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Case Study Identifying G. McGowan's Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

www.irishorigenes.com



Dr Tyrone Bowes 24th August 2025

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. Approximately 1,000 years ago, one's direct medieval male ancestor, the first for example to name himself 'Mac Gabhann' was living near others with whom he was related but who inherited other surnames like Ó Ruairc and Mac Giolla Rua. Given that 1,000 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 medieval 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 one's 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 one's ancestors left their mark in its placenames, its 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. 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 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 test results

To pinpoint a paternal ancestral genetic homeland, one must first use commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing to identify the surnames that appear as one's closest genetic matches or reveal one's terminal Y-DNA SNP mutation. Mr McGowan's closest genetic surname matches as revealed by commercial ancestral Y-DNA STR testing are detailed in **Figures 1** and **2**.

	111 Y-DNA STR Marker Matches						
Surname	Match Date	Markers Tested	Genetic Distance	Big Y STR Differences	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Paternal Country of Origin	Earliest Known Ancestor
O'Rourke	ugust 13 2025	1 to 700	6	Not Available	R-FT149450	Ireland	Timothy Rorke, b. 1700 and d. 1769
Roark 🛑	August 13 2025	1 to 111	7	Not Available	R-M269	Ireland	Timothy O'Roark d. 1769
Cravens	August 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-FTC27860	Unknown Origin	
MacDonald	August 13 2025	1 to 111	8	Not Available	R-M269	Scotland	
Stewart	August 13 2025	1 to 700	9	Not Available	R-FT149450	United Kingdom	Robert Clarence Stewart, b. 1881 and d. 1952
Kelly	August 13 2025	1 to 700	10	Not Available	R-FGC11134	Ireland	Thomas Kelly, b.1819,Co. Leitrim,IRE
Kerrigan	August 13 2025	1 to 700	10	Not Available	R-FT177061	Unknown Origin	monas keny, b.1015,co. tenam, me
McGuinn	August 13 2025	1 to 700	10	Not Available	R-FT148932	Ireland	John McGuinn, b. abt 1815
Smith 🚛	August 13 2025	1 to 700	10	Not Available	R-FTC27860	Unknown Origin	William Smith b 1843 Kentucky.
				67 Y-DN	A STR Marker M		,
Surname	Match Date	Markers Tested	Genetic Distance	Big Y STR Differences	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Paternal Country of Origin	Earliest Known Ancestor
McTernan	August 13 2025	1 to 67	4	Not Available	R-M269	Ireland	Hugh McTernan, b.1865
Tracey	August 13 2025	1 to 67	4	Not Available	R-M269	Ireland	Patrick Tracey b.1800(?)
MacDonald	August 13 2025	1 to 111	5	Not Available	R-M269	Scotland	
Roark 💳	August 13 2025	1 to 111	5	Not Available	R-M269	Ireland	Timothy O'Roark d. 1769
Cravens	August 13 2025	1 to 700	5	Not Available	R-FTC27860	Unknown Origin	·
