# Pinpointing Mr Ferris's Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

**An Irish Origenes Y-DNA Case Study**

www.irishorigenes.com

**Email tyronebowes@gmail.com for a FREE CONSULTATION**

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# 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 'Ó Fearghuis' was living near others with whom he was related but who inherited other surnames like Ó Muircheartaigh, Ó Briain and Ó Néill. Given that hundreds of 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 and/or reveal one's terminal Y-DNA SNP mutation. Mr Ferris's closest genetic surname matches, and terminal SNP mutation as revealed by commercial ancestral Y-DNA STR and SNP testing are detailed in **Figures 1**, **2**, **3**, and **4**.

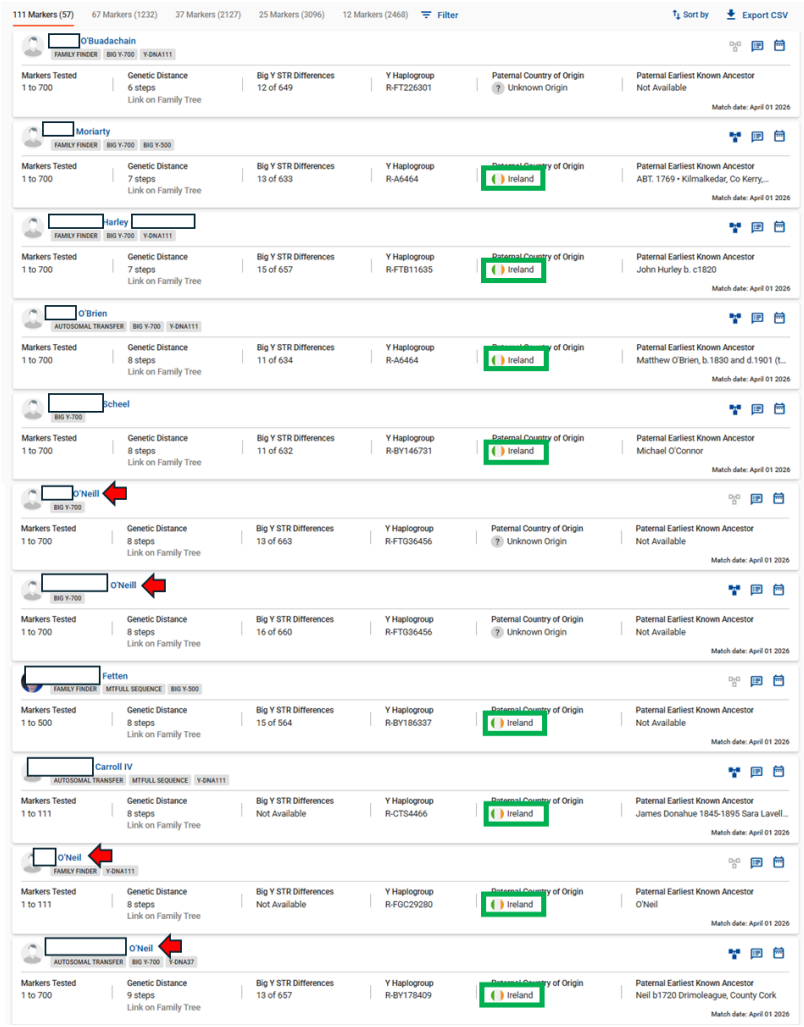


***Figure 1:*** *Snapshot of Mr Ferris's closest Y-DNA STR Surname matches. The more Y-DNA STR markers two people share the more recent their shared paternal ancestor once lived. The test subject's Y-DNA STR revealed surname matches are* ***NOT RANDOM****, they are dominated by Irish-associated surnames, and individuals with earliest recorded links with Ireland (**green box**) some of which like 'O'Neill' (**red arrows**) recur among his matches.*

| Test Subject | Haplogroup | 111 Y-DNA STR Recurring Surname Matches | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Genetic Distance | | | |
| | | 6 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Ferris | R-A2221 | O'Buadachain/Bohane (x2) | Moriarty (x8)<br>O'Brien (x15)<br>O'Neill (x15)<br>Carroll (x8) | Caldwell (x25)<br>McCarthy (x41)<br>Sullivan (x69)<br>Kissane (x4)<br>Murray (x8) | Harnett (x12)<br>O'Leary (x20)<br>Canty (x4)<br>Huie/Huey/Howie (x3)<br>Quirke (x5)<br>Cotter (x6)<br>Aherne (x2)<br>Mahoney (x28)<br>O'Conner (x40)<br>O'Donoghue (x20)<br>Hurley (x11)<br>Dunaway (x10)<br>Lewis (x3)<br>O'connell (x20) |

***Figure 2:*** *Mr Ferris's closest recurring Y-DNA STR surname matches reveal a paternal origin within Ireland. Each surname appears at the point it first appears as a Y-DNA STR 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 'Moriarty' to appear as a genetic relative shared 103 of 111 Y-DNA STR markers although not all 8 males named Moriarty may match at that level. The test subject's closest recurring Y-DNA STR matches are dominated by Irish-associated surnames confirming a paternal origin within Ireland. Highlighted font indicates each surnames associated ethnicity; Irish, Irish-associated.*

Upon commercial ancestral Y-DNA testing the test subject did not match others named 'Ferris,' see **Figure 1**, **2**, and **3**. This indicates that the test subject may not be directly descended from his surnames founding ancestor, a Ferris-Adam, and that his Ferris surname was acquired at a more recent point in history. Ferris is an Irish surname, and the complete dominance of Irish-associated surnames among his closest recurring Y-DNA STR matches confirms an Irish paternal ancestral origin, see **Figures 1** and **2**.

The STRs markers examined in the 111 Y-DNA test are prone to replication or deletion with each generation while SNPs are far more permanent mutations. As a result, SNP testing offers a far more accurate glimpse of the precise chronological development of surnames among related males. The test subject's Y-DNA SNP matches confirm an Irish paternal origin, with block display revealing that the test subject's paternal ancestry is most closely linked with the Moriarty surname, and that his paternal ancestor was originally named 'Moriarty' before acquiring the 'Ferris' surname, see **Figures 3** and **4**. These SNP matching Moriartys and 'Moriartys-in-disguise' (like Ferris) share a common founding paternal ancestor (Moriarty-Adam) in whom arose the R-A2221 mutation which is dated to 1050AD. Block display reveals that the Moriarty, Daly, Cashman, Hurley, and Kane/Keane surnames arose among a tribal group of related Irish males, see **Figure 4**. This Irish tribal grouping lies on a branch of the Irish-associated R-FGC11132 Haplogroup tree, see **Figure 4**.

