/Rogers, which would support a report that Rogers/Rodgers has been used as an anglicised form of Gaelic McRory/Rory. Surnames are positioned as they appear on the Irish Origines Medieval Surnames map <https://www.originesmaps.com/maps/medieval-surnames-ireland>. A surname search function is available at <https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames>.

### A Paternal Ancestral link with the Irish Midlands

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 Rogers from County Donegal will be a genetic match to males named Doherty, Gallagher, and McGee; surnames associated with Northwest Ireland. In contrast, a Rogers male from County Clare will be a Y-DNA genetic match to individuals named O'Brien, McNamara, Fogarty, and Hogan, surnames associated with Southwest Ireland.

An examination of the test subject's Y-DNA results reveal that the Kelly, Lawlor, Dowling, Moore, Freeman, and Bergin surnames appear as his closest and most frequent Irish-associated genetic matches, see **Figures 2** and **4**. Overlay mapping reveals that the Kelly, Lawlor, Dowling, Moore, Freeman, and Bergin surnames crucially only occur together within County Laois in the Irish Midlands, see **Figure 7**. An examination of the surnames associated with the Irish Midlands as it appears on the updated Surnames of Ireland map reveals the Kellys that dominate the test subject's Y-DNA results together with many of the surnames that appear among the test subject's Y-DNA results, see **Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8**.



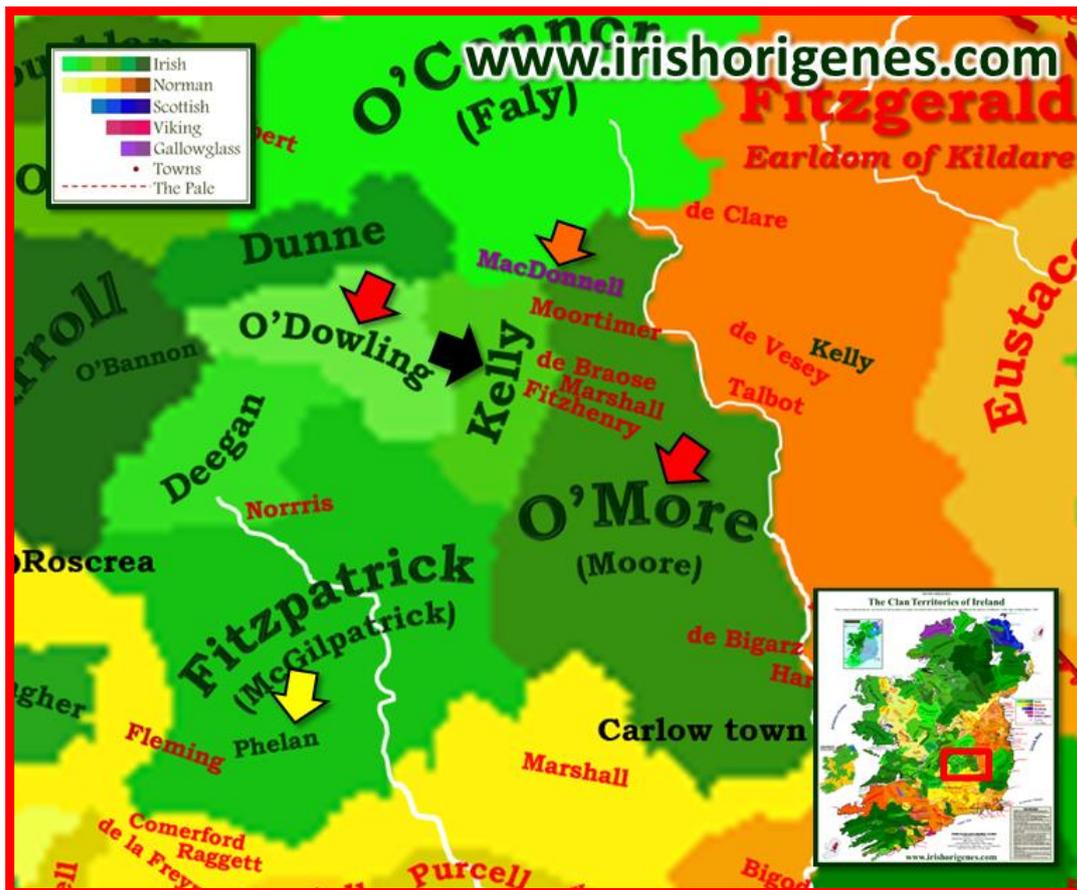
**Figure 7:** Distribution mapping reveals a paternal origin within the Irish Midlands. Commercial Y-DNA testing reveals that the Kelly, Lawlor, Dowling, Moore, Freeman, and Bergin surnames arose among related males living in a specific part of Ireland. Distribution mapping of farmers named Kelly, Lawlor, Dowling, Moore, Freeman, and Bergin reveals that they crucially only occur together within the Irish Midlands (**red 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. Detail taken from the Irish Origenes Medieval Surnames map free to view at <https://www.origenesmaps.com/maps/medieval-surnames-ireland>. Surname search function available at <https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames>.