O'Rourke 👍	August 13 2025	1 to 700	5	Not Available	R-FT149450	Ireland	Timothy Rorke, b. 1700 and d. 1769
Gilroy 📛	August 13 2025	1 to 67	6	Not Available	R-L21	Ireland	Hugh Gilroy, Co Mayo Ireland b. c. 1820
MCELROY (ugust 13 2025	1 to 67	6	Not Available	R-M269	Ireland	Thomas McElroy
	August 13 2025	1 to 67	6	Not Available	R-M269	Unknown Origin	
Shaw	August 13 2025	1 to 67	6	Not Available	R-L151	Unknown Origin	Townsend Shaw, b. 1812 and d. 19 march 1860
Gavin	August 13 2025	1 to 111	6	Not Available	R-L21	Ireland	Gavin
Kelly 📛	August 13 2025	1 to 67	7	Not Available	R-M269	Ireland	Kelly (Big Joe Kelly California)
King 📛	August 13 2025	1 to 67	7	Not Available	R-L21	Unknown Origin	John King b. Abt 1823
Knight	August 13 2025	1 to 67	7	Not Available	R-FGC11134	Unknown Origin	William Knight b. c 1722, lived in Surry Co., VA
Madden ⇐	August 13 2025	1 to 67	7	Not Available	R-M269	Unknown Origin	
Madden 🐫	August 13 2025	1 to 67	7	Not Available	R-M269	Ireland	John Madden,b ante 1708; d1760, Winchester Co., VA
Mahan	August 13 2025	1 to 67	7	Not Available	R-L21	Ireland	John Mahan Sr.(Col.) 1755-1830 d. Mercer Co., KY
O'Kelley 📛	August 13 2025	1 to 67	7	Not Available	R-M269	Ireland	Polinagolium Cave 911 D2192 BCE
Firzpatrick	igust 13 2025	1 to 111	7	Not Available	R-M269	Unknown Origin	
Fitzpatrick	ugust 13 2025	1 to 111	7	Not Available	R-M269	Unknown Origin	
	August 13 2025	1 to 500	7	Not Available	R-BY54815	Ireland	Denis Boylen b. 1818 d. unknown
Bailey	August 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-BY54815	England	John s bailey
Dolan (adop	August 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-FT150135	Unknown Origin	
	ugust 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-FT384467	Ireland	Matthew Fitzpatrick b.ca 1875
	gust 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-FT15113	Ireland	William Fitzpatrick, Ireland
Fitzpatrick	ugust 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-BY34903	Ireland	Patrick Fitzpatrick b 1820
Hicks	August 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-FT247096	England	Robert Carr b 1614
Kelly 📛	August 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-FTB35066	Ireland	Patrick Kelly, b. 1815 and d. 1878
Kelly 📛	August 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-FGC11134	Ireland	Thomas Kelly, b.1819,Co. Leitrim,IRE
Madden ⇐	August 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-FTE46821	United States	Lina (Lema Madden) b. 1750-1790 d. 1822-1830
McGuinn	August 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-FT148932	Ireland	John McGuinn, b. abt 1815
O'Kelley 📛	August 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-BY20936	Ireland	Pollnagollum Cave 911 d 2192 BCE
Shalvoy	August 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-FGC60465	Ireland	Hugh Shalvoy d. aft. 1776, Nobber, Meath, Ireland
Smith 🚛	August 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-FTC27860	Unknown Origin	William Smith b 1843 Kentucky.
Stewart	August 13 2025	1 to 700	7	Not Available	R-FT149450	United Kingdom	Robert Clarence Stewart, b. 1881 and d. 1952

