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The Origin of the Scots Irish Keiths

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24th April 2023

The Scots Irish Keiths

INTRODUCTION

The Plantation of Ireland that officially began in 1610AD was a highly organised affair. It saw the arrival of thousands of Scots and English who were attracted by the availability of land forfeited by Gaelic Irish Chieftains. The Scots and English would repeat a pattern of migration and settlement as more land became available until almost all of Ulster in the north of Ireland was colonised. Research at Irish and Scottish Origenes has revealed that the Plantation surnames in each location often mirror those of their Scottish or English origin, indicating that whole communities had departed, travelled, and settled together within Ireland. As a results one can examine the Plantation Scottish and English surnames in each location on the Irish Origenes Plantation Surnames of Ireland map and identify their origin within Mainland Britain.

The Keith Surname in Ireland

The 1911 census of Ireland revealed 269 individuals named Keith. In Ireland, the descendants of Gaelic Irish, Normans, and Scottish mercenary 'Gallowglass' were overwhelmingly Catholic in early census data, while those descended from 17th Century Plantation Scots and English were overwhelmingly Protestant. Irish census data reveals that the Keith surname is associated with 17th Century Scottish and English Plantation settlement, with distribution mapping revealing that the Keiths concentrated in Ulster where Plantation settlement was most successful, see **Figure 1**. An examination of the distribution of Irish farmers named Keith reveals 2 distinct groups in Counties Cavan and Derry in Ulster, see **Figure 2**.

Irish Origenes produced the first ever Plantation Surnames of Ireland map. That map details where farmers with each surname concentrated in early census data, and an examination of the surnames that surround the Keiths of Cavan reveals a mix of Scottish and English surnames, see **Figure 3**. An examination of the Scottish surnames that surround the Keiths of County Cavan reveals 2 distinct groups of Scottish surnames, one group associated with the southern borderlands with England, and another associated with West Central Scotland, see **Figures 3, 4, and 5**. An examination of the Scottish surnames that surround the Keiths of County Derry/Londonderry reveals 2 distinct groups of Scottish surnames, one Scottish Gaelic group, and another non-Gaelic group, both of which are associated with West Central Scotland, see **Figures 6, 7, and 8**. An examination of the Scottish surnames that surround the Keiths of Derry/Londonderry also reveals the Creelman and McNaul surnames, both of which are of ultimate Scottish origin, but have crucially gone extinct in their native Scotland as a direct result of the Plantation of Ulster that began in 1610AD.

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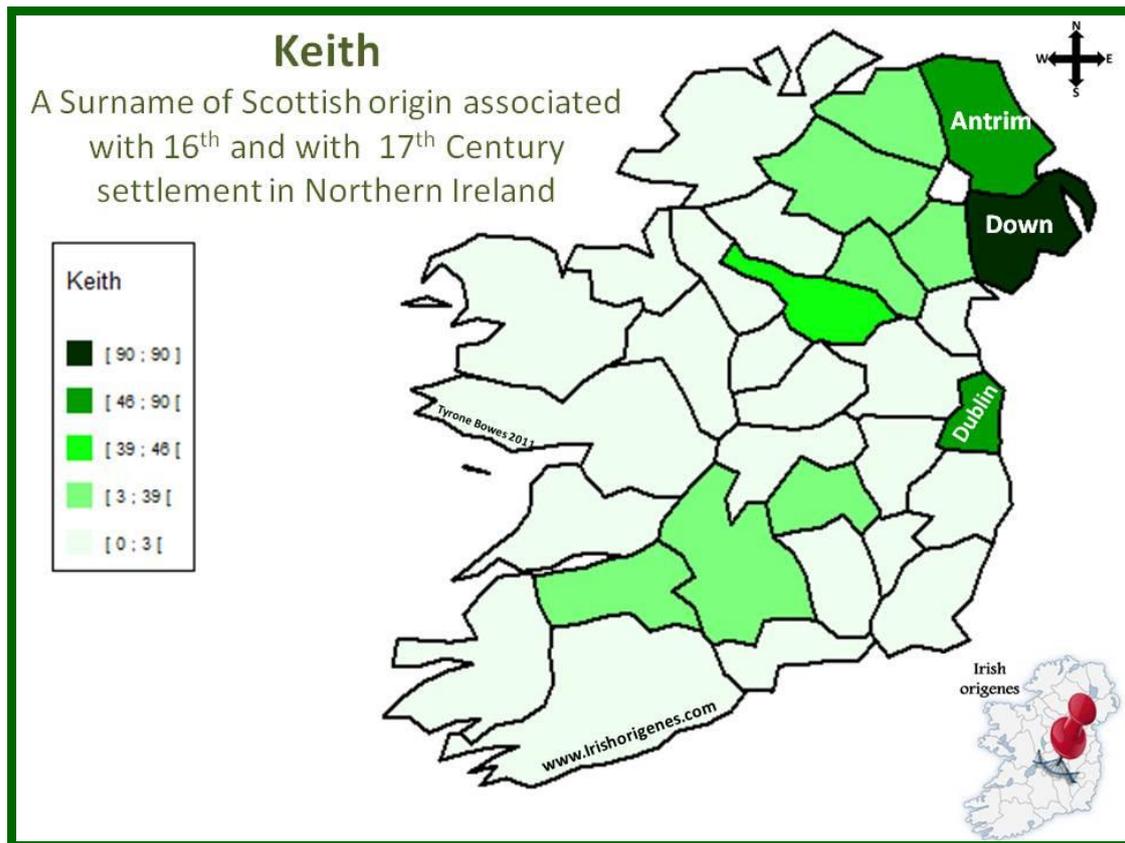