**Figure 8:** The Surnames of County Laois and its borderlands. An examination of the surnames found in County Laois and its borderlands reveals the Kellies (**black arrows**) that dominate his Y-DNA results, surrounded by many of the surnames that appear as close (**red arrows**) or singular (**yellow arrows**) BigY matches, together with surnames that also appear as recurring Y-DNA STR (**orange arrows**) matches. These surnames arose among a group of related Gaelic Irish males who lived in the Irish Midlands. 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. Detail taken from the Irish Origenes Medieval Surnames map, free to view at <https://www.origenesmaps.com/maps/medieval-surnames-ireland>. Surname search function available at <https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames>.

### The Clan Territories of the Irish Midlands

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. 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. Commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing and research at Irish Origenes has revealed that males with paternal links with Ireland will often exhibit 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 as it appears on the clan map reveals an area completely dominated by Gaelic clans whose lands bordered those of Norman families to the east, south and west, see **Figure 9**. Strikingly, the clan map reveals the test subject's closest Kelly genetic relatives dominating lands in Northeast Laois which bordered those of his Moore and Dowling genetic relatives, see **Figures 3 and 9**.

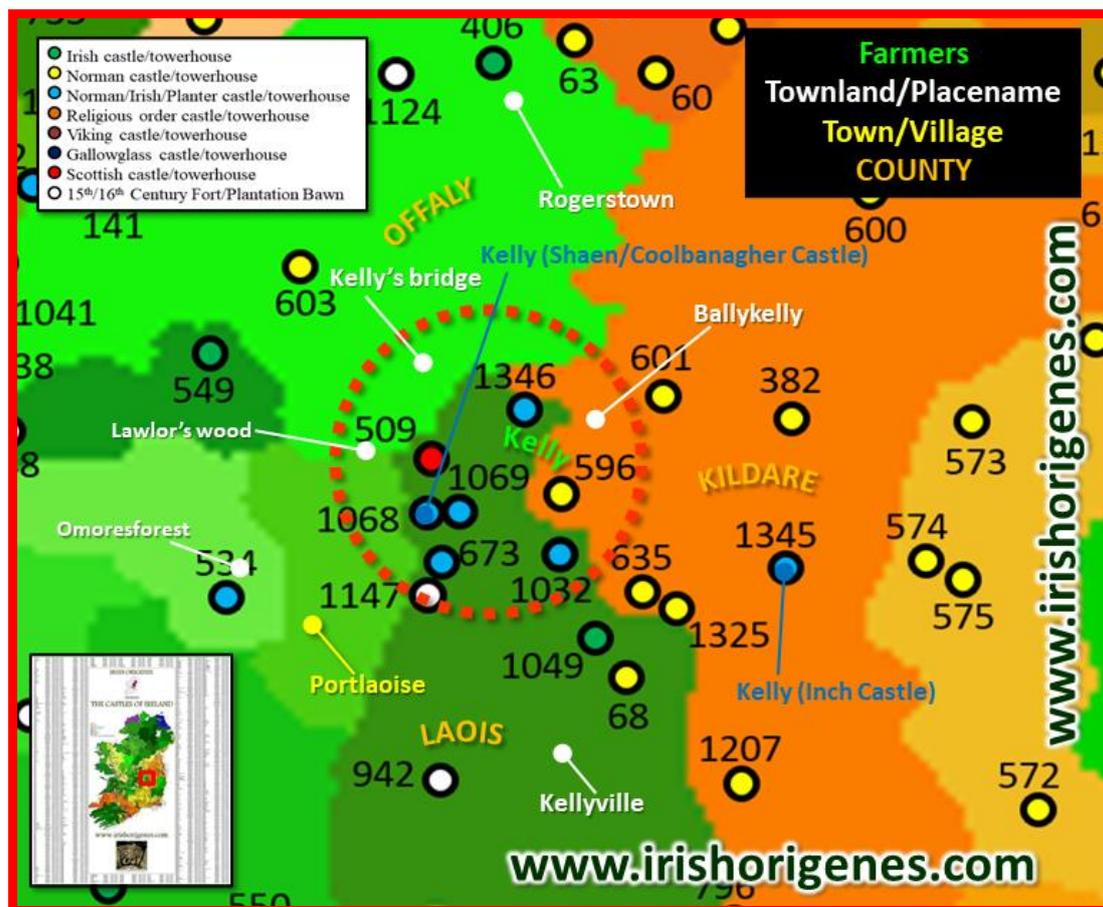


**Figure 9:** The Clan territories of Laois and its borderlands in the Irish Midlands. The Irish Midlands was a land split between Gaelic Chieftains and Norman Lords. The Clan map reveals that Laois was dominated by Irish clans, and that the test subject's closest 'Kelly' genetic relatives dominated Northeast Laois (**black arrow**). The Kelly lands bordered those of the Dowling and O'More genetic relatives (**red arrows**). The surrounding area also reveals the MacDonnells and Phelans (**yellow arrows**) who also appear as recurring STR and singular SNP matches respectively. The clan territories map was reconstructed based on castle locations and their historically associated clans and families, free to view at <https://www.origenesmaps.com/maps/clan-territories-ireland>.

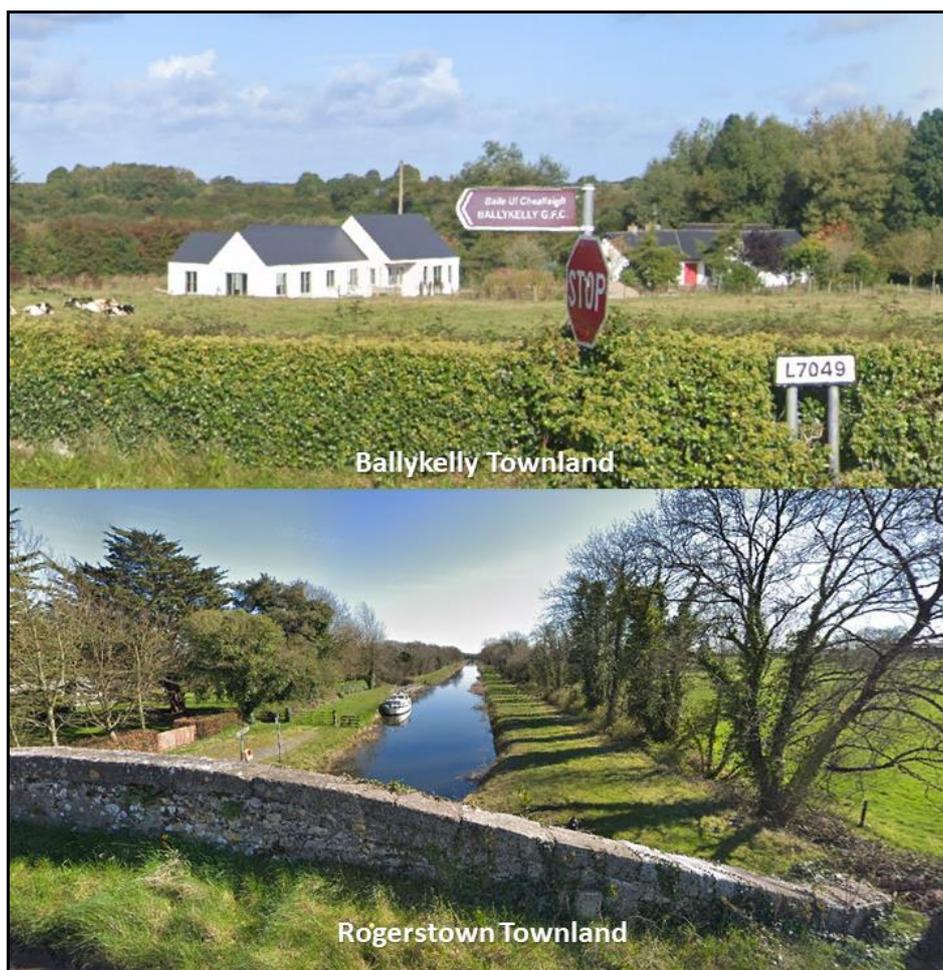
### Mr Rogers Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

