



# O'MAHONY NEWSLETTER

## Muintir Mhathúna

Oct/Nov 2010 Issue 40

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### 2011 Gathering Rossmore Castle, Durrus, June 19

The 2011 Gathering will be held the week-end of June 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. These dates are firm.

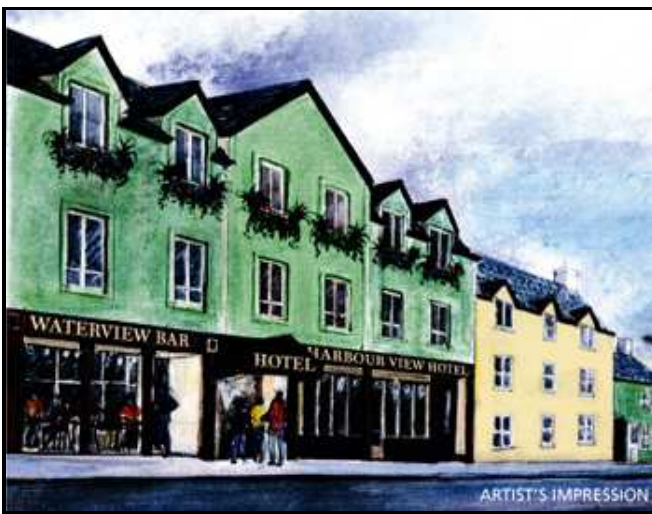
On Sunday, the rally will take place at Rossmore Castle, near Durrus in the Muintervara peninsula. The last O Mahony Gathering attended by Eoin "The Pope" O Mahony was held at Rossmore Castle in 1969. The 1992 Gathering was also held at Rossmore.

The base of operations will be at the Harbour View in Schull.

More information on Rossmore Castle and Schull will be available in the next Newsletter in March, 2011.



Rossmore Castle, Durrus, Co. Cork



Harbour View Hotel

#### HEADQUARTERS:

The Harbour View Hotel in Schull (left)  
The hotel is holding 10 rooms for the O Mahony Society.  
Sharing-€45 and single €60

Address: Main Street, Schull, Co. Cork .  
E-mail: [enquiries@harbourviewhotelschull.com](mailto:enquiries@harbourviewhotelschull.com)  
Ph: 353 (0)28 28101  
Fax: 353 (0)28 27557  
<http://www.harbourviewhotelschull.com>

The hotel also rents adjacent self-contained apartments with sea views. Pricing is available through the hotel reception.

Bed and Breakfast accommodation and self-catering holiday homes are also plentiful in the area. These can be accessed online or at Schull tourist office.



# NEWS FROM NORA

*CARTLANNAI (ARCHIVIST) OF MUINTIR MHATHÚNA AND  
EDITOR OF THE O MAHONY SOCIETY JOURNAL*



Great news and a good beginning for those of West Cork ancestry, that is the diocese of Cork & Ross. The first 300,000 Roman Catholic records were put online last June at [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie).

Some parish records are now complete – others are not. What is very intriguing is that one can now see the original church record, which is very important because all online material should be checked against the original copy. This is now easy to do on this web page.

The second phase is now in progress, and in a few months another 300,000 Cork church records will be online.

There is also 'talk' that the filming of all Roman Catholic church registers in the National Library Dublin will be updated to 1900 or so. But this is only 'talk' at the moment.

Meanwhile, there is great interest in the 1901 and 1911 census online at [www.census.nationalarchive.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchive.ie). However, I heard recently at the seminar held by the Western Family History Association [west county Galway] the sad news that corrections sent in are not yet updated due to lack of staff. There are plans afoot to develop projects for the thousands of Irish unemployed to make up these genealogical deficiencies. Hopefully this situation will improve.

I need to mention Griffith's Valuation online again. The Ask About Ireland page changed formats, and the new

address is [www.griffiths.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.griffiths.askaboutireland.ie). There is link between this tax record and the 1901 census in the Cancellation Books. As these are filmed by the LDS, these microfilms are available through your nearest Family History Centre.

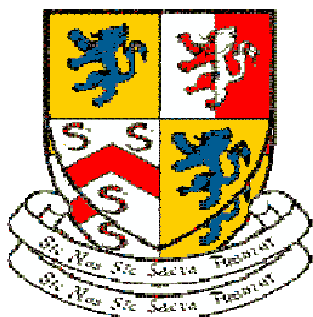
**BUT, BUT, BUT ALWAYS BEWARE** of all online sources, including those listed above. **ALWAYS** check the original sources. And note, that my experience leads me to not to believe the original sources, as I have found many errors – deliberate/careless I cannot judge – in these records.

