

**Y-DNA Haplogroup I-FT150722**

**Migration Path Summary**

**From Neolithic Britain to Modern Australia | ~3700 BCE –  
present**

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## Foreword

This paper documents the migration path of Y-DNA haplogroup I-FT150722, the confirmed haplogroup of Francis Byrne (b. ~1794, County Wicklow; d. 1850, Macdonald River, New South Wales), established through Big Y-700 testing of three male-line descendants through two separate sons.

The research began with analysis of the I-FT150722 Match Time Tree on FamilyTreeDNA. Within the I-FTT7 branch of the I-Y4751 clade, Burns and Byrne surname carriers co-cluster with Devlin, a surname concentrated in the barony of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, and with Coyle and McGivern, both with Co. Tyrone associations. This co-clustering pointed to a south Ulster territorial origin for the surname's adoption by this lineage, and led to the Muintir Birn hypothesis: that the Byrne/Burns surname was adopted through the collective Gaelic identity of the *Na Beirnigh*, the people of the Muintir Birn sept, whose ruling family, the MacMurphy chiefs of Dungannon, was displaced to the Fews district of south Armagh in the thirteenth century.

The hypothesis was tested against three independent lines of evidence. First, systematic review of the I-M223 Y-Haplogroup Project results chart confirmed multiple Big Y-700 testers with documented Co. Tyrone, Co. Down, Co. Armagh, and Co. Monaghan ancestry within I-Y4751, establishing the clade's presence across the south Ulster zone. Second, cross-referencing the 1602 Fews pardon, the earliest surviving Irish census, against the I-M223 project identified six pardon-family surnames (Murphy, Quinn, Kelly, McInerney, McConville, and McCrory) with genetic representatives confirmed within or adjacent to I-Y4751. Two of those testers have confirmed Co. Down ancestry. Third, PRONI Name Searches across four historical indices for both the Dungannon barony parishes and the nine Fews parishes found four Catholic Burns households in Creggan parish in 1766, in the heart of the Fews territory, consistent with O'Hart's claim that Muintir Birn descendants adopted the Burns surname.

The evidence assembled is circumstantial but convergent. The Muintir Birn hypothesis remains a working hypothesis rather than proven genealogy; it is not a claim about the specific I-FT150722 terminal branch, nor about how Francis Byrne came to be in County Wicklow. The gap between the I-Y63570 clade's estimated origin around 1000 CE and Francis Byrne's birth approximately 800 years later remains undocumented. Research continues.



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## Terminology

The Y chromosome or Y-DNA is the only part of the genome that does not recombine during procreation. Some copying errors or mutations happen in the Y-DNA as they do for the other chromosomes. These mutations are known as **Single-Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs)** which are numbered chronologically based on the time of their discovery. Each new mutation that occurs in an individual is inherited by his descendants. All men descending from the same patrilineal ancestor share the same series of mutations inherited from all of their accumulated paternal ancestors for thousands of years. All men with the same set of mutations can therefore be classified in the same family, which population geneticists call a **haplogroup** (hg). A **haplotree**

(or haplogroup tree) is a branching evolutionary diagram that maps out human ancestry based on specific genetic mutations that are inherited together.

The Y-DNA haplotree traces direct paternal lines back to a common male root known as Y-chromosome. A branch in the haplotree has at least one SNP but may include many SNPs. One SNP is accepted as the node for the branch in the haplotree and the branch is named by this SNP. Over time as more individuals test Y-DNA and as the DNA of more ancient samples is analysed, more branches are discovered in the haplotree, some by splitting existing branches.

The references on FamilytreeDNA (FTDNA) for I-FT150722 include the FTDNA haplotree, the haplogroup story and the haplogroup path on the Discover tool. The links for these references are set out below:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/y-dna-haplotree/I;name=I-FT150722>

<https://discover.familytreedna.com/y-dna/I-FT150722/story>

<https://discover.familytreedna.com/y-dna/I-FT150722/path>

## **I-M223 Y-Haplogroup Project Results Chart**

The I-M223 Y-Haplogroup Project results chart is publicly available on the following URL:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/M223-Y-Clan?iframe=ydna-results-overview>

The default page size for the results chart is 200. For ease of navigation in a project with over 6,000 members the page size should be increased to 1,000 which will display the full project results chart over 11 or 12 pages as the results chart is displayed with headers and information for each header on the minimum, maximum and mode for the STR values recorded for each kit. With the page size set to 1,000, the IslesSc/Ire members are on pages 3, 4 and perhaps 5.

The IslesSc/Ire results chart has two parts. The first part with headers that start with 'BN' are the branches and project members on those branches below I-S7753. There is an initial section in a header numbered '0.1' that lists members who have been placed in this branch based on STR results and matches followed by two main branches 1.0 with terminal SNP Y23716 and the sub-branches under this branch and 2.0 with terminal SNP Y4142 and sub-branches.

The second part of the IslesSc/Ire results has headers that start with the characters 'BP', 'BQ', or 'BR' that list the branches under I-Y4751. There is an initial branch 0.1 that lists those assessed as predicted or confirmed I-Y4751, a branch 0.2 with members predicted or confirmed to be I-Y4751, but not I-Y4752; 0.3 and 0.4 are branches where a member has tested Big Y and been confirmed I-Y4751 and they are waiting for someone to test Big Y and share some of their private variants to name a

lineage under I-Y4751. There are then headers that set out the members in the twenty-four named lineages under I-Y4751.

The first six columns of the results chart set out for each project member their kit number, their name, the paternal ancestor name, the country of paternal ancestry, the haplogroup and the test that has confirmed or predicted the haplogroup.

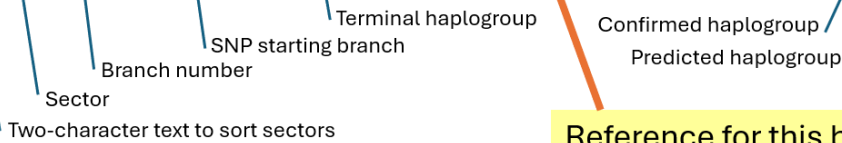
Some comments on the information in the first six columns:

- The information in the columns Paternal Ancestor Name and Country are input by the administrator of the kit. There is no check on this information but in practice the administrator of the kit either does not input this information or is conservative in what is input. For example, many input 'Ireland' without any other information such as county or township.
- The haplogroup is a confirmed haplogroup when the font is coloured green. When the font is coloured red the haplogroup is predicted
- If a member has tested Big Y-500 or Big Y-700 or the old Big Y, then he should be confirmed with a haplogroup that is the same as the terminal SNP in the header
- If there are no members under a header that have tested Big Y, Big Y-500 or Big Y-700, or done a specific SNP test to confirm the terminal SNP, then they will have been individually placed by an administrator on the branch after analysis of the SNP results and the Y-DNA matches. These placements are by judgement or best estimate and are not conclusive.

The results chart then displays the STR values. If the kit has tested Big Y or Y111 there will be 111 STR values displayed (the Big Y-700 test will provide STR values at 700 markers, but only 111 will be displayed in the results chart). If the kit has tested Y67 there will be 67 STR values displayed. If the kit has tested Y37 there will be 37 STR values displayed. In the past FTDNA has offered Y10, and Y25 tests. FTDNA has also offered specific SNP tests. In the past they offered an I-M223 pack that investigated a set of key I-M223 SNPs. They have also offered in the past specific SNP tests such as a I-L126 test. These tests might result in a prediction down the haplotree. For example, some kits with a I-L126 test have a predicted haplogroup of I-Y4751. FTDNA recently started confirming Y-DNA haplogroups from Family Finder tests. These tests are often further down the haplotree than the predicted haplogroups from analysis of STR results. Some I-M223 project members with confirmed haplogroups from analysis of Family Finder tests are placed in the project results chart without any STR values.

The structure of the header in the I-M223 project results chart, and how the branch is referenced in this document is explained in the figure below.

Kit Number	Name	Paternal Ancestor Name	Country	Haplogroup	Test	DYS393	DYS390	DYS19	DYS391
BP-IslesSc/Ire -1.2.3.1.1- M223>...>Y4751>Y4752>YP6208>BY19909>BY19910>FTA49256* (Group 1b3) -test Big Y									
MAX						15	24	14	10
MODE						15	24	14	10
179964	Ferguson	Andrew FERGUSON b.~1724 and d. 1810	Scotland	I-FTA49256	Big Y-700	15	24	14	10
201307	Ferguson	Colonel Robert Ferguson ~1700-1794	Scotland	I-FTA49256	Big Y-700	15	24	14	10
BP-IslesSc/Ire -1.2.3.2- M223>...>Y4751>Y4752>YP6208>BY19909>FTD70020* (Group 1b3) -test Big Y									
945043	Fraser	Hugh Fraser deer forester to Glengarry d aft 1829	Scotland	I-FTD70020	Big Y-700	15	24	15	10
BP-IslesSc/Ire -1.2.3.2.1- M223>...>Y4751>Y4752>YP6208>BY19909>FTD70020>FTA96422* (Group 1b3) -test Big Y									
MIN						15	24	15	10
MAX						15	24	15	10
MODE						15	24	15	10
105458	Ferguson	James FERGUSON b~1826, d. unknown	Scotland	I-FTA96422	Big Y-700	15	24	15	10
BP-IslesSc/Ire -1.2.3.2.1.2.1- M223>...>Y4751>Y4752>YP6208>BY19909>FTD70020>FTA96422>FTF57943>FTA37717* (Group 1b3) -test Big Y									
MIN						15	24	15	10
MAX						15	24	15	10
MODE						15	24	15	10
77777	Ferguson	James FERGUSON of Growell b. 1818, Co. Down, IRE	Ireland	I-FTA37717	Big Y-700	15	24	15	10
BP-IslesSc/Ire -1.3- M223>...>Y4751>Y4752>Y19693* (Group 1c) -test Big Y									
MIN						14	24	15	10
MAX						15	24	15	10
MODE						15	24	15	10
B126209	Mannon	Thomas Mannon b.c. 1800 Athenry	Ireland	I-Y19693	Big Y-700	14	24	15	10
15864	Macwhirter	David Macwhirter	Scotland	I-M223	Y-DNA37	14	24	15	10
108478	Kenefic	McWhirter, North Carolina	Unknown Origin	I-L137	Family Finder	15	24	15	10
15913	McWhirter	Peter/Patrick McWhirter b. abt 1750 Stranraer	United Kingdom	I-M223	Y-DNA12	15	24	15	10
19102	McWhirter	Daniel McWhirter 1835 Liminary, Antrim, I. Ire	Ireland	I-M223	Y-DNA12	15	24	15	10
17082	McWhirter	William McWhirter before 1756 Ayr	Scotland	I-M223	Y-DNA12	15	24	15	10



Reference for this branch in document is:  
**Y4751 (Branch 1.3, term. hg. Y19693)**

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

This table lists acronyms and abbreviations used in I-FT150722 Migration Path, sorted alphabetically. SNP names (e.g. I-Y4751, I-FT150722), kit numbers, and haplogroup designators are defined in context throughout the document and are not repeated here.

