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

Sloan An Autosomal (Ancestry.com) DNA Case Study

www.irishorigenes.com



Dr Tyrone Bowes 8th September 2025

INTRODUCTION

There are several commercial ancestral DNA tests that can be used to explore one's ancestry. By far the most popular is the 'autosomal test' which looks at bits of all of one's DNA and sheds light over *all* of one's recent ancestral lines. With autosomal DNA testing one will typically match many individuals (both male and female) and making sense of those relationships can be quite challenging. However, as with every DNA test the same golden rule applies, the more DNA that two people share the more recent their shared (paternal or maternal) ancestor once lived. In addition, many of one's autosomal matches will reveal surnames and placenames associated with their family tree, and those surnames and locations can hold clues as to where the various branches in one's own ancestral tree originated. The challenge of modern autosomal DNA analysis is linking a common location revealed in the autosomal DNA test result with a particular ancestral surname.

INTERPRETING THE AUTOSOMAL DNA RESULTS

An examination of test subject Sloan's 'autosomal' DNA test results revealed 26,493 genetic relatives, the vast majority of whom record ancestral information, see **Figure 1**. The locations revealed by the test subject's autosomal genetic relatives are **NOT RANDOM**, given their respective population sizes, Ireland and Scotland dominate in frequency and shared DNA, see **Figure 1**.

Autosomal DNA stats					
Genetic Relatives	26,493	Percentage	Max. Shared DNA/cM		
Generic relatives	627	2.4	895		
Ireland	154	24.6	775		
Northern Ireland	112	17.9	775		
Scotland	75	12	207		
England	125	20	232		
Wales	25	4	37		
Norway	15	2.4	45		

Figure 1: Ireland and Scotland gave strong autosomal DNA signals. Autosomal DNA testing revealed 26,493 genetic relatives, 627 of whom share more than 20cMs of DNA. The locations recorded by those genetic relatives are NOT RANDOM, given their respective populations sizes, Ireland and Scotland feature prominently in frequency and shared DNA.

The Ancestral link with Ireland and Scotland

The locations recorded within Ireland and Scotland by the test subject's autosomal genetic relatives are not random, and a search of that ancestral detail for the 32 counties of Ireland revealed a single dominant DNA hotspot centred upon County Down in Ulster in Northern Ireland, see **Figure 2**. An examination of the 1841 counties of Scotland detailed by the test subject's autosomal genetic relatives revealed 3 DNA hotspots centred upon Lanarkshire/Ayrshire, Mid-Lothian, and Fife, see **Figure 3**.

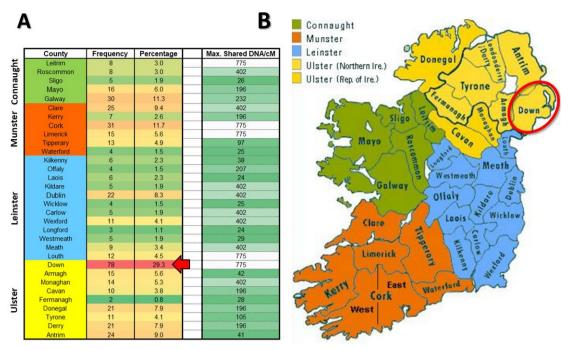


Figure 2: Autosomal testing reveals a solitary DNA hotspot within Ireland. An examination of the Irish counties detailed by the test subject's autosomal genetic relatives that share greater than 20cM of DNA reveals a solitary dominant DNA hotspot centred upon County Down in Ulster (**red arrow**, **panel A**, **red circle**, **panel B**). The signal from Dublin, Cork, and Antrim are non-specific noise, the result of more recent migration to the cities of Dublin, Cork, and Belfast.