The Kellys dominate the test subject's Y-DNA results which indicates that his paternal ancestor was named 'Kelly' prior to acquiring the 'Rogers' surname an estimated 350 years ago (see *Figure 4*). His Kelly ancestors dominated Northeast County Laois, and an examination of that area reveals farmers named Kelly, together with castles and placenames that are associated with them, see **Figure 10**. It was in the borderlands of modern Laois, Kildare, and Offaly that the test subject's paternal ancestor lived when he first took the 'O'Kelly' surname. His Kelly ancestor lived surrounded by relatives who would take other surnames like Lawlor, Dowling, Moore, Bergin, and Finlay among many others, some of whom have also left evidence of their links in the surrounding area, see **Figure 10**. An examination of the Laois, Offaly, and Kildare borderlands reveals the townland of 'Ballykelly' (Kellys' town), see **Figures 10 and 11**. Townlands are some of Ireland's oldest placenames, and many are named after the clans and families that lived there. Hence 'Ballykelly' townland marks the precise original origin of the test subject's paternal ancestors. Strikingly, to the north one also finds 'Rogerstown' townland, see **Figures 10 and 11**. Since Irish surnames were

still appearing in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, the location of Kelly (*O’Ceallaigh*) and Rogers (*Ruairi*) townlands near one another could be an indication that the test subject’s paternal ancestor may have taken the ‘Rogers’ surname in honour of his Kelly ancestor (*‘Ruairi O’Ceallaigh’*). Alternatively, the complete destruction of Gaelic Laois in the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century may have resulted in his orphaned Kelly paternal ancestor being adopted into an Anglo-Norman or Planter family named Rogers. Either way, the location of Rogerstown indicates that his paternal ancestor acquired the Rogers surname within the Irish Midlands. The test subject’s paternal ancestors will also have left evidence of their ancestral connection with his area in the history of this area, and in the DNA of Kellys and Rogers who still live and farm there.