Figure 1: Snapshot of Mr McGowan's closest Y-DNA STR revealed genetic surname matches. The more Y-DNA STR markers two males share, the more recent their shared paternal ancestor once lived. The surnames revealed among the test subject's closest Y-DNA STR revealed paternal genetic relatives are NOT RANDOM; he matches another male named McGowan/Smith (black arrow) together with males with surnames (coloured arrows) that also recur among his Y-DNA STR results. The test subject's Y-DNA STR matches are dominated by Irish-associated surnames together with individuals with earliest recorded links within Ireland. Highlighted font indicates each surnames associated ethnicity or location of an earliest paternal ancestor; Irish/Ireland, Scottish/Scotland, Irish/Scottish-associated, English/England.

		Recurring	Recurring Y-DNA STR Surname Matches				
		111	Markers	67 Markers			
Test		Gene	tic Distance	Genetic Dis	tance		
Subject	Haplogroup	6	10	6	7		
McGowan	R-DF13 R-FGC11134	O'Rourke/Roark (x7)	Kelly/O'Kelley (x7)	Gilroy/McElroy/King (x5)	Firzpatrick (x5)		
			Smith/McGowan/McGuane (x5)	Madden (x4) ¹	Mahan (x2) ¹		

Figure 2: Mr McGowan's closest recurring Y-DNA STR revealed surname matches reveals a paternal origin within Ireland. Each surname appears at the point it first appears as a Y-DNA match, figures in brackets represent the number of males with each surname who appear as a paternal genetic relative at the 111, 67, and 37-marker levels. For example, the first male named 'O'Rourke' to appear as a genetic relative shared 105 of 111 Y-DNA STR markers although not all 7 males named O'Rourke or Roark may match at that level. The test subject's closest recurring Y-DNA STR matches are dominated by Irish surnames confirming a most recent paternal origin within Ireland. Highlighted font indicates each surnames associated ethnicity; Irish-associated.

Upon commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing the test subject matched other males named McGowan, Smith, and McGuane who tested independently, see **Figures 1** and **2**. This indicates that the test subject is directly descended from his surnames founding ancestor; a 'McGowan-Adam,' literally the first male to take that surname an estimated 1,000 years ago when paternally inherited surnames became common. McGowan is a surname that can be of Irish or Scottish origin. However, the complete dominance of the exclusively Irish surnames among the test subject's closest and most frequent the Y-DNA matches indicates that the test subject is directly descended from an 'Irish McGowan-Adam,' see **Figure 2**. In addition, an examination of the terminal SNP mutations recorded by the test subject's closest Y-DNA revealed genetic relatives reveals that they all share the R-FGC54816 mutation which lies on an Irish branch of the R-FGC11134 Haplogroup tree, see **Figure 3**.

111 Y-DNA STR Marker Matches							
TR Differences	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Paternal Country of Origin					
ot Available	R-FT149450	Ireland					
ot Available	R-M269	Ireland					
ot Available	R-FTC27860						
ot Available	R-M269	500AD					
ot Available	R-FT149450	R-FGC54816					
ot Available	R-FGC11134	K-FGC34616					
ot Available	R-FT177061	OHKHOWH OHEH					
ot Available	R-FT148932	Ireland					
ot Available	R-FTC27860	Unknown Origin					

Figure 3: The Shared Terminal SNP of Mr McGowan's 111 marker Y-DNA matches reveal an Irish branch of the R-FGC11134 Haplogroup tree. Commercial Y-DNA STR testing revealed 9 paternal genetic relatives at the 111-marker level (**detailed**) each of whom has a terminal SNP mutation (**red box**). Those SNPs are not random; they share the R-FGC54816 SNP (**green box**) on the Indo-European (R-M269) R-FGC11134 Haplogroup tree and which dates to 500AD.

The McGowan Surname in Ireland and Scotland

All Gaelic Irish surnames have been extensively anglicised. The 1911 census of Ireland revealed individuals named McGowan/McGowen, Gowan/Gowen, McCowen, Cowen/Cowan, and Smith/Smyth (the English version of McGowan). Those individuals in 1911 were not scattered uniformly throughout Ireland but concentrated within specific counties, see **Figure 4**. Surnames arose in an agricultural society, and as a result, farmers in early census data still concentrated in the area where their surname first appeared or in an area where one's ancestors first settled. An examination of the distribution of Irish and Scottish farmers named 'McGowan' or with related surnames reveals many distinct groups spread throughout Ireland and Scotland, see **Figures 5** and **6**. However, since the test subject's Y-DNA results reveals that he is directly descended from an Irish McGowan-Adam, his paternal ancestry is linked with 1 of 13 locations within Ireland that are associated with the McGowan/Smith surname, see **Figure 5**.