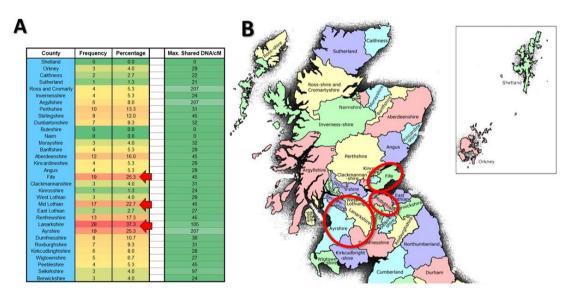


Figure 3: Autosomal testing reveals 3 DNA hotspots within Scotland. An examination of the 1841 Scottish counties detailed by the test subject's autosomal genetic relatives that share greater than 20cM of DNA reveals that Lanarkshire/Ayrshire, Mid-Lothian, and Fife, and (red arrows, panel A, red circles, panel B) emerged as DNA hotspots. The signals from Lanarkshire and Mid Lothian may be non-specific noise, the result of more recent migration to the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, respectively.

Ancestral Surnames

The test subject's most recent ancestral papertrail reveals a mix of Irish and Scottish-associated surnames, see **Figure 4**. Distribution mapping demonstrates that

Sloan – An Ancestry.com Autosomal DNA Case Study

surnames still concentrate in the area where they first appeared or in the areas where one's ancestors first settled, see **Figure 5**.

In Ireland, the descendants of Gaelic Irish, Normans, and Scottish mercenary Gallowglass were overwhelmingly Catholic in early census data, while those descended from 16th and 17th Century Plantation Scots and English settlers were overwhelmingly Protestant. Irish census data reveals that the test subject's Carvill, Cunningham, Doyle, Haughian, Kelly, Lynch, McCartan, McEvoy, Rice, Shields, Sloan(e), and Whirrity/Whirity ancestral surnames are associated with Pre-Plantation Gaelic/Norman Ireland while Boyd, Cunningham, McBurney, Shields, and Sloan(e) are associated with 17th Century Plantation settlement within Ireland.

Surnames arose in an agriculturally based society, and farmers with each surname can still be found concentrated in early census data in the area where their surname first appeared (Gaelic) or in the area where one's ancestors first settled (Gallowglass/Norman/Planter). Distribution mapping of Catholic farmers named Carvill, Cunningham, Doyle, Haughian, Kelly, Lynch, McCartan, McEvoy, Rice, Shields, and Sloan(e), reveals distinct groups spread throughout Ireland, see **Figure 6**. Distributing mapping of Protestant Irish farmers named Boyd, Cunningham, McBurney, Shields, and Sloan(e) reveals distinct groups spread throughout Ulster in Northern Ireland where plantation settlement was most successful, see **Figure 7**. Distribution mapping demonstrates that almost all the test subject's ancestral surnames are associated with County Down in Southeast Ulster in Northern Ireland, see **Figures 6** and **7**. The Boyd, Cunningham, McBurney, Shields, and Sloan surnames are associated with Scotland with distribution mapping revealing distinct groups spread throughout Southern Scotland, some of which are also associated with areas that emerged as autosomal DNA hotspots, see **Figure 8**.

Ancestral Surname	Earliest Recorded Ancestral Location			
Sloan/Sloane (x2)	Ballyveagh, County Down, Ireland	Ballymageogh, County Down, Ireland		
Haughian	Brackney Parish, Kilkeel, Down, Northern Ireland			
Shields	County Down, Ireland			
Cunningham	County Down, Ireland			
Rice	Ballymageogh, Kilkeel, County Down, Ireland			
McEvoy	Moyad, Kilkeel, County Down, Ireland			
Whirrity / Whirity (x2)	Kilkeel, County Down, Ireland	County Down, Ireland		
Doyle	Kilkeel No 2, County Down, Ireland			
Lynch	County Down, Ireland			
McCartan	Brackney, County Down, Ireland			
McBurney	County Down, Ireland			
Carvill	County Down, Ireland			
Kelly	Fofanny, County Down, Northern Ireland			
Boyd	Ballymageogh, Mourne Park, Down, Ireland			

Figure 4: Ancestral surnames and earliest recorded ancestral locations. Highlighted font indicates each surnames associated ethnicity or location of an earliest known ancestor: Irish/Ireland, Scottish/Scotland, Irish or Scottish-associated.