| Y-DNA SNP Matches | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Surname** | **Non-Matching Variants** | **Match Date** |
| Moriarty | 8644364, 9851983, 12904067, BY11 | 05/09/2026 |
| Moriarty | 22359368, Y20070, FT43265, 10139 | 05/09/2026 |
| O'Brien | 107092, 15462654, 15996863, FT43 | 05/09/2026 |
| Carty | BY11087, Y20070, FT43265, 54279 | 05/09/2026 |
| Ahern | 43265, FTB73687, 11722428, 53535 | 05/09/2026 |
| Griffin | A2224, A2222, BY118002, BY23402, | 05/09/2026 |
| Barrett | 2222, BY118002, BY23402, A2221, A | 05/09/2026 |
| Moriarty | 41937, FT369873, FTB73687, 393504 | 05/09/2026 |
| Colwell | 68702, A2225, BY24891, A2224, A2 | 05/09/2026 |
| Murray | 47867, BY27014, BY26198, BY26199 | 05/09/2026 |
| Evergreen | 22, BY118002, BY23402, A150, A22 | 05/09/2026 |
| Caldwell | , BY118002, BY23402, A2221, A542, | 05/09/2026 |
| Stack | Y23402, A2221, BY11087, FT16094, | 05/09/2026 |

***Figure 3:*** *Snapshot of Mr Ferris's closest Y-DNA SNP genetic surname matches confirm an Irish paternal origin. The more Y-DNA SNP mutations two males share the more recent their shared paternal ancestor once lived. The test subject's Y-DNA SNP revealed surname matches are NOT RANDOM, some link Moriarty (**red arrows**) and Caldwell/Coldwell (**yellow arrows**). His closest Y-DNA SNP matches are dominated by Irish-associated surnames which confirms a paternal origin within Ireland. Highlighted font indicates each surnames associated ethnicity or location of an earliest paternal ancestor; Irish, Irish-associated.*

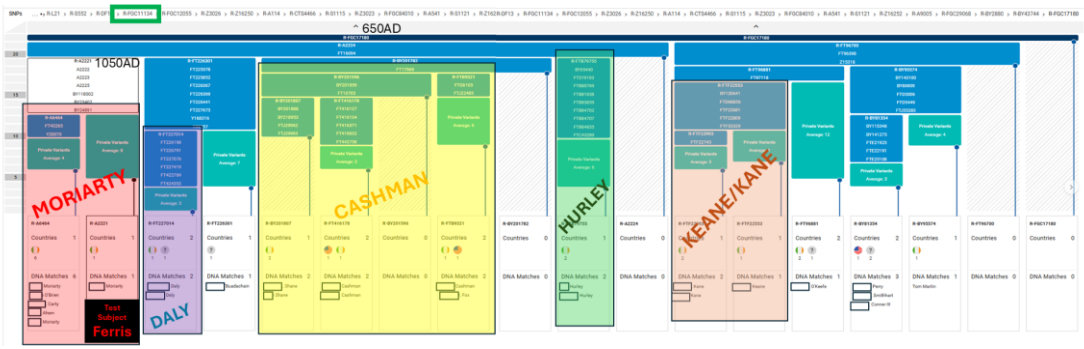


***Figure 4:*** *Block display of Mr Ferris's closest Y-DNA SNP revealed matches. While the STRs examined in the Y-DNA111 test are prone to replication or deletion with each generation, SNPs are far more permanent mutations. SNP testing offers a far more accurate glimpse of the precise chronological development of surnames among a group of related males. Block display reveals that the test subject's paternal ancestry is most closely linked with the Moriartys (shaded red) who share a common founding ancestor in whom arose the R-A2221 mutation which is dated wo 1050AD. The Moriartys lived among an Irish tribal group among whom also arose the Daly (shaded purple), Cashman (shaded yellow), Hurley (shaded green), and Keane/Kane (shaded brown) surnames. This Irish tribal group lies on a branch of the Irish-associated R-FGC11134 Haplogroup tree (**green box**).*

## Irish 'Ferris'

All Gaelic Irish surnames have been extensively anglicised, a process that also results in many spelling variations. The 1911 census reveals 1,541 named Ferris. An examination of the distribution of all individuals named Ferris reveals that they were not scattered uniformly throughout Ireland but concentrated within specific counties, see **Figure 5**. Irish 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 farmers named Ferris reveals at least 4 distinct groups spread throughout Southern Ireland, see **Figure 3**. Since the test subject bears the Ferris

surname and has an Irish paternal origin, his paternal ancestry may be linked with 1 of 4 locations within Ireland.

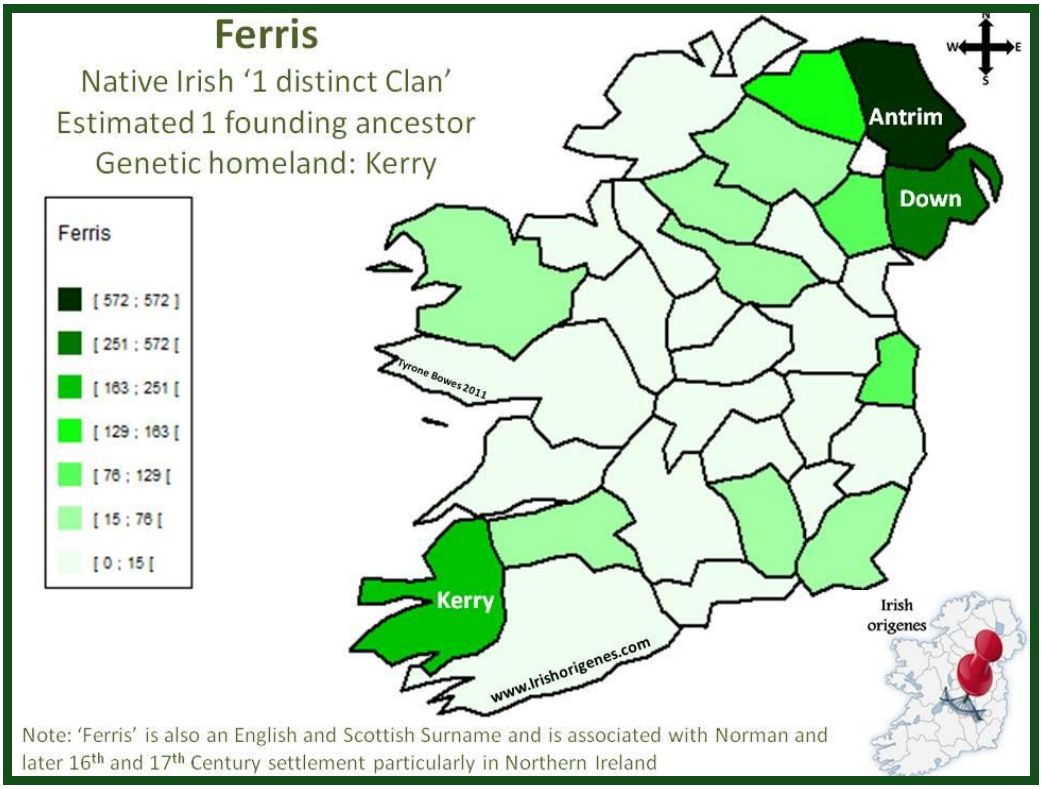


***Figure 5:*** *Distribution mapping of the Ferris surname within Ireland. Distribution mapping of all individuals named Ferris reveals that they were not distributed evenly throughout Ireland but concentrated in specific Irish counties. Image taken from the Irish Origenes Surname distribution map database.*