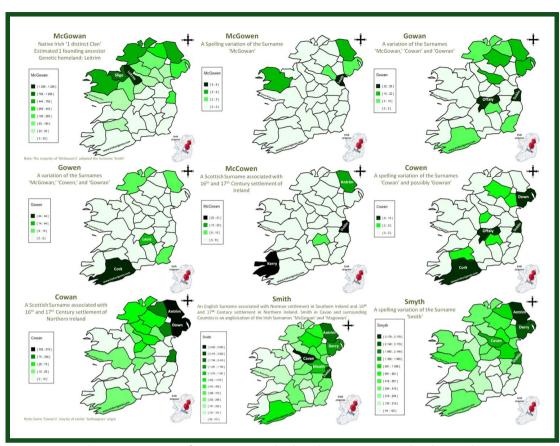


Figure 4: Distribution mapping of McGowan and related surnames in Ireland. Distribution mapping reveals that the McGowan surname together with spelling variants and anglicised 'Smith/Smyth' were not distributed evenly throughout Ireland but concentrated in specific Irish counties. Image taken from the Irish Surnames database, free to view www.irishorigenes.com/surnames-database

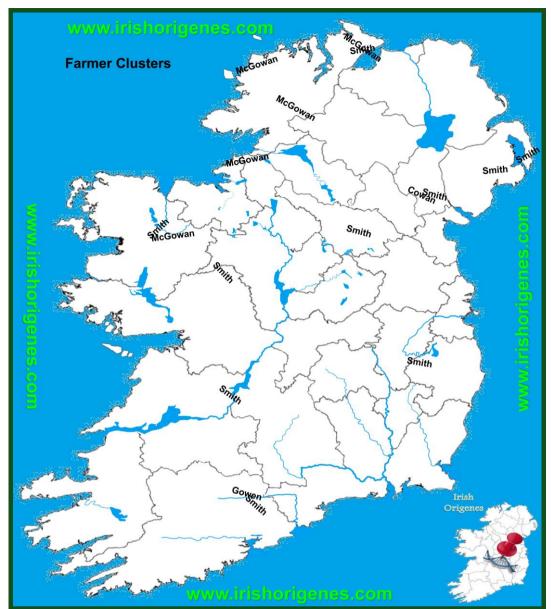


Figure 5: The McGowan farming community in Ireland. Census data reveals that individuals with Gaelic Irish, Norman, or Scottish Gallowglass surnames were overwhelmingly Catholic, while those with 16th and 17th Century Plantation Scottish or English surnames were overwhelmingly Protestant. The McGowan surname is associated with Pre-Plantation Gaelic Ireland. An analysis of the distribution of Irish farmers named McGowan (spelling variants and related surnames) in 1901 reveals many geographically distinct groups. Y-DNA testing reveals that the test subject's paternal ancestry is linked to 1 of the 13 locations within Ireland where one finds the McGowan/Smith surname. Each surname is positioned in the location where farmers (Catholic, male, heads of household) with that surname concentrated in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location. Surnames are positioned as they appear on the Irish Origenes Surname maps, free to view online www.origenesmaps.com surname search function available https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames

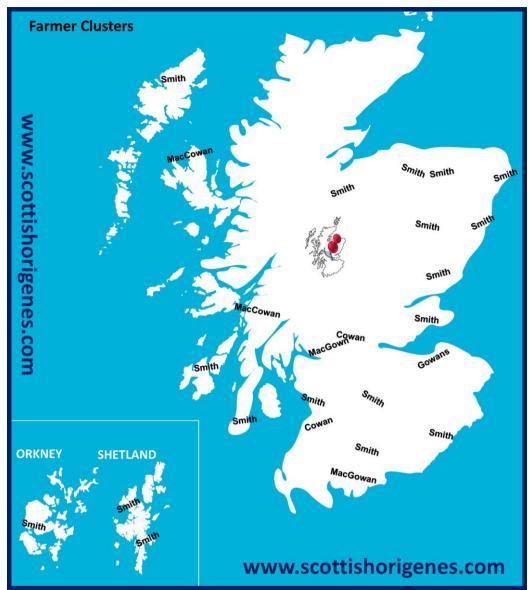


Figure 6: The Scottish MacGowan farming community. Distribution mapping of Scottish farmers named McGowan together with related surnames reveals distinct groups spread throughout Scotland. Each surname has been placed on the map in the area where farmers with that surname concentrate in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location. Surnames are positioned as they appear on the Scottish Origenes Surnames map, free to view online www.origenesmaps.com