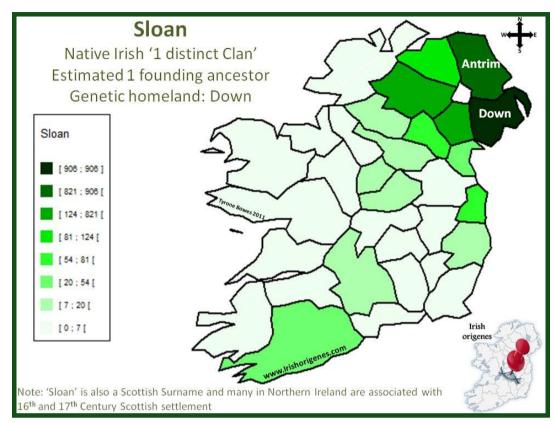


Figure 5: The Sloan Surname in Ireland. Distribution mapping of all individuals named Sloan throughout the 32 counties of Ireland demonstrates clearly that the surname concentrates in in specific counties.

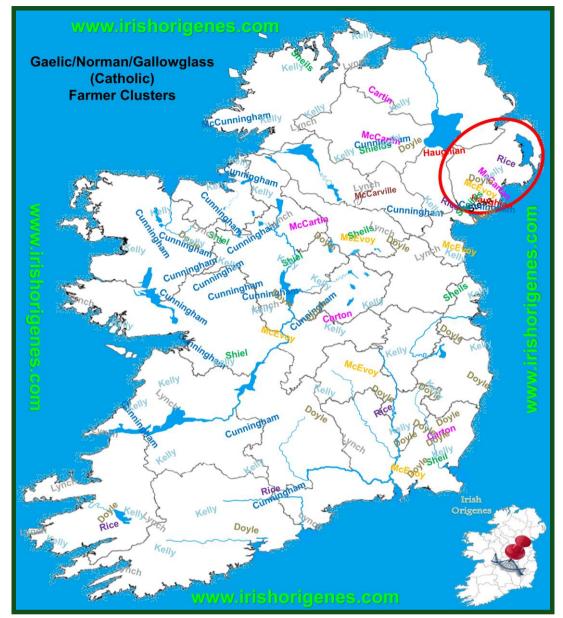


Figure 6: Catholic Irish farming communities and Autosomal DNA revealed locations. Census data reveals that individuals with Gaelic Irish, Norman and Scottish Gallowglass surnames were overwhelmingly Catholic, while those with 16th and 17th Century Plantation Scottish or English surnames were overwhelmingly Protestant. The Carvill, Cunningham, Doyle, Haughian, Kelly, Lynch, and Sloan(e) McCartan, McEvoy, Rice, Shields, surnames are associated Gaelic/Norman/Gallowglass Ireland. Distribution mapping of farmers (Catholic, male, heads of household) named Carvill, Cunningham, Doyle, Haughian, Kelly, Lynch, McCartan, McEvoy, Rice, Shields, and Sloan(e) in early census data reveals distinct groups spread throughout Ireland, almost all of which (except Lynch) are associated with County Down which emerged as the solitary autosomal DNA hotspot (red circle). Each surname is positioned as it appears on the Irish Origenes Medieval Surnames map, the most common spelling is detailed in each location, free to explore online at: www.origenesmaps.com. surname search function is available https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames Note: Only 8 individuals named 'Whirity' are recorded in Ireland in County Down in 1901. Whirity is almost certainly a spelling variant of a yet unidentified surname.