**O MAHONY Y-DNA PROJECT:** If you have no idea of your Irish connection, I suggest that you have a male Mahoney take the 67 marked Y-DNA test. When enough males of the surname [apparently 1,000 is the minimum number for a good sample], in both Ireland and abroad, we should be able to make connections to the original location. This has already happened between a member in New York (who actually began this project) and a member in the south of England finding Y-DNA links to Mitchelstown, north-east County Cork.

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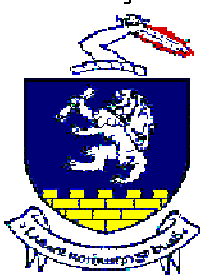
## COAT OF ARMS

O'Mahony



FAMILY

The O'Mahony Society



SOCIETY

## O MAHONY JOURNAL

The *O Mahony Journal 2010* (No. 33) has been distributed to all members current in their dues. For more than twenty years, Cartlannai Nora Hickey has been responsible for the consistently high quality of the Journal, much valued in genealogical and historical circles throughout the world. Our heartfelt thanks to Nora.

The 2010 edition is rich in the history of the family. It contains an article about Pádraig Ó Mathúna, the noted silversmith, and an article on Conor O'Mahony's book written in 1645, the first book in favor of Irish independence. In addition, it includes the continued extracts from Cork newspapers contributed by Colman O Mahony. The 2010 edition brings Colman's extracts almost to the middle of the twentieth century. Sadly this edition also contains the obituaries of Canon Liam O'Mahony, retired parish priest of Murragh and Templemartin, and Lady Jennifer Bernard of Castle Mahon).

# TAOISEACH'S MESSAGE

I send warm greetings to all members and friends of the O'Mahony Society.

It was grand to see so many of you at the clan gathering in Schull in June. We were blessed by glorious weather and West Cork fairly sparkled in the sunshine.

We rallied to the flags at Ardintenant and once again enjoyed the hospitality of the Caverley family. It is hard to thank them enough for their generosity in allowing to rally there for the last three years.

A decision was taken at the business meetings that we will continue to hold our gatherings annually and next year will again make our headquarters at the Harbour View hotel in Schull.

However we feel that we have imposed on the generosity of Mrs. Caverley and her family for long enough and are planning to hold the gathering at another venue in the area but retaining the connection with our clan. This venue has not been finalised as yet but full information will be circulated as soon as it is confirmed.

You may be interested to know that during our visit to Ireland Mary and I went to Ceim Hill, Union Hall to see Therese O'Mahony. She is a long term member of the society and for many years welcomed visitors from far and wide to her unique museum at Ceim Hill. We knew she had been ill and were not sure whether she would even still be living there-but there she was still at home with help and support from her family and the care system. We found her as usual in very good spirits although the museum is temporarily closed. Over the years she has never left us in doubt that we are very poor substitutes for Eileen but we enjoyed our visit and it was good to see her as feisty as ever.

I hope you all have a good year and that the winter is fairly short.

With very best wishes

*Peter O Mahony*




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## Query from New Member Mary Carline Mahoney Hoyer

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I am a new O'Mahony Society member in the Chicago, Illinois area in the USA. I am looking for O'Mahony members in the County Kerry area of Castleisland or Listowel? I am looking for records of my immigrant ancestor Michael Mahoney born 1835 whose parents were Jeremiah Mahoney and Katherine Slattery. Michael immigrated between 1847 and 1850 to the United States. His siblings were, Ann, Julia, John, Jeremiah (born 1838), Cornelius, and Daniel. His father, Jeremiah's siblings were John, Flora, Nora, Julia, and Ann. The entire family was born in Ireland.

My Aunt, who has passed on, left this information and her research behind without documentation. I would like to verify it with documentation and see how much more information we can find. I was told that in one of her trips to Ireland she found the cottage that our family came from. I found a pencil drawn map with roads named Cork and Tralee Rd., Kalala lane (sp?), R. Main - bridge Adderville; between Cork and Castleisland and Tralee and a note "half of a days walk from Tralee. I also have names of Jeremiah Mahoney's siblings spouses.

My father George Fisher Mahoney (mother Scottish) is 87 years old and the last living sibling of his family that set-

led in Ohio, USA and has agreed to participate in the yDNA project. We are most excited to connect with our O'Mahony clan and appreciate the service and kinship you provide. Wishing you many blessings in the years to come.