Acronym / Abbreviation	Meaning
AD	Anno Domini (in the year of the Lord) — used for dates in the Common Era
BCE	Before the Common Era (equivalent to BC)
Big Y-500 / Big Y-700	FamilyTreeDNA's Big Y next-generation sequencing tests, producing approximately 500 or 700 novel variants respectively; used to confirm terminal SNP haplogroups
BP	Before Present (years before 1950 CE); used in radiocarbon dating contexts
cal BC	Calibrated radiocarbon date expressed as Before Christ
CE	Common Era (equivalent to AD)
CELT	Corpus of Electronic Texts — digital humanities project at University College Cork providing online access to Irish historical texts (celt.ucc.ie)

Acronym / Abbreviation	Meaning
Co.	County
DeepSNP-I	An early FamilyTreeDNA SNP test panel specific to Haplogroup I, used before Big Y testing was available
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid — the molecule carrying genetic information
DYS425	DNA Y-chromosome Segment 425 — a specific Y-STR marker; a null (zero) value is associated with the I-M284 SNP
Family Finder	FamilyTreeDNA's autosomal DNA test; provides a chip-based Y-haplogroup assignment for male testers
FamilyTreeDNA / FTDNA	FamilyTreeDNA — the commercial genetic genealogy testing company operating the I-M223 Y-Haplogroup Project and related surname projects
FT prefix (SNP)	Denotes a SNP discovered through FamilyTreeDNA's Big Y pipeline
GENSCOT	The Genetic History of Scotland research project — the academic project that identified the I-L126 haplogroup of ancient DNA sample I2655 from Pabay Mor
hg.	Haplogroup
I-M223	Y-DNA Haplogroup I-M223 (also designated I2a2a) — the major haplogroup containing the I-Y4751 clade; named after the defining SNP M223
I-M284	Y-DNA Haplogroup I-M284 — the Isles sector of I-M223, found predominantly in Britain and Ireland; the ancestor of I-L126 and I-Y4751
IRL	Ireland (country code used in FamilyTreeDNA project results)
ISOS	Irish Script on Screen — the digital facsimile project of the School of Celtic Studies, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, providing online access to Irish manuscript images ( <a href="http://isos.dias.ie">isos.dias.ie</a> )
kit / kit number	The unique numerical identifier assigned to each tester in the FamilyTreeDNA database
L prefix (SNP)	Denotes a SNP discovered through the Walk Through the Y (WTY) project or related early sequencing programmes
M prefix (SNP)	Denotes a SNP discovered through early population genetics research
mtDNA	Mitochondrial DNA — the DNA in cell mitochondria, inherited exclusively through the maternal line
NI	Northern Ireland
NSW	New South Wales, Australia
NY	New York (state), United States
PNAS	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences — a major peer-reviewed scientific journal
PRONI	Public Record Office of Northern Ireland — the statutory archive for Northern Ireland, holding historical records including the 1766 Religious Census index and related genealogical sources

Acronym / Abbreviation	Meaning
RIA	Royal Irish Academy — the learned academy of Ireland; holds significant manuscript collections including the Book of Ballymote (MS 23 P 12)
SNP	Single Nucleotide Polymorphism — a mutation at a single position in the DNA sequence; used to define Y-DNA haplogroups and sub-clades
STR	Short Tandem Repeat — a type of Y-DNA marker used in lower-resolution testing (Y-12 through Y-111); less precise than Big Y-700 SNP testing for haplogroup placement
SUERC	Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre — the laboratory that performed radiocarbon dating of sample I2655 from Pabay Mor
term. hg.	Terminal haplogroup — the most downstream (most specific) SNP confirmed for a tester
TMRCA	Time to Most Recent Common Ancestor — the estimated date at which all living members of a haplogroup shared a common paternal ancestor; calculated using molecular clock analysis
UHF	Ulster Historical Foundation — the genealogical research organisation commissioned to search the fiants of Elizabeth I and James I for Birn/Bruen/Beirne surname entries
ybp / YBP	Years Before Present — used in molecular clock and ancient DNA contexts
Y-DNA	Y-chromosome DNA — the DNA on the Y chromosome, passed from father to son and used to trace direct paternal lineages
Y prefix (SNP)	Denotes a SNP discovered through the YFull analysis pipeline
Y-111 / Y-67 / Y-37 / Y-12	FamilyTreeDNA Y-STR test panels testing 12, 37, 67, or 111 STR markers respectively; lower resolution than Big Y-700
YFull	YFull.com — an independent third-party service that analyses Big Y raw data and maintains a detailed Y-chromosome haplotree with age estimates ( <a href="https://yfull.com/tree">yfull.com/tree</a> )



## Introduction

This document summarises the likely migration path of Y-DNA haplogroup I-FT150722, based on ancient DNA evidence, molecular clock dating, historical records, and genetic genealogy research. The haplogroup descends through a well-documented British Isles lineage — I-M284, I-L1195, I-L137, I-L126 — ultimately producing the key node in the Isles Sc/Ire sector, I-Y4751, of which I-FT150722 is a deep modern terminal branch.

The earliest known paternal ancestor in this lineage is ancient DNA sample I2655, recovered from a Bronze Age burial on Pabay Mor (Pabaigh Mor), Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, radiocarbon-dated to approximately 1311 BCE. The living lineage is documented in the Burns/Byrne family with roots in County Wicklow, Ireland, and Australia from the nineteenth century onwards. The haplogroup I-FT150722 has been definitively confirmed as belonging to Francis Byrne (b. ~1794, County Wicklow; d. 1850, Macdonald River, NSW) through Big Y-700 testing of three male-line descendants descending through two separate sons of Francis Byrne and his wife Sarah Hibbs. This two-son confirmation eliminates any possibility of a testing artefact and establishes I-FT150722 as Francis Byrne's proven Y-DNA haplogroup.

## Ancestral SNP Descent Path

The complete Y-chromosome SNP path from the root of Haplogroup I to the modern terminal variant is:

```
I-L758>M170>P215>CTS2257>L460>P214>M223>P222>CTS616>FGC15071>M284>
FGC14213>L1195>L137>L126>FGC20063>FT2393>S7753>Y4142>Y4751>FTT7>
BY3610>Y63570>FT150880>FT150722
```

## Migration Stages

Eight stages are identified in this lineage's history.

### Stage 1 — I-M284 in Neolithic Britain and Ireland

SNP	I-M284
Date	~3700–2500 BCE
Location	Britain and Ireland
Evidence	Confirmed ancient DNA

I-M284 is confirmed by ancient DNA at multiple Neolithic sites across Britain and Ireland. Individuals carrying this haplogroup are found in elite positions within Neolithic

passage tomb society, including at Newgrange (Meath, Ireland), Carrowkeel (Sligo, Ireland) and Hazleton North long cairn (Gloucestershire, England). They represent a lineage that persisted as a minority within the broader Neolithic farming population and occupied positions of high social status.

Key ancient DNA references: Cassidy et al. 2020 (Nature) — Newgrange, Carrowkeel, Millin Bay; Fowler & Olalde et al. 2021 (Nature) — Hazleton North long cairn (I-M284, I-Y3709, I-L1195 confirmed).

## Stage 2 — Survival through the Bronze Age Bell Beaker transition

SNP	I-M284
Date	~2500–1500 BCE
Location	Britain and Ireland
Evidence	Supported by ancient DNA

Around 2500 BCE the Bell Beaker culture, carrying R1b lineages from the Pontic Steppe, caused a dramatic demographic transformation across Britain and Ireland. I-M284 was reduced to a very small remnant population. Ancient DNA shows at least one I-M284 individual (Killuragh Cave, southwest Ireland) surviving into the Chalcolithic period, confirming the lineage was not eliminated but persisted in small numbers through the transition. Isolated island environments, such as the Outer Hebrides, may have functioned as refugia where small I-M284 populations survived the demographic overturn. In the I-M223 project on FamilyTreeDNA, I-M284 is the founder of the Isles Sector.

## Stage 3 — I-L1195 and I-L126 form: the Isles lineage

SNP	I-L1195 → I-L126
Date	~4100 BCE (I-L1195); ~3500 BCE (I-L126)
Location	Britain (probable formation); Atlantic coast
Evidence	Well-supported

I-L1195, a SNP below I-M284 on the haplotree, has a formation date of approximately 4,100 BCE according to YFull molecular clock analysis, with six confirmed ancient matches. I-L126, an SNP below I-L1195, is confirmed at Hazleton North long cairn. I-L126 likely formed in Britain and subsequently spread northward through the Atlantic coast of Scotland, reaching the Western Isles by the Bronze Age.

## Stage 4 — DIRECT ANCIENT DNA ANCHOR: Pabay Mor, Isle of Lewis

SNP	I-L126 (confirmed)
Date	~1311 BCE (radiocarbon-dated: 3311 years BP)
Location	Pabay Mor (Pabaigh Mor), West Loch Roag, Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides, Scotland
Evidence	Confirmed ancient DNA — direct ancestor

This is the closest confirmed ancient paternal ancestor in the lineage. Sample I2655 is a mature male aged 50–59, buried in a crouched position on the eastern side of Pabay Mor. His Y-DNA is confirmed as I-L126, placing him directly on the ancestral path to I-Y4751 and I-FT150722. The Pabay Mor location, a small uninhabited island on the Atlantic edge of Lewis, facing Ulster across the Irish Sea, is geographically consistent with the subsequent southward spread of this lineage into Ireland. That I2655 is the only confirmed ancient I-L126 individual recovered anywhere to date, and that he is found at the far Atlantic edge of the Outer Hebrides, is consistent with the Hebridean refugium model.

Source: Barrowman & Innes 2009 (Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports, vol. 29); DNA identification via GENSCOT project; radiocarbon lab no. SUERC-9172 (3105±35 BP, calibrated 1442–1273 cal BC at 95.4% probability).

## Stage 5 — I-Y4751 forms: the Scottish-Irish clade

SNP	I-Y4751 (also known as FGC20065)
Date	~400–450 CE (YFull TMRCA 1,550 years BP)
Location	SW Scotland / Ulster corridor
Evidence	Well-supported by molecular clock

I-Y4751 is a key SNP in the IslesSc/Ire sector of the I-M223 Y-Haplogroup Project on FamilyTreeDNA. It formed approximately 1,600 years before present, with a TMRCA of approximately 1,550 years BP, placing the founding male in the late Roman / early post-Roman Migration Period. The large number of surviving downstream branches, currently 24 named lineages and at least 26 surviving male-line descendants in the project, indicates a rapid population expansion from this ancestor, consistent with a successful founding individual in the turbulent post-Roman Atlantic world. The identity of this founding male cannot be established from the genetic evidence alone, but the geographic and historical context narrows the candidates considerably. He lived most probably in the North Channel zone at a time when Roman power was withdrawing

from Britain and new kingdoms were forming on both sides of the water. The I-M284 haplogroup is pre-Gaelic and pre-Pictish in origin, consistent with the Cruithin/Brittonic population of the North Channel rather than the Gaelic R1b dynasties such as Dál Riata. The most historically plausible community for a successful I-M284 male founder of this period is the Cruithin or early Ulaid aristocracy, the peoples whose kingdoms straddled the North Channel and who occupied Co. Down, Co. Antrim, and Co. Tyrone before the Uí Néill expansion. Three lines of evidence from the surviving downstream branches point toward a specific territorial association:

- First, the Magennis/McGuinness cluster on **Y4751 (Branch 11, term. hg. Y139297)** carries multiple Big Y-700 confirmed testers with Ireland origins: the Magennis (Mac Aonghusa) family were lords of Iveagh in Co. Down, one of the oldest Ulster dynasties, claiming descent from the Dál Fiatach, a Cruithin people.
- Second, the Lavery (Ó Labhradha) testers on **Y4751 (Branch 8.2.1, term hg, FT92226)**: the Laverys were a hereditary bardic family of Co. Antrim and Co. Down, associated with the Magennis lords and their presence in I-Y4751 is consistent with a shared ancient lineage among the east Ulster aristocracy.
- Third, the heavy concentration of Hemphill testers on **Y4751 (Branch 1.1.1.1.1, term. hg. I-Y4752)**, all tracing to Co. Tyrone origins, suggests that one of the 26 earliest downstream lineages established itself very successfully in Tyrone, consistent with the Muintir Birn territorial hypothesis for Branch 17.