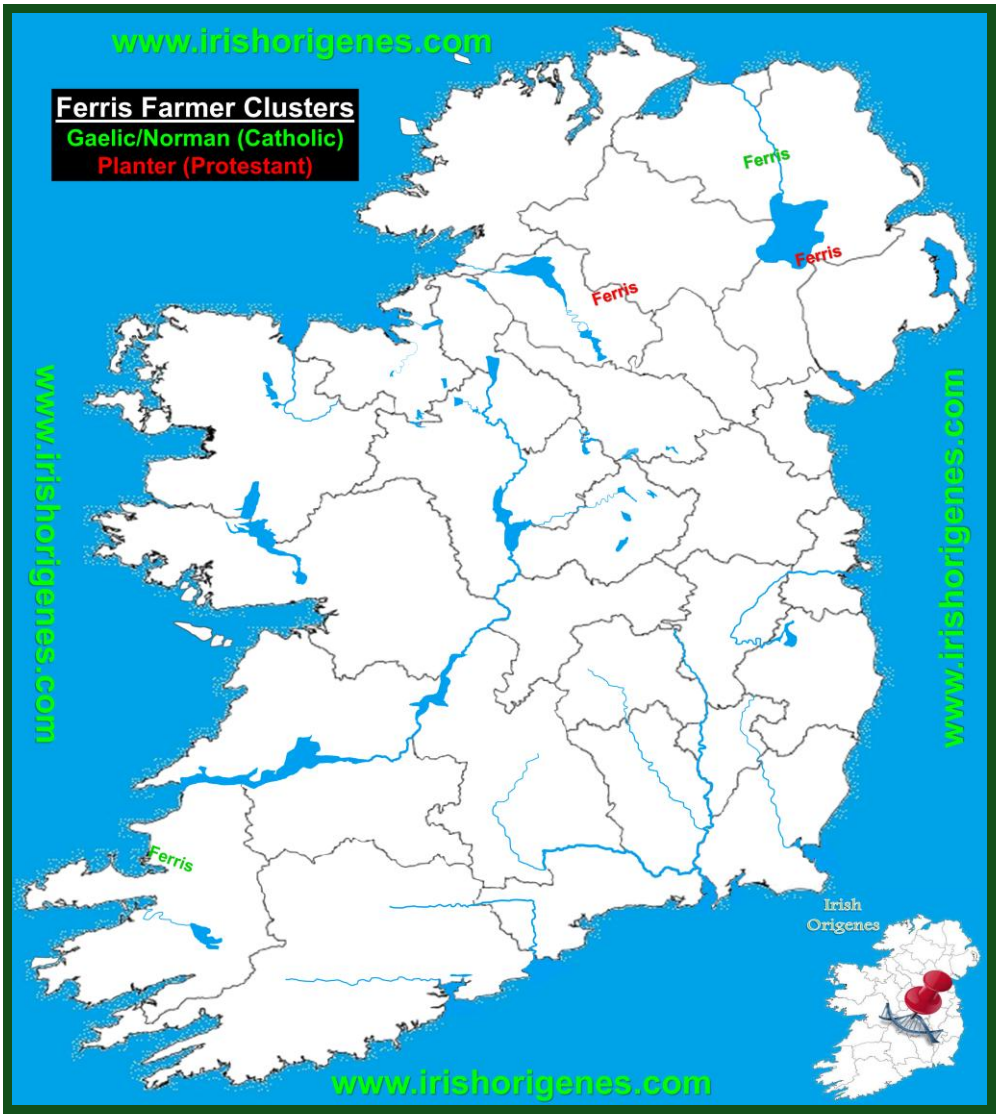


***Figure 6:*** *The Irish Ferris farming community. Irish census data reveals that the descendants of Gaelic Irish, Normans, and mercenary Scottish Gallowglass were overwhelmingly Catholic while those of 16th and 17th Century Plantation settlement were overwhelmingly Protestant. Census data reveals that the Ferris surname is associated with both Pre- and Post Plantation Ireland and distribution mapping of Irish farmers named Ferris reveals at least 4 distinct groups scattered throughout Ireland. Each surname has been placed on the map in the area where farmers (male, heads of household) 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 Irish Origenes Medieval Surnames of Ireland map, a digital copy of which is free to explore online at* ***www.origenesmaps.com*** *a surname search function is available at* ***https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames***

## A Paternal Ancestral Origin within Munster in Southwest Ireland

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 Ferris male from County Antrim will upon Y-DNA testing be a match to individuals with surnames like MacNeill, O'Hara, and MacQuillan, surnames associated with Northeast Ireland. In contrast, a Ferris from County Kerry will be a Y-DNA match to males with surnames associated with Southwest Ireland.

Commercial ancestral Y-DNA SNP testing reveals that at the dawn of the appearance of surnames (1000AD) the test subject's paternal ancestor was named 'Moriarty' and lived among a tribal group of related males among whom arose other surnames like Daly, Cashman, Hurley, and Kane/Keane, see **Figure 4**. Distribution mapping of the Ferris, Moriarty, Daly, Cashman, Hurley, and Kane/Keane farming communities reveals that they are all associated with Southwest Ireland, see **Figure 7**. An examination of the distribution of Catholic Irish farmers named Ferris, Moriarty, Daly, Cashman, Hurley, and Kane/Keane reveals that they are associated with Southwest Ireland, see **Figure 8**. An examination of the surnames associated with the Southwest Ireland reveals the Ferris and Moriarty surnames in County Kerry surrounded by other Irish-associated surnames that dominate the test subject's Y-DNA matches, see **Figures 1, 2**, **3**, **4**, and **9**.

