THE McCARTHY (Y-DNA) Surname Study

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McCarthy Surname Study websites:
https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/mccarthy-surname-study/about/
https://mccarthydna.wordpress.com
http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/mccarthy/pats
Objectives

PART I Y-DNA TESTING FOR GENEALOGISTS

• Differentiate between types of DNA testing.
• Explain how we use Y-DNA to determine our paternal ancestry.
• Outline resources.

PART II PROGRESS REPORT

• List objectives of the McCarthy Surname Study.
• Explain the Y-chromosome phylogenetic tree and indicate where McCarthys are located thereon.
• Review developments in selected lineages.
• Indicate the progress made in aligning McCarthys with the genealogies of ancient tracts.
• Summarise Study achievements and outline future direction.

Notes:

1. The spelling of our surname has varied through the ages, both in Irish and in its anglicisation. Modern Irish uses Mac Cáithigh. Throughout these slides the more common anglicisation “McCarthy” is generally used; however “MacCarthy” is used where referring to the early septs or specific individuals who have used that form of spelling.

2. ‘Posters’ referenced in these slides are those used during the gathering. Not all will necessarily be reproduced when this slideshow is uploaded to our Wordpress website.
SLIDES FROM PART I HAVE BEEN OMITTED HERE.

PLEASE REFER TO GUIDANCE NOTES ISSUED TO STUDY MEMBERS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS
Goals of the McCarthy Surname Study

The McCarthy Surname Project is testing for mutations on the Y-chromosome which:

a) take research of paternal lines beyond the limits of conventional genealogy, and in so doing, identify their origins.

b) identify shared paternal ancestry.

c) distinguish McCarthys (and variants of the name) from one another.

d) establish yDNA profiles associated with the various McCarthy septs, subsepts and agnomina.

e) confirm or refute suspected or claimed origins.

f) test the veracity of both ancient and more recent written genealogies.
The Y-chromosome Phylogenetic Tree
(aka a Haplotree)

(1) From Africa to R-M269
The Y-chromosome Phylogenetic Tree: (2) From R-M269 to R1b McCarthys

Notes:
Dates are provisional, but indicative of eras.
Yellow highlighting denotes haplogroups in which McCarthy Study members are found.
Percentages indicate the distribution of McCarthys (as percentage of all McCarthys).

About 90% of McCarthys are found within the (R-)M269 haplogroup.
7% of McCarthys are of as yet undetermined subclades of M269.
Our Wordpress website provides trees for many of the McCarthy Surname Study genetic groups on the previous two slides. Most begin (at top of the sheet) with the deduced y-chromosome haplotype of the progenitor in whom SNP R-L21 occurred.

SNP R-L21 occurred about 4,400 years ago. It was discovered about 2009. SNP DF13, which occurred soon after, was discovered some years later, by which time L21 was established as ‘king’.

The trees cascade down to the present day, definitively identifying SNPs (where tested) and speculatively identifying where STR mutations occurred. (See next slide for example)

Participants are represented by their surname and FTDNA kit no.

Surnames came into use in Ireland around the 11th century. The trees show other names where pertinent to McCarthy origins.

The R-L21 Group A tree is shared with the R1b-CTS4466 Plus Project and thus with all those who have an “Irish Type II” haplotype. It is 12 sheets wide.

The R-L21 Group B tree is shared with the R Z16526 and Subclades (formerly R-P314 Haplogroup) Project and reveals the ancestry of the eponymous Cáithchach and the split into the MacCarthy Mór and Mac Carthy Reagh branches. (Poster Nos. 2 and 3 also refer).
Extract from a typical McCarthy tree
The origin of MacCarthy Mór and MacCarthy Reagh (see also Poster No. 1)

- Ancient genealogies suggest Eóghanacht origins which are consistent with the ‘Irish Type II’ haplotype seen in McCarthy R-L21 Group A.

- R-L21 Group A accounts for 20–23% of McCarthys spread over a number of lineages sharing common ancestry possibly in the 3rd century A.D.

- However, by 1045 A.D., when the eponymous Cáthach died, none of the branches subsequently formed has more than 3% of all McCarthys, whereas all 30% of R-L21 Group B share a common ancestor about this time.

- The R-L21 Group B McCarthys subdivide into two genetic groups in a manner consistent with second millenium McCarthy genealogies.

- Big Y testing shows an irrefutable genetic relationship between the R-L21 Group B McCarthys and the 12% of O’Callaghans who test positive for SNP L362. This aligns precisely with the ancient genealogies.

CONCLUSIONS:

- **McCARTHY R-L21 GROUP B IS THAT OF THE PATERNAL PROGENY OF THE MacCARTHY KINGS OF CASHEL AND DESMOND AND THEIR MÓR, REAGH, MUSKERRY, ETC. SEPTS. (See later for their origins!).**

- **THE PROWESS OF THE McCARTHY NAME AND THE HIGH PERCENTAGE OF MUNSTER MEN OF GAELIC ORIGIN WITH THE IRISH TYPE II HAPLOTYPE ACCOUNTS FOR MANY McCARTHYs BELONGING TO R-L21 GROUP A.**
If not from Cárthach (d. 1045), then how was a M(a)cCarthy surname acquired?