These observations are speculative: none constitutes proof of a specific historical identity. They are recorded here as context for future research as ancient DNA coverage of early medieval Ireland and Scotland improves.

## Stage 6 — I-L126 enters Ireland through Ulster

SNP	I-L126 and downstream subclades
Date	~400–600 CE
Location	SW Scotland to Ulster, Ireland
Evidence	Well-supported

I-L126 is found in Ireland almost exclusively in Ulster, consistent with entry via the Cruithin migration from southwest Scotland, which established the Ulaid and related peoples in northeast Ireland. The North Channel zone (southwest Scotland / northeast Ireland) was a maritime corridor of movement and kinship throughout prehistory and the early medieval period. The fifth century CE saw two historically documented migrations across this corridor in opposite directions. The first, east to west, was the Cruithin movement from southwest Scotland into southeast Ulster already noted. The second, west to east, was the Gaelic expansion associated with Dál Riata, through

which the ruling dynasty of the Irish Dál Riata, whose base was in northeast Antrim, established a kingdom in Argyll, with Dunadd as their principal royal centre.

The traditional account, preserved in the Irish annals, places Fergus Mór’s crossing to Argyll at around 500 CE, though the extent of population movement behind the dynastic expansion is debated: Ewan Campbell has argued (*Were the Scots Irish?*, Antiquity, 2001) that Argyll and Antrim formed a continuous maritime province for centuries before any fifth-century event, and that the archaeological record in Argyll shows no evidence of a large-scale migration. The molecular genetic evidence is relevant here. The Dál Riata ruling dynasty is confirmed as R1b, specifically associated with the marker R1b-L1335 — entirely distinct from the I-M284 lineage of I-Y4751. The North Channel distribution visible in the I-Y4751 match time tree therefore does not reflect the Dál Riata movement specifically. It is more consistent with Campbell’s maritime province model: a population of I-M284 ancestry that was present on both sides of the North Channel for centuries before the fifth-century political reorganisation, whose Scottish and Ulster presence in the match tree reflects deep shared ancestry rather than a specific migration event. The coincidence of the I-Y4751 TMRCA of approximately 350–450 CE with the traditional Dál Riata date appears to be exactly that — a coincidence — since the two lineages are genetically unrelated.

The dual Ulster/Galloway character of I-Y4751 as a clade is independently confirmed by the I-FT150722 Match Time Tree. Analysis of that tree reveals a pronounced cluster of Lowland Scottish and Ulster-Scots surnames — Hanna, Agnew, Hemphill, Gillespie, Ferguson, and Montgomery — distributed across branches above I-FTT7, consistent with a population that occupied both sides of the North Channel. The Hunter matches, descending through Humphrey Hunter b.1719, Co. Londonderry, are firmly Ulster in documented origin. The Hemphill cluster within I-Y4751 is particularly well-documented: multiple Big Y-700 confirmed testers record Joseph Hemphill b.1794 Tyrone NI and James Hemphill b.1790 Tyrone NI as their earliest known ancestors, placing this branch firmly in Co. Tyrone.

### Stage 7 — The Muintir Birn of Tyrone: a Working Hypothesis

SNP	I-FTT7 and I-Y63570 (under I-Y4751)
Date	Medieval — pre-surname period to 17th century
Location	Co. Tyrone (barony of Dungannon) → Co. Down → Co. Wicklow / Dublin
Evidence	Probable historical inference — based on indirect surname co-clustering evidence

The Clann Birn, from whom the Muintir Birn descend, resided in the barony of Dungannon in Co. Tyrone, territory of the Cenél nEogain (northern Uí Néill). This is entirely distinct from the Wicklow O'Byrnes (Gaelic: Ó Broin), who are confirmed R1b and represent a Leinster dynasty with no genetic connection to I-Y4751.

The Muintir Birn hypothesis proposes that the surname Byrne/Burns was adopted by descendants of this sept through their collective Gaelic identity as Na Beirnigh (“people of the Birn”). It is a working hypothesis for the origin of the I-Y63570 clade as a whole, which formed around 1000 CE. It is not a claim about the specific I-FT150722 terminal branch, nor about the documented Wicklow presence of Francis Byrne b. 1794.

The key evidence supporting the hypothesis comes from the I-Y63570 Match Time Tree and from the I-M223 project results chart. Within I-FTT7, Burns/Byrne co-clusters with Devlin (barony of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone) and Coyle (Co. Tyrone/Donegal), pointing to a Tyrone/Dungannon context for the surname's earliest attachment to this lineage. This co-clustering is confirmed directly in the I-M223 project chart: on **Y4751 (Branch 17.5, term. hg. FTA73391)**, Byrne (kit 830018), Andrew Byrne b.1885, Ireland, appears on the same branch as Devlin (kit 996044), James Devlin, Ireland, and Devlin (kit 160401), Patrick Devlin 1834–1877, Ireland, both confirmed I-FTA73391 by Big Y-700. On the I-FTA14037 branch, Byrne co-clusters with McGivern (Co. Tyrone, later Co. Down) and Montgomery (a documented McGivern synonym in Co. Down) on **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.3.1, term. hg. FTA14037)**, confirmed in the chart by Byrne (kit 208416), Patrick H. Byrne b.1835, Ireland, and Byrnes (kit 338826), Austin Byrne b.1859 Dublin, both I-FTA14037 by Big Y-700, alongside McGivern (kit 987885), Edward John McGivern b.1862, Canada, and McGivern (kit B2736), Patrick Montgomery b.1750 d.1824, Northern Ireland. The Coyle co-clustering is confirmed by Coyle (kit 313656), James Coyle b.1820s, Ireland, I-FTA37584, Big Y-500, on **Y4751 (Branch 17.2.1, term. hg. FTA37584)**.

At the broader I-Y4751 level, McGuinness/Magennis (Co. Down/Armagh) is confirmed by multiple testers on Y4751 (Branch 11, term. hg. Y139297) with Ireland origins, and Rogan (kit 151052) is confirmed I-FT446370, Big Y-700, on **Y4751 (Branch 12.3, term. hg. FT446370)**.

The probable direction of migration is north to south, from a Co. Tyrone/Dungannon origin around the time of I-Y63570 (~1000 CE), through subsequent southward dispersal, with the Wicklow/Dublin presence documented from the late 18th century. The gap between the I-Y63570 root (~1000 CE) and Francis Byrne (b. 1794) spans approximately 800 years, during which the lineage's geographic history is currently unknown.

See Annex 1 for a detailed account of the Muintir Birn's history, genealogy, and surname connections. See Open Questions for the current state of research into this hypothesis.

## Stage 8 — Australia: Burns surname and I-FT150722

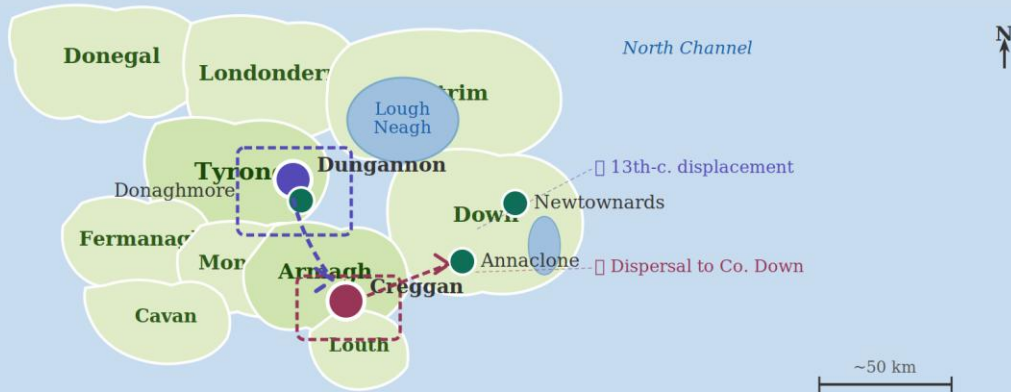
SNP	I-FT150722 (terminal SNP)
Date	19th century to present
Location	New South Wales, Australia
Evidence	Documented family history and Big Y-700 testing

Francis Byrne arrived as a convict on the Guildford on 8 April 1816, having been tried at Dublin City in October 1814. His convict indent records his native place as County Wicklow, his occupation as miller, and confirms him as the earliest known paternal ancestor. He settled in the Hawkesbury district and died at Macdonald River in 1850.

The haplogroup I-FT150722 has been definitively established as Francis Byrne's Y-DNA through a deliberate three-tester design involving Big Y-700 testing. Three male-line descendants were tested through two separate sons of Francis Byrne and Sarah Hibbs. All three are confirmed I-FT150722, and the private variant distribution (0/1/4 across the three testers) is entirely coherent with the known genealogy.

A sponsored Big Y-700 test of a male-line descendant of James Byrne (arr. convict transport Anne, 1801), widely proposed as the father of Francis Byrne, returned haplogroup R1b, definitively disproving that paternity hypothesis. The parents of Francis Byrne remain unidentified.