Blessings,  
Mary Carline Mahoney Hoyer  
Telephone: 847-398-1955  
marychoyer@aol.com



Mary Mahoney Hoyer (right) and her father, George Fisher Mahoney

# Fourth Australian O Mahony Get-Together May 2010

Contributed by Greg Mahony

An Australian O Mahony Clan Get-Together was held in Geelong, Victoria on the 8 May 2010. This was the Fourth Australian Get-Together. Previous ones were held in Warwick, Queensland (2003), Brisbane, Queensland (2006) and Scone, New South Wales (2007).

Another in the State of Queensland will be held in Cairns on 16 October 2010 followed by Adelaide, South Australia in April 2011 and then over the next few years Western Australia and Tasmania. Possible further ones being looked at are Canberra, the nation's Capital, regional New South Wales and the Northern Territory. These latter ones may be in the same years as the others.

### A Short History of Geelong

Geelong is a port city on Corio Bay and the Barwon River, 75 kilometres (47mi) in the state of Victoria, Australia, south-west of capital Melbourne. Geelong was named in 1837 by Governor Richard Burke, with the name derived from the local Wathaurong Aboriginal name for the region, *Jillong*, thought to mean 'land' or 'cliffs'.

Geelong now has a population growth rate higher than the national average, and is the 12th largest city in Australia. The climate is temperate, with four distinct seasons. The city is the home to car manufacturer Ford Australia and the Australian Rules Geelong Football Club, nick-

named *The Cats*.

### Get-Together Day

Some 95 Clansmen gathered at the Geelong RSL Club. Event organisers Allan Mahoney and Greg Mahony welcomed all, followed by Father Maurice Barry pp, formerly from Kinsale, County Cork, Ireland, who gave a blessing and recalled the Irish history of the O Mahony Clan that he knew. A Gaelic blessing sent by Father Martin O Mahony pp of Gilgandra, New South Wales was read out. Martin was born in Coachford, Co Cork.

The day saw Clan members meet, discuss individual family histories on display, bring forth missing family tree information for comparison, discussion and awareness. The O Mahony Society was recommended for Clan information and the yDNA project being paramount in family genealogy research.

Several family members met for the first time and are now keeping in touch. One family learnt of other family members through a previous Clan Get-Together. As a result of family pictures on display, two half brothers found each other for the first time. Three families were connected from the family trees shared.

*(Continued on page 5)*



Above: (l-r) Allen Mahoney, Gavin Mahoney  
Below: (l-r) Channelle Palma, Melanie O'Mahoney Palma, Theresa (Mooney) O'Mahoney



Above: (l-r) Des Arundell, Michelle Mahoney Carpenter, Patsy Mahony Mexted, Eddie Sadler, Des Lloyd  
Below: (l-r) Marita Sadler Reed; Valmai, Elaine & David Coggins



## Fourth Australian O Mahony Get-Together May 2010 (cont'd)

Contributed by Greg Mahony



Above: (l-r) Adrienne Mahony Palmer, Lois Warmsley Mahony, Eileen Mahony

(Continued from page 4)

Nineteen individual O'Mahony Clan families were represented. Of those present, the oldest known ancestor and ancestor who came to Australia were:

- Marcus Mahony 1756-1808, a farmer from Tullagower, near Kilrush, Co Clare, Ireland married Ellen O'Gorman. Grandson John Mahony sailed from Cobh on the "Beejapore"; arrived Moreton Bay, Queensland, Australia, 1863
- Montague Mahony married Elizabeth French, Co. Cork. Son Dr Edward Mahony, born in Babados, came to Sydney, NSW in 1893.
- Thomas Mahony married Margaret Sheehan in Ireland Son Daniel born 30 November 1869, Kanturk, Co Cork, arrived Moreton Bay, Queensland, Australia on the "Merkara" in 1889.
- Edward Mahoney (father from Co. Cork), born 1897 Wallasley, Cheshire, UK.



Above (l-r) John Mahony, Paul Mahoney, Kevin Mahony and wife Eunice (Hardcastle)

- Maurice and Mary Mahony, born Tipperary. Son, Pat Mahony married Johanna O'Connell in Donohill, Tipperary 1834. Sailed from Cobh on the "Meridean" Arrived Moreton Bay, Queensland 1852 Moved circa 1856 to Port Fairy, Victoria. Son, John Mahony born 1837 Thurles, Co Tipperary.
- Jeremiah Mahoney married Catherine Sheedy, Co. Limerick;
- Francis Mahony married Johanna Sullivan. Son, John Mahoney, born circa 1814 Cork; sent to Van Dieman's Land for seven years as a convict on "Pertonjee Bomanjeem" in 1849.
- Florance Mahony and son James born in London, UK in 1833, arrived Fremantle, Western Australia on 13 March 1855 on the "Berkshire"