Figure 1: The Keith Surname in Ireland. Distribution mapping of the Keith surname throughout the 32 counties of Ireland demonstrates clearly that the surname concentrates in specific areas. Image taken from the Irish Origenes distribution map database, free to view at: <https://www.irishorigenes.com/surnames-database>

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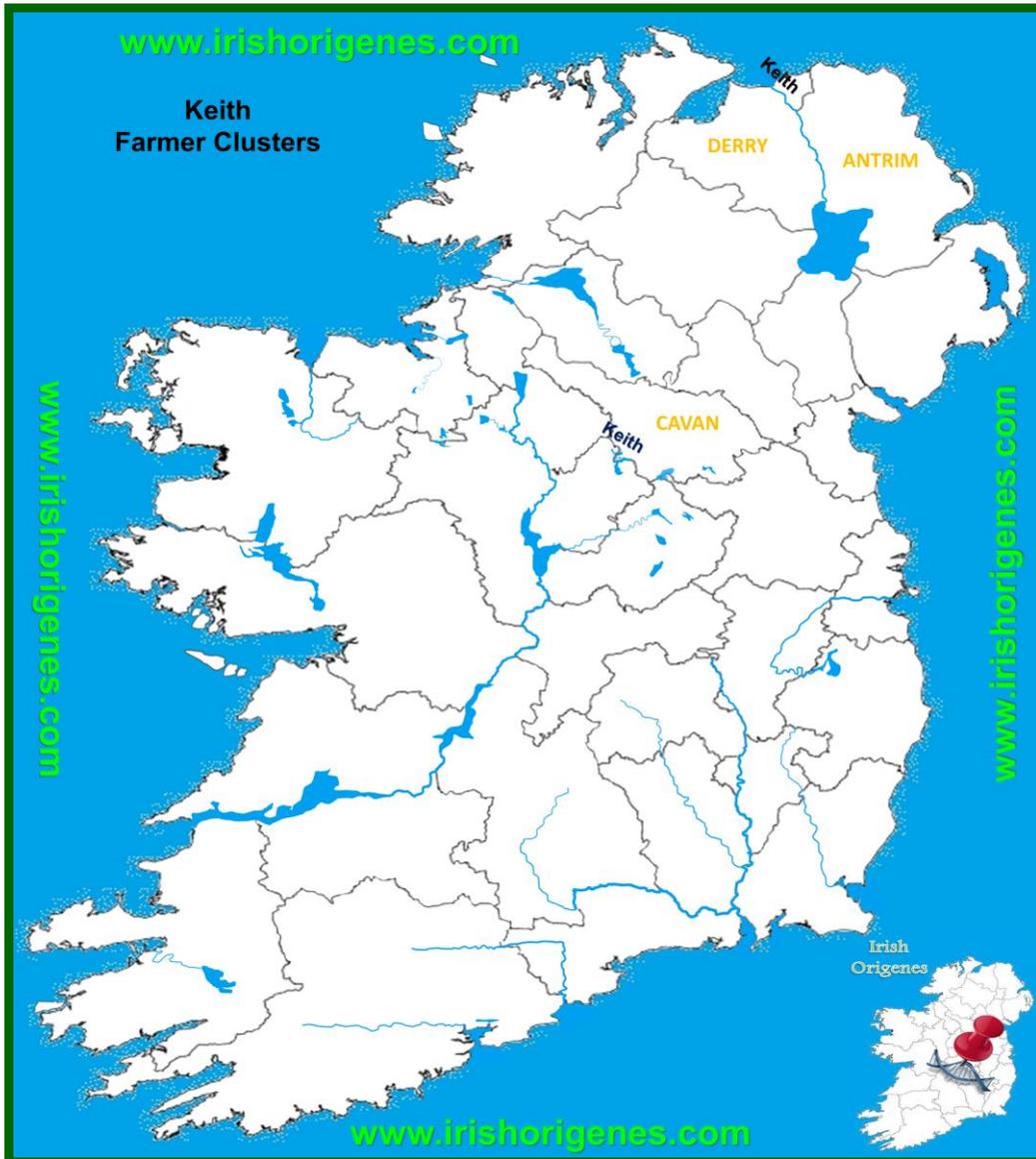