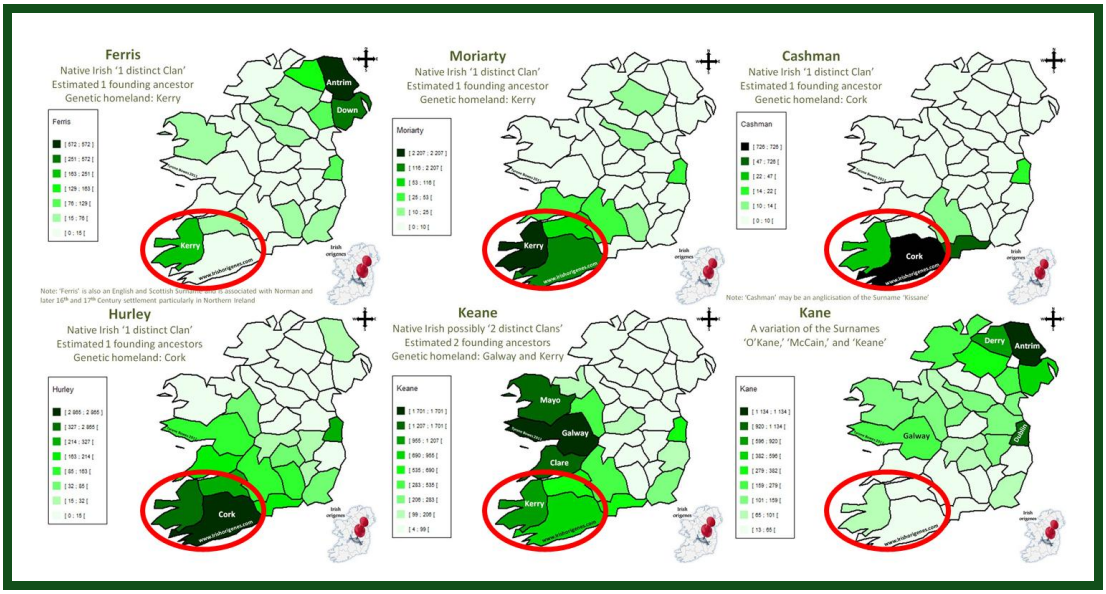


***Figure 7:*** *Distribution mapping reveals a paternal origin within Southwest Ireland. Distribution mapping of all individuals named Ferris, Moriarty, Daly, Cashman, Hurley, and Kane/reveals that they are all associated with the far southwest of Ireland (**red circles**).*

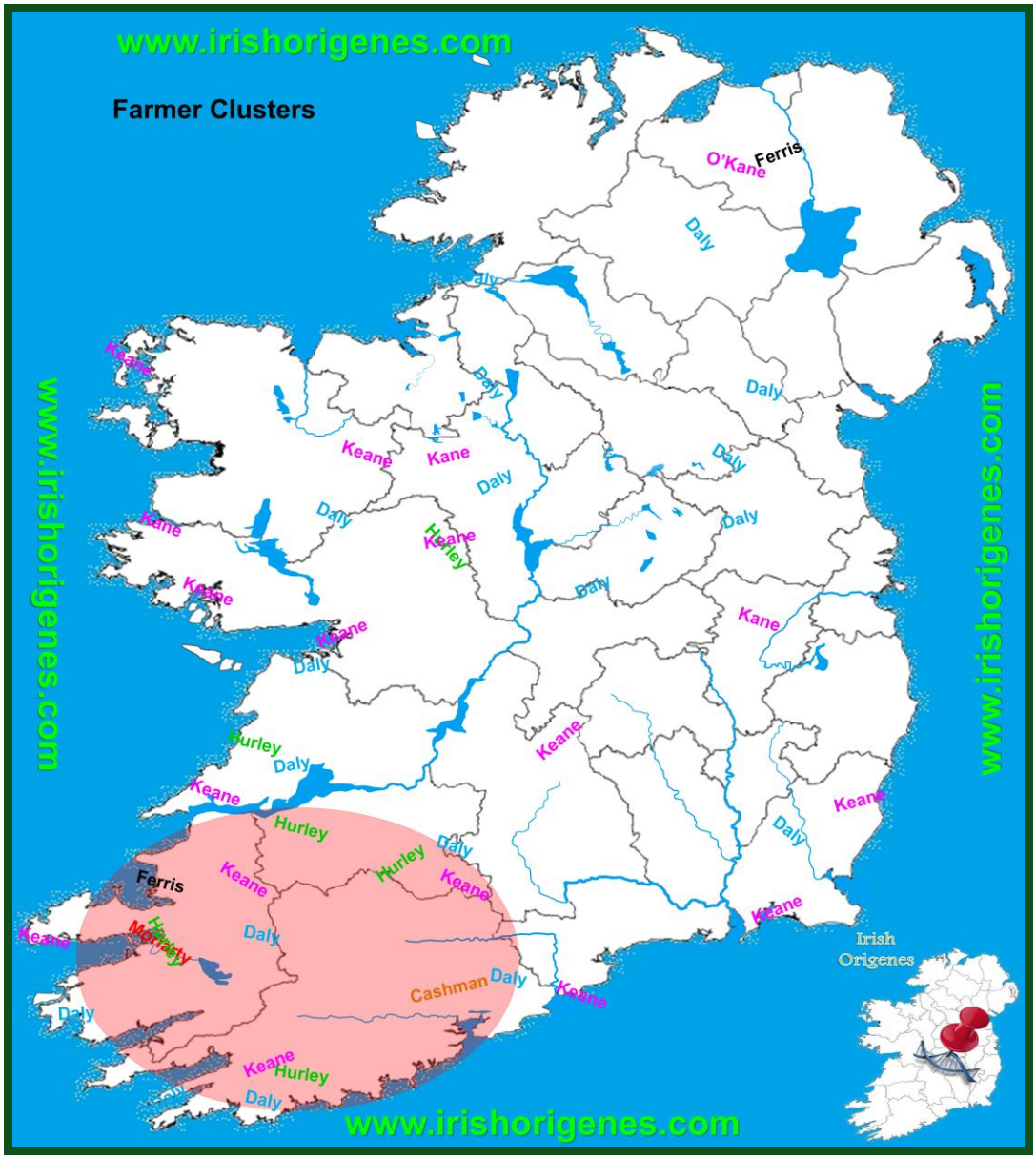


***Figure 8:*** *A paternal ancestral origin within Southwest Ireland. Commercial Y-DNA SNP testing reveals that the Ferris, Moriarty, Daly, Cashman, Hurley, and Kane/Keane surnames arose among an Irish tribal grouping. An examination of the Ferris, Moriarty, Daly, Cashman, Hurley, and Kane/Keane farming communities reveals that they only occur together within Southwest Ireland (shaded red). 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***