A Paternal Ancestral Origin within North County Leitrim

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 amongst the farming community, and since farmers in Ireland 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 that a 'McGowan' male from County Mayo will upon Y-DNA testing be a match to individuals with surnames like McManamon, McHale, and

Lynskey; surnames associated with the west of Ireland. In contrast, a McGowan from Kirkcudbrightshire will be a Y-DNA match to males with surnames like MacLellan, MacDowall, and MacKie, surnames associated with the far Southwest of Scotland. Commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing reveals that the McGowan, O'Rourke, Kelly, Gilroy/King, Mahan/Madden, and Fitzpatrick surnames arose among a group of Gaelic Irish R-FGC11134^{+ve} males, see **Figures 1**, **2**, and **3**. Overlay mapping of the McGowan, O'Rourke, Kelly, Gilroy/King, Mahan/Madden, and Fitzpatrick farming communities reveals that they occur in closest proximity to one another within County Leitrim, see **Figure 7**. An examination of County Leitrim and bordering counties as it appears on the Irish Origenes Medieval Surnames of Ireland map reveals the tests subject's McGowans together with the surnames that dominate among his closest Y-DNA revealed genetic relatives, see **Figures 1**, **2**, and **8**.

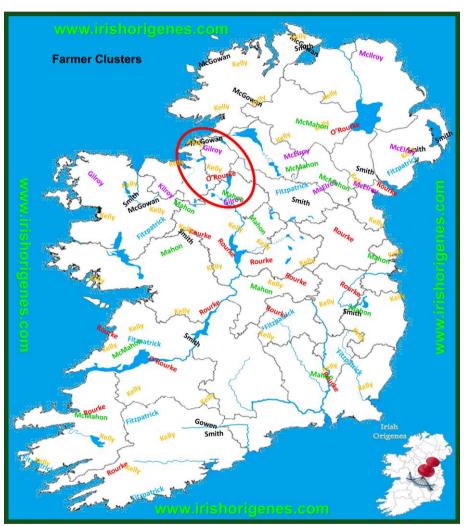


Figure 7: Overlay mapping reveals a paternal ancestral origin with within County Leitrim. Y-DNA testing reveals that the McGowan, O'Rourke, Kelly, Gilroy/King, Mahan/Madden, and Fitzpatrick surnames arose among related R-FGC11134^{+ve} Gaelic Irish males. Overlaying mapping of the McGowan, O'Rourke, Kelly, Gilroy/King, Mahan/Madden, and Fitzpatrick farming communities reveals that they occur in closest proximity to one another within County Leitrim (**red circle**). Each surname is positioned in the area where farmers (Catholic, male, heads of household) with each surname concentrate in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location. Surnames are positioned as they appear on the New Updated Irish Origenes Medieval Surnames map, free to view online www.origenesmaps.com a surname search function is available at https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames

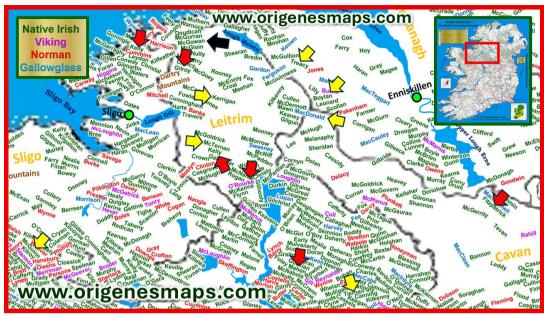


Figure 8: The Medieval Surnames of Leitrim and bordering counties. An examination of County Leitrim as it appears on the Irish Origenes Medieval Surnames of Ireland map reveals the test subject's McGowans (**black arrow**) together with the surnames that appear as close recurring (**red arrows**) or singular (**yellow arrows**) Y-DNA STR matches to Mr McGowan. Each surname is positioned in the location where farmers (Catholic/male/heads of household) with each surname concentrated 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 www.origenesmaps.com a surname search function is available at https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames