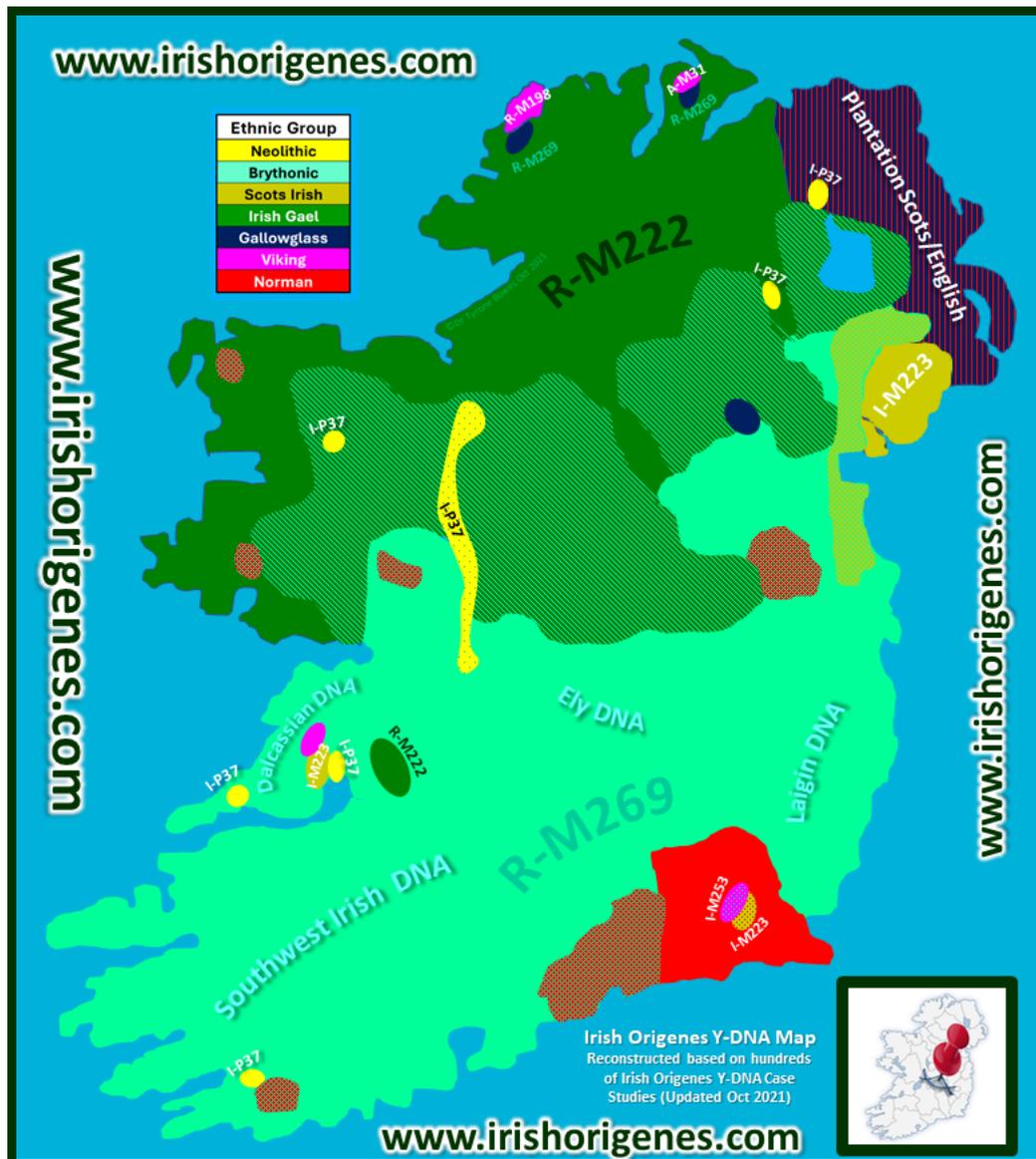
**Figure 10:** Mr Rogers Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland. The test subject’s Irish paternal ancestral genetic homeland (**orange broken circle**) lies in Northeast Laois and bordering areas of neighbouring Kildare and Offaly. It is there that farmers named Kelly concentrated in early census data and where one finds evidence of his Kelly ancestors in the surrounding castles and placenames. The discovery of Rogerstown in neighbouring Offaly indicates that his paternal ancestor took (or acquired) that surname in this area approximately 350 years ago. The test subject’s paternal ancestors will also have left evidence of their ancestral links with this area in the history of this location and in the DNA of the current inhabitants.



*Figure 11: The townlands of Ballykelly in Laois and Rogerstown in Offaly.*

### **Ancient Britons**

Commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing and research at Irish Origenes has revealed that the modern Irish males are a mixed bunch descended from Neolithic farmers, Celts (Ancient Britons and refuge Gauls), Vikings, Normans, and 17<sup>th</sup> Century Plantation settlers, see **Figure 12**. The test subject's M-269 Haplogroup, together with his more distant Y-DNA matches (at the 25 and 12 marker levels) which are a diverse mix of Irish, Scottish, Welsh, English, and Mainland European surnames, indicate that his paternal ancestors were Brythonic Celts whose Y-DNA genetic signature dominates both Britain and Ireland. The test subject is descended from Central European Celts who began arriving in Ireland in waves from around 800BC.



**Figure 12:** The Irish Origenes Y-DNA Map of Ireland. Y-DNA Case Studies at Irish Origenes reveals an ethnicity map of Ireland. The test subject's paternal ancestors were descended from Brythonic Celts whose Y-DNA signature dominates Southern Ireland.

### How to confirm the Rogers Genetic Homeland

One must keep in mind that this is a scientific 'DNA' approach. The DNA does not lie, and a simple painless commercial ancestral Y-DNA test of a male named Rogers or Kelly who farm the Laois, Offaly, and Kildare borderlands would confirm the ancestral link to that location.

Contact Dr Tyrone Bowes at Irish Origenes for a free consultation on your DNA results [tyronebowes@gmail.com](mailto:tyronebowes@gmail.com)

You can contact Nathaniel Rogers who commissioned the report at [Hrothgar0311@gmail.com](mailto:Hrothgar0311@gmail.com)