Figure 2: The Irish Plantation Keith farming community. Census data reveals that individuals with Gaelic Irish, Norman, or Scottish Gallowglass surnames were overwhelmingly Catholic, while those with 16th and 17th Century Plantation Scottish or English surnames were overwhelmingly Protestant. Early census data reveals that the Keith surname is associated with Plantation settlement within Ireland. Distribution mapping of farmers (Protestant, male, heads of household) named 'Keith' reveals 2 distinct groups concentrated in Counties Cavan and Derry/Londonderry in Ulster. Each surname is positioned as it appears on an Irish Origenes Plantation Surnames map, the most common spelling is detailed in each location, now **FREE** to view: <https://www.origenesmaps.com>

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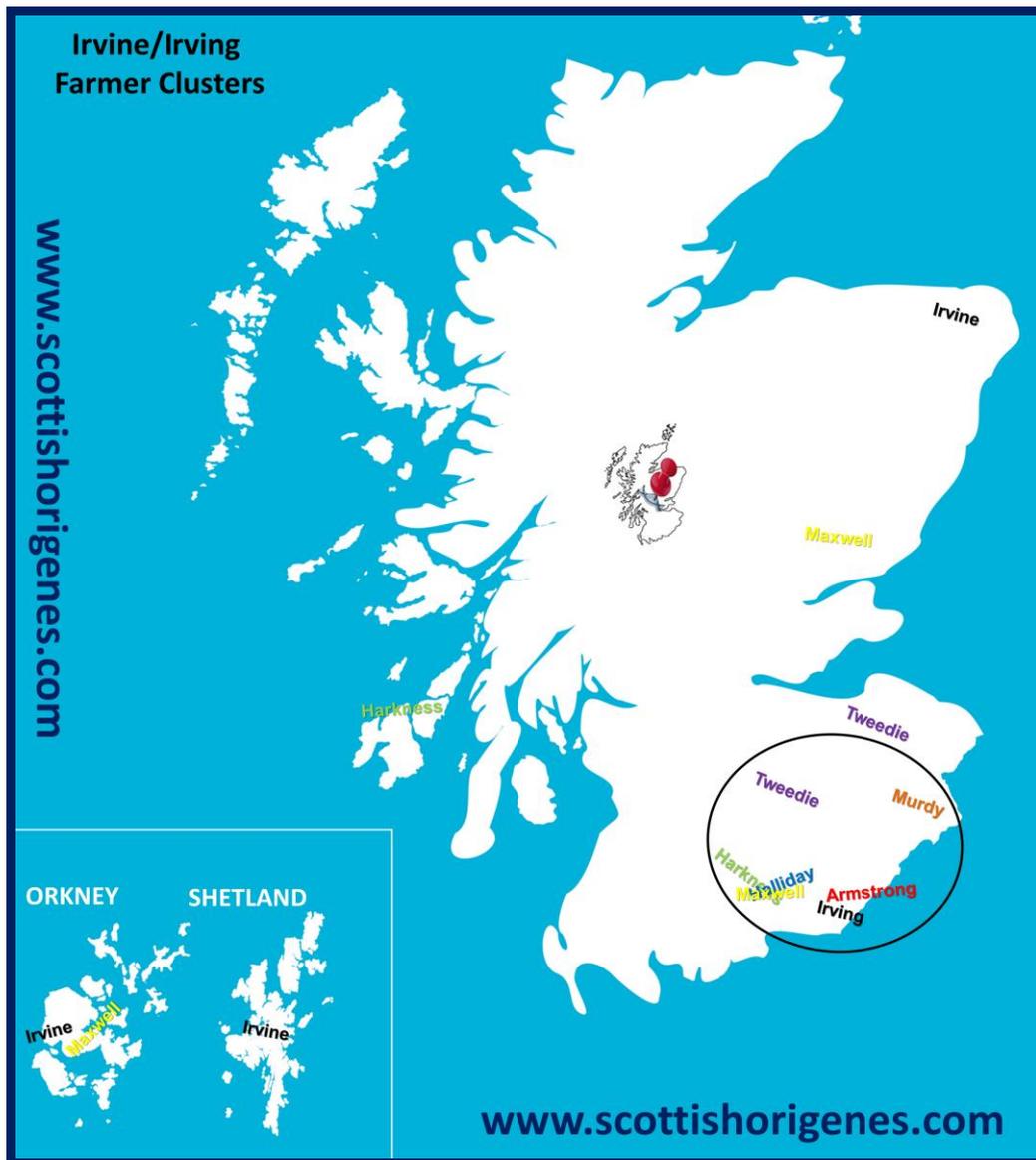