The Clan Territories of North County Leitrim

By the 14th and 15th 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 one 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 Leitrim as it appears on the clan map, reveals an area dominated by Gaelic Irish clans, see **Figure 9**. The clan map reveals that the O'Rourkes who appear as among the test subject's closest paternal genetic relatives were a prominent clan in County Leitrim, see **Figures 1**, **2**, and **9**.



Figure 9: The Clan territories of North Leitrim and its borderlands. An examination of County Leitrim as revealed by the Irish Origenes Clan Territories map reveals a land dominated by Gaelic Irish clans. The test subject's McGowans (**black arrow**) lived in the land dominated by his closest O'Rourke (**red arrow**) paternal genetic relatives. The clan territories map was reconstructed based on castle locations and their historically associated clans and families, free to view at www.origenesmaps.com

Mr McGowan's Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

Early Irish census data reveals that the 'McGowans' concentrate in the farmland that surrounds the village of Kinlough in North County Leitrim, and it is there that the test subject's Irish paternal ancestral genetic homeland is to be found, see Figure 10. It was there that the test subject's paternal ancestor lived when surnames first appeared in Ireland an estimates 1,000 years ago, and where the test subject's ancestor took the Gaelic 'Mac Gabhann' (Grandson of Metal worker) surname, see Figures 10, 11, and 12. His paternal ancestor lived surrounded by males who took other surnames like Ó Ruairc and Mac Giolla Rua. When one's paternal ancestors and their relatives have lived in an area for a long time, they will have left evidence of their links with that area in the placenames and historical monuments one finds there. An examination of the surrounding area reveals the townland of 'Castlegowan,' see Figures 10 and 13. Townlands are Ireland's smallest geographical unit of land division with the entire island divided into an estimated 64,000 townlands many of which predate the arrival of the Normans (1169AD) and are named after the clans that lived there. As such, 'Castlegowan' may mark the precise origin of the test subject's McGowan paternal line. The test subject's paternal McGowans will also have left evidence of their ancestral links with Northern Leitrim in the DNA of the current inhabitants.



Figure 10: Mr McGowan's Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland. Research at Irish Origenes reveals that the McGowans concentrate in the farmland that surrounds the village of Kinlough in North Leitrim, and it is there that the test subject's Irish paternal ancestral genetic homeland is to be found (**orange broken circle**). It was there that his paternal ancestor lived when paternally inherited surnames became common in Ireland approximately 1,000 years ago and where the test subject's ancestor first took the Gaelic 'Mac Gabhann' (Grandson of Metal worker) surrounded by male relatives who took other surnames like Ó Ruairc and Mac Giolla Rua. The McGowans have left evidence of their ancestral links with this area in the townland of 'Castlegowan.' They will also have left evidence of their links with this area in its history and in the DNA of the current inhabitants. Image taken from the Irish Origenes Castles of Ireland Map. free to view online www.origenesmaps.com



Figure 11: Pre-Plantation Gaelic Ireland. Research at Irish Origenes has facilitated the reconstruction of the Pre-Plantation Gaelic surnames of Ireland. An examination of North Leitrim as its appears on the NEW Irish Origenes Gaelic Ireland map reveals the test subject's Mac Gabhann, (**black arrow**) ancestors near Lough Melvin. Detail taken from the Irish Origenes 'Gaelic' Irish Surnames map, free to view at www.origenesmaps.com



Figure 12: What's in a Name? Surnames were earned in Medieval Ireland, and those surnames denote a notable trait of a founding ancestor. An examination of the meaning of each surname in North Leitrim as it appears on the NEW Irish Origenes 'What's in a Name' map reveals that the test subject's paternal ancestor was the 'Grandson of the Metal Worker' (black arrow). Detail taken from the Irish Origenes What's in a Name map, free to view at www.origenesmaps.com Surname search function available at https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames



Figure 13: Castlegowan townland in County Sligo.