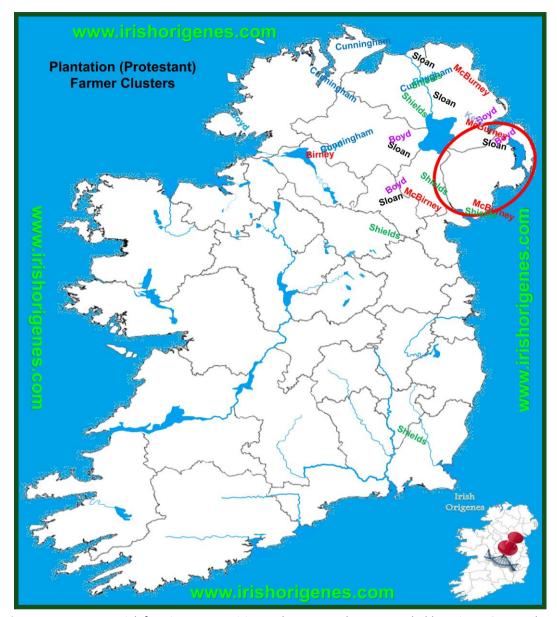


Figure 7: Protestant Irish farming communities and Autosomal DNA revealed locations. Census data reveals that individuals with Gaelic Irish, Norman, and Scottish Gallowglass surnames were overwhelmingly Catholic, while those with 16th and 17th Century Plantation Scottish or English surnames were overwhelmingly Protestant. The Boyd, Cunningham, McBurney, Shields, and Sloan(e) surnames are associated with Plantation Ireland. Distribution mapping of farmers (Protestant, male, heads of household) named Boyd, Cunningham, McBurney, Shields, and Sloan(e) in early census data reveals distinct groups spread predominantly throughout Ulster in Northern Ireland, some of which are associated with County Down which emerged as an autosomal DNA hotspot (red circle). Each surname is positioned as it appears on the Irish Origenes Plantation Surnames map, the most common spelling is detailed in each location, free to explore online at: www.origenesmaps.com/.

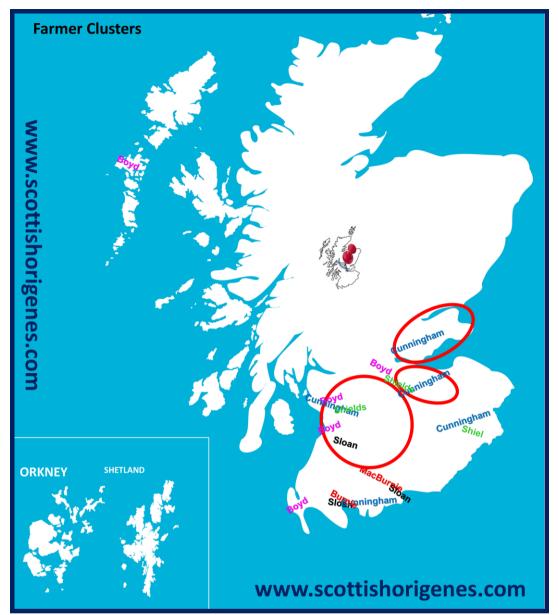


Figure 8: Scottish-associated surnames and Autosomal DNA revealed locations. Scottish farmers still concentrated in early census data in the area where their surname first appeared or in the area where their ancestors first settled. Distribution mapping reveals distinct groups of Boyd, Cunningham, Burnie/McBurnie, Shields, and Sloan farmers throughout Scotland, some of which are found in, or near autosomal DNA hotspots (**red circles**). Each surname is positioned as it appears on the Scottish Origenes Surname map, the most common spelling is detailed in each location, free to explore online at: www.origenesmaps.com

LINKING ANCESTRAL SURNAMES WITH AUTOSOMAL DNA HOTSPOTS

The ancestral information (surnames and locations) recorded by one's autosomal DNA genetic relatives are not random, reflecting the relationships that developed among one's most recent ancestral lines in specific locations. One can therefore search that detail for locations associated with the test subject's ancestral surnames. One can then compare the distribution of one's ancestral surnames with DNA revealed locations, together with autosomal search results to begin the process of linking each ancestral surname with its Irish and/or Scottish origin.