Figure 4: The Plantation Community of Southwest Cavan originated within Southern Scotland. An examination of the Plantation community of Southwest Cavan revealed the Armstrong, Harkness, Halliday, Irving, Maxwell, Murdy, and Tweedie surnames surrounding the Keiths. Distribution mapping of Scottish farmers named Armstrong, Harkness, Halliday, Irving, Maxwell, Murdy, and Tweedie reveals that they occur together within the southern borderlands with England (**black circle**). These results indicate that in 1610AD Scottish Lowlanders named Armstrong, Harkness, Halliday, Irving, Maxwell, Murdy, and Tweedie left the southern borderlands with England to settle among the Keiths of Southwest Cavan. Image taken from the Scottish Origenes Surnames of Scotland map, now **FREE** to view: www.origenesmaps.com

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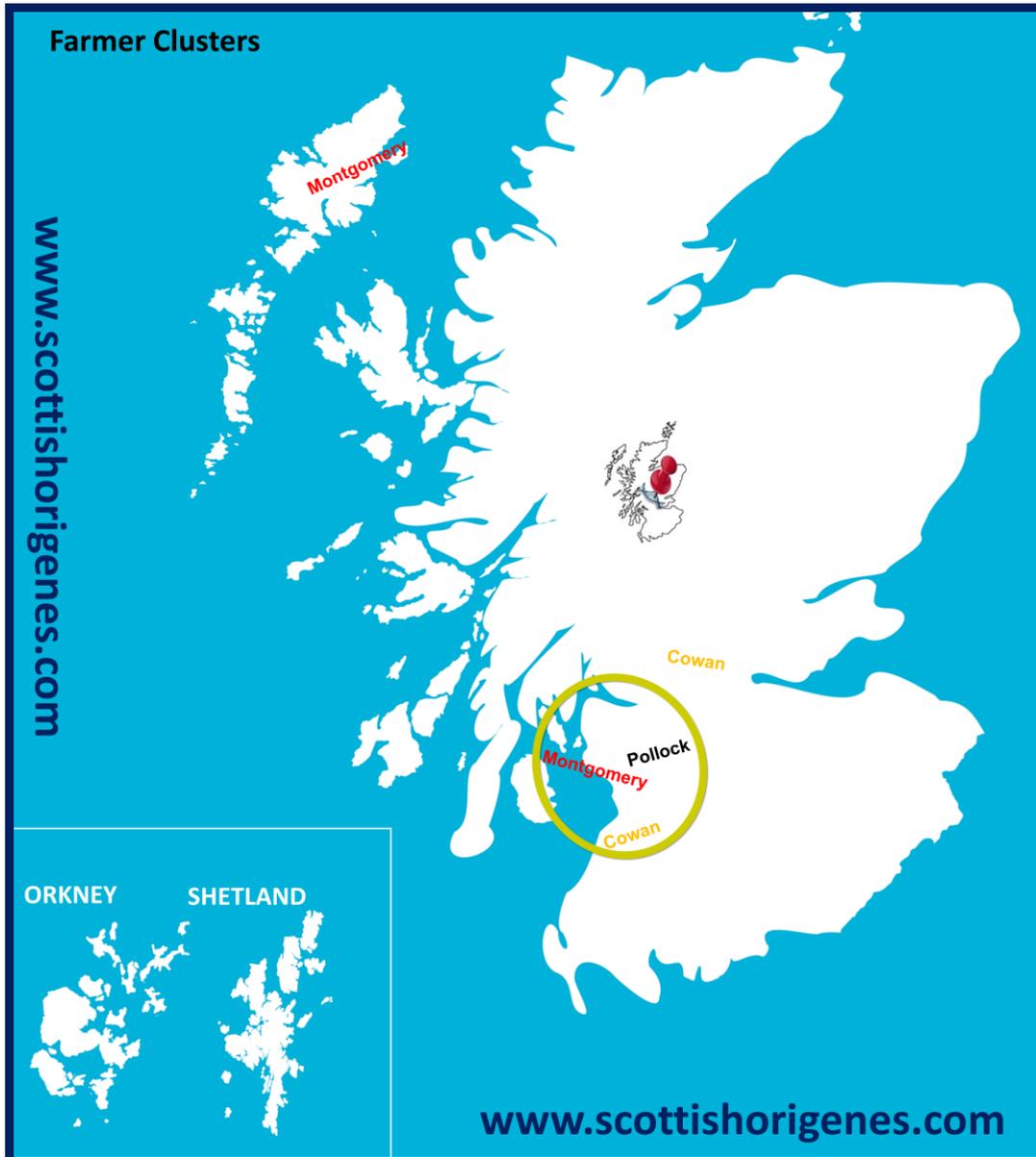