Above: (l-r) Ray Taylor, Ted Mahony, Brian Mahony

- Peter Mahony married Ellen Callahan; son Barney Mahony, Cork City, Co Cork. Convicted of pick pocketing at age 14 years, sentenced and transported to Sydney, NSW, Australia in 1828.
- Michael O'Mahony married Mary Meilleahy? son, Thomas born Windgap, Co. Kilkenny; Came to Australia on "Corona" 1870; settled Huntly, near Bendigo, Victoria.
- Thomas O'Mahony, Windgap Co Kilkenny. Came to Australia in 1870.
- John Mahony married Mary Collins; son Michael born Kilmurry, Co. Cork circa 1810. Settled Thomastown, Victoria, Australia.
- William O'Mahony born Tracton, Co. Cork? 1820 married Johanna Sweeney in Carrigaline, Co. Cork. Came to Australia on the "Abberton" in 1844.
- Purce Mahony, rope maker, born 1775; son Terrance a mariner, born Kinsale, Co. Cork married

(Continued on page 6)

# Fourth Australian O Mahony Get-Together May 2010 (cont'd)

Contributed by Greg Mahony



Above (l-r) . Joan Quinlan, Brett & Skye Moffit & Chris Mahoney

(Continued from page 5)

Rebecca Mahony; their son James, a mariner, came to Bendigo, Victoria, Australia, circa 1853.

- Daniel O'Mahoney, born 1802, Rathmore Co. Cork Great grandson, John O'Mahoney, born Bandon, Co. Cork, came to Australia
- Francis Mahony married Mary Heaney; grandson John married Mary Farer 1885. Their grandson John born Karachi, India 1939 came to Australia.
- Brothers Denis Mahony, born circa 1853 and Timothy Mahony born 1860, both in Murragh, Bandon, Co Cork. Came to Australia in 1875 and 1880. Parents were Timothy Mahony and Hannorah Reen from Murragh.
- Thomas Mahoney, Co Limerick.
- Thomas Mahony married Margaret Sheehan in Ireland. Two sons Daniel and William emigrated to Australia. Daniel born 30 November 1869, Kanturk, Co Cork. Came to Australia (Qld) on the "Merkara" in 1889.

I am reminded of the O Mahony Society Taoiseach, Anne



Above (l-r) Joan, Ross & Lisa Mahoney

O Mahony Ryan, "Message From The president" in the 1989 Journal when she said "...Each one of us will make our contribution to the history of our Clan when we record the genealogical descent of our family, and preserve it to answer those who will have questions in the future. Do it now!"

I thank those who have contributed their family history, particularly that Irish history, which as we gather more family histories, and in unionism with the yDNA testing, that questions may be answered.

The former Taoiseach also mentioned, how the Clan gathers in Ireland in a convivial atmosphere for an interesting and enjoyable day out. This to my mind was the essence of our Australian Get-Together in Geelong.

I thank all, and look forward to meeting you again and many more in the future. It is now on to Cairns, North Queensland on 16 October 2010.

*[Editor's Note: Greg contributed this article prior to the Australian October Get-Together.]*



Above (l-r) Group Photo from the Geelong Advertiser  
Below (l-r) Gabrielle Mahony Cantarella, Rosaire Mahony, Clare Mahony Warn, Fiona Murfitt Kavanagh, Margaret Finn Arundell



# JUNE 2010 GATHERING IN SCHULL

Contributed by Linda McConnell Baker

Nora Hickey first voiced the idea that The O Mahony Society should consider consecutive Gatherings in the same location for three years in order to establish a presence in a specific locale, much as other Clans have done across Ireland. It was a stroke of genius. Please allow this to serve as a small recognition of my appreciation for a wonderful idea.

This past June, we once again enjoyed the hospitality of the incredibly generous Caverly family at nearby Ardintenant Castle, as well as the accommodating and welcoming staff at The Harbour View Hotel in Town Center. Once again, attendees benefited from the superior planning provided by our Taoiseach, Peter O Mahony, and his lovely wife (Runai) Mary.

The event weekend started with a Friday evening of welcoming, recollections, and our hopes and expectations for

the upcoming days together. The hotel's pub was well-situated to accommodate our entire group in a variety of seating arrangements, thus meeting a large range of conversation styles. My sisters Mary and Jean and I were among the last to arrive that evening, as we had driven that day from Carrick-on-Shannon. We were delighted to be met by a bevy of friends with conversation and camaraderie lasting until well after midnight.