## Ulster — Key Sites for the Muintir Birn Hypothesis



### Key

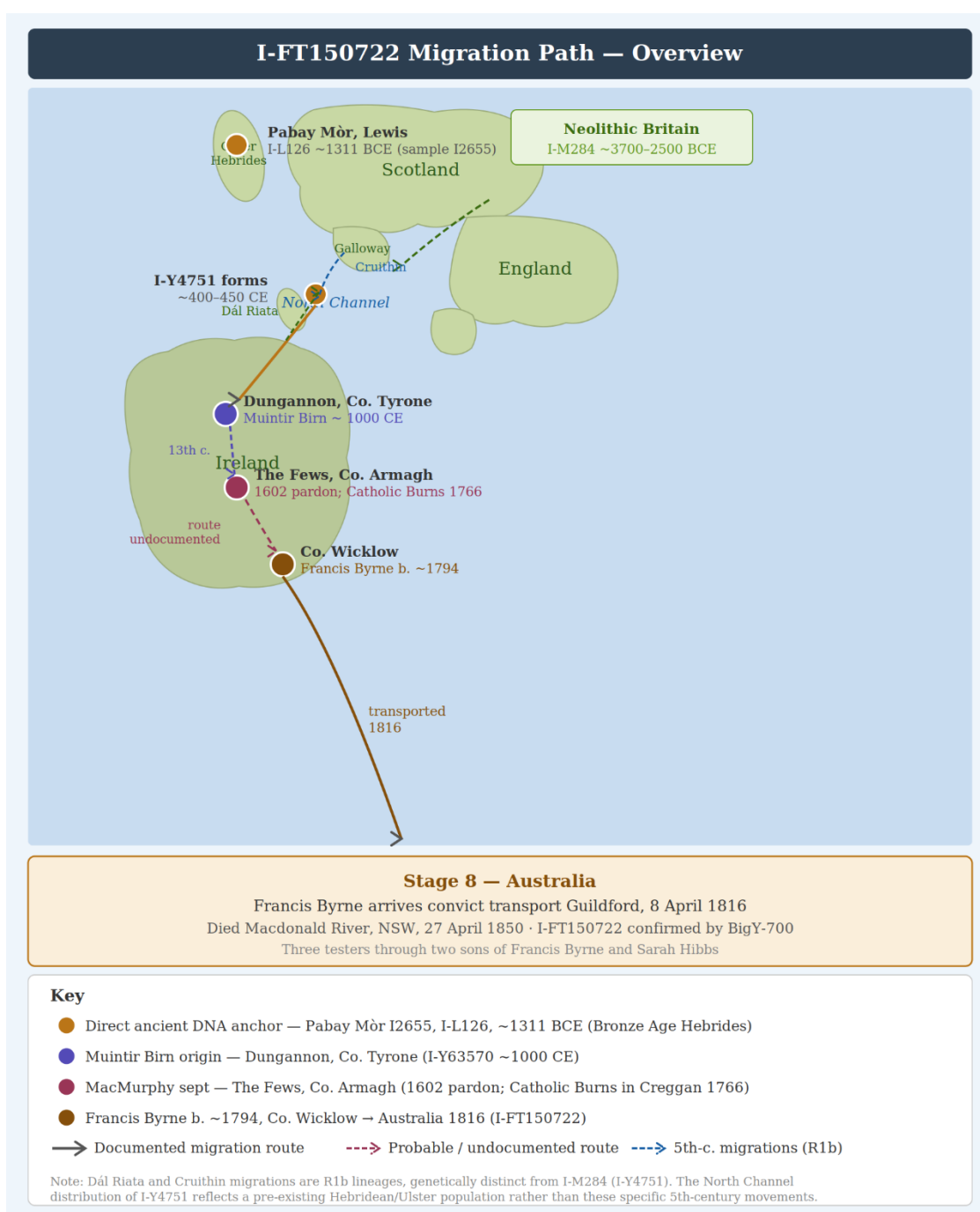
- **Dungannon** — Muintir Birn territorial heartland, barony of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone  
Home territory of the MacMurphy chiefs; I-Y63570 clade estimated ~1000 CE
- **Creggan** — heart of the Fews, Co. Armagh  
1602 Fews pardon territory; four Catholic Burns households recorded 1766
- **Confirmed I-Y4751 pardon-family surname testers (Co. Down)**  
Donaghmore: Quinn (kit 242776) b.1843 · Newtownards: Kelly (kit 555571) b.~1827 · Annaclone: McInerney (kit 1...)
- ▭ Barony of Dungannon      ▭ The Fews district
- ▭ 13th-century displacement of MacMurphy chiefs from Tyrone to the Fews
- ▭ Dispersal from the Fews to Co. Down — confirmed by Kelly and McInerney responses

Note: Additional I-Y4751 testers with confirmed Ulster county origins include Hemphill (Co. Tyrone), Thompson (Co. Tyrone), Forsythe (Co. Down), Davison (Co. Armagh), O'Brien (Co. Tyrone), Hillis (Co. Monaghan) — see text for details.  
Tyrone and Armagh are shaded to indicate the primary counties of the Muintir Birn territory and the Fews respectively.  
Donaghmore is in the barony of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone — the Muintir Birn heartland — and is the most significant geographic confirmation of the hypothesis.

## Summary Timeline

Stage	Date	SNP	Location / event
1	~3700–2500 BCE	I-M284	Neolithic Britain and Ireland — elite positions in passage tombs
2	~2500–1500 BCE	I-M284	Survival through Bronze Age Bell Beaker replacement
3	~4100–3500 BCE	I-L1195, I-L126	Isles lineage forms in Britain; spreads northward
4 (ANCHOR)	~1311 BCE	I-L126	Sample I2655 — Pabay Mor, Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides
5	~400–450 CE	I-Y4751	I-Y4751 forms; rapid expansion in post-Roman period
6	~400–600 CE	I-L126 subclades	Enters Ireland via Ulster

Stage	Date	SNP	Location / event
7	Medieval–1794	I-Y4751 branches	Probable south Ulster origin of I-Y63570 (~1000 CE); Byrne surname in Wicklow by b. 1794; route south undocumented
8	19th c. – present	I-FT150722	Australia; Francis Byrne arr. Guildford 1816; I-FT150722 confirmed by three testers through two sons; James Byrne (Anne, 1801) paternity disproved by R1b result



## Evidence and Confidence Assessment

### *Confirmed by ancient DNA*

- Stage 1–2: I-M284 at Carrowkeel, Newgrange, Hazleton North — Cassidy et al. 2020 (Nature); Fowler & Olalde et al. 2021 (Nature)
- Stage 4: I-L126 at Pabay Mor, Isle of Lewis — sample I2655, GENSCOT, radiocarbon 3105±35 BP

### *Well-supported by molecular clock*

- I-L1195 formation ~4100 BCE; I-L126 likely formed in Britain (YFull v14)
- I-Y4751 formed ~400–450 CE; TMRCA 1,550 BP — consistent with late Roman / early Migration Period

### *Probable historical inference*

- Surname Byrne/Burns adopted by an I-M223 lineage in Ulster/Leinster — not descent from Gaelic Ó Broin royal dynasty (which is R1b/R-Z255)
- The primary migration direction for I-Y4751 Byrne/Burns is probable north-to-south (Tyrone/Dungannon origin ~1000 CE → Wicklow/Dublin by b. 1794). The Ulster geographic signal rests on companion surname co-clustering (McGivern, Montgomery, Devlin, Coyle) on adjacent I-Y63570 branches.

### *Documented family history*

- Francis Byrne, born County Wicklow ~1793–1794, convicted Dublin City October 1814, arrived Guildford 8 April 1816, died Macdonald River NSW 27 April 1850
- Three male-line descendants confirmed I-FT150722 through Big Y-700 testing via two sons of Francis Byrne and Sarah Hibbs (private variant distribution 0/1/4 internally consistent with the known genealogy)
- Sponsored Big Y-700 test of male-line descendant of James Byrne (arr. Anne, 1801) returned R1b — definitively disproves widely-circulated James Byrne paternity hypothesis.

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## **Annex 1 – Muintir Birn (also written Muintir Birn or Clann Birn) of County Tyrone**

### **Name and Meaning**

"Muintir Birn" is an Irish Gaelic term meaning roughly "the people/family of Birn." In Irish, muintir denotes a kinship group or community, and Birn (or Birn) is the founding ancestor's name. That ancestor, Beirn, is identified in the genealogical tradition as a son of Fearghal, monarch of Ireland (died AD 718), and brother to Niall Frasach (died AD 765). The territory they occupied became known as Muintir Birn, which survives today in anglicised form as Minterburn, near Caledon in Co. Tyrone. They were also known informally as Na Beirnigh.

### **Origins and Genealogy**

The precise genealogical classification of the Muintir Birn has been a matter of genuine scholarly debate, and the different strands of evidence do not point in exactly the same direction.

The pedigree given in medieval sources traces the Clann Birn as: Bern mac Ruadrí mac Murchad mac Máel Dúin mac Áeda Alláin. This genealogy is preserved in both Rawlinson B 502 (Bodleian Library, Oxford, compiled c. 1100–1130) and the Book of Ballymote (Royal Irish Academy MS 23 P 12, compiled c. 1391), which are parallel sources for overlapping Cenél nEogain genealogical material. Paul Burns notes that Rawlinson B 502 specifically links the Muintir Birn to the Síl Cuind — the "seed of Conn," the overarching genealogical designation for all northern Uí Néill dynasties — and records the Clann Birn genealogy tracing descent from Birn mac Ruadrach back to Niall of the Nine Hostages. This lineage runs through Áed Allán, a prominent eighth-century king, and on this basis the sept is generally classified as a branch of the Cenél nEogain.

A separate and older strand of genealogical tradition, preserved in O'Hart's Irish Pedigrees and elaborated in O'Donovan's annotations to the Annals of the Four Masters, connects the Muintir Birn to a shared ancestry with the Uí Méith, tracing both groups back to Muredach Méith, son of Imchad, son of Colla Da Chrích, one of the legendary Three Collas. This would place their deepest origins within the Airgialla tradition.

A third perspective comes from the archaeologist Richard Warner, who argued that the Muintir Birn were more accurately understood as a sept of Uí Echach rather than Cenél Eogain, based on the territorial positioning of the sept and the archaeological evidence of the ringfort at Sessiamagaroll near Benburb.

A fourth perspective is provided by John Colgan in his *Trias Thaumaturga* (Louvain, 1647). Colgan identifies the Muintir Birn as "Ui Briuin now Muintir Birn, alias Ui Briuinia Aquilonaris, in Tir Eoguin, the diocese of Ardmache", designating them as the northern

Uí Briún, located in Tír Eoghain within the diocese of Armagh. Two caveats apply: Colgan's topographical notes are acknowledged as not always correct, and the phonetic similarity between Birn and Briún/Brión may have led to conflation. The reference nonetheless stands as a significant 17th-century attestation.

The most plausible resolution across these four traditions may lie in the well-documented practice of the Irish annalistic tradition: politically absorbed peoples were frequently given retrospective Uí Néill genealogies, meaning the Muintir Birn may represent an older Airgialla stratum absorbed into the expanding Cenél Eogain framework under O'Neill dominance.

## Military Status

Whatever the ultimate resolution of the genealogical question, the Ceart Uí Néill, the 13th-century document recording the rights and tributes of the O'Neill, classifies the Muintir Birn, alongside the McCauls and Devlins, as *fiorceithearnaigh* — "true kern" — the core native Irish troops of the O'Neill fighting force. This was a position of real hereditary military honour.

## Territory

Their heartland was the barony of Dungannon in south Co. Tyrone, with a secondary presence in the barony of Strabane. The modern townland of Minterburn, near the town of Caledon, preserves the name of their territory. Large-scale archaeological excavations in advance of the A4/A5 road improvements uncovered sixty-five sites including Neolithic, Bronze Age, Early Historic, and medieval remains. The ringfort at Sessiamagaroll near Benburb has been identified by Richard Warner as an early medieval royal site associated with this territory.