Figure 5: The Plantation Community of Southwest Cavan originated within West Central Scotland. An examination of the Plantation community of Southwest Cavan revealed the Cowan, Montgomery, and Pollock surnames surrounding the Keiths. Distribution mapping of Scottish farmers named the Cowan, Montgomery, and Pollock reveals that they only occur together within West Central Scotland (**green circle**). These results indicate that in 1610AD Scottish Lowlanders named the Cowan, Montgomery, and Pollock left West Central Scotland to settle among the Keiths of Southwest Cavan. Image taken from the Scottish Origenes Surnames of Scotland map, now **FREE** to view: www.origenesmaps.com

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Figure 6: The Plantation community surrounding the Keiths of Derry/Londonderry. Irish farmers with each surname still concentrated in early census data in the area where their surname first appeared or in the area where one's ancestors first settled, and an examination of the Plantation community that surrounds the Scottish Keiths (**black arrow**) reveals an area dominated by Scottish-associated surnames. An examination of the Scottish-associated surnames reveals 2 distinct groups: one set of Gaelic Scottish surnames (**blue arrows**) and another set of non-Gaelic (**yellow arrows**) Scottish surnames. The surrounding area also reveals at least 2 Scottish surnames (**red arrows**) that have gone extinct in their native Scotland as a direct result of the Plantation of Ulster that began in 1610AD. Each surname is positioned in the location where farmers with each surname concentrate in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location. Each surname is positioned as it appears on the Irish Origenes Plantation Surnames map, now **FREE** to view: <https://www.origenesmaps.com/>

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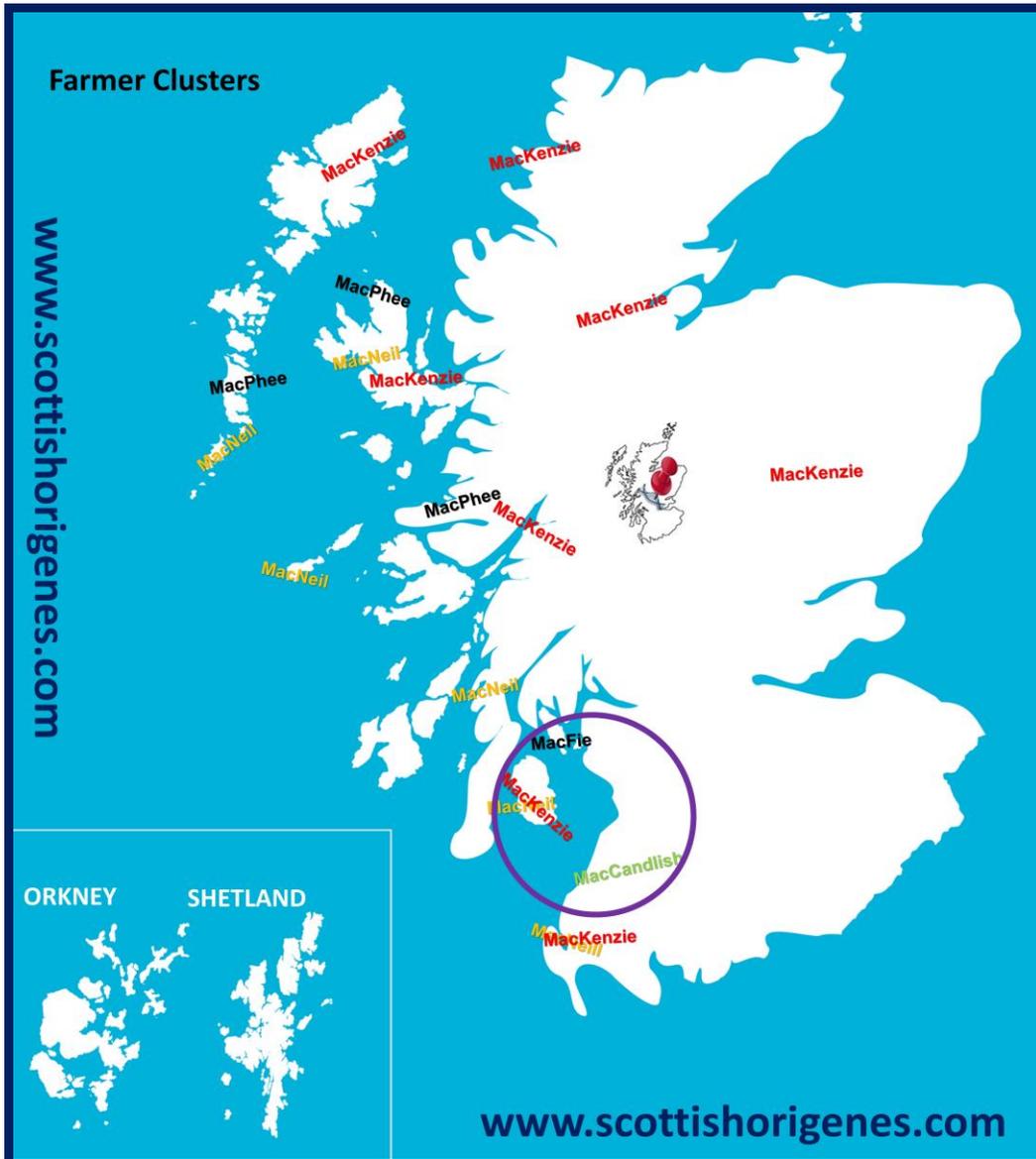