Sloan - An Ancestry.com Autosomal DNA Case Study

The non-random nature of the ancestral locations recorded by the test subject's autosomal genetic relatives can be easily demonstrated by examining the countries of Britain, Ireland, and Norway that are recorded in association with each ancestral surname, see **Figure 9**. Autosomal search results confirm Irish links for **ALL** the test subject's ancestral lines, an ultimate Scottish origin for his Boyds, and possible ultimate English origins for the Rice ancestral line, see **Figure 9**.

A search of the ancestral information recorded by the test subject's autosomal genetic relatives for the 32 counties of Ireland in association with each ancestral surname, confirms Sloan, Haughian, Shields, Cunningham, McEvoy, Doyle, McCartan, McBurney, McConville (Carvill), and Kelly links with County Down which dominates as an autosomal DNA hotspot, see **Figures 2**, **10**, and **11**. While autosomal search results also reveal an ultimate Lynch origin within County Cavan, no clear origin emerged for the Rice or Boyd ancestral lines which could be an indication that those lines arrived relatively late with County Down, see **Figures 11**. A search of the ancestral information recorded by the test subject's autosomal genetic relatives for the 1841 counties of Scotland in association with the Boyd surname revealed an ultimate origin within Ayrshire in Southwest Scotland which emerged as an autosomal DNA hotspot, see **Figures 3** and **12**.

The Origenes Surname maps detail where farmers with each surname concentrated in Ireland, and an examination of County Down as it appears on the Irish Origenes Medieval and Plantation Surnames of Ireland map reveals almost all the test subject's ancestral surnames in the farmland that surrounds the Mourne Mountains, see Figure 13. However, a comparison of the Medieval and Plantation surnames maps reveals a large area in North County Down that is devoid of Pre-Plantation Medieval surnames which indicates that significant displacement of the native Irish (a mix of Irish Gaels, Vikings, Normans, and Gallowglass) has occurred post 1610AD, see Figure 13. In addition, two of the test subject's ancestral surnames; McConville (Carvill) and Haughian show two separate clusters on either side of this dead zone which indicates that the McConvilles and Haughians were originally from the area surrounding Banbridge, see Figure 13. Ireland has a wealth of information stored in its placenames, with the entire island divided into an estimates 64,000 townlands which are Ireland's smallest geographical unit of land division which pre-date the arrival of the Normans in 1169AD. Many of the townlands are named after the clans and families that lived there, and an examination of the local placenames and townlands in County Down reveals several surrounding Banbridge that are references to the test subject's Kelly, Shields, McConville, and Doyle ancestors, see Figure 13. While the Doyles and Kellys still concentrate near their ancestral homelands, the test subject's Shields, McConvilles (Carvill), and Haughians do not, and can be counted among the displaced Gaels of the early 17th Century, see Figure **13**.

An examination of the Scottish surnames associated with Central Ayrshire in Southwest Scotland as it appears on the Scottish Origenes Surnames of Scotland Map reveals that the test subject's Boyds originated near the town of Ayr and in an area where one finds castles, towerhouses and placenames that are associated with his Boyd clan, see **Figure 14**. The test subject's ancestral surnames and their autosomal DNA revealed origins are summarised in **Figure 15**.