## The MacMurphy Dynasty

The ruling family of the Muintir Birn were the MacMurphy (Mac Murchadha), chiefs of Siol Aodha. The earliest annalistic reference occurs in 1172, when Maolmuire MacMurphy, chief of Muintir Birn, was killed by Hugh Magennis and the Clann Aodha of Uí Echach.

The MacMurphys were subsequently dispossessed and driven out of Tyrone by the expanding O'Neill lordship in the 13th century, resettling in the Fews district of South Armagh. A pardon of 1602 listing the free clansmen of the Fews named 35 MacMurphys out of approximately 270 listed individuals. The 1602 document is the earliest surviving Irish census, compiled to identify the clanspeople of Turlagh MacHenry O'Neill, chief of the Fews, who received an English pardon on 24 June 1602 following the Nine Years' War.

Murphy is Ireland's most common surname, arising independently in several unrelated families across Ireland. The Ulster MacMurphys/Muintir Birn are a specifically Cenél Eoghain family, genealogically close to the O'Neills, and quite distinct from the Leinster

Murphys who dominate the national surname statistics. Locally in south Armagh, the Beirneigh identity remained so strong that An Beirneach, literally "the Beirne one", was the Gaelic way of saying "Mr. Murphy" in that area.

### **Surname Connections to Byrne, Burns, Bruen, etc.**

The Muintir Birn of Tyrone is one of several distinct Irish groups whose Gaelic name was anglicised to Byrne, Burns, Breen, or similar variants. O'Hart notes that some descendants of the Muintir Birn anglicised their name as Bruen.

#### ***The name conversion: evidence and inference***

The evidence for the claim that the MacMurphys of the 1602 Fews pardon converted their name to Byrne/Burns sits on three levels of certainty:

- **Level 1 — The collective territorial identity (well attested).** MacLysaght attests that An Beirneach was used in south Armagh as the local way of saying "Mr. Murphy." This demonstrates that the Na Beirneigh collective identity survived in living use in the same geographic zone as the 1602 pardon. The phonetic pathway from Beirneigh to Byrne/Burns is entirely plausible linguistically.
- **Level 2 — O'Hart's assertion (asserted but unverified).** O'Hart states that some descendants of the Muintir Birn anglicised their name as Bruen (and by implication Byrne/Burns). Two PRONI Name Searches have produced primary evidence bearing on this claim. A search of Dungannon barony parishes found only Protestant Burns households in 1766 — Plantation settler origin. A search of nine Fews parishes found four Catholic Burns households in Creggan parish (Edmund, John, Loughlin, and Owen Burns), all recorded as Papist in the 1766 Religious Census. Creggan is at the heart of the Fews territory documented in the 1602 pardon. Four Catholic Burns households there in 1766 are consistent with O'Hart's claim. See Question 1 for full analysis.
- **Level 3 — The 35 MacMurphys of the 1602 pardon (inferred, not documented).** No surviving record has been found that traces a specific MacMurphy of 1602 into a Byrne or Burns family in later records. The 1659 Pender's Census shows 12 O'Bern households in the Co. Down baronies of Kinalerty and Duffrane, but these cannot be directly connected to the 1602 Fews MacMurphys. Progress has been made on one of the three avenues identified to close this gap. On Y-DNA testing of male-line Murphy descendants: Murphy (kit 310081) is confirmed I-FTD71064 within I-Y4751, and Murphy (kit 141021) is confirmed I-FT220080 on the sibling clade of I-Y4751, both assessed in the Open Questions section. Verification of O'Hart's source remains outstanding: a PRONI Name Search found only Protestant Burns households in the Muintir Birn heartland parishes, providing no positive evidence for O'Hart's claim, but a PRONI Name Search found Catholic Burns households in the Creggan Parish in the Fews. A systematic search of 17th-century south Armagh and Fews records for MacMurphy-to-Byrne transitions also remains outstanding.

## The principal Byrne/Burns surname families

The name Byrne(s) has many spelling variations and many distinct origins. The principal distinct families are:

- **1. Clan O'Byrne of Leinster — Ó Broin.** The largest group by far. Claim descent from Bran, King of Leinster in the 11th century (Ó Broin, from bran = raven). Driven east to south Wicklow by Anglo-Norman invaders in the 1170s. Their territory was Crioich Branach. This family is the dominant source of the modern surname Byrne and is entirely unrelated to the Ulster Muintir Birn.
- **2. Ó Birn / Ó Beirn of Connacht.** Means "descendant of Bjørn" (Old Norse: bear). A branch of the Siol-Muireadhaigh, descended from Muireadhaich Muilleathan, King of Connacht c. AD 700, kin to the O'Connors. Two distinct families: chiefs of Tír Bhriúinn in Co. Roscommon, and a Mayo family of the Uí Fiachrach.
- **3. Muintir Birn / MacMurphy of Tyrone and the Fewes.** Originally chiefs of Muintir Birn in Co. Tyrone, part of the Cenél Eoghain and kinsmen of the O'Neills, displaced to south Armagh where they appear as the MacMurphys in the 1602 Fewes census. Their collective identity as Na Beirnich directly connects them to the Burns/Byrnes/Beirne name cluster. Completely separate from both the Leinster O'Byrnes and the Connacht O'Beirnes.
- **4. MacConboirne of Mayo.** Mac Conboirne — anglicised as Burns, earlier M'Conborney — derives from Cú Boirean, "hound of Boirean." A distinct Mayo family.
- **5. O'Braoin / O'Breen of Westmeath.** Ó Braoin — lord of Breaghmhaine (barony of Brawney, Co. Westmeath). Braon means "moisture/drop/sorrow" — an entirely different root from Bran (raven) or Bjørn (bear). Some anglicised as Breen or Bruen.
- **6. Scottish Burns in Ulster.** Burns is also a Scottish import, numerous in Ulster, from a topographical name from burn (Scots: stream) or from Burnhouse in Ayrshire. The Ulster cluster reflects Scottish planter settlement.

## Later History

Like most Gaelic sept structures in Ulster, the Muintir Birn as a distinct political entity was disrupted by the Nine Years' War, Hugh O'Neill's defeat in 1603, and the subsequent Plantation of Ulster, which transferred much of the land in Co. Tyrone to Scottish and English settlers. The area of Minterburn thereafter became known as part of the parish of Aghaloo.

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## Open Questions and Research Agenda

This section records the current state of research into the three principal open questions arising from this paper. Each question is structured to cover: why it is being researched; the methodology applied; a summary of the analysis; key results and findings; and key questions or actions remaining. References to earlier drafts and editorial discussions have been removed.

The destruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland in the Four Courts fire of 1922 is the single greatest obstacle to further documentary progress on Question 3. The Crown Books for Dublin City Quarter Sessions, which would have contained the record of Francis Byrne's 1814 trial, were among the records destroyed.

### Question 1 — The Muintir Birn hypothesis: strength of the evidence

#### *Why this question is being researched*

The Muintir Birn hypothesis proposes that the I-Y63570 clade has a south Ulster origin around 1000 CE, with the Byrne/Burns surname adopted through the Na Beirnich collective identity of the MacMurphy sept of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone. If correct, there is an undocumented gap of approximately eight hundred years between that Ulster origin and the first certain record of Francis Byrne in County Wicklow in the early 19th century. Understanding both the strength of the geographic evidence and the probable migration route is central to the paper's core thesis.

#### *Methodology*

Five lines of evidence have been applied: (1) analysis of the I-Y63570 Match Time Tree for companion surname co-clustering; (2) Pender's 1659 Census searches for Co. Tyrone, Down, Armagh, and Wicklow; (3) John Grenham portal two-name searches for Byrne/Devlin (Co. Tyrone, c.1859) and Byrne/McGivern (Co. Down, c.1863–4); (4) systematic review of the I-M223 project results chart for the Isles Sc/Ire sector, assessing Big Y-700 testers with documented Co. Tyrone or adjacent county origins; and (5) research of information available in PRONI for the parishes of Aghaloo, Clonfeacle, Donaghmore and Killeeshil (initially in the name index, but then in the fiants of Elizabeth and James I).

#### *Summary of analysis*

The Match Time Tree shows Burns/Byrne co-clustering with Devlin (barony of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone) and Coyle (Co. Tyrone/Donegal) within I-FTT7, and with McGivern (Co. Tyrone, later Co. Down) and Montgomery (a documented McGivern synonym in Co. Down) within I-FTA14037. The Pender's 1659 Census searches found no Byrne entries in Co. Tyrone, Down, or Armagh under that spelling, but identified 12 O'Bern households in the Co. Down baronies of Kinalerty and Duffrane, the first documentary evidence of the Birn/Bern surname in Ulster in the mid-17th century. The two-name searches showed strong Byrne/McGivern co-occurrence in south and central Co. Down in the mid-19th century. Review of the I-M223 project chart identified

multiple testers with documented Co. Tyrone origins confirmed within I-Y4751 by Big Y-700 (see Key Results below).

No Byrne/Burns tester in the valid I-L126 sector of the FTDNA Byrne/Burns surname project currently attests an Ulster County as the location of their earliest known paternal ancestor. The geographic evidence for a south Ulster origin therefore rests on companion surname co-clustering and on non-Byrne/Burns testers in the I-M223 project with Tyrone/Down documented origins.

### ***Key results and findings***

The I-Y63570 Match Time Tree provides coherent indirect evidence for a south Ulster origin: the co-clustering of Devlin, Coyle, McGivern, and Montgomery with Burns/Byrne is consistent with a Dungannon/Tyrone territorial association. This is confirmed in the I-M223 project chart:

- Devlin (kit 996044) and Devlin (kit 160401), Patrick Devlin 1834–1877, Ireland, both confirmed I-FTA73391 by Big Y-700, co-cluster with Byrne (kit 830018) on **Y4751 (Branch 17.5, term. hg. FTA73391)**;
- Byrne (kit 208416) and Byrnes (kit 338826) co-cluster with McGivern (kit 987885) and McGivern (kit B2736), Patrick Montgomery b.1750 d.1824, Northern Ireland, on **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.3.1, term. hg. FTA14037)**; and
- Coyle (kit 313656), James Coyle b.1820s, Ireland, is confirmed on **Y4751 (Branch 17.2.1, term. hg. FTA37584)**.

The Byrne/McGivern co-occurrence in south and central Co. Down in the mid-19th century (Grenham two-name search) is consistent with a shared Tyrone-to-Down dispersal corridor. The 12 O’Bern households in the Co. Down baronies of Kinalerty and Duffrane in the 1659 Census provide the first documentary evidence of the Birn/Bern surname in Ulster in the mid-17th century.

Review of the I-M223 project chart has identified multiple Big Y-700 confirmed I-Y4751 testers attest origins in Co. Tyrone, Co. Armagh and Co. Down. These are set out below in Question 2. Of note, both Hemphill testers (H1154 and H1025) attest Co. Tyrone origins and sit on branches within the well-documented Hemphill cluster under I-Y4751. Thompson (kit B124452) attests Dungannon barony, the heartland of the Muintir Birn territory. Davison (kit 852133), McConville (kit 276518) and McConville (kit 310186) all attest Co. Armagh ancestry.