Figure 7: The Gaelic Plantation Community of Northeast Derry originated within West Central Scotland. An examination of the Plantation community of Northeast Derry revealed Gaelic Scottish McAfee/McPhee, McCandless (McCandlish), McKenzie, and McNeill surrounding the Keiths. Distribution mapping of Scottish farmers named McAfee/McPhee, McCandlish, McKenzie, and McNeill reveals that they only occur together within bordering Argyllshire and Ayrshire in West Central Scotland (**purple circle**). These results indicate that in 1610AD Scottish Lowlanders named the McAfee/McPhee, McCandlish, McKenzie, and McNeill left West Central Scotland to settle among the Keiths of Northeast Derry. Image taken from the Scottish Origenes Surnames of Scotland map, now **FREE** to view: www.origenesmaps.com

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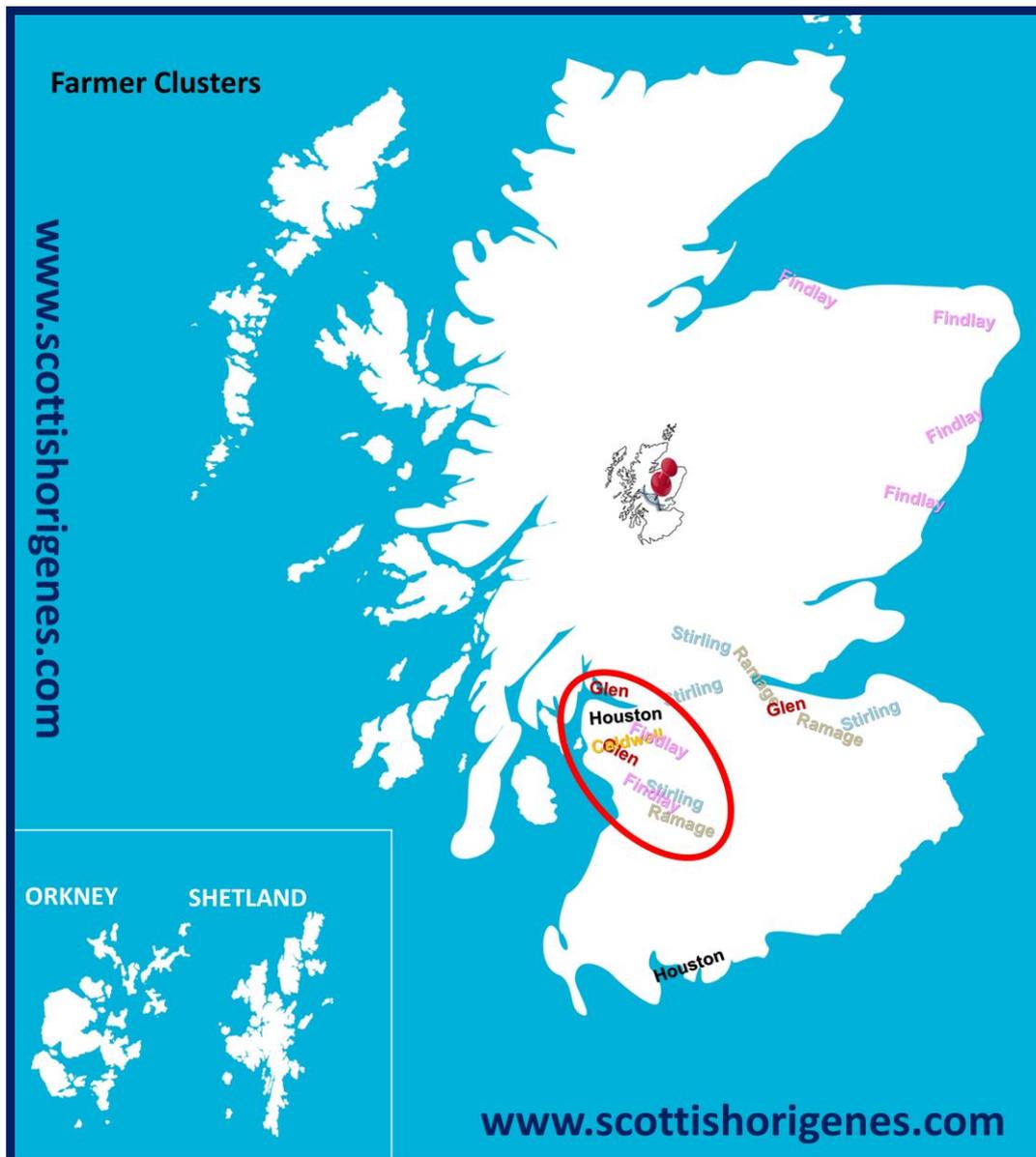