Morning came all too soon to those of us somewhat sleep deprived but looking forward to what promised to be a very interesting genealogy session by Cartlannai Nora Hickey. Co-presenting was Finbar O Mahony. Finbar eloquently provided information and updates on the Y-DNA Project, further enlightening and inspiring us. Nora gave us reliable and practical information that will be of great assistance in our individual family tracings, including Internet

*(Continued on page 8)*



Above: At the Gathering, music was provided by young O'Mahony musicians supervised by Margaret Collins. The group has recently won the Cork competition, and were on their way to the Munster Finals  
Below: Former Taoiseach John F. O Mahony



Above: (l-r) Deidre O'Mahony, Runai Mary O Mahony, Emer O'Mahoney  
Below: The family of Mary O Mahony Siggins



# JUNE 2010 GATHERING IN SCHULL (CONT'D)

Contributed by Linda McConnell Baker

*(Continued from page 7)*

resources and how the Y-DNA project data may be of use to us. Many attendees offered multiple questions sparking stimulating discussions, while still others brought their own research outcomes to share with the group.

That afternoon's event was a special opening of the Schull Planetarium. Peter and Mary and a score of clansmen enjoyed several hours of pseudo-night and enjoyment under the "stars." This writer must admit that on such a gloriously fine day, she convinced her sisters to steal away for a "quick trip" to The Mizzen. Jean and Mary recalled a Gathering there a few years back in which neither the lighthouse nor the cliffs (or one's hand in front of one's face) could be seen due to the rain and high winds. While there, we accidentally came upon one of the most beautiful vistas any of us could remember ever having seen in Ireland: a perfect



(l-r) Madeleine O Mahony and Julia Cotter

blend of ocean, sky, hills, fields, and fence.

Following the Council meeting and the AGM, Saturday evening's buffet dinner at the hotel was that perfect blend of relaxing after a busy day and maintaining the momentum of the weekend. Several clansmen offered donated items for our raffle. The raffle, started in 2009 by Taoiseach Peter O Mahony to help supplement the weekend's activities, had been a tremendous success in addition to a lot of fun, and is now deemed to be an annual event. We all got to preview an array of tantalizing gifts as our anticipation for the raffle after the banquet mounted.

Sunday arrived with yet a third consecutive day of fabulous weather. The Caverley family welcomed us to their farm (thank you, John F., for once again marking the route so effectively!), where we enjoyed our picnic lunches and a well-rounded program of speakers at the Rally. My sisters and I were delighted that our cousins from Donour, Agnes O Mahony, her daughter Anne, and grandsons Daniel and Sean, joined us at the Rally. Following the introduction of new council members, Finbar O Mahony kicked off the day's program with a well-researched and intriguing presentation—asking are the Kerry O Mahonys from Cork or the Cork O Mahonys from Kerry? We were all then privileged to hear a tribute to Danno O Mahony, read by Nora Hickey. Rounding out the afternoon, Julia Cotter shared memories and me-

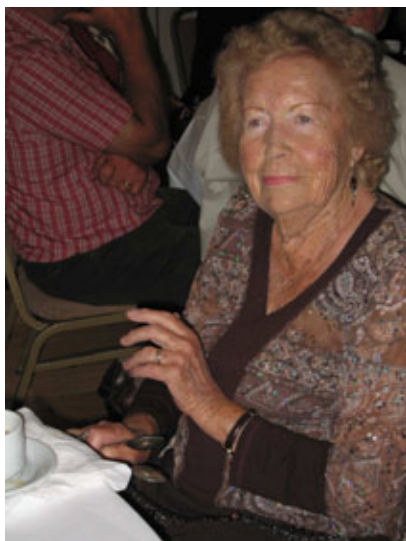
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Above: Canice and Eilish O'Mahony (far right) joined the musicians at the Sunday banquet. The young musicians were supervised by Catherine O'Sullivan.