Indo European 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, Indo-Europeans (Ancient Britons, Ancient Britons), Vikings, Normans, and 17th Century Plantation settlers, see **Figure 14**. The test subject's R-FGC11134 Haplogroup indicates that his paternal ancestors were the Indo-European Ancient Britons whose Y-DNA genetic signature dominates Ireland, see **Figure 15**. The test subject is descended from the Indo-European who began arriving in Ireland in around 2500BC and whose arrival would result in a 90% population replacement of the indigenous Neolithic inhabitants. The test subject's predictive R-FGC54816 terminal SNP mutation (*fig. 3*) which has an identified origin within County Monaghan in 500AD

indicates that his paternal line had first settled in Southern Ulster before ultimately settling within Northeast Connaught.

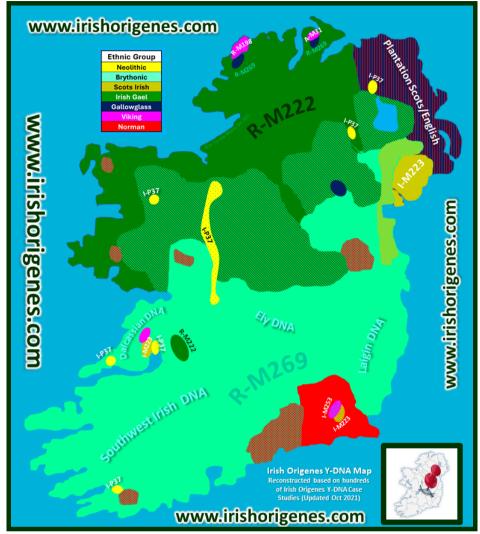


Figure 14: The Irish Origenes Y-DNA Map of Ireland. Y-DNA Case Studies at Irish Origenes reveals an ethnicity map of Ireland. The test subject's paternal ancestors were descended from Indo-European Ancient Britons whose Y-DNA signature dominates Ireland.

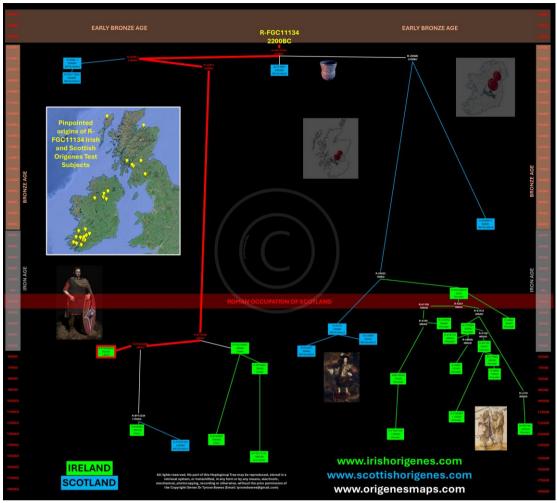


Figure 15: Mr. McGowan's branch (**red line**) on the R-FGC11134 Haplogroup tree. Free to browse online at <u>www.origenesmaps.com</u>

How to confirm the McGowan Paternal Genetic Homeland

One must keep in mind that this is a scientific 'DNA' approach. The DNA does not lie, and the paternal origin within North Leitrim can be confirmed by Y-DNA testing males named 'McGowan' who farm the lands that surround Kinlough village.

Email: Dr Tyrone Bowes at <u>tyronebowes@gmail.com</u> for a FREE consultation on your DNA results or to find out about a suitable DNA test for you!