Figure 8: The Non-Gaelic Plantation Community of Northeast Derry originated within West Central Scotland. An examination of the Plantation community of Northeast Derry revealed the non-Gaelic Scottish Caldwell, Glen, Findlay, Houston, Ramage, and Stirling surnames surrounding the Keiths. Distribution mapping of Scottish farmers named Caldwell, Glen, Findlay, Houston, Ramage, and Stirling reveals that they only occur together within West Central Scotland (red circle). These results indicate that in 1610AD Scottish Lowlanders named Caldwell, Glen, Findlay, Houston, Ramage, and Stirling left West Central Scotland to settle among the Keiths of Northeast Derry. Image taken from the Scottish Origenes Surnames of Scotland map, now **FREE** to view: www.origenesmaps.com

The Scots Irish Keiths originated within the E-M35 Heartland of Central Ayrshire

Distribution mapping reveals that the Scots Irish Plantation communities that surround the Keiths of Cavan and Derry/Londonderry originated within West Central Scotland, an area that a previous study at Scottish Origenes identified as the epicentre for the E-M35 paternal marker within Scotland, see **Figures 9** and **10**. Y-DNA studies have also revealed several Keiths that carry the E-M35 paternal marker but with too few close genetic surname matches to pinpoint their precise Scottish

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origin. However, all the evidence indicates that the Plantation Scots Irish Keiths originated within the E-M35 heartland of Central Ayrshire, but that the Ayrshire Keith surname, much like Creelman and McNaul surnames, has gone extinct in its native Ayrshire as a direct result of the Plantation of Ulster.