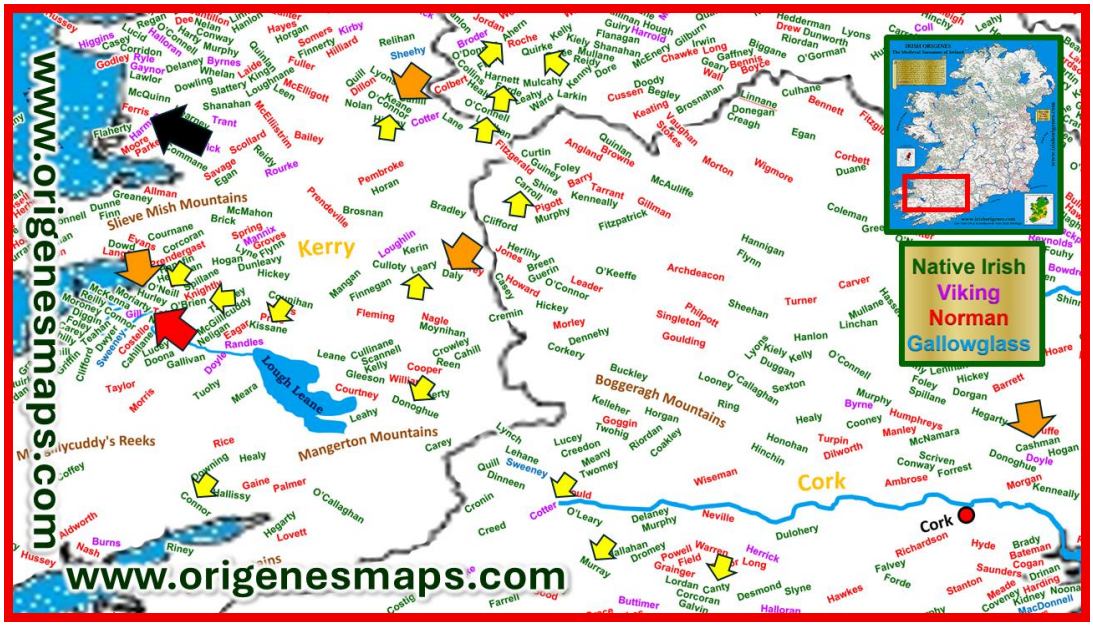


***Figure 9:*** *The Medieval Surnames of Southwest Ireland. Irish farmers still concentrate in the area where their surnames first appeared (Gaelic Irish) or in the area where one's ancestors first settled (Viking/Norman/Planter). An examination of the Kerry, Cork, and Limerick borderlands as it appears on the Irish Origenes Medieval Surnames of Ireland map reveals the test subject's Ferris (**black arrow**) and Moriartys (**red arrow**) in County Kerry surrounded by surnames that appear as close recurring SNP (**orange arrows**) or STR (**yellow arrows**) matches. 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 a digital copy of which is free to explore online at **www.origenesmaps.com** A surname search function is available at **https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames***

## The Clan Territories of Southwest Ireland

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 the Kerry, Cork, and Limerick borderlands as it appears on the clan map, reveals that the Ferris and Moriartys were associated with the same area of County Kerry, ruling lands surrounded by clans that dominate among his Y-DNA revealed genetic relatives, see **Figures 2** and **10**.

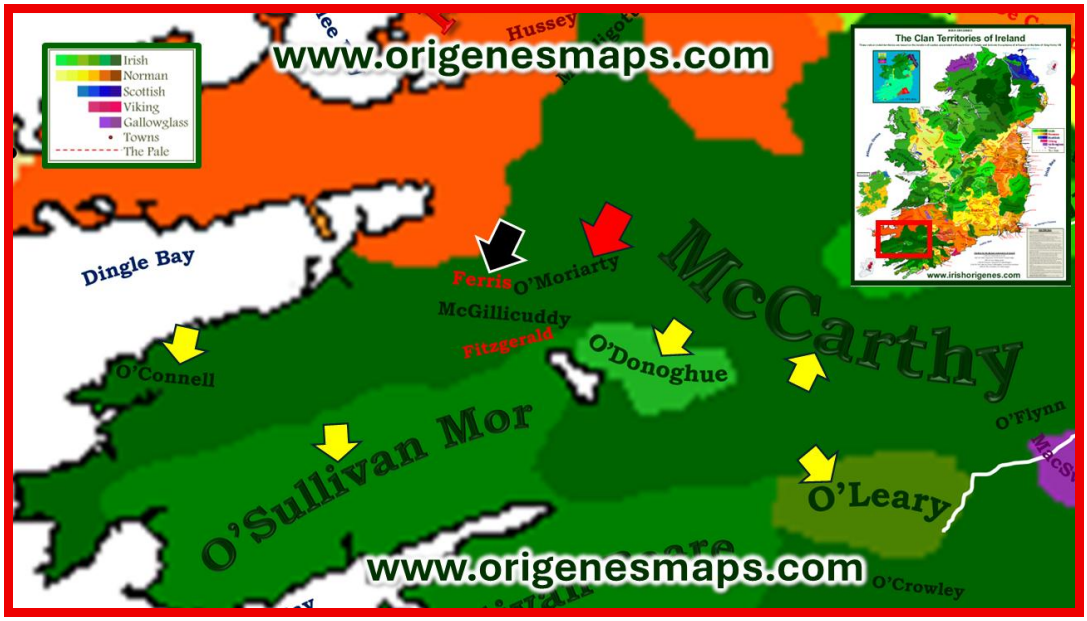


***Figure 10:*** *The Clan territories of the Kerry, Cork, and Limerick borderlands. An examination of the borderlands of Kerry, Cork, and Limerick as it appears on the Irish Origenes Clan Territories map reveals that the test subject's Ferris (**black arrow**) and Moriartys (**red arrow**) ruled the same area of County Kerry, surrounded by Gaelic Irish clans that dominated his Y-DNA matches (**yellow arrows**). Image taken from the Irish Origenes Clan Territories of Ireland Map a digital copy of which is free to explore online at **www.origenesmaps.com** A surname search function is available at **https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames***

## Mr Ferris's Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland

History records the Ferris and Moriarty surnames associated with Ballymalis castle/towerhouse in County Kerry just east of the town of Killorglin, and it is there that the test subject's Irish paternal ancestral genetic homeland is to be found, see **Figure 11**. It was there an estimated 1,000 years ago that the test subject's direct male ancestor lived when his paternal ancestor who carried the R-A2221 Y-DNA SNP mutation first took the 'Ó Muircheartaigh' (*Grandson of the Navigator*) surname, see **Figures 11**, **13**, and **14**. His paternal ancestor lived among a tribal group among whom arose other surnames like Ó Briain and Ó Néill among many others. At some point in the 16th Century, when the Ó Fearghuis took possession of Ballymalis castle a non-paternal event (adoption, maternal transfer of the surname) occurred which resulted in his paternal ancestor acquiring the Ó Fearghuis (*Grandson of the Vigorous warrior*) surname, which over time was anglicised 'Ferris.' When one's paternal ancestors have lived in an area for a long time, they will often leave evidence of their links with that area in its surrounding placenames and/or historical monuments like Ballymalis castle, see **Figure 12**. The test subject's paternal ancestors will also have left evidence of their links with this area in its history, and in the DNA of the current inhabitants.