Sloan – An Ancestry.com Autosomal DNA Case Study

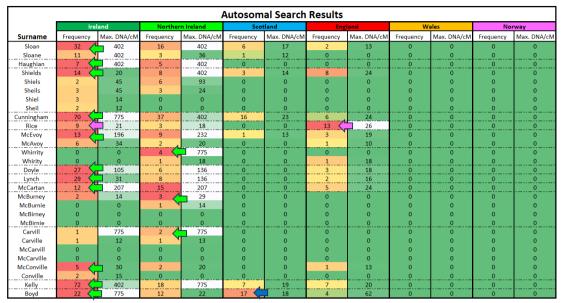


Figure 9: Autosomal search results for ancestral surnames within Britain, Ireland, and Norway. The ancestral locations revealed by one's autosomal genetic relatives are not random, reflecting the relationships that developed among the test subject's various ancestral lines living in specific areas. Autosomal searching of genetic relatives that share greater than 12cM of DNA for the countries of Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, and Norway for each ancestral surname and common spelling variants graded according to maximum shared DNA (cM) reveals Irish links or origins (green arrows) for the ALL the test subject's ancestral lines, an ultimate Scottish origin for his Boyds (blue arrow), and possible English links for his Rice ancestral line (violet arrows). Autosomal DNA search results also reveal that Carvill/Carville is most likely a spelling corruption of 'McConville' (spelling variants arise as one moves further from the place of origin). Note: the weak autosomal DNA signals observed for surnames like Carvill/Carville, McBurney, and Whirrity can be generationally amplified (by autosomal DNA testing a parent or grandparent).

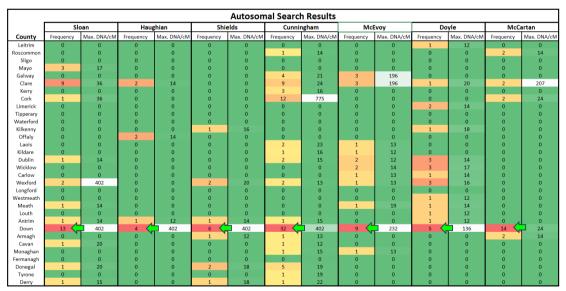


Figure 10: Autosomal search results for Irish-associated surnames within the 32 Counties of Ireland. The counties recorded by autosomal genetic relatives (that share greater than 12cM of DNA) in association with each Irish-associated surname revealed origins for ancestral lines (green arrows). Autosomal DNA testing revealed Sloan, Haughian, Shields, Cunningham, McEvoy, Doyle, and McCartan origins within County Down.

Sloan - An Ancestry.com Autosomal DNA Case Study

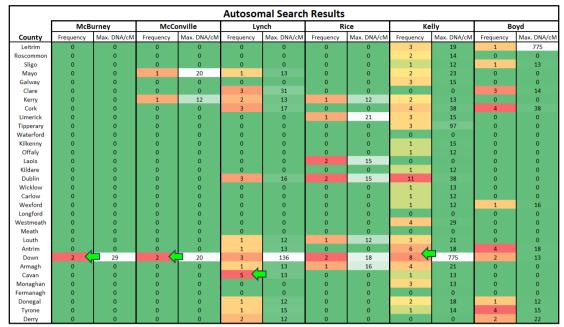


Figure 11: Autosomal search results for Irish-associated surnames within the 32 Counties of Ireland. The counties recorded by autosomal genetic relatives (that share greater than 12cM of DNA) in association with each Irish-associated surname revealed origins for ancestral lines (green arrows). Autosomal DNA testing revealed McBurney, McConville (Carvill), and Kelly links with County Down, and a Lynch origin within County Cavan. In contrast, no clear area in Ireland emerged for the Rice and Boyd ancestral lines which indicates that those ancestral lines were later arrivals within County Down (where the test subject records his earliest Boyd and Rice ancestors (fig. 4)).

Autsomal Search Results					
	Boyd				
County	Frequency	Max. DNA/cM			
Shetland	0	0			
Orkney	0	0			
Caithness	4	18			
Sutherland	0	0			
Ross and Cromarty	0	0			
Invernesshire	0	0			
Argyllshire	0	0			
Perthshire	0	0			
Stirlingshire	0	0			
Dunbartonshire	1	15			
Buteshire	2	12			
Nairn	0	0			
Morayshire	0	0			
Banffshire	0	0			
Aberdeenshire	1	12			
Kincardineshire	0	0			
Angus	0	0			
Fife	0	0			
Clackmannanshire	0	0			
Kinrosshire	0	0			
West Lothian	0	0			
Mid Lothian	1	17			
East Lothian	0	0			
Renfrewshire	0	0			
Lanarkshire	0 ,	0			
Ayrshire	8	17			
Wigtownshire	0	0			
Kirkcudbrightshire	0	0			
Peebleshire	0	0			
Selkirkshire	0	0			
Berwickshire	0	0			
Roxburghshire	1	18			
Dumfriesshire	0	0			

Figure 12: Autosomal search results for the Boyd surname in association with the 1841 Counties of Scotland. The counties recorded by autosomal genetic relatives (that share greater than 12cM of DNA) in association with the Boyd surname revealed an ultimate origin within Ayrshire (blue arrow).