Above: Former Taoiseach Diarmuid ó Mathúna  
Left: Eilish O Mahony playing the spoons



Above: Bill and Shirley Maney

## JUNE 2010 GATHERING IN SCHULL (CONT'D)

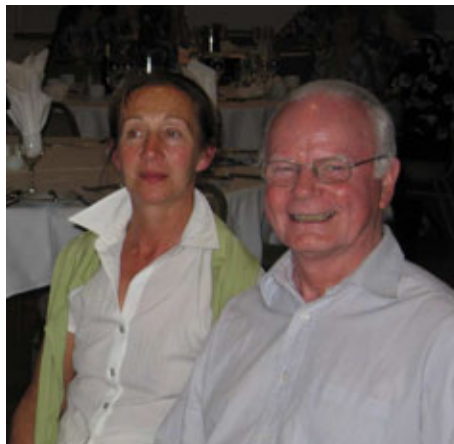
Contributed by Linda McConnell Baker

*(Continued from page 8)*

mentos of her uncle and the Society's founder, Pope Eoin O Mahony. Exquisitely woven throughout the afternoon's events, we were also thoroughly entertained by a group of young musicians, whose combined vocal and traditional instrumental talents had led them through the competitive path in the County. We all wished them the best of luck as they advance in their course.

The banquet Sunday evening was, in a word, delightful. The Harbor View Hotel once again presented a well-served and delicious meal. The company was lively and the raffle a great success, but all of that paled in comparison to that evening's entertainment. Our American cousin (and former Taoiseach) Donald Mahoney, whose Irish connections are in Rosscarbery, arranged to have yet another group of young musicians and performers share their considerable talents with our group. Ranging in age from pre-teen to young adult, they played an array of traditional and contemporary instruments, provided ample and sweet vocals, and amazed us with their well-choreographed traditional dance. Canice and Eilish O Mahony joined the younger group with what can only be called a great jam session, with Eilish on the spoons and Canice contributing vocals and mouth harp melodies. Imagine our group's astonishment when we learned that this performance was the young group's official debut!

The evening continued into the wee hours, and for those of us not able to attend Monday's boat trip to Cape Clear Island, it was not easy to say farewell. As we look forward to June 2011, we know it was not a 'goodbye,' rather an 'until we meet again.' We plan a different castle next year, but I am already looking forward to a return to Schull.



Above: Mary O Mahony Siggins and Finbar O Mahony  
Below: (l-r) Mary McConnell Haislip, Jean McConnell Dinwiddie, Linda McConnell Baker



Following the success of the boat trip to Cape Clear Island last year, many members repeated the excursion on the Monday following the Gathering.



Above (l-r): Diarmuid ó Mathúna, Julia Cotter, Taoiseach Peter O Mahony, Madeleine O Mahony, Carlannai Nora Hickey, Eilish and Canice O Mahony, Runai Mary O Mahony

## Why should I bother with the yDNA project?

Contributed by Finbar O Mahony



*We need you, and your participation counts, your yDNA could be the piece that completes part of the jigsaw.*

*"If I spend money on a 12 marker test it will probably tell me that I am Irish...so what! I knew that to begin with. I know who I am, and where I am from."*

Well, that is why I spent a good few euros more to find out something of real value. True, the 12 marker test can tell you that like other male O Mahonys, you belong to the Haplogroup R1b1, a group of people who inhabit the Western fringe of Europe. This is the Atlantic Modal Haplogroup. It will tell you that you share a common genetic heritage with the majority of the men in Ireland. To find out whether you share a common genetic heritage with other O Mahonys, however, we need to test further. For that additional investment I found out that I belong to the Southern Irish Type II. These people are the Eoghanacht. I belong to the group known as R1b1b2a1b5b (now written in shorthand as R-L21).

### What is this "Haplogroup"?

A yDNA haplogroup is defined as "all of the male descendants of the single person who first showed a particular SNP mutation." (These are affectionately known as "snips" by their friends, but they are "defined single nucleotide polymorphisms" (SNPs). A SNP mutation identifies a group who share a common ancestor far back in time, since SNPs rarely mutate. Each member of a particular haplogroup has the same SNP mutations, in other words they are from the same "family".

The Family Tree DNA site puts it as follows:

"The haplogroups are the major branches on the Y chromosome tree, which have accumulated along different lineages as Y chromosomes are passed from father to son over many generations. All haplogroups ultimately descend from a single Y chromosome carried by a male that lived in the distant past. The topology of the Y chromosome tree can be reconstructed by typing mutations in different human populations – as more SNPs are discovered (e.g., M254), the structure of the tree changes. Originally, the Y Chromosome Consortium (YCC) arbitrarily defined 18 haplogroups (A-R), which represent the major divisions of human diversity based on Y chromosome SNPs. Currently there are 20 haplogroups (A-T). In turn, each of these major haplogroups has numbered subgroups, or subclades, that are named with alternating letters and numbers.

One way to think about haplogroups is as major branches on the family tree of *Homo Sapiens*. These haplogroup branches characterize the early migrations of population groups. As a result, haplogroups are usually associated with a geographic region. If haplogroups are the branches of the tree then the haplotypes represent the leaves of the tree. All of the haplotypes that belong to a particular haplogroup are leaves on the same branch...."