- Soldiers, serfs, and slaves under the tutelage of a McCarthy king, chief or chieftain, adopting this surname.

- Stepsons taking the McCarthy name of their new stepfather (early deaths of husbands and thus remarriages of their wives, were common).

- Sons taking a mother’s McCarthy maiden name for reason of superior prowess.

- Rape of McCarthy womenfolk by invaders of their territory.

- Other illegitimacy.

- Adoption (e.g. by a chieftain of a sister’s orphaned children)

- From others of the name. Cárthach was not an uncommon name in the late 1st millenium. Some progeny of Ó Cáithaigh (O'Carty) septs – of which there were several scattered about Ireland – perhaps assumed the anglicised M(a)cCarthy name where this was also in local use (e.g. in West Cork).
• McCarthy are scattered across all three subclades of SNP A541.

• These R-L21 Group A McCarthy have acquired their surname in similar ways to the rest of the 70% of McCarthy not in R-L21 Group B.

• Calculation suggests that SNP Z21065 and thus also SNPs S1121 and A151 occurred in the 3rd or 4th century A.D., though this is subject to a considerable margin of error.

• Nonetheless, this dating and the present-day surname distribution under SNP A541 indicate reasonable alignment with those ancient genealogies claiming a common ancestor for ‘mainstream’ Eóghanachta and Uí Fhidgeinte (namely Ailill Flann Bec), despite the suspicion with which they have been viewed.
McCarthy Agnomina in R-L21 Group A (Irish Type II haplotype)

• Under SNP S1121 (Group A1):
  o Cruaidh / Cruig (See Poster No. 5)
  o Gaibhdeach / Guidagh (See Poster No. 4)
  o Glas (also found elsewhere: see later, and Poster No. 7)
  o Muineagh / Meenig / Maoineach (See Poster No. 5)

• Under SNP Z21065 (Group A2)
  o Cnoic / Knuck / K(u)nick (See earlier tree sample slide and Poster No. 5)
  o Brogach (with 2nd millenium O’Donovan ancestry)

• McAuliffe is supposedly an early branch off the Kings of Cashel (main) MacCarthy stem. But there is no evidence yet of McAuliffe in R-L21 Group B; four so far are all in McCarthy R-L21 Group A. Two are accompanied by a McCarthy in a Z21065 subclade of their own, one is under S1121 and one is yet to be further assigned.
M(a)cCarthy Cremin  (See Poster No. 6.)

- The traditionally expounded origin is the progeny of Dermod MacCarthy, brother of Donal Reagh, and the daughter of an Ó Croimín. No genetic evidence so far.

- Two lineages associating M(a)cCarthy with the Cremin name, both in the haplogroup of SNP Z255 (McCarthy R-L21 Group E).

- Their shared ancestry is many centuries before surnames came into use.

- A third group of (so far) three McCarthys, without Cremin associations, is also found under Z255.

- More M(a)cCarthy Cremins, from as far apart as we can find, are needed in the Study to properly evaluate this agnomen.

M(a)cCarthy Sowney  (See Poster No. 6.)

- McCarthy R-L21 Group F1. A well-defined Sowney family, strongly rooted in the Caheragh / Drimoleague area, and running its own Yahoo forum, possibly shares common ancestry around 1600.

- A further Sowney, from Kildee, is found in R-L21 Group D1.

- However the Sowney / Souny name appears further afield in Co. Cork parish records, and also in Co Limerick, so the diversity of 2nd millenium origins requires further exploration.
Some of the other lineages making up the ‘70%’

- Haplogroup (Hg) R-U152 (2%): unites one American ‘family’ with a McCarthy family from Mohonagh, near Skibbereen. Paternal ancestry shared with several Nunans (from Ó Núanáin, and some corrupted to Newman), perhaps in the 13th century, suggesting early second millennium origins lie in the barony of Duhallow, Co. Cork.

- Hg I2a1 (I-P37.2) (2%). Quite diverse within this ancient group, but a more recent subclade is home for 55% of O’Driscolls, so it is feasible that West Cork members in this haplogroup would share such an origin.

- R-L21 Group C (6%): members have ‘Irish Type I’ haplotypes associated with Niall of the Nine Hostages; all but two pairs are unrelated to one another in the past millenium.

- R-L21 Group D1 (4%): these share first millennium ancestry with the main (Kerry) group of O’Sheas. More recently they share with Colemans.

- R-L21 Group F3 (3 members): not closely related to one another but all with ‘Irish Type III’ haplotypes, shared with Brian Boru and his progeny.
The MacCarthy kings of Cashel and Desmond (R-L21 Group B): origins

- Dates estimated from Z16533 side of the tree.
- SNPs L362 and Z29539 accompanied by an unusually high number of other SNPs making date estimates prior to Ceallachán unreliable.
- Many parallel trees have strong Scottish connections.
- SNP L362 and ‘equivalents’ (the “others”) likely occurred in Munster.
- Tree implies separate migrations into Munster from north...or is it separate migrations northwards from Munster?
15 ‘Group B’ McCarthys have taken Big Y tests: all have SNP ZS4606 and either A5813 or ZS4598 (others have tested specifically just for these SNPs).