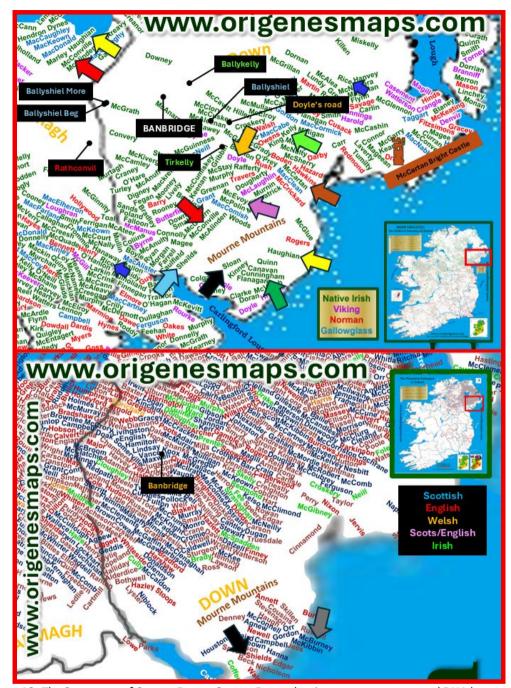


Figure 13: The Surnames of County Down. County Down dominates as an autosomal DNA hotspot, and an examination of the Medieval (top panel) and Plantation surnames (bottom panel) associated with County Down reveals almost ALL the test subject's ancestral surnames (coloured arrows) in the farmland that surrounds the Mourne Mountains in South County Down where all the test subject's earliest ancestors are recorded. The Medieval Surnames (top panel) exhibits a large area in North Down surrounding Banbridge that is devoid of surnames and indicates an area colonised by Scots (bottom panel) with surnames like McBurney and Boyd. The observation of clusters of McConville (red arrows) and Haughian (yellow arrows) farmers on either side of this dead zone together with several placenames associated with the test subject's Shields and McConvilles indicate the post plantation displacement of some of his Gaelic Irish ancestors. Each surname is positioned in the location where farmers (male, heads of household) with each surname concentrate in early census data. The most common spelling is detailed in each location. Detail taken from the Irish Origenes Surname maps, free to explore online at www.origenesmaps.com A surname search function is available at https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames



Figure 14: The Surnames of the Ayrshire and Lanarkshire 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 the Ayrshire and Lanarkshire borderlands which dominates among autosomal DNA hotspots reveals that the test subject's Boyd's originated near Ayr town (red arrow) and in an area where one finds castles, towerhouses and at least one placename (Boydston) associated with his Boyd ancestors. 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, free to explore online at: www.origenesmaps.com

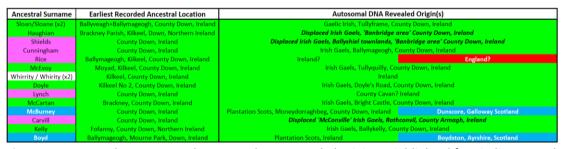


Figure 15: Ancestral surnames and Autosomal DNA revealed origins. Highlighted font indicates each surnames associated ethnicity, location of an earliest known ancestor, or DNA revealed origin: <a href="https://lreland.ncbi.nlm

Confirming an ancestral link to an identified area

One must keep in mind that this is a scientific 'DNA' approach. The DNA does not lie, and commercial ancestral DNA testing of individuals (farmers) with the surnames of interest from the ancestral DNA hotspots would confirm the ancestral link to that location.

Sloan – An Ancestry.com Autosomal DNA Case Study

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

www.irishorigenes.com www.scottishorigenes.com www.englishorigenes.com