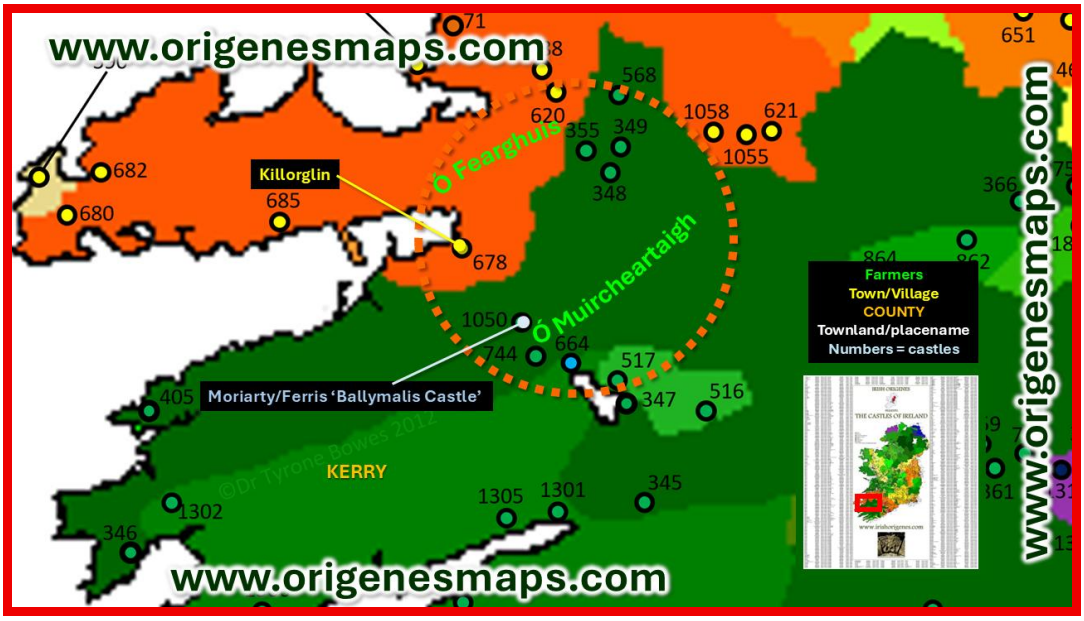


***Figure 11:*** *Mr Ferris's Irish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland. Census and historical data reveal that the Ferris and Moriarty surnames are associated with the area surrounding Ballymalis castle, and it is there that the test subject's Irish paternal ancestral genetic homeland is to be found (**orange broken circle**). It was there that his paternal ancestor who carried the R-A2221 Y-DNA SNP lived when he first took the Ó Muircheartaigh surname in around 1050AD, and where a non-paternal event occurred in the 16th Century that resulted in his paternal ancestor acquiring the Ó Fearghuis surname. His paternal ancestors will have left evidence of their ancestral links with this area in its monuments (Ballymalis castle) but also in its history and in the DNA of the current inhabitants. Image taken from the Irish Origenes Castles of Ireland Map, a digital copy of which is free to explore online at **www.origenesmaps.com** A surname search function is available at **https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames***

***Figure 12:*** *Ballymalis castle/towerhouse near Killorglin in County Kerry. Ballymalis castle was built in the early 16th Century by the Ó Muircheartaigh (Moriarty) before passing in the later 16th Century into the possession of the Ó Fearghuis (Ferris). It was in here in the late 16th Century that a non-paternal event took place which resulted in the test subject's paternal Ó Muircheartaigh ancestor acquiring the Ó Fearghuis surname.*

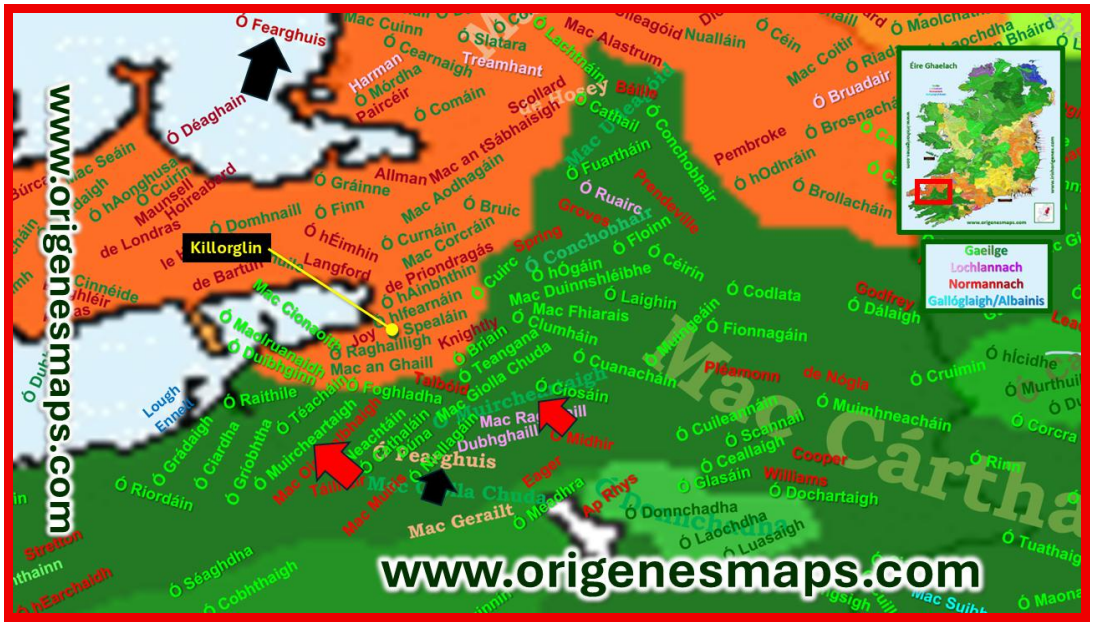


***Figure 13:*** *The Gaelic Surnames of Central County Kerry. Research at Irish Origenes has facilitated the reconstruction of the Pre-Plantation Gaelic surnames of Ireland. An examination of the borderlands of County Kerry as it appears on the NEW Irish Origenes Gaelic Ireland map reveals the test subject's Ó Muircheartaigh (**red arrows**) and Ó Fearghuis (**black arrows**) near Killorglin. Detail taken from the Irish Origenes 'Gaelic Irish Surnames map,' a digital copy of which is free to explore online at **www.origenesmaps.com** A surname search function is available at **https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames***