The two-lineage analysis of the R1b Byrne/Burns entries in the FTDNA projects confirms that both the Airghialla-One (royalty) and Airghialla-Two (commoners) groups are within R-L513, not the Three Collas R-Z3000 path. This represents a separate R1b Byrne/Burns tradition associated with the same Birn territorial identity but genetically unrelated to I-FT150722 (see below).

### ***The two-lineage finding: I-M284 and R-L513***

Investigation of the Airghialla references in Paul Burns's Chapter 32 in the third volume of the reference **The Byrnes and The O'Byrnes** has revealed that two distinct genetic lineages carry Byrne/Burns/Bruen surnames with potential connections to the Muintir Birn tradition:

- **Lineage 1 — I-FT150722 (I-M284, Isles sector, Cenél nEogain strand):** The lineage documented in this paper. Represents the Cenél nEogain / Síil Cuind genealogical strand, descent from Bern mac Ruadrí through the northern Uí Néill to Niall of the Nine Hostages, as recorded in Rawlinson B 502 and the Book of Ballymote. The null value at DYS425 is a predicted consequence of I-M284 ancestry.
- **Lineage 2 — R-L513 (R1b, Airghialla strand):** Byrne/Burns/Bruen carriers in the Airghialla Mag Uidhir project (R-BY11174, R-BY11196) and the Byrne/Burns project (03.x group, FGC9804 branch) both sit within R-L513, on different downstream branches of the R-L513 → FGC9811 node. Joe Donohoe's Airghialla-One (royalty) and Airghialla-Two (commoners) documentary distinction corresponds to two branches of R-L513, not to two separate genetic lineages. R-L513 is entirely distinct from the Three Collas R-Z3000 path. DYS425 does not equal zero in this lineage.

These two lineages are separated by tens of thousands of years of prehistory and share no genetic relationship. Both carry surname traditions rooted in the same medieval sept name and the same Birn territorial identity, consistent with the Muintir Birn having been a composite sept that absorbed multiple distinct male-line populations.

### ***O'Hart's Statement that Muintir Birn anglicised their names to Bruen.***

Two PRONI Name Searches for Burns, Bruen, Birn, Beirne, and Byrne have been conducted across four indices, the Pre-1858 Wills and Administrations, the 1740 Protestant Householders, the 1766 Religious Census, and the 1775 Dissenters Petitions.

- The first search covered the four Dungannon barony parishes (Aghaloo, Clonfeacle, Donaghmore, and Killeeshil). It returned five Burns households in Aghaloo and Carnteel in the 1766 Religious Census: Henry, Hugh, James (1), James (2), and William Burns, all recorded as Protestant. No Bruen, Birn, Beirne, or Byrne entries appeared. The Protestant affiliation points to Plantation settler origin and provides no positive evidence for O'Hart's claim.
- The second search covered the nine Fews parishes: Creggan, Forkhill, Jonesborough, Killevy, Ballymyre, Lisnadill, Mullaghbrack, Loughgilly, and Kilclooney. This returned four Burns households in Creggan parish, all recorded as Papist (Catholic): Edmund Burns, Skerriff (Trueman) townland, Co. Armagh; John Burns, Drummuckavall townland, Co. Armagh; Loughlin Burns, The Five Towns townland, Co. Louth; and Owen Burns, Drummuckavall townland, Co. Armagh. No Bruen, Birn, Beirne, or Byrne entries appeared in any other index or parish. Creggan is at the heart of the Fews territory, and Drummuckavall and

Skerriff are townlands within the documented area of the 1602 pardon. Four Catholic Burns households in this territory in 1766 cannot be explained by Plantation settler origin. In contrast to the Dungannon households, which are Protestant and most plausibly Plantation settlers, the Fewes households are Catholic and most plausibly descendants of the indigenous Gaelic population. This is consistent with O'Hart's claim that Muintir Birn descendants adopted Burns as a surname.

The PRONI index notes that the original documents no longer exist. One caveat applies: without a documentary chain linking these specific households to the MacMurphy sept the connection remains probable rather than proven.

### ***Key questions and actions***

1. Y-DNA outreach to male-line Byrne descendants of families long-established in County Wicklow (see also Question 3)
2. Monitoring publications from the Irish Ancient DNA Consortium (Trinity College Dublin), recovery of an I-M284 or I-L126 sample from a Co. Tyrone or Co. Down site dating to the ninth–11th century would directly confirm the presence of this lineage in the Muintir Birn territory at the appropriate period.
3. Verification of O'Hart's source for the Bruen/Byrne name conversion claim. The Ulster Historical Foundation has been commissioned to research the names Bruen, Birn, and Beirne in the published fiants of Elizabeth I and James I (Deputy Keeper's Reports, volumes 11–18) in two sets of parishes: the four Dungannon barony parishes (Aghaloo, Clonfeacle, Donaghmore, and Killeeshil) and the nine Fewes parishes (Creggan, Forkhill, Jonesborough, Killeevy, Ballymyre, Lisnadill, Mullaghbrack, Loughgilly, and Kilclooney). The Fewes parishes are the higher priority given the 1766 Religious Census finding of four Catholic Burns households in Creggan. Burns has also been added to the search terms for the Fewes parishes.
4. Systematic search of 17th-century south Armagh and Fewes records (where they survive) for MacMurphy-to-Byrne transitions.

## **Question 2 — The 1602 Fewes Pardon: link to I-Y4751 genetic matches**

### ***Why this question is being researched***

The 1602 Fewes pardon is the earliest surviving Irish census and the most important documentary record of the Muintir Birn's ruling family, the MacMurphys, in their Armagh territorial base. It records approximately 270 named individuals who received a pardon alongside Turlagh MacHenry O'Neill, chief of the Fewes, on 24 June 1602. The 35 MacMurphy entries are the single largest family group. If the Muintir Birn hypothesis is correct, some descendants of the pardon families should carry I-Y4751 or closely related haplogroups. Testing this prediction provides an important cross-check on the hypothesis.

## ***Methodology***

Three sources have been searched: (1) the I-FT150722 Y-DNA match list on FamilyTreeDNA, cross-referenced against all pardon family surnames; (2) the I-M223 project results chart for the Isles Sc/Ire sector, reviewed systematically for pardon family surnames; and (3) related surname projects (Murphy FTDNA project, I-Y139612 FTDNA Discover report). The search covered all anglicised variants of each Gaelic family name in the pardon.

## ***Methodological caveat***

Most clearly legible surnames in the I-Y4751 match time tree are of Lowland Scottish or Ulster Scots origin, reflecting the post-1610 Plantation. These are not expected in the 1602 pardon. The relevant question is whether any Gaelic Irish surnames from the pardon appear among testers on branches adjacent to I-FT150722. A further structural point is critical: the match time tree shows genetic cousins, not ancestors. The link to the 1602 pardon is through co-ancestry at the level of I-Y63570 or higher branches, not through direct descent from any named pardon individual.

## ***Confirmed absences from the match list***

A review of the full 1602 Fews pardon text against the I-M223 project results chart has confirmed the following absences: no MacArdle or McCardle; no O'Hanratty; no O'Hanlon; no McIver; no Garvey; no McElree, McIlree, or McElroy; no McKeown or McCowen; no Corry or Curry; no O'Boyle; no McEnerney, Nerney, or Tierney in the I-FT150722 match list; no Callaghan; no Loughran, Loran, or Lawlan; no Brennan or Brannigan; no MacGloskie; no MacEldonie; no MacCoime; no O'Lorkan; no O'Hullig. The fuller pardon text also names several families in the unordered section not in Fr. Murray's summary, including O'Cahan, O'Ferrall, McConway, and others, none of which appear in the chart. These absences carry no negative evidential weight: the families named in the 1602 pardon were Gaelic Catholic and their male-line descendants, if tested, are more likely to appear as Y-STR matches in the broader I-M223 project than as Big Y-700 testers in the match tree.

## ***Key results and findings***

Before setting out the pardon-family cross-reference findings, an important structural observation from the I-M223 project results chart deserves to be recorded in its own right. The chart shows that the Byrne/Burns surname appears on *multiple separate branches* under I-Y4751, not on a single lineage. The confirmed Byrne/Burns/Byrnes entries are distributed across at least six genetically distinct branches as follows.

1. On **Y4751 (Branch 0.1/0.2, predicted or confirmed I-Y4751)**: Byrne (kit 768364), Daniel Burns Born Circa 1819, Ireland, I2-M223 SNP Pack.
2. On **Y4751 (Branch 3, term. hg. FTC62355)**: Byrne (kit 62631), John J. Byrne, Ireland, Big Y-700. On **Y4751 (Branch 7.1.2.1, term. hg. FT67330)**: Byrne (kit B112298), Moses Byrne, Ireland, Big Y-700, and Byrne (kit 433422), Unknown Origin, Big Y-700.

3. On **Y4751 (Branch 9/9.1, term. hg. BY150216)**: Burns (kit 935474), Timothy Burns b.1804, United Kingdom, Family Finder, and Burns (kit 171435), John Burns 1753–1837, United States, Big Y-500.
4. On **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.1, term. hg. FT150722)**: Burns (kit IN94723) and Burns (kit IN63889), both recording Francis Byrne b.1794 Wicklow, Ireland, Big Y-700 — the primary testers documenting the I-FT150722 lineage itself.
5. On **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.3.1, term. hg. FTA14037)**: Byrne (kit 208416), Patrick H. Byrne b.1835, Ireland, Big Y-700, and Byrnes (kit 338826), Austin Byrne b.1859 Dublin, Ireland, Big Y-700, co-clustering with McGivern (kit 987885) and McGivern (kit B2736), Patrick Montgomery b.1750 d.1824, Northern Ireland.
6. On **Y4751 (Branch 17.5, term. hg. FTA73391)**: Byrne (kit 830018), Andrew Byrne b.1885, Ireland, Family Finder, co-clustering with Devlin (kit 996044) and Devlin (kit 160401), Patrick Devlin 1834–1877, Ireland, both Big Y-700 — this is the Devlin/Byrne co-clustering at I-FTT7 that is one of the foundational geographic signals of the Muintir Birn hypothesis.

The significance of this multi-branch distribution is analytical rather than merely descriptive. The Byrne/Burns/Byrnes surname appears on at least six genetically distinct branches of I-Y4751, branches that diverged from one another at various points between approximately 350 CE and 1400 CE. This means that carriers of different Byrne/Burns lines within I-Y4751 are not all descended from a single common ancestor who first bore that surname; rather, the surname was adopted independently by multiple lineages within the same clade at different times.

A particularly significant example of this independent adoption occurs within I-Y63570 itself, the specific node that the Muintir Birn hypothesis identifies as the Ulster origin clade. Within **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2, term. hg. Y63570)**, two separate downstream branches both carry Byrne/Burns surnames: **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.1, term. hg. FT150722)**, carrying the Francis Byrne b.1794 Wicklow lineage, and **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.3.1, term. hg. FTA14037)**, carrying Byrne (kit 208416) and Byrnes (kit 338826). These two lineages share I-Y63570 as their most recent common ancestor before diverging, meaning both branches of the same sept-level ancestor independently adopted the Byrne/Burns surname. This micro-level example within I-Y63570 is the most direct genetic evidence for the Na Beirneigh territorial identity as the mechanism of surname adoption: two sub-lineages of the same ancestor, in the same territory, independently becoming Byrne/Burns.