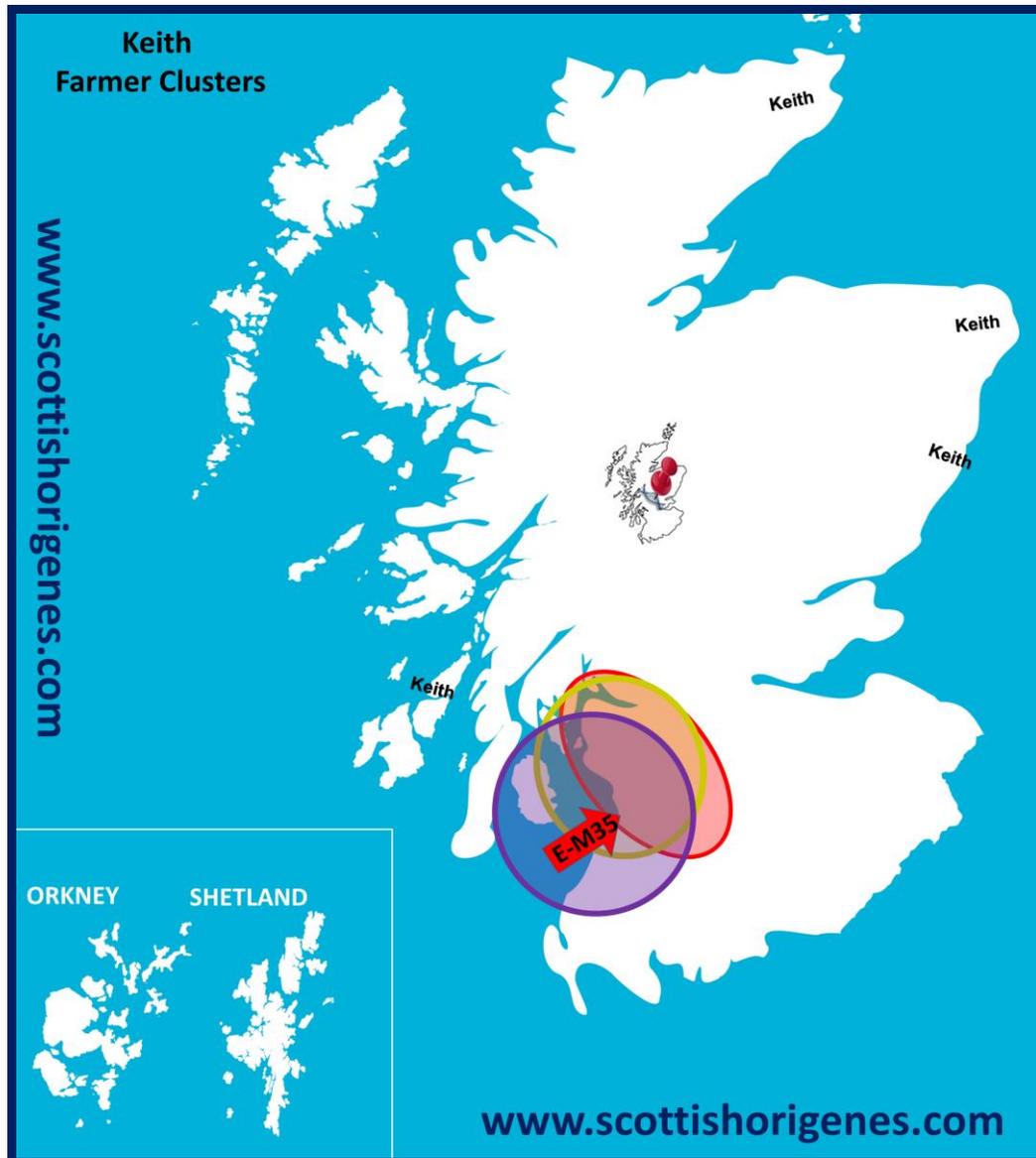


Figure 9: The Scots Irish Keiths originated within the E-M35 heartland of Central Ayrshire. Distribution mapping reveals that the Plantation communities that surround the Keiths of Cavan (green circle) and Derry (purple and red circles) originated in West Central Scotland which encompasses Central Ayrshire which is associated with the E-M35 paternal genetic marker (red arrow). Although Central Ayrshire is not an area associated with the Keith farming community, the evidence indicates that the Ayrshire Keiths have gone extinct as a result of the Plantation of Ulster. Each surname is positioned in the location where farmers with each surname concentrate in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location. Each surname is positioned as it appears on the Scottish Origenes Surnames of Scotland map, now FREE to view: <https://www.origenesmaps.com/>

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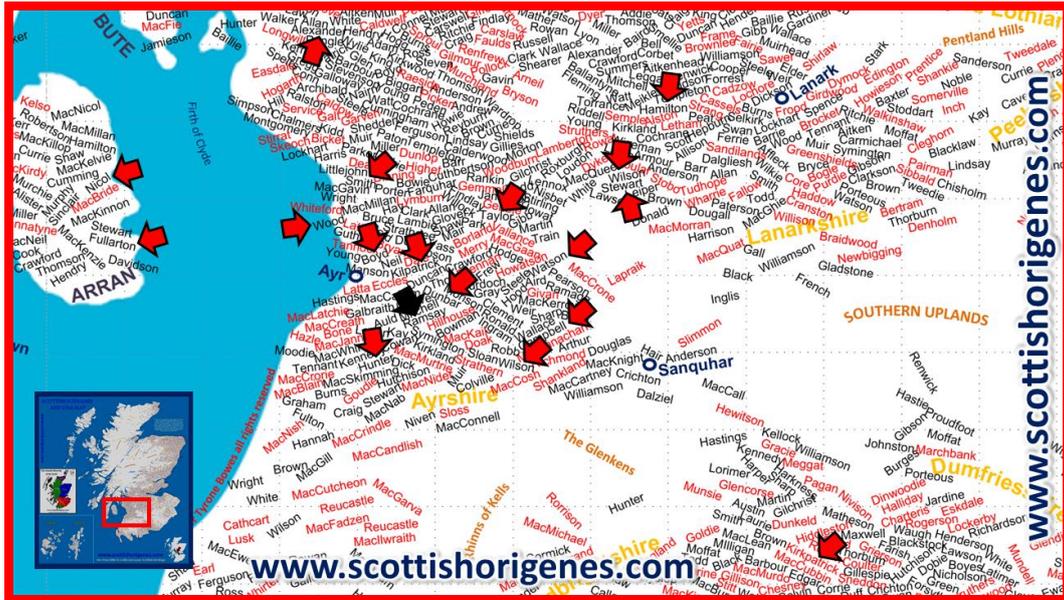


Figure 10: The E-M35 associated Surnames of Central Ayrshire and its borderlands. Scottish farmers still concentrated in early census data in the area where their surname first appeared or in the area where one's ancestors first settled. An examination of the surnames associated with Central Ayrshire reveals Ramsay (**black arrow**) which Y-DNA testing reveals dominates the E-M35 Y-DNA database and surrounded by many other surnames that are associated with E-M35 (**red arrows**). Each surname is positioned in the location where farmers with each surname concentrate in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location. Surnames in **red font** are exclusive to a single Scottish location. Each surname is positioned as it appears on the Scottish Origenes Surnames of Scotland map, now FREE to view: <https://www.origenesmaps.com/>

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