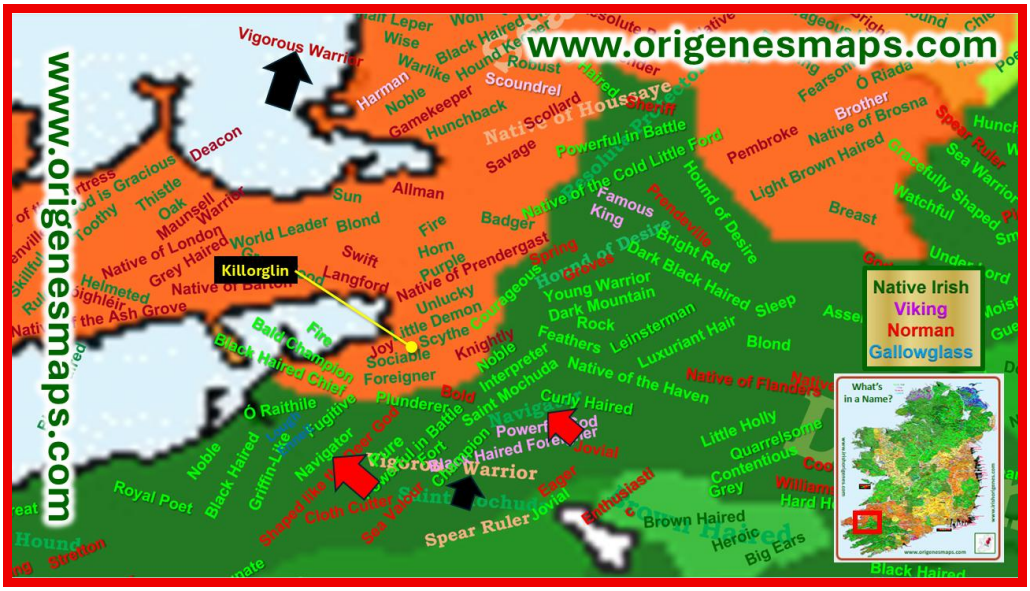


***Figure 14:*** *What's in a Name? Surnames were earned in Medieval Ireland, and those surnames denote a notable trait of a founding ancestor. An examination of the meaning of each surname in the Central County Kerry as it appears on the NEW Irish Origenes 'What's in a Name' map reveals that the test subject's founding paternal ancestor was known as the 'Grandson of the Navigator' (**red arrows**) prior to becoming the 'Grandson of the Vigorous Warrior' (**black arrows**). Detail taken from the Irish Origenes What's in a Name map, a digital copy of which is free to explore online at **www.origenesmaps.com** A surname search function is available at **https://analysis.irishorigenes.com/surnames***

## Indo European Southern Irish Gaels

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, Gaels), Vikings, Normans, and 17th Century Plantation settlers, see **Figure 15**. The test subject's branch of the R-M269/R-DF13/R-FGC11134 Haplogroup tree indicates that his paternal ancestors were the Indo-European Southern Irish Gaels whose Y-DNA genetic signature dominates the southern half of Ireland, see **Figure 16**. The test subject is descended from the Indo-Europeans who began arriving in Ireland in around 2500BC and whose arrival would correspond to a 90% population replacement of the Neolithic inhabitants. A comparison of the test subject's Y-DNA SNP mutations with an ancient DNA database reveals several matches, the earliest of which date to 2400BC and were recovered from neighbouring Bronze Age Britain, see **Figure 17**.

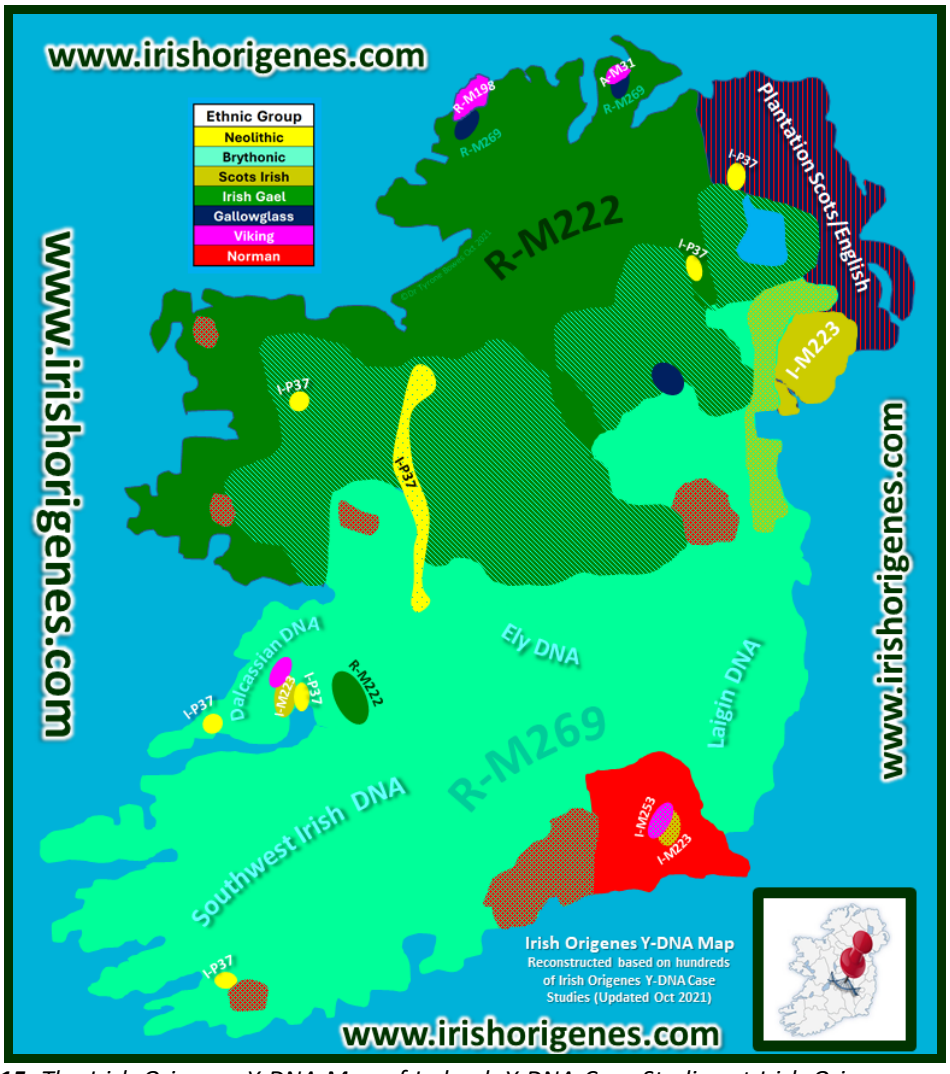


***Figure 15**: The Irish Origenes Y-DNA Map of Ireland. Y-DNA Case Studies at Irish Origenes reveals an ethnicity map of Ireland. The test subject's paternal ancestors were descended from Indo-European R-M269/R-FGC11134 Southern Irish Gaels whose Y-DNA signature dominates the south of Ireland.*