The most analytically significant of the broader multi-branch pattern is **Y4751 (Branch 17.5, term. hg. FTA73391)**, where Byrne (kit 830018) co-clusters with Devlin (kit 996044) and Devlin (kit 160401) — the Devlin surname being concentrated in the barony of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, the Muintir Birn heartland. This is precisely the pattern that the *Na Beirneigh* collective territorial identity would predict: the Muintir Birn territory was home to a population carrying I-Y4751 across multiple sub-lineages, and as Gaelic naming conventions gave way to fixed hereditary surnames in the 16th and 17th centuries, several of those lineages independently adopted the same territorial

name, Byrne or Burns, as their surname. This is structurally different from the Leinster O'Byrne (R1b) situation, where the surname descends from a single named ancestor.

The I-Y4751 Byrne/Burns multi-branch pattern is consistent with, and characteristic of, a territorial surname adopted across an extended kinship group rather than passed down from a single progenitor. Each of these branches independently carries the same Birn territorial identity into the modern period, providing distributed corroboration for the Muintir Birn hypothesis that would not be visible if only a single Byrne/Burns lineage existed within I-Y4751.

The pattern of independent surname adoption across multiple branches of I-Y4751 is not unique to Byrne/Burns. Three further surnames show the same pattern within Branch 17 specifically, suggesting that I-Y63570 and its immediate sub-branches represent a population associated with a defined south Ulster territorial zone from which multiple independent surname adoptions occurred:

- First, the relationship between Montgomery and McGivern within **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.3, term. hg. BY75184)** provides one of the most precisely documented examples of post-Plantation surname displacement in the entire I-Y4751 clade. Under I-BY75184 three testers sit within the same branch, sharing a common ancestor who lived sometime before 1750, and between them they illustrate all three possible surname trajectory scenarios.
  - Montgomery (kit IN150006), confirmed I-BY75184 by Big Y-700, records his earliest known paternal ancestor as John Montgomery b.1765, Northern Ireland, a Montgomery descended from a Montgomery, with no surviving memory or record of a prior Gaelic name.
  - McGivern (kit B2736) records his earliest known paternal ancestor as Patrick Montgomery b.1750 d.1824, Northern Ireland, a McGivern descended from a Montgomery, meaning this family's documented genealogy begins with a Montgomery name but the modern male-line descendant carries McGivern, suggesting either a reversion to the original Gaelic name or a branch that retained McGivern while a related branch had adopted Montgomery.
  - McGivern (kit 987885), confirmed I-BY93599 by Big Y-700, records his earliest known paternal ancestor as Edward John McGivern b.1862, Canada, a McGivern descended from a McGivern, with the Montgomery name never adopted, or shed before the documented genealogy begins.

The John Montgomery b.1765 and Patrick Montgomery b.1750 are near-contemporaries, consistent with being cousins or close relatives from the same family. That by 1862 one line is firmly McGivern in Canada while another remains firmly Montgomery in Northern Ireland demonstrates exactly the kind of parallel surname trajectory that post-Plantation Ulster genealogy generates: the same I-Y4751 male-line ancestry, expressed under different surnames depending on which social and economic pressures bore on each branch. The direction of change was almost certainly McGivern to Montgomery rather than the reverse. MacLysaght records Montgomery in Ulster as being of 17th-century Plantation introduction, a Norman-French toponymic with no Gaelic

connection, while McGivern (Mac Uidhrín) is an old Ulster Gaelic name mapped to Armagh-Down, belonging to the Cenél Fearadhaigh, who by the 12th century controlled a large portion of Co. Tyrone. Gaelic families in post-Plantation Co. Down had strong practical incentives to adopt the Montgomery surname, which was the name of one of the most powerful Plantation settler dynasties in the county, while settler families had no comparable reason to adopt a Gaelic name. The I-BY75184 evidence therefore documents a Gaelic sept of I-Y4751 ancestry navigating the post-Plantation period under three different name strategies simultaneously, retention, adoption, and reversion, while sharing the same underlying male-line genetic identity throughout.

- Second, and most tellingly for the Na Beirnigh hypothesis, Riley/Reilly appears on **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.2.1, term. hg. FTD87701)**, Riley (kit 921735), Patrick Riley b.1740 and d.1824, Northern Ireland, Big Y-700. This branch sits within I-Y63570 itself, diverging independently from both the Byrnes/Burns **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.1, term. hg. FT150722)** and the Byrne/McGivern **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.3.1, term. hg. FTA14037)**. All three share I-Y63570 as their most recent common ancestor. The O'Reilly (O' Raghallaigh) territory of Breifne in Co. Cavan and south Fermanagh borders directly on the Muintir Birn zone, and the O'Reilly surname spread extensively into Co. Down, Co. Armagh, and Co. Tyrone. A Gaelic family of I-Y63570 ancestry in the Dungannon/south Ulster zone in the 16th or 17th century could plausibly have adopted the Riley/Reilly name through association with O'Reilly-controlled territory, through actual kinship connection, or through the surname's prestige in the region.
- Third, a fourth surname adoption within I-Y63570 is Armstrong. Armstrong (kit 197742), Robert Armstrong b.1775 Pennsylvania, Unknown Origin, confirmed I-BY94987 by Big Y-500, sits on **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.2.2, term. hg. BY94987)**, a sibling branch to Riley **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.2.1, term. hg. FTD87701)**. Both branches share **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.2, term. hg. MF25261)** as their parent node, meaning Riley and Armstrong are genetic cousins within I-Y63570, their lineages diverging from a common ancestor under I-MF25261. Armstrong in Ulster is primarily a Scottish Plantation surname. The Armstrongs were a prominent Border Reiver family from the Scottish Borders who settled extensively in Co. Fermanagh and Co. Cavan during the Plantation. Like Montgomery, it carries no Gaelic origin. A family of I-Y63570 ancestry adopting the Armstrong name in the Plantation period would follow exactly the same mechanism as the McGivern-to-Montgomery adoption on Branch 17.1.2.3: a Gaelic lineage presenting under a settler surname for social or economic advantage.

The contrast between the two sibling branches under I-MF25261 is instructive: one branch (17.1.2.2.1) adopted Riley, a Gaelic territorial name associated with the O'Reilly lords of Breifne whose territory bordered the Muintir Birn zone, while the other (17.1.2.2.2) adopted Armstrong, a Plantation settler name, suggesting that the two lineages were in different social circumstances by the time hereditary surnames were fixed, one retaining a Gaelic identity and the other assimilating into the settler community.

Across I-Y63570 as a whole, four independent surname adoptions are now documented across three sub-branches: Byrne/Burns **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.1, term. hg. FT150722)**; Riley **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.2, term. hg. MF25261)** and Armstrong

**Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.2.2, term. hg. BY94987)**, both under **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.2, term. hg. MF25261)**; and Byrne/Burns again with McGivern/Montgomery **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.3.1, term. hg. FTA14037)** under **Y4751 (Branch 17.1.2.3, term. hg. BY75184)**. These four adoptions, two Gaelic territorial names (Byrne/Burns through Na Beirnigh, Riley through O'Reilly), one Gaelic sept name under Plantation displacement (McGivern/Montgomery), and one Plantation settler name adoption (Armstrong), are consistent with I-Y63570 representing a community living at the intersection of multiple territorial and social influences in south Ulster around 1000 CE, whose different sub-lineages independently adopted different surnames as hereditary surnames became fixed in the 16th and 17th centuries, each reflecting the particular social and geographic circumstances of that branch.

Six families named in the 1602 Fewes pardon now have modern genetic representatives whose haplogroup is confirmed as I-Y4751 or a direct sibling clade, following a review of the full pardon text (McConville family genealogy website, <http://www.mcconville.org/main/genealogy/census1602.html>) against the I-M223 project results chart:

1. **MacMurphy / McMurchie (35 entries)**. Murphy (kit 310081) confirmed I-FTD71064 within I-Y4751, **Y4751 (Branch 12.3.1, term. hg. FTD71064)**, earliest ancestor Patrick Murphy b.1828, Ireland (no county). Murphy (kit 141021) confirmed I-FT220080, on **S7753 (Branch 2.2.3, term. hg. FT220080)**, the sibling clade of I-Y4751, sharing I-Y36593 as common ancestor approximately 1,100 years ago, earliest ancestor Jeremiah Murphy b. abt. 1772, Ireland (no county). The Murphy surname appears on two separate branches of the same I-Y36593 genetic family.
2. **O'Quinn / O Quyn (11 entries)**. Quinn (kit 9830) confirmed I-Y139612 by Big Y-700. I-Y139612 is a direct child clade of I-Y4751 on **Y4751 (Branch 10, term. hg. Y139612)**, branching at approximately 350 CE. Ireland-dominant geographic profile (5 Ireland, 4 Scotland, 2 England). Earliest ancestor John Quin b.1777, Ireland (no county). Contact has been made with Quinn (kit 9830) and there is no further information about John Quin's ancestry. Additionally, Quinn (kit 242776) confirmed I-Y4751 by SNP test (via L126 test panel), earliest ancestor John Quinn b.1843, Killyharry, Donaghmore, Co. Tyrone — the first tester with a documented ancestor in the exact Muintir Birn territory (barony of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone). The project administrator has placed Quinn (kit 242776) in **Y4751 (Branch 7.1.1, term. hg. BY152312)** based on STR pattern matching; the downstream placement beyond I-Y4751 is STR-based, but the I-Y4751 designation itself is SNP-confirmed.
3. **O'Kellychan / O Kellie (7 entries)**. Kelly (kit 555571) confirmed I-Y139610 by Big Y-700, within **Y4751 (Branch 10.1.2, term. hg. Y139610)**, earliest ancestor Richard Kelly b. about 1796, Ireland (no county). Kelly (kit 555571) provided detail that Richard's son, Charles Kelly was born in Newtownards, County Down circa 1827 and Richard's wife Elizabeth (Brannigan) died in Newtownards in 1871 aged 72. I-Y139610 is downstream of I-Y139612 — the same sibling clade of I-Y4751 that carries Quinn (kit 9830)'s line. The I-Y139612 clade therefore carries Big Y-700 confirmed representatives of two separate 1602 pardon families (Quinn and Kelly) on separate downstream

branches of I-FT23556. Additionally, Kelly (kit 152126) is placed in **Y4751 (Branch 10.1.2.1, term. hg. BY72262)** with I-L126 confirmed; Kelly (kit 294578) is confirmed I-Y4751, placed in **Y4751 (Branch 0.1, predicted or confirmed Y4751)**.