SNPs A5813 and ZS4598 align with Cormac Fionn and Dónal Gott respectively (or their immediate progeny).

Would be interesting to test a McCarthy Mucklagh
The MacCarthy Mór lineage

From Big Y testing we know so far of three ‘subclades’ under SNP A5813:

a) SNP A10864. One has inherited a MacCarthy of Muskerry tree drawn in 1761.

b) Kit no. 312546

c) SNP A9070 – largest group

SNP A10864 or A10865 could have occurred further up the tree in which case it should show up in the Ardcanaght MacCarthy (not yet tested).

(a), (b) and the MacCarthy of Ardcanaght all have a 13 to 12 mutation at DYS 439. IF it occurred in a shared ancestor, the A9070 group cannot belong on Cormac (1271-1359)’s tree.
MacCarthy Glas (See Poster No. 7).

- Daniel MacCarthy Glas did not have the benefit of DNA-testing!

- His research places his paternal ancestry in McCarthy R-L21 Group B3. But a male-line descendant has a very different Y-DNA signature, rare in Munster (SNP path R-U106>U198>DF89).

- Just one other member is a close match: a descendant of Tom McCarty, the outlaw with whom Butch Cassidy first set out on his ‘career’. They have a 77% probability of sharing a common paternal ancestor 8 generations back from the present. But what was Tom’s subsequent descent?

- So who intruded into this lineage? It could have been anywhere from Daniel and Tom’s common ancestor back to near the beginning of the Slíochd Feidhlimidh branch. The MacCarthy connection may be a female.

- We do have one other MacCarthy Glas. And he belongs in R-L21 Group A1! So more explaining to do.

- We hope to find some more McCarthys in the Dunmanway area with a haplotype of the nature of Daniel’s (and thus SNP DF89). And of course a non-McCarthy (probably with an English / Norman name) also with a similar haplotype. (No, it isn’t Kingston).
• After SNP ZS4598, SNP ZZ50 divides Donal Gott’s progeny in two. McCarthys Rabagh, Farshing, Tallin / Talun and Tul(l)ach are all positive for ZZ50 (“ZZ50+”).

• Z29544 appears to be associated with Gleann a’ Chroim. IF it marks a lineage deriving from Cormac Donn, then ZZ50 can only have occurred in Dónal Maol or his son Dónal Caomh, and the several “ZZ50-” clusters must align with the progeny of other sons of Dónal Gott (or of Dónal Maol).

• Half of those who are “ZZ50-” have a quite rare STR mutation at DYS 485. The progeny of Tadhg Dall was said to be widespread. Is this it?
Conclusions

• Great progress has been made since 2013.

• All members have at least some indication of what lies beyond their conventional genealogy ‘brick walls’.

• Several members have been united with families of which they previously knew nothing.

• Y-DNA signatures associated with a number of McCarthy septs / agnomena now well defined. Some members have only this way discovered their septs.

• Irrefutable alignment of Y-DNA of regal McCarthy lines with old written genealogies from Ceallachán of Cashel (d. ca. 954) into the 13th century. Exciting developments in alignment of Cárthach’s progeny thereafter.

Votes of thanks

• Project owes a great debt of gratitude to those who have generously donated to its fund (held in an FTDNA account), some repeatedly. Donations are always welcome and all will be directed towards further, targeted, testing.

• Thanks also due to Co-Administrators Zena for welcoming new members and the many hours devoted to our Pedigree Library at WorldFamilies.net, and Fintan for his painstaking research in archives looking for documentation to support alignment of R-L21 Group B and to resolve the Sliochd Feidhlimidh conundra.
The Future of the Study

• Increasing our membership, particularly with native Munstermen who know something of their paternal origins, is the surest way of increasing our knowledge.

• The need to increase McCarthy Cremin and Sowney membership from as far afield within Munster as possible has been highlighted.

• For some agnomina, such as Corky, Lyragh, Saileach, Spáinneach, Strock / Stracaire and most septs recorded in King’s History of Kerry, if not extinct, we have yet to start.

• We will continue to seek potential descendants of recognised branches of the R-L21 Group B (Kings of Cashel and Desmond) tree with a view to bringing forward alignment with recorded genealogies into the 14th-18th centuries. With this group in particular, we need continued investment in more expensive NGS testing.

• The riddles surrounding Daniel MacCarthy Glas’s paternal ancestry are highlighted on Poster No. 7 and remain to be solved.

• And finally: to guarantee the future of the Study, we need to find one or two more Co-Administrators who, at least between them, have an interest in the analysis and presentation of data, an enthusiasm for M(a)cCarthy (and thus Munster) history and a willingness to serve members of the Study whatever their lineage.