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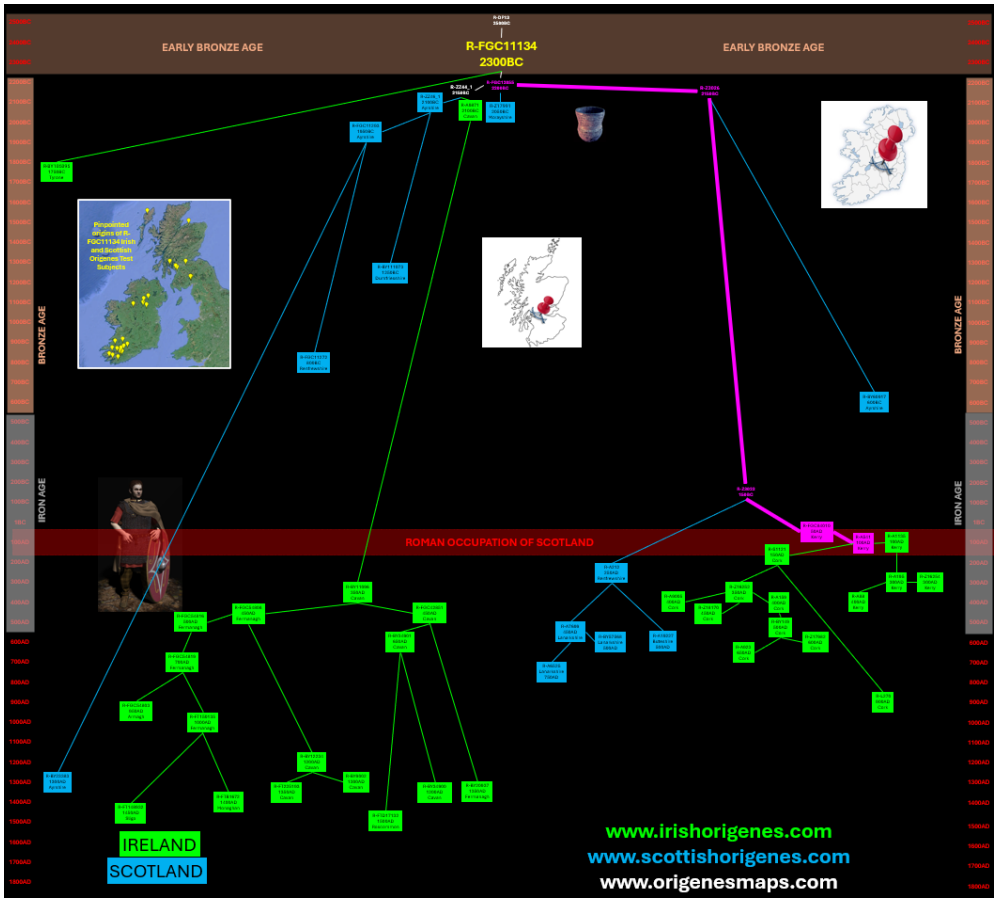


***Figure 16**: The Updated R-FGC11134 Origenes Haplogroup tree. The test subject’s branch (**violet line**) of the Irish-associated R-FGC11134 Haplogroup tree. The original Haplogroup tree is free to explore online at **www.origenesmaps.com***

| Object-ID | FTDNA-Y-Haplotree | Date | Simplified Culture | Location | Country |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TR116 | R-M207>M173>M343>L754>L389>P297>M269>L23>L51>P310>L151>P312>Z290>L21>DF13>FGC11134 | 2015-1758 BC | Ireland_EBA | Treanmacmurtagh, Sligo | Ireland |
| PG911 | R-M207>M173>M343>L754>L389>P297>M269>L23>L51>P310>L151>P312>Z290>L21>DF13>FGC11134 | 2349-2135 BC | Ireland_CA | Polinagollium, Fermanagh | Ireland |
| I2859 | R-M207>M173>M343>L754>L389>P297>M269>L23>L51>P310>L151>P312>Z290>L21>DF13>FGC11134>FGC12055 | 912-808 BC | Britain_LBA | Covesea Caves, Moray, Scotland | Great Britain |
| GDF1348 | R-M207>M173>M343>L754>L389>P297>M269>L23>L51>P310>L151>P312>Z290>L21>DF13>FGC11134>FGC12055>Z3026>Z16250>A114>CTS4466>**S1115**>FGC84010>A541>/ | 5th-3rd c. BC | France_IA | Barbuise | France |
| CT14 | R-M207>M173>M343>L754>L389>P297>M269>L23>L51>P310>L151>P312>Z290>L21>DF13>FGC11134>FGC12055>Z3026>Z16250>A114>CTS4466>**S1115**>FGC84010>A541>/ | 60-420 AD | Ireland_IA | Clarstown, Meath | Ireland |
| VK202 | R-M207>M173>M343>L754>L389>P297>M269>L23>L51>P310>L151>P312>Z290>L21>DF13>FGC11134>FGC12055>Z3026>Z16250>A114>CTS4466>**S1115**>FGC84010>A541>/ | 900-1000 AD | Viking | Orkney | Great Britain |
| cieple10 | R-M207>M173>M343>L754>L389>P297>M269>L23>L51>P310>L151>P312>Z290>L21>DF13>FGC11134>FGC12055>ZZ44_1>ZZ46_1>FGC11293 | 1125 AD | Poland_MA | Ciepłe cemetery | Poland |
| Ferris **Test Subject** | R-M207>M173>M343>L754>L389>P297>M269>L23>L51>P310>L151>P312>Z290>L21>DF13>FGC11134>FGC12055>Z3026>Z16250>A114>CTS4466>**S1115**>Z3023 | | | | |

250BC

***Figure 17**: Alignment of the Ferris’s commercial ancestral Y-DNA SNP mutations with Ancient Remains. Alignment of Y-DNA SNP mutations reveals that the test subject matches several ancient DNA samples from Europe with which he shares the R-S1115 mutation which is dated to 250BC (**red arrow**), one of the most recent of which was recovered from County Meath and date to the Later Iron age. Ancient DNA sample data available at https://indo-european.eu/*

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