So, we O Mahonys are or should all be in the R subclade or group.

### yDNA Matches

Back to my story: What else did I get for my investment? Well, the results from the laboratory were run through the service provider's system and it showed that I had a number of "matches". In fact I had 383 matches at the 12/12 level. In other words, these men and I shared a very distant common ancestor. Quite a few of these "matches", or sharing the same DNA sequence, were men bearing the name O Donoghue. This is not surprising since the O Mahonys and the O Donoghues come from common root. But this illustrates how far back in history the "common ancestor" can be.

One of my fellow "testees" in the project has 2800 "matches" and several of those are O Mahonys. His ancestor's DNA was possibly passed on in Europe even before we made it here to Ireland. These "cousins" could have lived more than 2,000 to 4,000 years ago. More recently one of our new recruits has just got notification of a 63/67 marker match. The ideal we are aiming for is a Mahony-Mahony 67/67 marker match: that is, an O Mahony matching an O Mahony that closely but separated by thousands of miles and possibly by generations, yet conclusively linked by their exact genetic make-up; possibly strangers to one another, yet almost as close as brothers.

The rule is: the higher the number of markers that match, the closer the degree of genetic relationship. *The Genetic Distance is the count of the total difference between two individuals. For example, if a marker differs by 2, then the Genetic Distance will count this as a distance of 2.*

### So we O Mahonys belong to the R haplogroup, Southern Irish Type II.

The Y Chromosome Consortium (YCC), the sort of "governing body" of the testing process, developed a naming system for the Y-DNA haplogroups designed to accommodate easily any required expansion as new groups are discovered. So far, they have defined 20 major haplogroups, (A –T) which represent the major divisions of human diversity based on SNPs on the Y-chromosome.

For these haplogroups a Deep Clade test can be performed which can provide further information. This effectively narrows down the range of matches to those who are more precisely related to one another in genealogical time. My deep clade test shows that I am **Haplogroup R-L21** so any O Mahony who arrives at R-L21 and has a 67/67 marker match with me will share a *recent* common ancestor with me. I still wait.

### Why choose a 37 or 67 marker test?

The current 37 and 67 marker tests are extremely powerful because they contain a number of markers chosen for their very high mutation rates. So if two people match these on these 37 or 67 markers they must share a recent common ancestor. These markers give us better matches for surname project purposes.

(Continued on page 11)

## Why should I bother with the yDNA project? (cont'd)

Contributed by Finbar O Mahony



(Continued from page 10)

### How do I find out the time to the Most Recent Common Ancestor in years?

If you join the project and check your results online your feedback from the testing company will indicate two things: a) the probability that you and a named individual share a common ancestor and b) the number of generations to that common ancestor. So if you see that there is 99% chance that you share a common ancestor in the last 24 generations you can convert this to years by multiplying the number of generations by an average number of years between generations. In general, you can use an average of 25-30 years per generation. So 24 generations multiplied by 25 years per generation gives us 600 years. If I am told that there is a 99% chance that my "match" and I share a common ancestor 24 generations ago that says that someone who lived in 1410 AD approx was our common ancestor. This does NOT mean that we can say that he was Tadhg na h-Imirce or Dermot Og. I heard two people claim at a DNA presentation at a genealogy seminar recently that they were descended from a named individual based on their yDNA match. Not true, they can only claim to be descended from either that individual or some contemporary member of his male relatives (father, uncles, brothers, or male cousins) who shared the same DNA.

If the MRCA details are: 99% in 4 generations then you have found a cousin.

### Does a match with a person with a similar surname mean we are more closely related?

Perhaps. There are several reasons why related individuals may not share the same surname (undocumented adoption, false paternity). While shared similar surnames coupled with a very high percentage of Y marker matches indicates a very high probability of recent common ancestry, a high match with a non-matching surname can also provide evidence of recent common ancestry. If the comparison is made using the FTDNA 12 marker test, it may make sense to upgrade to a 37 or 67 marker test to increase the precision or further exclude the probability of a recent common ancestor. However, the current thing among some project co-ordinators is that the 37 marker test should be the starting point. For example, I share a 63/67 marker match with an "O Reilly" transportee to British North America in the early 1800s. That suggests that we are related but the "How" and "How closely" will have to follow later.

### What the testing does not do

Remember the test does not check on your health, share information with security agencies or insurance companies or anyone else for that matter. The test simply checks very specific areas of the DNA structure collected by means of a cheek swab or tiny plastic scraper.