4. **MacEneny / McEnerney (3 entries)**. McInerney (kit N3108) confirmed I-Y4751 via DeepSNP-I direct SNP test (January 2007), with a subsequent Family Finder chip-based confirmation (December 2023). Earliest ancestor Daniel McInerney who was baptised on 7 July 1842, in Annaclone, County Down (confirmed by contacting McInerney (kit N3108)). McInerney is a recognised anglicised variant of Mac an Airchinnigh, the same Gaelic root as the pardon's MacEneny entries.
5. **MacConwell / McConville (6 entries)**. McConville (kit 276518), Dennis McConville 1760 Co. Armagh, Ireland, I-Y4751, Family Finder, and McConville (kit 310186), John McConville b.1785, Ireland, I-BY38857, Big Y-700, **Y4751 (Branch 17.4.1.1, term. hg. BY38857)**. Both testers record Co. Armagh ancestry. The MacConwell surname in the 1602 pardon (recorded as McConill, McConile, and McConwell) is the sixth largest family group with six entries. The modern form McConville derives from Mac Conmhaoil.
6. **McRorie / McCrory (1 entry, unordered section)**. McCrory (kit BP22317), Patrick McCrory b.1809 (Co. Down?), d.1872 Belfast, Northern Ireland, I-FT92226, Big Y-700, **Y4751 (Branch 8.2.1, term. hg. FT92226)**. The McCrory surname (Mac Ruaidrí) appears once in the unordered section of the pardon as Patr. McRorie. The McCrory/MacRory sept was originally based in Co. Tyrone and Co. Derry. The Co. Down(?) origin for Patrick McCrory b.1809 is consistent with the Tyrone-to-Down dispersal corridor.

Additional geographic corroboration comes from testers not named in the 1602 pardon but documented with Co. Tyrone or adjacent county origins:

- Thompson (kit B124452) with Dungannon, Tyrone c.1832, **Y4751 (Branch 1.3.3.2, term. hg. FTC2724)**;
- Thompson (kit MI41070 and kit 689627) with Co. Tyrone 1803, **Y4751 (Branch 1.3.3.1.1, term. hg. FT342448)**;
- O'Brien (kit 661898) with Drumquin, Omagh, Co. Tyrone 1889, **Y4751 (Branch 1.4.4.1, term. hg. BY218106)**;
- O'Neill (kit N48729), Lawrence O'Neill Tyrone Co abt 1819, Ireland, I-Y4751 DeepSNP-I, and O'Neill (kit 137104), Henry O'Neill Dublin died about 1838, Ireland, I-FTH20353 Big Y-700, **Y4751 (Branch 23, term. hg. FTH20353)**;
- Hillis (kit B1064547 and kit B992824) with Co. Monaghan 1798, **Y4751 (Branch 1.1.1.2.1.1, term. hg. FT461491)**;
- Hemphill (H1154), James Hemphill b.1790 Tyrone NI, Northern Ireland, confirmed I-A6698 by Big Y-700, **Y4751 (Branch 1.1.1.1.1.3.1.1, term. hg. A6698)**;
- Hemphill (H1025), James Hemphill b.1790 Tyrone NI, Northern Ireland, confirmed I-A6699 by Big Y-700, **Y4751 (Branch 1.1.1.1.1.3.1.2, term. hg. A6699)**;
- Forsythe (kit 412953), James Forsythe 1790–1873 Newcastle, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, confirmed I-BY137073 by Big Y-700, **Y4751 (Branch**

**14.1.1.1.1, term. hg. BY137073** — notably, the full SNP chain for Forsythe (kit 412953) runs I-Y4751 → Y140579 → Y140584 → BY54878 → BY60810 → BY56711 → BY137073, placing him on Branch 14, which is entirely independent of both the I-FTT7 cluster (Branch 17, where the Tyrone/Dungannon surname co-clustering occurs) and the Y4752 branches (Branch 1, where the Hemphill Co. Tyrone testers sit); and

- Davison (kit 852133), Jacob J. Davison b.1789 Armagh IRL d.1858 NY, confirmed I-BY172227 by Big Y-700. The Davison Co. Armagh entry is particularly significant: Co. Armagh contains the Fews, the precise territory documented in the 1602 pardon, and Jacob Davison b.1789 is a contemporaneous ancestor in the same generation as Francis Byrne b.~1794.

Notable absences from the pardon cross-reference: The 1602 Fews pardon does not name any Devlin (O'Doibhilin). The Devlins were concentrated in the barony of Dungannon in Co. Tyrone, the Muintir Birn heartland, not in the Fews. The Devlin match on the I-FTT7 branch of the match time tree is therefore consistent with the hypothesis that this lineage was Tyrone-based before the MacMurphy chiefs were displaced to the Fews. This is directly confirmed in the I-M223 project chart: Devlin (kit 996044) and Devlin (kit 160401), Patrick Devlin 1834–1877, Ireland, are both confirmed I-FTA73391 by Big Y-700 on **Y4751 (Branch 17.5, term. hg. FTA73391)**, on the same branch as Byrne (kit 830018). The match tree captures genetic cousins from both phases of the family's geographic history.

Two lineages carrying R1b Byrne/Burns surnames with potential Airghialla connections have also been identified. The Byrne/Burns/Bruen members in the Airghialla Mag Uidhir project (R-BY11174, R-BY11196) and the Byrne/Burns project "03.x L21 > L513" group are both downstream of R-L513 — genetically unrelated to I-FT150722 but representing the Airghialla documentary tradition separately preserved in Paul Burns's analysis.

### ***Key questions and actions***

5. Contact Quinn (kit 242776) to encourage Big Y-700 testing, which would resolve his precise terminal branch within I-Y4751 and establish whether he is on the same downstream branch as other I-Y4751 testers.
6. Contact Murphy (kit 310081) (Patrick Murphy b.1828, Ireland) to ask for a county of origin.
7. Contact Murphy (kit 141021) (Jeremiah Murphy b. abt. 1772, Ireland) to ask for a county of origin.

Two distinct county-of-origin gaps have been identified in the course of this research, and they are at different stages of resolution. The first gap, demonstrating that I-Y4751 as a clade was present in the south Ulster zone in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, has now been closed. Big Y-700 confirmed I-Y4751 ancestors with specific Ulster counties now span Co. Tyrone (Thompson, O'Brien, O'Neill, Hemphill), Co. Down (Kelly, Forsythe), Co. Armagh (Davison, McConville), and Co. Monaghan (Hillis), all in the late 18th to early 19th century. This demonstrates that I-Y4751 was present

across the full south Ulster zone at the period in question, independently of the pardon-family surname evidence.

The second gap, demonstrating that the specific pardon-family surname testers have documented ancestors in the same south Ulster zone, has been partially closed. All five key testers (Quinn kit 9830, Quinn kit 242776, Murphy kit 310081, Murphy kit 141021, Kelly kit 555571, and McInerney kit N3108) were contacted. Three have responded. Quinn (kit 9830) has confirmed that there is no further information about John Quin's background. Kelly (kit 555571) has confirmed that Richard Kelly's son Charles was born in Newtownards, Co. Down circa 1827. McInerney (kit N3108) has confirmed that Daniel McInerney was baptised in Annaclone, Co. Down on 7 July 1842.

The Kelly and McInerney confirmations place pardon-family surname carriers in Co. Down, consistent with the Tyrone-to-Down dispersal corridor identified by the 1659 Pender's Census (12 O'Bern households in the Co. Down baronies of Kinalerty and Duffrane) and the mid-19th century Byrne/McGivern co-occurrence in south and central Co. Down. Two confirmations from Co. Down provide significant support for the hypothesis, but a confirmation from south Armagh, Co. Tyrone, or the Fewes specifically would carry greater evidential weight, since Down represents the dispersal zone rather than the origin territory. Responses from Murphy (kit 310081), and Murphy (kit 141021) are awaited. If either of these confirms south Armagh or Co. Tyrone ancestry, the convergence of pardon-family surnames within I-Y4751 and its sibling clades, all from the documented Muintir Birn territory or its dispersal zone, would constitute a body of evidence very difficult to attribute to coincidence.

### **Question 3 — The specific origins of Francis Byrne within County Wicklow**

#### ***Why this question is being researched***

The convict indent establishes County Wicklow as Francis Byrne's native place, but no parish or townland has been verified from any primary source. Identifying the precise origin within Wicklow would potentially identify his family, his parents, and the circumstances in which an I-M223 male-line family came to carry the Byrne surname in Leinster.

#### ***Methodology***

Three independent evidence streams have been applied: systematic search of the Wicklow Tithe Applotment Books (1823–1837) cross-referenced against twenty-nine documented historical mill locations; Ireland-wide search of digitised Catholic baptism registers; and county-wide search of Griffith's Valuation for Francis Byrne entries. A Birth and Baptismal Certificate for the parish of Glendalough (1794), parents James Michael Byrne and Eliza Maria O'Toole, obtained from genealogical researcher Allen Maunder, has also been assessed.

## ***Summary of analysis***

Approximately 970 individual Byrne tithe entries were extracted across forty-one civil parishes. Three Francis Byrne entries appear in the wider Wicklow tithe data: Boystown/Granabeg Lower (1834), Derrylossary/Tomdarragh (1831), and Wicklow town/Aughole (1832). The Griffith's Valuation county-wide search returned seven Francis Byrne entries. The Derrylossary entry is the most significant: combined with the 1831 tithe entry (Tomdarragh), it gives two independent government survey records of a Francis Byrne in Derrylossary parish, a parish served by the Glendalough Catholic registers, directly consistent with the Maunder certificate. Laragh village (Brockagh) sits at the confluence of the Avonmore and Glenmacnass rivers, adjacent to documented mill sites, consistent with the "miller" occupation.

Aghowle parish has been downgraded following a negative Griffith's result for Francis Byrne in the Killinure townlands, despite an earlier strong spatial finding there. No baptism record for Francis Byrne has been found in any Wicklow parish in the plausible birth window of 1788–1796.

## ***Key results and findings***

- Derrylossary is now the lead candidate parish, supported by two independent government survey records (Tithe 1831, Griffith's 1854) and proximity to documented mill sites.
- The Glendalough baptism certificate (parents: James Michael Byrne and Eliza Maria O'Toole, year 1794) aligns with the Derrylossary evidence across four independent lines but cannot be treated as established fact: the Glendalough Catholic registers are not known to survive before c.1807–1810.
- Rathdrum and Boystown remain secondary candidates; Aghowle has been downgraded.
- The Kilmainham Gaol register entry (6 May 1815, transferred from Newgate with ten other convicts) provides no additional personal detail; Newgate records prior to 1845 are not available.
- A sponsored Big Y-700 test of a male-line descendant of James Byrne (arr. Anne, 1801), widely proposed as the father of Francis Byrne, returned R1b, definitively disproving that paternity hypothesis.

## ***Key questions and actions***

8. Verify the Glendalough baptism certificate through the Diocese of Dublin Archives or the Glendalough parish itself. This is the single highest research priority for Question 3.
9. Search the Glendalough Catholic registers (available from c.1807 on IrishGenealogy.ie) for further children of James Michael Byrne and Eliza Maria O'Toole, which would independently corroborate the parents named in the Maunder certificate.
10. Y-DNA outreach to male-line Byrne descendants of families long-established in County Wicklow to determine whether any carry I2, which would confirm the haplogroup has been present in the county independently of Francis Byrne

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Prepared from Y-DNA haplogroup analysis conducted through FamilyTreeDNA Big Y-700 testing, YFull interpretation, and review of published ancient DNA literature. This document reflects the state of knowledge as of June 2026 and may be updated as new ancient DNA studies or Big Y matches emerge.