### What we are finding

We are beginning to see connections emerge between groups within the 74 people already tested. A strong West Cork pattern is emerging, as well as a Mallow clus-

ter, a number of Kerry groupings, an Inchigeelagh grouping with connections to the USA and Australia and a Bandon grouping. We are hopeful of establishing a link to the Dro-more branch of the O Mahony family within the next month and also anticipate details of the Castleisland branch with the help of our illustrious French connections.

More work needs to be done and as more people participate the patterns will become clearer. Eventually we hope to link these groups to the geographic areas traditionally associated with the branches of the sept and who knows? Even to the castle sites. We are looking for the O Mahony leaves on that haplotree that we call the Eoghanacht.

### Some problems and questions:

O Mahonys are Eoghanacht and cannot have Dalcassian yDNA since we are descended from Cian son of Maolmuadh. If you have Dalcassian yDNA you are welcome as an O Mahony by name but you are from Cian's in-law's the Dalcassians.

If you have Northern Irish Type DNA or Niall of the Nine Hostages yDNA the same is true, if you bear the name O Mahony you are welcome but so far there is no known genetic connection between the O Mahony sept and the Northern Irish Type III.

Both of these situations may possibly be termed NPEs (a non paternity event). This may have been as a result of adoption or, as a result of some ancient infidelity or even an involuntary union in early history, to put it politely. This "anomaly" may have occurred back as far as the 11<sup>th</sup> century, but the DNA tells the story...it does not lie.

**Finally**, if you are currently a member with a 12 or 25 marker test please consider upgrading immediately to a 37 marker test. Hopefully, those who have taken the 37 marker test will see the merits of joining me at the 67 marker level. The results so far are really encouraging, so let us keep it going.

### How do I join the project?

Online, you can details on the Society website at [www.omahonysociety.org](http://www.omahonysociety.org)

Or

**In the USA send an email to [jamescastellan@gmail.com](mailto:jamescastellan@gmail.com)**

**In Ireland contact me at [fin.omahony@gmail.com](mailto:fin.omahony@gmail.com)**

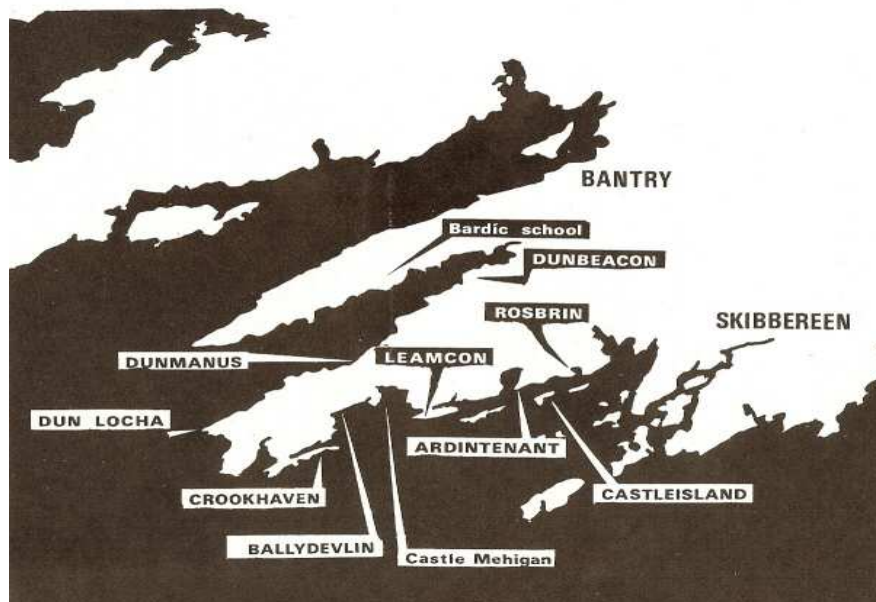
**And in Australia contact [mahonygreg@yahoo.com.au](mailto:mahonygreg@yahoo.com.au)**

We each hold a reserve of DNA test Kits and this can save time. The testing is done at the University of Arizona for FTDNA who arrange such testing for us. The results are totally confidential.

Don't delay, do it today. We need many more visionary participants. Think of it as genetic archaeology and you will be getting closer to what this is about. It is not about finding your third cousin, but more akin to finding the sub-group that your ancestor belonged to. It is a legacy that you can leave to future generations that worth more than the cash that it costs. **Don't delay, join today!**

# Sites of O Mahony Castles and Towers in West Cork

Map by Peter Tynan O'Mahony



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